

Month of August

THE 27TH DAY

Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints

Liberius Pope of Rome, the Confessor

(Intended to be combined with the service for the Venerable Pæmen the Great)

At Vespers

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 sitchera: 3 of the Venerable Pæmen, and 3 of the holy hierarch, in Tone VI: Spec. Mel.: "Having set all aside..."—

Gathered together this day, O ye who love the saints of the Church, in hymnody let us praise the adornment of holy hierarchs, the great boast of confessors, the mighty defender of the Orthodox Faith, saying: Rejoice, O Liberius, wondrous shepherd who didst not fear the wolves of this world, but dwellest now in the heavens, from whence thou shinest forth in radiance upon us, O glorious one.

Seated upon the throne of Peter, thou didst likewise share in the ways of the preëminent Paul! For though thou didst behold the Church rent asunder by the ungodly Arians, thou didst preserve the robe of Christ untorn, and didst make it steadfast in the Orthodox Faith, setting an example for the faithful, defending and preserving the sheep of thy flock, O wondrous hierarch Liberius.

Unjustly driven from thy see, O holy hierarch, thou didst endure thy banishment with steadfast resolve, wherein, as a valiant athlete of Christ, thou didst prevail over the deluded Constantius and refute the pratings of the Arians, liberating from their errors the Orthodox people. Wherefore, Christ hath crowned thee with a diadem of victory, O Liberius, thou fervent intercessor for our souls.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the Venerable Pæmen.

Now & ever...: Theotokion or stavrotheotokion from the service of the Venerable Pæmen. Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and this sticheron of the holy hierarch Idiomelon, in Tone IV—

Stichos: Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all.

Subjected to mockery and abuse by the enemies of Christ, thou wast undaunted by their malice and threats, O all-glorious one, for God strengthened the powers of thy soul, and though oppressed thou didst manfully resist all their ungodly demands and didst likewise refute the lying words and calumnies wherein they falsely accused thee upholding their error. Wherefore, having kept faith with Jesus, the Word of God, O Liberius, pray for us without ceasing, that like thee we may shun the broad way and may not stumble in the narrow path, but may ever worship the consubstantial Trinity, before Whose throne thou standest now with the angels on high.

Glory...: Idiomelon of the Venerable Pæmen.

Now & ever...: Theotokion or stavrotheotokion from the service of the Venerable Pæmen. Troparion of the venerable one; and, Glory...: that of the holy hierarch, in Tone I—

Let us who have betimes weakened amid temptations and are assailed by the falsehoods of this age, now make haste to the holy hierarch and confessor Liberius, and fall down, with compunction crying aloud: O thou who didst cleave unto the consubstantial Trinity, pray fervently that we be saved.

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or stavrotheotokion.

At Matins

At "God is the Lord..." , the troparion of the venerable one, twice; Glory...: that of the holy hierarch; Now & ever...: Theotokion.

One canon from the Octoechos, with 6 troparia, including the irmos; then, canon of the venerable one, with 4 troparia; and this canon of the holy hierarch, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Liberius adoreth the Consubstantial", 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.

Lift from me the burden of unworthiness, O Word of God, that I may chant a new song unto Liberius, who proclaimed Thee consubstantial with the Father, and hath been glorified.

In hymns and spiritual songs let us praise the great confessor of the Christian Faith, the champion of Orthodoxy, the scourge of the Arians: for Christ God hath glorified him.

Bethlehem of Judah witnessed the nativity in the flesh of One of the Trinity, and Liberius of Rome bore witness that Christ is God, consubstantial with the Father and glorified with Him

Theotokion: Every ear is filled with delight to hear new songs chanted in honor of the all-pure Mother of God, who looketh down with mercy upon us sinners, for in heaven is she ever glorified.

Ode III

Irmos: O Most High, Thou Ruler of all, Who out of non-existence hast brought all things, which are fashioned by Thy Word and made perfect by the Spirit: Confirm me in Thy love!

Ruling tyrannically, Constantius, the unworthy son of a pious father, madly clung to the heresy of Arius; but Liberius taught that all things are created by the preëternal Word.

