

Month of September

THE 17TH DAY

AFTERFEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS OF THE LORD

Commemoration of the Holy Hieromartyr Lambert,

Bishop of Maastricht,

Wonderworker of Stavelot & Liège

At Vespers

On “Lord, I have cried...”, 6 stichera: 3 of the Cross, from the Menaion; and 3 of the hieromartyr, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: “As one valiant among the martyrs...”—

O the grace of God that shineth forth from thy sacred relics, O most glorious Lambert! For we, the faithful of all lands, are enlightened by thy radiant virtues, by the example of thy strict ascetic life, by thy surpassing love for Him and for thy neighbor, and by thy meek endurance of an unjust death: for thereby thou dost illumine us all.

The wicked ruler of the Franks could not bear the radiance of thy piety, O blessed Lambert, and he drove thee from thy see, appointing a hireling to tend thy flock; but in thy humility thou didst not cry out against the injustice, but didst betake thyself to the Monastery of Stavelot, where thou didst commit thyself to fasting and prayer.

With a boldness born of faith, O holy hierarch Lambert, like John the Forerunner of Christ thou didst go forth to rebuke an adulterous ruler, undaunted by perils, loving the sinner but hating the sin; wherefore, thou wast put to the slaughter, thy holy heart pierced by an enemy's spear, like the heart of Christ as He hung upon the Cross.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the hieromartyr, in Tone III—

Adorn thyself and be glad, O great city of Liège, wherein lieth the holy shrine that poureth forth a torrent of healings: the precious relics of the great hierarch Lambert, the model of humility and chastity. By his heavenly splendor he repelleth the invisible foe, for Christ hath shown him to be a great luminary. He is our boast and our spiritual defense, and his sacred remains freely impart cures; for, approaching them with faith, the blind are gain their sight; the halt and the lame, drawing nigh, depart, leaping for joy; the infirm are made whole; and the possessed find that the demons that afflict them are put to flight. For which cause, all of us, honoring him with psalms and spiritual songs, earnestly beseech him: O saint of God, ask peace for the world and great mercy for our souls.

Now & ever...: Idiomelon of the Cross, from the Menaion.

Aposticha sitchera of the Cross, from the Menaion; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the hieromartyr, in Tone VI—

Rejoice exceedingly, O Maastricht, wherein the holy hierarch Lambert served as bishop: the precious ornament of Orthodox hierarchs, the great confirmation of the laws of God, the defender of oppressed, the consolation of the sorrowful, the fervent advocate of those who suffer for piety's sake! Unto him let us earnestly cry out: Dispel the darkness of ignorance, and guide us to the kingdom on high, where with the angelic hosts thou dost delight in the transcendent beauty of thy Master, by thine entreaties moving the hearts of the faithful to compunction. Beseech Christ, O holy one, that He grant our souls peace and great mercy.

Now & ever...: Idiomelon of the Cross, from the Menaion.

Troparion of the saint, in Tone IV—

Bearing thy cross throughout thy life, thou didst strive to follow Christ most zealously, subduing carnal-mindedness by thine austerities; and thou didst magnify the Lord, O holy hierarch, dyeing thy sacred vestments in the blood of martyrdom, and bravely defending the holiness of Christian marriage with thy life. Wherefore, Christ hath bestowed on thee the twofold crown of confession and martyrdom, O most glorious Lambert, boast of Maastricht.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Troparion of the Cross, from the Menaion.

At Matins

At “God is the Lord...”, the troparion of the Cross, twice; Glory..., that of the hieromartyr; Now & ever..., that of the Cross.

After the kathismata of the Psalter, the sessional hymns of the Cross, from the Menaion.

Canon of the Cross, from the Menaion, with 8 troparia, including the irmos; and that of the hieromartyr, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is “His heart pierced, Lambert died for Jesus”, 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!

How shall we praise the most blessed Lambert, the pillar of the Church of Christ, the champion of faith and virtue, the glory of Maastricht, the boast of Liège, and the protector of them both?

In hymns and spiritual songs let us extol the virtues of the holy hierarch Lambert, who was slain for his courageous defense of the bonds of marriage, reproving the ruler as John did Herod of old.

Salome of old prevailed upon Herod to put John the Baptist to death, and the wicked Alpaïs, fearing Lambert's influence and eloquence, dispatched her kinsmen to silence his voice forever.

Theotokion: Holy art thou, O most blessed Theotokos, for He Who as God led the people of Israel through the desert to the promised land was born of thy virgin womb. Wherefore, we chant a hymn of victory.

Ode III

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

Extolling God's providence, we boast not in riches or any earthly thing, but in the mediation of the holy hierarch Lambert for us, crying: On the rock of Thy commandments establish me, O Master!

