

# Month of January

THE 29<sup>TH</sup> DAY

Commemoration of Our Venerable Father Gildas Bandonicus,  
Known as the Wise

## At Vespers

*On "Lord, I have cried..." , these stichera, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "O all-glorious wonder"—*

O divinely eloquent father Gildas, through fasting and constant prayer, by abstinence and ascetic toil, thou didst give wings to thy soul, that it might soar aloft to the heights of heaven; and by godly discourse and piety thou leadest us to abandon our sins; wherefore, we praise thee as a teacher and instructor most wise, honoring thy holy memory.

O God-bearing father Gildas, enlightened from on high thou didst serve as a model for monks and a shepherd of men's souls; and in thy God-pleasing writings thou didst command that the precepts of the law of grace be kept, instructing all by thy discourse to submit with obedience to the saving words of Christ our God.

O glorious father Gildas, boast of Britain and Brittany, living the life of the wilderness which revealed thee to be a peer of the angels, thou didst glorify God by struggles, and didst ascend to the heavenly and ultimate goal; wherefore, we entreat thee to pray earnestly for us who celebrate thy most splendid memory.

*Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone IV—*

Striving zealously in thy spiritual life toward that which is more sublime, O wondrous father Gildas, thou didst wholly purify thy soul of all that is corrupt and depraved; for, having mastered the meaning of the Holy Scriptures, thou didst impart the lessons of the history of salvation unto all. And now, O venerable one, as thou standest before the throne of the Creator, deliver us from the gloom of the passions, and lead us to the light of grace.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "As one valiant among the martyrs..."—*

Seeing Christ, Who loveth mankind, crucified, His side pierced by a spear, the all-pure one cried out, weeping: "What is this, O my Son? How have the thankless people rewarded Thee for the good things Thou hast done for them? And dost thou hasten to leave me childless, O most Beloved? I marvel at Thy voluntary crucifixion, O Compassionate One!"

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

As Elijah of old denounced Ahab the ungodly king, so wast thou a prophet in latter times, O Gildas, fearlessly rebuking the sinful kings of Britain, and reproving their accursed subjects, manfully striving to bring them to a knowledge of their depravity, lest they be condemned for eternity. O thy compassion and loving-kindness, O saint of God! O thy great pity for thy neighbor! O thy care for the lost sheep of the flock of Christ!

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "O all-praised..."—*

The unblemished Ewe-lamb and Mistress, as she beheld her Lamb on the Cross, bereft of form and beauty, lamenting, said: "Woe is me! Whither hath Thy beauty set, O

Thou Who art most sweet? Where is Thy splendor? Where the shining grace of Thine image, O my Son most beloved?"

*Troparion of the saint, in Tone I—*

Made radiant by the grace of the Spirit, O God-bearing father Gildas, in spirit thou wast shown to be an all-radiant beacon of repentance; and by thy divinely inspired discourse, O venerable one, thou didst seek to awaken those in error from the sleep of sin. Wherefore, lead us to salvation who bless thee as a wondrous servant of God.

### **At Matins**

*At "God is the Lord...", the troparion of the saint, twice; Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion.*

*Canon of the saint, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Gildas was a precious coffer of wisdom", in Tone III—*

#### Ode I

*Irmos:* Let us sing unto the Lord, Who wrought wondrous miracles in the Red Sea; for He covered the enemy in the deep and saved Israel. To Him alone let us sing, for He hath been glorified!

Grant me fitting words, O Lord, that I may hymn the holy Gildas; for having wrought mighty wonders, he taught us to chant to Thee: To Him alone let us sing, for He hath been glorified!

In the vale of the Clyde was Thy servant born into this vale of tears, O Lord; and like as Thy prophet Jeremiah wept over the fall of Israel, so did Gildas lament the ruin of Christian Britain.

Let us hymn Gildas, the latter day prophet, who preached unto the Britons the word of God, bewailing their grievous sins, and entreating them to turn again to God, Who hath been glorified.

*Theotokion:* Deliver us from the pursuit of the enemy, O Mother of God, and save us, the New Israel, that, with thee as a refuge, we may chant: To Christ alone let us sing, for He hath been glorified!

#### Ode III

*Irmos:* Thou hast broken the bow of the enemy and hast crushed their shields by Thy might, O Christ our Master. O Lord, our confirmation, holy art Thou!

As an ascetic well trained in spiritual warfare, O Gildas, and full of divine knowledge, thou didst chant to God: O Lord, our confirmation, holy art Thou!

Seeing the British nations broken and abased by the heathen for their sins, thou didst say: The Lord is our confirmation! Cry unto Him: Holy art Thou!