Inspired by the prideful enemy of our race, the ruler demanded of the holy one: "Who art thou to stand against the whole world?" But the saint of God made bold confession.

Unto the Most High Ruler of all did Liberius offer worship, professing the Symbol of the Faith that the fathers wrought at Nicæa, and reproving the Arians for their blasphemy.

Theotokion: Seraphim cover their faces with their six wings, and cherubim shield their many eyes, filled with great awe by the sight of the most immaculate Mother of the preëternal Word.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone III: Spec. Mel.: "Today the Virgin..."—

We extol the purity of thy faith, O Liberius, holy hierarch of Christ, we praise thy great boldness and courage and marvel at thy godly eloquence: for the Spirit filled thy mouth with grace divine, that thou mightest teach the flock entrusted to thy care and stop the mouths of the enemies of Christ, upholding the Symbol of Nicæa.

Ikos: Having set all thy hope on heavenly things, thou didst not

bow before the threats of Constantius or the suasions of his minions; but, thy soul invincible amid trials and temptations, thou didst put the Arians to shame. Wherefore, we beseech thee, O father Liberius: Entreat the Lord, that He grant our hierarchs zeal for the purity of the Orthodox Faith, that like thee they may teach well the flock entrusted to their care and stop the mouths of the enemies of Christ, upholding the Symbol of Nicæa.

Sessional hymn of the venerable one; and, Glory...: that of the holy hierarch,, also in Tone III: Spec. Mel.: "Of the divine Faith..."—

Thou didst dispel the darkness of heresy, by thy steadfast confession utterly trampling down the errors of the deluded Arius, O most blessed one; wherefore thou dwellest now in the abodes of the righteous. O holy father Liberius, beseech the Trinity our God, that we be granted peace and great mercy.

Now & ever...: Theotokion, or stavrotheotokion, from the service of the venerable Pæmen.

Ode IV

Irmos: Of what wast thou in awe, O Habbakuk? To whom dost thou exclaim and cry out: "God cometh from Thæman"? The Word hath become flesh and dwelt with us; and we have seen Him. In praise we cry out to our wondrous God, for He hath been glorified!

Awe filled thy heart, O Liberius, when thou didst consider the great mystery of the condensation of the preëternal Word, wherein One of the Trinity became flesh and dwelt among men; and thou didst cry in praise to our wondrous God, for He hath been glorified.

Defending the Symbol of Faith subscribed by the holy fathers gathered in council at Nicæa, O holy hierarch, thou didst proclaim that the divine Logos is not a created being, inferior to God the Father, but that with Him He shareth the same essence and throne.

O the boldness and valor of the holy Liberius, the champion of piety, the defender of the true Faith, who liberateth Orthodox Christians from error, delivering all from heresies and establishing us upon the Rock Who is consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit!

Theotokion: Remember us when thou intercedest for sinners at the dread judgment-seat of the King of all, thy Son and our God, O most blessed Theotokos. For if thou wilt not stand as advocate when we are judged, how will we escape the damnation we deserve for our offenses?

Ode V

Irmos: Thou hast appeared on earth, O Invisible One, and of Thine own will hast dwelt with men, O Unapproachable One. And rising early unto Thee, we hymn Thee, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

"Eternal is the divine Logos, Who for us men and our salvation entered flesh and dwelt among men; and the Arians err when they say that there was a time when He was not!", taught Liberius.

The Arians, and Constantius foremost, sought by threats and false promises to persuade thee to their error; and when their efforts failed, they craftily spread false report of thee, O saint of God.

How great was the love of thy flock for thee, their holy archpastor, O Liberius; for they kept faith with thee during thine exile, and scorned the lies wherewith the heretics sought to discredit thee.

Theotokion: Thou art wholly pure, O Mother of the God, and none other born of earth will ever approach thee in holiness; and, rising early, we hymn thee, who gavest birth to Him Who loveth mankind.

Ode VI

Irmos: I have been cast into the abyss of the heart of the sea of iniquities, and like Jonah I cry unto Thee: Lead me up from corruption, that I may render my supplications unto Thee, O Lord!

