

Month of March

THE 5TH DAY

Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints Virgilius, Bishop of Arles

NB: The service for the martyr Conon is transferred to Compline, on this day or some other deemed appropriate by the superior of the ecclesiarch.

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 stichera: 3 from the Lenten Triodion, and 3 of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "O all-glorious wonder..."—

O all-glorious wonder! Lérins putteth forth another athlete of Christ, the glorious hierarch Virgilius, the boast of Aquitaine, the glory of Provence, who tended well the flock entrusted to his care, leading them by the still waters of grace, whereof he giveth them to drink, unto the salvation of their souls.

O all-glorious wonder! Arles rejoiceth greatly, O most blessed Virgilius, having thee as a mighty defender, a zealous uprooter of simony, a wellspring whence a stream of grace poureth forth. Wherefore, it cherisheth thy tomb as a source of miracles, healing the ailments and infirmities of those who approach it with faith.

O all-glorious wonder! Mindful of the Apostle's words, that in welcoming strangers we may entertain angels unawares, the wondrous Virgilius made welcome the monks whom the holy Dialogist sent forth to the English lands, to gain for Christ the benighted peoples of those parts, bringing to them the light of salvation.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion or stavrotheotokion, in the same tone & melody (see in the Menaion on this date).

Aposticha stichera from the Lenten Triodion.

Lenten troparia (see in the Horologion).

At Matins

Instead of "God is the Lord...", we chant Alleluia and the Trinitarian hymns in the tone of the week (see in the Lenten Triodion or the Horologion).

Canon of the holy hierarch, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "We now celebrate the feast of Virgilius", in Tone I—

Ode I

Irmos: Guiding Israel with a pillar of fire and cloud, as God He divided the sea and overwhelmed the chariots of Pharaoh in the deep. Let us chant a hymn of victory, for He alone is glorious!

Whither can we turn who are sinking in a slough of wicked deeds? Whom can we summon to our aid with mouths stopped by the mire of sin? But let us call upon the holy Virgilius to help us.

Escaping the raging billows of temptations in the world, Virgilius fled to the Monastery of the Holy Symphorian, where he drowned the passions and lusts of his flesh in a sea of ascetic toil.

Now doth Autun join Arles in the memorial of the holy Virgilius; for the one witnessed his blessed birth, and the other beheld his glorious repose: and they both chant to God a hymn of victory

Theotokion: O Virgin, the Spirit overshadowed thee like a cloud, and the fire of the Godhead dwelt within thy womb without consuming it. Unto our incarnate God do we chant, for He alone is glorious!

Ode III

Irmos: Let no mortal boast in his wisdom or riches, but rather in the faith of the Lord, crying out to Christ God in Orthodox manner, and ever chanting: Upon the rock of Thy commandments establish me, O Master!

With the venerable Honoratus and Hilarius, who were monks of the Monastery of Lérins, Virgilius likewise became the boast of the city of Arles, chanting to God: Upon the rock of Thy commandments establish me, O Master!

Come, ye Orthodox, and let us exalt the wondrous hierarch Virgilius, not for any worldly wisdom or riches, but boasting in his faith in his Lord and Master, upon the rock of Whose commandments he was established.

Every Christian virtue did Virgilius lay up in his soul, like jewels in a coffer; and for him these were great spiritual riches wherein he could boast, crying: Upon the rock of Thy commandments establish me, O Master!

Theotokion: Let us praise the all-pure Mother of God in Orthodox manner, for she is the glory and boast of mortals, in that she gave birth to Christ our God, upon the rock of Whose commandments we are established.

Sessional hymn, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "That which was commanded..."—

Mystically moved by the divine Spirit, O blessed Virgilius, thou didst raise up a mighty church as a memorial to the great protomartyr of Christ, adorning the Church of Arles therewith. Wherefore, having passed from this life to the chorus of the saints and martyrs, thou standest now with the holy Stephen before the Holy Trinity, crying out in awe: Glory to Thy power, O God!

Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion—

O good one, by thy maternal supplications do thou, who gavest birth unto the immutable God, make steadfast my heart, which is because of sin is ever subject to change through slothfulness and the assaults of the deceiver, that with thanksgiving I too may glorify thee. O all-immaculate Mary Theotokos, have mercy on the flock which thou hast acquired!

Or this Stavrotheotokion—

Beholding Him, Who was incarnate of thy pure blood and was born of thee in manner past understanding, hanging upon the Tree between malefactors, O pure one, thy womb convulsed with pain, and weeping maternally, thou didst cry out: "Woe is me, O my Child! What is this Thy divine and ineffable dispensation whereby Thou hast given life to Thy creation? I hymn Thy compassion!"

