

Month of May
THE 16TH DAY
Commemoration of Our Venerable Father Brendan,
Abbot of Clonfert,
Known as "the Voyager"

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 stichera: 3 from the Pentecostarion; and 3 of the venerable one, in Tone Spec. Mel.: "Joy of the ranks of heaven..."—

Raised in reverence and piety by great and venerable saints, O father Brendan, and struggling in labors like one of the bodiless hosts while yet in the flesh, thou wast a model of the virtues for multitudes; wherefore, thou wast vouchsafed gifts of miracles by Christ, to heal the divers infirmities of men. Pray thou that our souls be saved.

O venerable Brendan, thou wast a guide for monastics, serving God from thy youth through fasting and abstinence, and by boundless humility and strict austerities thou didst put the dread enemy to flight. Wherefore, thou hast acquired great boldness before the awesome throne of God. Pray thou that our souls be saved.

Thy splendid memorial filleth our souls and gladness, O venerable father Brendan; wherefore, we, like dutiful children, gather together on this day in joyous spiritual celebration, glorifying the Lord Who hath glorified thee, and sending up fervent entreaties to thee, our mighty intercessor and advocate, praying that our souls be saved.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the venerable one, in Tone II—

Come, ye Christians of these latter days, let us offer up hymns, like a wreath of spiritual flowers, to Brendan, the boast of monastics and companion of saints; and exalting him, let us say: Rejoice, most radiant beacon, guiding men's souls to Christ! Rejoice, glory and confirmation of Ireland, calm haven of all the faithful, and healing of those diseased with sin! Wherefore, celebrating thine all-honored and holy memory, which even the angels hold in reverence, we cry out most earnestly: O venerable father, in thy supplications pray that peace be granted to thy homeland and great mercy to our souls.

Now & ever..., from the Pentecostarion.

Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the venerable one, in Tone VI—

Today the Church of Christ rejoiceth exceedingly, most gloriously embracing Brendan, the great voyager; and the Irish lands, which gave him birth and nurtured him in piety, are exceedingly glad: for he sailed, undaunted, over the raging waters of the sea in a frail vessel of hide, seeking on earth that which is heavenly, but finding it only in the heavens. Wherefore, celebrating his memorial, we chant in thanksgiving unto God Most High, Who hath given him to us as a sure and certain guide, a lodestone for our voyage through life. And we, his children, guided by the pure example of his life, beseech the Lord most earnestly that we also may find salvation of soul and everlasting life in the abode of bliss.

Now & ever..., from the Pentecostarion.

Troparia from the Pentecostarion and of the venerable one, in the order prescribed by the Typicon.

Troparion of the venerable one, in Tone V—

Thine angelic life of fasting hath spread thy glory throughout the Church of Christ, O venerable father Brendan. For thou didst sail the waters of the thundering sea like a merchant seeking a pearl of great price, but didst obtain it in the heavens from the hand of thy Lord. Wherefore, O God-bearing father, bestow this treasure upon those who now call upon thee with faith and who cherish thine honored memory.

At Matins

At "God is the Lord...", the troparion from the Pentecostarion, twice; Glory, that of the venerable one; Now & ever..., as prescribed by the Typicon.

Canon from the Pentecostarion, with 8 troparia, including the irmos; and that of the venerable one, with 6 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Brendan is now moored in heaven's haven", in Tone VI—

Ode I

Irmos: When Israel of old, traversing the surging sea with dryshod feet, beheld proud Pharaoh drowned, they joyfully cried out: Let us sing unto the Lord Who hath wrought glorious wonders!

Brendan braved the surging sea, seeking the Promised Land of the blessed; and reaching the haven of salvation, he said: Let us sing unto the Lord Who hath wrought glorious wonders!

Reborn to new life by the Spirit, in the font of baptism, at the hands of the holy Erc, Brendan ever praised the Savior, crying: Let us sing unto the Lord Who hath wrought glorious wonders!

Edifying the mind of the young ascetic, the venerable Ita trained him in her school of piety ever to chant unto God the hymn: Let us sing unto the Lord Who hath wrought glorious wonders!