Help us by thy supplications, O Liberius, for we Christians are ever buffeted by mighty waves of heresy and error, and beyond escape we are sinking in a sea of iniquity and unbelief.

Ever more deeply borne down into the mire of the corruption of our times, struggling vainly under the weight of our transgressions, amid our woes we cry: Free us, O Liberius!

Contrition of heart is the sacrifice pleasing to God; yet this is utterly lacking in us, and we will surely be cast down into the everlasting abyss; but ask pardon for us, O saint of God.

Theotokion: O Mother of the Creator, lead me up from the abyss of corruption wherein the ship of my soul is sinking, o'erburdened with my manifold iniquities and misdeeds, my sins and offenses.

Kontakion & ikos of the Venerable Pæmen.

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!

Neither threats nor blandishments availed to lure thee away from thy faith, O holy one, and to the All-Trinity thou didst ever chant: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Sent into ignominious exile for thy confession, O Liberius, thou didst not waver; and, seeing thy steadfastness, the faithful sang: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Unmoved by abuse and maltreatment, in the strength of thy faith thou didst trample the errors of Arius underfoot, chanting: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers!

Theotokion: "Blessed art thou among women," the herald angel cried unto thee, O Lady, "for thou shalt conceive and give birth without seed unto the preëternal Logos, the Lord God of thy fathers!"

Ode VIII

Irmos: God Who was begotten of the unoriginate Father before time began, and in latter days clothed Himself in flesh from the Theotokos, do ye hymn, bless and exalt supremely for all ages, as perfect man and true God!

Steadfastly having confessed that the Word of God, Who was begotten of the unoriginate Father before eternity, hath clothed Himself in flesh for our salvation, Liberius doth bless and exalt Him forever.

The iniquitous Emperor Constantius, the blighted scion of a holy root, embraced erroneous beliefs; but Liberius boldly rebuked him, refuting the false teaching of Arius, who perished amid disgrace and infamy.

A vision came from on high to the Patrician John, that the Queen of all wished a church to be built in her honor; and, obedient to her desire, Liberius of Rome laid the foundation of a mighty temple in her name.

Theotokion: Now let us join chorus with the ranks of angels, in praise of Mary, the all-holy Theotokos, who gave birth ineffably unto the Lord Jesus, our incarnate God, Whom we worship as perfect man and true God.

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.

Thy dust now mingleth with that of countless martyrs in the old Imperial City, O great Liberius. With them pray that it be delivered from heresy.

In thy bold entreaties, O valiant confessor, beseech the Savior of men's souls, that He have pity on all who faithfully celebrate thy holy memory.

Ascended now into the heights of heaven, O Liberius, with the choirs of the saints and angels intercede before the Master, the Salvation of our souls.

Theotokion: Let us now magnify the unwedded Theotokos, the Mother of the Light Who freeth us from darkness and leadeth our souls into the light of salvation.

Exapostilarion of the Venerable Pæmen.

Glory...: That of the holy hierarch, in the same melody: "The heaven with stars..."—

O ye faithful, let us all glorify the wondrous confessor Liberius, the adornment of Rome, the great defender of the Holy Trinity, the holy hierarch of Christ.

Now & ever...: From the service of the Venerable Pæmen.

Aposticha stichera from the Octoechos; and Glory...: Sticheron idiomelon of the holy hierarch, in Tone VIII—

When thou wast driven from Rome, thy city and see, O Liberius, the city of Berœa gave thee shelter; and when thou didst return from thence to thy flock, having endured banishment, dishonor and countless afflictions, thou didst pass over, rejoicing, unto Christ, Whose divinity thou didst fervently proclaim. Wherefore, gladdened by thy confession, the Church crieth out to the Christ the Lord: Through the prayers of Thy hierarch, O Master, grant Thy people remission of sins and great mercy.

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

"What is this sight that mine eyes behold, O Master? Lifted up upon the Tree, Thou Who sustainest all creation diest, granting life unto all!", said the Theotokos, lamenting, when she beheld the God and man Who shone forth ineffably from her suspended upon the Cross.

At Liturgy

Prokimenon, Epistle, Alleluia, Gospel and Communion Hymn of the Venerable Pæmen.