Although Lambert was of noble lineage and kin to the mighty, yet did he embrace holy poverty, spurning all wealth as corruptible, saying: On the rock of Thy commandments establish me, O Master!

Raised in the holy Faith, hoping ever on the mercy love of the All-holy Trinity, Lambert grew in wisdom and stature, ever chanting: On the rock of Thy commandments establish me, O Master!

Thou wast the scion of pious parents, and disciple to holy servants of God's altar, O Lambert, and by them thou wast nurtured in the virtues and reared in Orthodoxy, wherein thou wast established.

Theotokion: Pure and all-immaculate is the Virgin Mary, who for her spotless purity and her humble submission to the will of the Father conceived in her womb His Son and Word, through the all-holy Spirit.

Kontakion of the hieromartyr, in Tone VIII—

O holy hierarch Lambert, glory of Maastricht, beauteous lily of the vale of piety and lofty summit of the virtues, fount of pure wisdom, glory of the Orthodox, denouncer of ungodliness, wondrous martyr and worker of countless miracles: Entreat Christ God, that He grant our souls great mercy.

Ikos: When thy precious body was removed from its tomb, O father, surrounding thy grave a multitude of the faithful gazed upon thee with trembling, and, looking upon thy remains, were stricken with awe. But the holy hierarch Hubert cried out with reverence: "O Lord our God, what

words of thanks befit such a goodly gift as Thou hast given us this day?" O holy hierarch Lambert, entreat Christ God, that He grant our souls great mercy.

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

A godly hierarch wast thou, who didst gain mastery over the carnal passions, didst shepherd thy flock most gloriously, O venerable one, and didst enlighten and teach them to honor the holiness of Christian marriage. Wherefore, thou pourest forth healings even after thy repose upon those who approach the shrine of thy relics with faith. O most blessed Lambert, entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of transgressions unto those who honor thy holy memory with love.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Sessional hymn of the Cross, from the Menaion.

Ode IV

Irmos: Seeing Thee upon the Cross, O Mighty One, the great luminary was seized with trembling, and, furling its rays, it hid them; and all creation hymned Thy longsuffering with fear. For the earth hath been filled with Thy praise.

In spiritual gloom did the heathen walk, for they knew not Christ, the Sun of righteousness; but Lambert joined with the holy Willibrord to bring His light to their souls: wherefore, they have filled the earth with the praise of God.

Exalt ye the most glorious Lambert, the glory of Maastricht and boast of Liège, the great luminary of the Orthodox Church, whose bold confession and holy martyrdom we greatly hymn, so that the earth resoundeth with his praise.

Rays of grace illumined the hearts and minds of those who before walked in heathen darkness, for the holy hierarch revealed to them the radiance of the love of Christ, Who for mercy's sake died on the Cross for their sake.

Theotokion: Crucified on the tree of the Cross, Christ, the Mighty One, entrusted sinful humanity to His most blessed Mother as her children; wherefore, though we yet walk in fear and darkness, we rejoice to have her as our guide and intercessor.

Ode V

Irmos: Once, the seraph, taking up tongs, took up a burning ember and touched it to Isaiah's lips; and, purified, he proclaimed unto all: Learn ye righteousness!

Educated by an earthly tutor, the godly Lambert zealously sought heavenly wisdom; and having attained true understanding he cried: Learn ye righteousness!

Dedicating himself to the study of the sacred Scriptures, the saint of God received the burning coal of God's grace, and cried unto all: Learn ye righteousness!

Living in turbulent times, the sacred Lambert was chosen to succeed his murdered uncle in the see of Maastricht; and he tended his flock with righteousness.

Theotokion: Angels and archangels stand in awe of thy glory, O Mistress Theotokos; and the cherubim and seraphim fall silent, beholding thy surpassing purity.

Ode VI

Irmos: Imitating the Prophet Jonah, I cry out: O Good One, free my life from corruption! O Savior of the world, save me who cry out: Glory to Thee!

Maastricht is now renowned as a seat of worldly power, yet its earthly might is shown to be impotent by the glory of him who served God therein.

Blessed was the holy Lambert, who like Athanasius of old was driven from his flock by corrupt rulers; yet he humbly cried out: Glory be to God!

Evil pervaded the realms of the Franks, and corruption prevailed; but Lambert put his trust in the Savior of the world, crying: Glory be to Thee!

Theotokion: Remember us, thy lowly servants, O Mother of our Savior, and by thy pleas deliver us from corruption, that we may cry to Him: Glory to Thee!

Kontakion & ikos of the Cross, from the Menaion.