Theotokion: Now lift we our voices to the Mother of God, who guideth us across the surging sea of trials, crying out most joyfully: Let us sing unto the Lord Who hath wrought glorious wonders!

Ode III

Irmos: Pondering Thine ineffable power and Thy wisdom, which containeth all things, I am filled with awe, and cry aloud to Thee, O Good One: Let my horn be uplifted against mine enemies, O Christ!

Deified by constant prayer and ascetic feats, the wondrous Brendan increased in wisdom and strength of soul, moving all to cry unto God: Let our horn be uplifted against our enemies, O Christ!

All the demonic hordes fled before thy spiritual arms, O venerable one, like the Philistines before the swords of Samson and David, crying: His horn is uplifted against the enemies of Christ!

Not placing his trust in human wisdom and strength, the holy Brendan sought the fear of God, which is the beginning of all wisdom, crying: Let our horn be uplifted against our enemies, O Christ!

Theotokion: Ineffable was thy conception of the Word and Wisdom of God in thy womb, O Lady. For what mind can comprehend the mystery of thy giving birth unto Christ Who is the Creator of thy life?

Kontakion of the venerable one, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared..."—

By ascetic strivings thou didst safely sail across the sea of life, and, rejoicing,

didst attain unto the realm of the blessed, which is on high, O venerable father Brendan, divinely wise and most holy. Entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Ikos: Putting forth from the coasts of thy homeland, O holy one, thou didst set sail in a boat of skins, traversing the tumultuous waters of the sea, guided by the providence of the Almighty. Yet in vain didst thou search the watery realm for the Isle of the Blessed, for their abode is not within the confines of this world. Wherefore, thou didst return to dry land, to the monasteries thou hadst founded; and losing the life of thy body, thou didst find the realm of bliss which thou hadst sought. O venerable father Brendan, divinely wise and most holy: entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.

Sessional hymn of the venerable one, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "When stone had been sealed..."—

For all Christians thou art shown to be a guiding star, whereby we safely navigate the shoals of life, avoiding the perilous rocks of temptation which can bring the ships of our souls to grief, O Brendan. Wherefore, eluding such dangers, we joyfully keep thy memory, O all-blessed one, entreating thee with compunction never to fail in thine intercessions in our behalf.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Sessional hymn from the Pentecostarion.

Ode IV

Irmos: I heard report of Thee and was afraid; I understood Thy works and was in awe, O Lord. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Sanctified by priestly ordination, Brendan celebrated the awesome Mysteries, crying: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Not by thine own power didst thou work mighty wonders, O Brendan, but thou didst cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

O the unshakable piety of the holy one! For he gathered many monks to chant with him: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Theotokion: We have heard report of thine awesome birthgiving, O Theotokos, as we cry out thy Son: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Ode V

Irmos: Grant Thy light and peace to Thy servants, O Christ, for Thou art the peace of all, the bond of love for those who acknowledge Thee, the radiant dawn, the true Master and Lord, O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Multitudes hastened to thee from all the kingdoms of Ireland, O venerable one, to behold the radiant grace of thy countenance and to learn of thee how to please Christ, the Lord and Master, Who loveth mankind.

Obedience, poverty and chastity didst thou teach to those who approached thee for instruction, O holy one, forming them into monastic brotherhoods for the praise of the Lord and Master, Who loveth mankind.

O Christ, Thou didst mercifully grant that those who had recourse to the holy Brendan find Thy peace which passeth all understanding, in love for neighbor and for Thee, the Lord Who loveth mankind.

Theotokion: Reflecting the uncreated light of the Word, the Sun of righteousness, O Mistress, thou shinest on us like the moon, shedding upon us who honor thee the radiance of the Master and Lord, Who loveth mankind.

Ode VI

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life surging with the tempest of temptations, fleeing

to Thy calm haven I cry unto Thee: Lead up my life from corruption, O greatly Merciful One!

Equipping the ship of his soul with the Cross as mast and sail, and faith as a rudder, Brendan set out for the Land of the Blessed, driven by the wind of the Spirit.

Desiring to reach the calm haven of the earthly paradise, the venerable one, questing fearlessly, sailed the sea of life that surged with the tempest of temptations.