Ode IV

Irmos: The divine Habakkuk was filled with awe, hearing that God would become incarnate without undergoing any change; and perceiving the salvation of the faithful from the madness of idolatry unto divine knowledge, he cried aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Exalt the holy hierarch Virgilius, all ye faithful, and sing his praises with gladness, for he led his flock to the knowledge of God and guided them on the path to salvation and the heavenly kingdom, teaching them to cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Being a true and faithful servant of Christ, the Chief Shepherd, the incarnate Word of God, Virgilius tended the reason-endowed lambs of the Lord, guiding them aright to the heavenly sheepfold, where with him they cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

"Remember those who have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God." Thus taught the holy Paul, whom thou didst obey, O Virgilius, following the doctrine of the holy Dialogist and crying with him: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Theotokion: Awe filleth our minds and hearts, when we ponder the incarnation of God the Word; for He came into the world through the Virgin's pure womb, to lead us away from the madness of idolatry unto the knowledge of God. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Ode V

Irmos: Illumine our mind with the light of Thy commandments and with the splendor of Thy grace, O God, granting us Thy mercies, for Thy statutes are light and peace, O Good One.

Thy mind illumined by the statutes of the Most High and resplendent with His saving grace, O holy one, thou didst pray with fervor for thy people, entreating mercy and peace.

Ever full of zeal for the holiness of God, O blessed one, thou didst seek to bring many into the Ark of salvation, the Church of Christ, Whose statutes are light and peace.

The Most High, the Father of lights, Whose statutes are light and peace, didst thou serve in peace, thy mind illumined by His knowledge, O divinely wise father Virgilius.

Theotokion: Having kept all the commandments of God, O Mistress, thou was full of the splendor of grace divine; wherefore, thou wast a vessel worthy of Christ, the Light and Peace of God.

Ode VI

Irmos: The uttermost abyss hath surrounded us, and there is none to deliver us. We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Save Thy people, O our God, for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak!

Ever adrift on the deep of life, and lacking both rudder and helmsman to steer us to safe harbor, we are battered by temptations as by waves, and we cry: Save us, O servant of God, lest we perish utterly!

Fleeing the cruel foe who ever seeketh to slay our souls, we flee to thee with haste, O blessed hierarch. Unto Christ do thou pray: Save Thy people, O God Who art the strength and correction of the weak!

Every trial smiteth the ship of my soul with might and would is like to bear it down into the depths of hell; but I cry: Save me, O God, at the entreaty of Thy saint, for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak!

Theotokion: Adrift on the deep of the passions, by the currents of sin we are borne whither we would not go, for the breath of the Spirit doth not fill the sails of our souls. But save us, O God, and pilot us to the haven of peace.

Kontakion, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "To thee, the champion leader..."—

Provence is illumined today as by a star of surpassing radiance, for the holy hierarch of Arles shone forth within its lands as in the heavenly firmament. For, having taken his cross, the yoke of virtue, upon his shoulder with zeal, he followed in the steps of Christ; and deadening his passions with fasting and prayerful vigils, he became a

model for all who would run the race of piety. Wherefore, we cry out to him: Rejoice, O glorious Virgilius our father!

Ode VII

Irmos: Deal with us in the magnitude of Thy mercy, O Thou Who lovest mankind, that chanting with faith, we may all sing unto Thee like the youths: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Seeing the zeal of the holy Augustine and his monks, who were sent to bring the light of Christ unto the English lands, O saint, thou didst cry: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

The mercy of salvation was granted by God to the peoples of the English lands, O Virgilius, and thou didst ordain the holy Augustine to be for them a hierarch of the God of our fathers.

O thy great mercy, O holy one! For thou didst not confine thy care to thine own lambs, but didst seek to bring other sheep, not of thy flock, unto Christ, the good Shepherd,

Theotokion: From the abundance of thy loving-kindness treat us with mercy, O Mother of God, that, lifted up from our abasement, we may ever chant unto thy Son: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Ode VIII

Irmos: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of glory and Vanquisher of death, exalt ye supremely for all ages!

Virgilius vanquished all passions and lusts of the flesh, exalting Christ supremely for all ages.

In Christ Jesus didst thou set all thy hope, O God-bearer, exalting Him supremely for all ages.

Resting with the saints in paradise, O blessed one, thou dost exalt God supremely for all ages.

Triadicon: God Who is worshiped in Trinity, the Almighty One, let us exalt now supremely for all ages.

Theotokion: In worship let us hymn the Son of the Virgin Maiden, Whom we exalt supremely for all ages.

Ode IX

Irmos: Ineffable is the mystery of the Virgin! For she hath been shown forth as heaven, the throne of the cherubim, and the light-bearing bridal chamber of Christ God Almighty. Her do we piously magnify as the Theotokos.

Let us all praise the glorious Virgilius, the initiate of the sacred and divine mysteries, whose virtuous deeds in this life serve for him as a wedding garment at the bridal feast of his Master, Christ God Almighty.

In heaven the blessed hierarch standeth among the choirs of the saints, before the cherubim whereon the Almighty is enthroned; and there, with the Theotokos, the Queen of the angels, he intercedeth for those who honor him.

Unto Virgilius is praise ever due; for having fought the good fight in this life and finished the race, he hath received the crown of victory from the Judge of the contest: Christ God Almighty, with Whom he reigneth for eternity.

Theotokion: She who gave birth to God Most High, the all-immaculate Theotokos, is shown to be more spacious than the heavens; for she held within her womb the Infinite One, Whom naught can contain or circumscribe.

Exapostilaria from the Lenten Triodion.

Aposticha stichera from the Lenten Triodion.