

# Month of October

THE 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY

Commemoration of the Translation of the Holy Relics  
of Our Father among the Saints  
John of Beverley, Archbishop of York

## At Vespers

*On "Lord, I have cried...", these stichera, in Tone II Spec. Mel.: "When from the Tree..."*

When trained in all the virtues by the saints at Whitby, O John, thou didst inscribe what thou hadst learned in the book of thy heart, plying the pen of fasting, with the sweat of thine ascetic labors as ink; and in thy whole life of service to Christ, the Life of all, thou didst teach what thou hadst acquired, drawing them toward knowledge divine.

When the holy hierarch Eata passed to his heavenly reward, and the flock of Hexham was left without a shepherd, then wast thou made bishop in his stead, O John, that the sheep and lambs of Christ might not by neglect fall prey to the soul-destroying wolves of superstition and heathen errors; and thou didst tend them all with loving care.

When, burdened with many cares, thy soul was disquieted within thee, O John, then didst thou withdraw for a time to a place of peace and solitude, where in prayer unceasing and constant praise of God thou didst find refreshment of spirit. There, in latter times, thou didst found the Monastery of Beverley, where thou didst repose in the Lord.

*Glory...: Idiomelon, in Tone I—*

Great was thine archpastoral discernment, O John, for thou wast able to read the hearts and minds of men, and didst counsel each according to the needs of his soul, by repentance restoring all to harmony with the divine will. And wisely didst thou choose the worthy to minister to the people of God, appointing them to be deacons and priests, among whom thou didst ordain the venerable Bede, who shone forth in holiness and righteousness.

*Now & ever...: Theotokion, or this stavrotheotokion, in the same tone: Spec. Mel.: "Joy of the ranks of heaven..."—*

When she beheld the Lamb lifted up upon the Cross, the immaculate Virgin cried out, weeping: "O my Child most sweet, what is this new and all-glorious sight? How is it that Thou Who holdest all things in Thy hand hast been nailed to the Tree in the flesh?"

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

York and Hexham join chorus together, O John, for when thou becamest their bishop thou didst fill them with all manner of miracles, healing divers diseases by thy touch and thy prayer, casting out demons from the possessed, and restoring the dead to life; and thou didst tend thy flock like a good shepherd, feeding their souls with the heavenly food of thy words, and leading them to drink of the still waters of grace: and in thy wondrous care for His reason-endowed sheep thou didst enter into the joy of Christ, the Chief Shepherd.

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

"What is this sight that I see, which mine eyes behold, O Master? Dost Thou who sustainest all creation die, suspended upon the Tree, granting life unto all?", the

Theotokos said, weeping, when she beheld upon the Cross the God and Man Who had shone forth ineffably from her.

*Troparion of the saint, in Tone VI-*

Thou hast been given to the faithful, O most sacred John, as a beauteous tree of holiness, bearing all the virtues like most sacred blooms, filling all the land with the fragrance of miracles and the sweet fruit of healings. Wherefore, O namesake of grace, entreat Christ God, that He save us who honor thee..

### **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 "John labored greatly for Christ in York", in Tone III—*

#### Ode I

*Irmos:* O ye people, let us chant a new song unto Him Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation and hath made those on earth one with those in heaven, for He hath been glorified.

Jesus the Messiah, Who was born of the Virgin for our salvation, raised up His favored one to the heights of heaven, whence he hearkeneth to our prayers as one glorified by God.

Our wedding garments have we befouled with the vile stains of sin, O beloved hierarch; but by thine entreaties make them white as snow, that we may rejoice with thee in the highest.

Heaven received thee at thy repose, O holy one, and unto thee was a splendid habitation given in the mansions of the house of God the Father, where thou dwellest with the angels.

*Theotokion:* Now let us sing a new song unto the Virgin, through whose obedience salvation hath come to our race, and let us praise the Lord Who was born of her, for He hath been glorified.

#### Ode III

*Irmos:* Make firm our hearts, O Lord, and enlighten us to hymn Thee, that we may glorify Thee, O Savior, unto the ages of ages.

Leaden is the coffin wherein John's precious relics lie, but his memory is more lustrous than gold, shining untarnished forever.