Ode VII

Irmos: The children raised together in piety, disdaining the ungodly command, feared not the threat of the fire, but, standing in the midst of the flame, they chanted: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Threats did not daunt the holy one, who went boldly to defend the holiness of marriage; but amid perils he remained steadfast, like the youths in the furnace, crying: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Disdaining the laws of piety and the Christian virtues, the ruler of the Franks gave himself over to ungodly lusts; but Lambert sought to restore his soul, that he might chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Imitating the wicked Jezebel of old, who raged with violence against Elijah, the prophet of God, Alpaïs sought the life of Christ's sanctified servant, who chanted: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: Ever fearing the one true God, the pious youths spurned

the tyrant's ungodly command, and, unconsumed in the midst of the fire, they presented an image of the seedless conception of Christ in the Virgin's womb.

Ode VIII

Irmos: The children who did not defile themselves with food from the table of the king once entered, rejoicing, into the fire; and cooled even in the midst of the flame, they chanted fervently: Bless the Lord, ye works of the Lord!

Defiling himself with the sin of adultery, the ruler of the Franks put away his lawful spouse and unlawfully took to him a concubine, earning for his soul the fires of Gehenna; but Lambert rebuked him, exclaiming: Bless the Lord!

For to prevent the holy one from persuading her partner in sin, the adulteress Alpaïs sent her brother and his minions to slay him; and they pierced him with a spear as he chanted to God: Bless the Lord, ye works of the Lord!

O the multitude of wonders that Christ the King hath wrought through His glorious hierarch! For in the piercing of his heart he imitated the suffering of the Master, Whose all-pure heart was pierced for the sake of our salvation.

Retiring to his closet to pray without hypocrisy, as Christ teacheth us, Lambert was at his prayers when an evildoer, casting a spear through the window of his cell, transfixed him therewith, and sent his pure soul to this Savior.

Theotokion: Jesus dwelt within the Virgin's spotless womb, yet the fire of His divinity in nowise consumed her, even as the flames of Nebuchadnezzar's furnace wrought no harm to the youths, who cried: Bless the Lord, ye works of the Lord!

Ode IX

Irmos: O Virgin Mother, true Theotokos who without seed gavest birth to Christ our God, Who was lifted up upon the Cross in the flesh: all of us, the faithful, all magnify thee with Him as is meet.

Ever do the faithful proclaim that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church; and the blood of the holy hieromartyr hath long nourished those who magnify Him Who was crucified.

Stavelot witnessed the holy one's ascetic feats, and Maastricht saw his birth and episcopal labors, but Liège beheld his blessed soul take wing unto Christ, and enshrineth his healing relics even today.

Unto thee, O holy Lambert, do we direct our lowly entreaties. Offer them up, we pray, before the throne of Christ our God in our behalf, that,

finding mercy, we may magnify Him as is meet.

Theotokion: Save us, O Virgin Theotokos, Queen of heaven, by the power of Christ thy Son, Who for our sake was crucified in the flesh, that with thee and the angels we may magnify Him as is meet.

Exapostilarion of the hieromartyr: Spec. Mel.: “By the Spirit in the holy place...”—

Thou didst win the spiritual race, O blessed Lambert, struggling mightily in thy confession of the Faith and thy wondrous martyrdom, upon which the assemblies of angels and men gaze with awe.

Glory..., Now & ever...: Exapostilarion of the Cross, from the Menaion.

Aposticha sitchera of the Cross, from the Menaion; and Glory...: Idiomelon of the hieromartyr, in Tone VIII—

A good shepherd wast thou of the flock of the Lord and a fervent teacher of the Orthodox, O holy hierarch Lambert; for which cause, ever extolling thy wonders, we cry out to thee: O adornment of the Church of Christ, thy holy relics are a fount of miracles for those in need and a wellspring of healings for the afflicted. Wherefore, pray thou unceasingly for those who praise thee and honor thy sacred memory, asking remission of our offenses and great mercy for our souls.

Now & ever...: Idiomelon of the Cross, from the Menaion.

At Liturgy

On the Beatitudes, 6 troparia from Ode IV of the canon of the Cross.

Prokimenon of the Cross, from the Menaion; and this prokimenon of the hieromartyr, in Tone VII—

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

Epistle to Timothy, § 292

Timothy my child, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him Who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully. The husbandman who laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits. Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ

of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my Gospel: wherein I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the Word of God is not bound. Therefore I endure all things for the elects' sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Alleluia of the Cross, from the Menaion; and of the hieromaryr, in Tone II—

Stichos: Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

Gospel according to Matthew, § 36

The Lord said to His disciples: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; and ye shall be brought before governors and kings for My sake, for a testimony against them and the gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he who endureth to the end shall be saved."

Communion verse of the Cross, from the Menaion; and that of the hieromartyr—

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