In the midst of the earthly sea Brendan found no Isle of the Blest, but by faith in God and love for neighbor his hope led him to the heavenly kingdom in the age to come.

Theotokion: Nethermost hades beckoneth us, surging with unspeakable horrors, O all-holy Mary; but we cry out to thee: Lead up our life from corruption, O greatly merciful one!

Kontakion & ikos from the Pentecostarion.

Ode VII

Irmos: Thy grace hath been revealed upon us, O Savior, and the light of Thy Cross hath shone forth upon the world. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

He who on the Cross revealed to the world the saving light of grace hath Brendan preached to all, crying aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Erin is adorned with a multitude of saints, who crown her like a diadem of gems, and in their midst doth Brendan blaze forth, shedding upon us the radiance of salvation.

Arrayed in a seamless robe of righteousness, and shod with apostolic zeal, the holy one standeth on high, crying: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Theotokion: Verily, thou wast a vessel of grace and purity, O Mother of the Savior, Whom we ever worship, crying aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Ode VIII

Irmos: To Christ, the King of the ages, let us utter the hymn of the youths, O ye faithful: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Exhausting his body with fasting and vigils, the holy one labored tirelessly until the end, crying: Bless the Lord, all ye works!

Never looking back, the saint, like a good husbandman, ploughed a straight furrow to the end, crying: Bless the Lord, ye works!

Serving Christ the King as a faithful steward, Brendan ever crieth aloud to the faithful: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion: Hymn the Queen of heaven, the Mother of the eternal King, ye faithful, chanting: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Ode IX

Irmos: O Virgin, we magnify thee who without seed gavest birth to One of the Trinity, Who hath taken our whole nature out of corruption, and Whom the lands of the nations worship.

Aldfert of Kerry was blessed by thy birth, O saint, and Killeedy of Munster by thy rearing; but Clonfert of Galway rejoiceth more than they, for thence thou didst depart this life.

Venerating the honored memory of the godly Brendan, O ye faithful, with him let us magnify the blessed Mother of the God Who, putting on human nature, delivereth us from corruption.

Erin joineth all the Christian nations, glorifying the Word Who became incarnate

for our salvation, for in this hath it been instructed by the holy Brendan, the boast of the Irish lands.

Theotokion: Neither spot nor blemish marred the purity of thy soul, O all-blessed Virgin, who without seed didst bear in thy womb Him Whom death could not hold nor corruption touch.

Exapostilarion of the venerable one: Spec. Mel.: "The heaven with stars..."—

The firmament of the Church is splendidly adorned with the heavenly luminaries of Clonfert—the holy Brendan and his fellow saints, who like a bright constellation shine with supernal radiance.

Glory..., Now & ever: Exapostilarion from the Pentecostarion.

Aposticha stichera from the Pentecostarion; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the venerable one, in Tone I—

O wonder past all understanding! For when the venerable Brendan lay dying, and his faithful monks stood round about his death-bed, his countenance shone with miraculous light, its brilliance surpassing the rays of the sun, revealing the shining purity of his soul, bearing witness to the rich reward he would receive from the hand of the heavenly Father.

Now & ever..., from the Pentecostarion.

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 6 troparia from the appointed ode.

Prokimenon from the Pentecostarion; and that of the venerable one, in Tone VII—

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Stichos: What shall I render unto the Lord for all that He hath rendered unto me?

EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS, § 335

Brethren: Obey those who have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as those who must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you. Pray for us: for we trust we have a good conscience, in all things willing to live honestly. But I beseech you the rather to do this, that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now the God of peace, Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia from the Pentecostarion; and that of the venerable one, in Tone VI—

Stichos: Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord; in His commandments shall he greatly delight.

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE, § 24

At that time, Jesus stood in the plain, and the company of His disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judæa and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him, and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him: for there went virtue out of Him, and healed them all. And He lifted up His eyes on His disciples, and said: "Blessed be ye poor: for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye who hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye who weep now: for ye shall laugh. Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate

you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven.”

Communion verse from the Pentecostarion; and that of the venerable one—

In everlasting remembrance shall the righteous be; he shall not be afraid of evil tidings.