All who are afflicted with infirmities and whose sorrows are beyond human aid find consolation in John's loving-kindness.

Oft did the holy John long for the stillness of monastic solitude, as the Israelites longed for the lost glories of Jerusalem.

*Theotokion:* Repenting of our manifold iniquities and our countless transgressions, with compunction we beseech the Virgin to pray for us.

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

Pouring grace upon the faithful like oil, O holy John, thou didst train them to contend with might, prevailing over the demonic foe; and having thyself well and truly finished the good race of life, thou wast counted worthy to receive the wreath of victory at the end. Wherefore, we all honor thy holy repose, glorifying Christ God, the Judge of the contest, and asking that He grant remission of sins to us who honor thy holy memory with faith and love.

*Glory..., Now and ever..., Theotokion--*

All of us, the generations of mankind, bless thee as the Virgin, who, alone among women, gavest birth without seed unto God in the flesh; for the fire of the Godhead made Its abode within thee, and thou dost nurture the Lord and Creator with thy milk as a babe. Wherefore, we, the races of angels and men, glorify thine all-holy birthgiving as is meet, and together we cry out to thee: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of transgressions unto those who with faith worship thine all-holy Offspring!

*Stavrotheotokion--*

The Ewe-lamb, beholding the Lamb, Shepherd and Deliverer upon the Cross, weeping, exclaimed and, bitterly lamenting, cried out: The world rejoiceth, receiving its deliverance through Thee; but my womb is pained to see the crucifixion which Thou dost endure in the loving-kindness of Thy mercy. O longsuffering Lord, Abyss of mercy, inexhaustible Wellspring, take pity and grant remission of transgressions unto those who with faith hymn Thy divine sufferings!

#### Ode IV

*Irmos:* Thou hast shown us constant love, O Lord, for Thou didst give Thine only-begotten Son over to death for us. Wherefore, in thanksgiving we cry to Thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Eata, the holy hierarch of God, reposed in Hexham, and the wondrous John became his worthy successor; wherefore, the people all cried out in thanksgiving: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Dying, Bosa passed from this life, and John passed from Hexham to York to take his place, adorning that great city and see with his holy life for many years, until he withdrew into stillness.

Great is the power of thy prayers, O holy hierarch John, for having loved the Savior like thine apostolic namesake of old, like him thou wast beloved of the Lord Who died to save our souls.

*Theotokion:* Risen and ascended on high is thine only-begotten Son, O Mother of God, Who, having slain death that we may have abundant life, hath likewise mercifully entrusted us to thy maternal care.

#### Ode V

*Irmos:* With Thy never-waning light, O Christ God, illumine my lowly soul, and guide me to the fear of Thee, to the light of Thy commandments.

Even the paralytics were restored to health by thine intercession, O holy one, and like the lame healed by the apostles, they leapt for joy.

Alms thou gavest freely, O holy John, and thou gavest also ready utterance to the mute, enlightening their lives with thy loving-kindness.

Thou didst deign to heal the ailing arm of the suffering maiden, O saint, for at thy prayer and the touch of thy holy hand her pain abated.

*Theotokion:* Light shining forth from thy womb hath illumined the universe, O all-immaculate one, guiding men to the light of the kingdom on high.

#### Ode VI

*Irmos:* Lead me up from corruption, O Lord my God! Jonah cried; and I cry out to Thee: Deliver me from the abyss of my many evils, O Savior, and guide me to Thy light, I pray!

Ye Christians, cry out with thanksgiving to the Lord our God: Glory to Thee, O

most Holy Trinity, for in John Thou hast sent us a sure and certain guide to Thy light!

Fallen are we into the abyss of many evils, and there is no deliverance for us, save by the grace of God, Who hath sent His servant John to lead us up out of corruption.

O John, namesake of the Forerunner of Christ, in preaching the saving Gospel of thy Lord, thou didst draw many forth from the pit of evils and the threat of damnation.

*Theotokion:* Redeemed are we from the devil's cruel mastery, and freed from slavery to sin and corruption by thy Son, O Bride of God; wherefore, guide us to His ineffable light.