Wielding thy pen like a two-edged sword, O venerable one, thou didst strike at men's passions and sins, crying: O Lord, our confirmation, holy art Thou!

*Theotokion:* As the Mother of our God we praise thee, O Mistress; and to thy Son, Christ our Master, we ever cry aloud: O Lord, our confirmation, holy art Thou!

*Sessional hymn, in Tone VIII: Spec. Mel.: "Of the Wisdom..." —*

Purifying thy mind with ascetic labors. and offering thyself unto God with thy whole heart, O holy one, thou wast shown to be a precious vessel of divine knowledge. And from the treasury of the Sacred Scriptures thou didst offer jewels of repentance unto sinners. Wherefore, celebrating thy memory as a godly instructor and teacher, we praise thy holiness of life. O venerable Gildas, intercede with Christ our God, that forgiveness

of transgressions be granted to those who honor thee in song.

*Glory..., Now & ever...: Theotokion—*

Having fallen into the mire of sins, I have no firm place whereon to stand, and the storm of transgressions hath grievously engulfed me; but in that thou gavest birth to the Word Who alone loveth mankind, look upon me, thy servant, and deliver me from every sin, from the soul-corrupting passions and all the oppression of the evil murderer, O Theotokos who knewest not wedlock. Entreat Christ God, that He grant me remission of sins, for thee do I, thy servant, have as my hope.

*Stavrotheotokion—*

The Virgin, the Mother of the Deliverer, standing before the Cross, cried out maternally, groaning with pain and tears: "What is this strange and all-glorious sight which I see, O my Son? Thou Who pourest forth dispassion upon all men hast been crucified on a Cross between two condemned thieves, pierced in the side, and given gall to eat, all by hands which Thou didst make! But arise and grant remission of transgressions unto those who with faith hymn thy divine sufferings!"

#### Ode IV

*Irmos:* The womb of the Virgin was shown to be a mountain overshadowed; the Mother of the Lord is a censer and table: for He Who is embraced in the arms of Symeon hath manifestly issued forth from her. Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Seeking to remove Christians from the shadow of sin to the light of repentance, Gildas showeth them clearly from the Scriptures that the fall of Old Israel came about when its people would no longer cry out: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Annals and histories did Gildas cite, to show that force of arms alone is unable to save a nation where the teachings of Christ are scorned, and where an ungodly people will not bestir themselves to cry aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Pray for us sinners, O venerable one, as thou didst pray for the Christians of thy times, that by thy pleading we may find mercy at the dread judgment-seat of Christ, and in the mansions of the holy may cry: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

*Theotokion:* Remember us who exalt thee as the fulfilment of all the prophecies, O Virgin; and ever pray for us to Him Whom in the temple thou didst offer unto the Father as thy firstborn child, crying aloud unto Him: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

#### Ode V

*Irmos:* In a vision Isaiah beheld God exalted upon a throne borne aloft by angels of glory, and he cried: O accursed am I, for I have beheld beforehand the incarnate God, the unwaning Light, Who reigneth with peace!

Enlightened by the never-waning Light, the holy Gildas strove to turn Christians to true repentance, revealing to them that misfortunes befall us, that we may wake unto the knowledge of our grave sins and offenses.

Christ God will sit as Judge at the end of time, and with His angels as witnesses He will render a verdict on our lives. Accursed will we be if thou wilt not stand as our advocate, O Gildas, allaying His just wrath!

In compunction of soul let us fall down before our incarnate God, begging Him with weeping and sighs for pity, that through the supplications of His saint He will vouchsafe that we may dwell in everlasting peace.

*Theotokion:* O how blessed we Christians are! For we have thee, O Queen of heaven, as a mighty intercessor and mediatrix without equal before thy Son, Whom

Isaiah beheld seated upon the cherubim as upon a throne.

#### Ode VI

*Irmos:* The abyss of the passions and the tempest of contrary winds have risen up against me; but going before me, save me, O Savior, and deliver me from corruption, as Thou didst save the prophet from the beast.

Unerringly do we follow the road which leadeth to perdition, and there is no repentance in us; but guide us aright, O holy one, to the straight and narrow path which leadeth to the gates of the kingdom on high.

Savage winds of temptations assail the fleet of our souls, and we are borne down into the abyss of destruction by the burden of our sins; but deliver and save us, O Savior, through the prayers of Thy prophet and saint.

Caught in the maw of the noetic beast, we cry out in contrition of heart to him who is most wise: "Save us, O Gildas, lest we perish! Deliver us from the abyss of our passions, as God saved Jonah from the whale!"