*Kontakion, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast appeared today..."—*

Thou wast a fruitful branch of Christ, the Tree of Life, a God-bearing and most holy hierarch, O John, and unto Him thou singest with the angels: "Thou art the radiant joy of Thy saints, O Master and Lord!"

*Ikos:* Who can fittingly praise the labors and pangs, the many toils, the glory and greatness of the holy hierarch John? For having by all these won favor with the Judge of all, he beseecheth Him to grant pity to all who honor his blessed memory. Wherefore, with compunction of heart let us cry out to him as our benefactor and protector, who ever singeth with the angels: "Thou art the radiant joy of Thy saints, O Master and Lord!"

#### Ode VII

*Irmos:* Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers, Who cooled the flame of the furnace and preserved the Virgin Theotokos who gave Thee birth!

Cool the flames of the furnace of our sins, O saint of God, and spread the dew of divine mercy over our anguished and pain-wracked souls.

Hilda's monastery at Whitby boasteth exceedingly, for within its walls, as within the garden of paradise, John grew to spiritual fruition.

Reviving by his prayer Herebald, his servant in the ministry, who had died in a fall, the blessed hierarch John raised him up to life.

*Theotokion:* Inflamed by the passions, we cry out to God, and the Angel of Great Counsel, Who was born of the Virgin, doth quench the burning fire.

#### Ode VIII

*Irmos:* Ye priests, hymn; ye people, exalt supremely for all ages Him Who is borne upon the throne of the cherubim!

Seraphim and all the ranks of angels surround thee, O John, and with them thou standest before the throne of God.

Thou joinest chorus with all the saints on high, O holy one, exalting Christ supremely for time without end.

In thy monastery at Beverley didst thou exalt the Lord in hymns, finding respite there from the tumult of the world.

*Theotokion:* Nought can separate us from the love of Christ, Who was born for our sake of her who is more honorable than the cherubim.

#### 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.

York exulteth in thy holy memory, O saint, and Hexham likewise rejoiceth exceedingly, for by thee was salvation brought into their midst.

Over the ruins of thy monastery and shrine, the pious king Athelstan built a magnificent church, to which the pious had recourse with faith.

Ruined was thy shrine, and plundered by the ungodly; but thy memory remaineth ever fresh in the hearts of those who still celebrate thy holy memory.

*Theotokion:* Kneeling down before the icon of the Theotokos, we earnestly beseech her: Entreat thy Son and God, that He grant salvation to our souls!

*Exapostilarion: Spec. Mel.: "By the Spirit in the holy place..."—*

The power of thy words severed the false beliefs of the heathen like a mighty scythe, O John, and therewith thou didst likewise hew down all the thorns of superstition, teaching all to worship the Trinity alone.

*Theotokion—*

With Mary, the Virgin Mother of God, O most wise one, intercede before the transcendent Trinity, that peace be granted to the world, victory over heresies to Orthodox hierarchs, and salvation to us who praise thee.

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

Beneath the stones of thy church in Beverley, thy holy relics are hid from the gaze and hands of the profane, O John; yet though they lie in darkness, yet do they put forth rays of invisible light brighter than the sun, which enlighten the souls of those who honor thy holy memory with love and with grace warm the souls of those who celebrate thy feast in these latter times.

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

As she beheld Thee nailed to the Cross, O Lord, the Ewe-lamb, Thy Mother, marveled, and cried out: "What is this that I see, O my Son most desired? Thus doth the disobedient and iniquitous assembly repay Thee, which enjoyed Thy many wonders! Yet glory to Thine ineffable condescension, O Master!"

## At Liturgy

*Prokimenon, in Tone I—*

My mouth shall speak wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

*Stichos:* Hear this, all ye nations; give ear, all ye that inhabit the world.

Epistle to the Corinthians, §151

Brethren: The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these worketh that one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

*Alleluia, in Tone II—*

*Stichos:* Give heed, O my people, to my law; incline your ear unto the words of my mouth.

*Stichos:* I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter dark sayings which have been from the beginning.

Gospel according to John, §36

The Lord said to the Jews who came to Him: "I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh

not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he who is a hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth; and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is a hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know My sheep, and am known of Mine. As the Father knoweth Me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down My life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one fold, and one Shepherd."

*Communion Verse—*

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