*Theotokion:* O Lady Theotokos, deliver us who are tempest-tossed upon the deep of temptations, and are buffeted by gales of misfortunes; and by thine entreaties deliver us from the uttermost depths into which we have sunk.

*Kontakion, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.: "Seeking the highest..."—*

Observing the behavior of the Christians of thy times, thou didst bitterly lament their sinful conduct, O Gildas; and as a zealous teacher of repentance, O venerable one, thou wast a great ascetic and lover of stillness. Wherefore, O venerable father, thou ever movest the slothful to penitence.

*Ikos:* Let fall a drop of thine eloquence upon my soul, O venerable Gildas, that I may hymn thy saving discourse and manifest wonders, that, inspired, I may record thy praises; that when I have passed from this life of toil, I may, through thine entreaties, enjoy the good things wherein thou dost delight in heaven. For, lo! thou ever movest the slothful to penitence.

#### Ode VII

*Irmos:* Proud was the tyrant; yet he was as a plaything for the children; for, trampling underfoot the flame heated sevenfold, they chanted: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

From the wiles of Satan deliver us like birds from the hunter's snare, O saint of God, that, soaring aloft unto Him, we may chant: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Free us from vainglory and avarice, and all the lusts and passions, O Gildas, and uproot all vice within us, that we may chant: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Ever keep us in thy watchful care, O venerable one, and make entreaty in our behalf, that we may escape the fires of hell by thy prayers to Christ, the Lord God of our fathers.

*Theotokion:* Roaring like a lion seeking its prey, the prideful adversary seeketh to devour us; but drive him from us, O Virgin, that we may chant: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

#### Ode VIII

*Irmos:* With immaterial flame the God-seeing children caused the flame of the

material fire to die out, and they chanted: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

"O ye who hold the teachings of Christ in derision," the saint cried out, "fear ye the unquenchable flames which await those who will not bless the Lord!"

Full of zeal for divine righteousness, O Gildas, thou didst preach repentance to the Christians of Britain, crying: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

"Who hath committed such iniquities as we, spurning all the commandments of God?" Gildas said; "Repent, and bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!"

*Theotokion:* In the midst of the flames of sin we cry in desperation: O Mary, bedew this fire, we pray, that we may chant: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

#### Ode IX

*Irmos:* Commemorating the saints, we magnify thee, the Theotokos who knew not wedlock, as she who gave birth to the Salvation of our souls.

Scotland rejoiceth in thy birth, Wales in thy great confession and ascetic toils, and Brittany in thy venerable departure unto salvation, O Gildas.

Departing into Brittany, O saint, thou didst there gather round thee fellow ascetics, instructing them in piety for the salvation of their souls.

Offering praises to the holy one, we magnify him greatly, for today, as in his own times, he crieth out: Repent, and receive salvation for your souls!

*Theotokion:* Magnify the Theotokos, O Christians, and bless ye all the saints of God; for they have been glorified by the Savior, Who redeemeth our souls.

*Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "Heaven with stars..."—*

O Creator of all, Who as God hast adorned Thy Holy Church with the venerable Gildas, enlightening the whole world with Thy grace: Save those who honor him.

*Theotokion—*

With thy mighty protection, O pure one, preserve thy servants unharmed by the assaults of the enemy, for thee alone have we acquired as our refuge amid tribulations.

*Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone IV—*

Withdrawing from Britain as Elijah withdrew from sinful Israel, O divinely wise Gildas, thou didst betake thyself to a solitary island off the coast of Brittany, where thou didst converse with the bodiless angels and behold visions of glory while yet in a material body. There thou didst train those who had recourse to thee to acquire that which is sublime; and there thou didst surrender thy pure soul into the hands of Christ thy Master. Wherefore, watching over us with vigilance from the heights of heaven, ever preserve unharmed by the assaults of the demons those who celebrate thy memory, asking great mercy for us all.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel. : "As one valiant among the martyrs..."—*

As she beheld Thee the Lamb and Shepherd, upon the Tree, the Ewe-lamb who gave birth to Thee lamented and maternally exclaimed to Thee: "O my Son most desired, how is it that Thou art suspended upon the Tree of the Cross, O Longsuffering One? How is it, O Word, that Thy hands and feet have been nailed by the iniquitous? How hast thou shed Thy blood, O Master?"

### At Liturgy

*Prokimenon, 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 GALATIANS, § 213

Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

*Alleluia, in Tone VI—*

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

*Stichos:* His seed shall be mighty upon the earth.

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 that hunger now: for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that 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—*

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