

**Commemoration of Our Father among the Saints Aidan,
Bishop of Lindisfarne, Enlightener of Northumbria, together
with the Deposition of the Cincture of the Theotokos**

At Vespers

LORD I HAVE CRIED VERSES

On "Lord, I have cried...", 6 stichera: 3 for the Deposition of the Cincture of the Theotokos and 3 for the holy hierarch

as usual up to: "Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications" then

"If thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness."

TONE 6:

(6) THE SHRINE WHICH HOLDS YOUR BELT, THEOTOKOS, IS EVER KNOWN BY YOUR SERVANTS TO BE AN ARK OF SANCTIFICATION. IT IS OUR GLORY AND BOAST; A SACRED WALL SURROUNDING US; A FOUNTAIN OF HEALINGS! THEREFORE BEING DIVINELY GATHERED TODAY, WE HYMN YOUR MIGHTY ACTS AND THE VAST ABYSS OF YOUR WONDERS!

"Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul have waited upon thy word, my soul have hoped in the Lord."

(5) BEHOLD THE ALL-GLORIOUS PLACE! BEHOLD THE EVER-RADIANT TEMPLE IN WHICH A TREASURE HAS BEEN LAID: THE BELT OF THE MOTHER OF THE DIVINE SON! PEOPLE, COME! DRAW FORTH ENLIGHTENMENT AND MERCY, AND SHOUT WITH A GRATEFUL HEART: ALL-HOLY VIRGIN, WE BLESS YOU, FOR WE HAVE BEEN SAVED BY YOUR CHILDBEARING!

"From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord."

(4) WE REJOICE AND KEEP THE FEAST OF THE PLACING OF YOUR BELT, THEOTOKOS, FOR TODAY YOU HAVE GRANTED IT TO YOUR PEOPLE, IT IS A SACRED GARMENT, WEALTH THAT CANNOT BE STOLEN, A PRECIOUS GIFT AND RIVER OF HEALINGS OVERFLOWING WITH SPIRITUAL TREASURES!

"For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from his iniquities."

(3) ARISE, YE CHRISTIAN PEOPLES, AND LET US PRAISE THE WONDROUS AIDAN, A HIERARCH BLESSED BY GOD, A TIRELESS HUSBANDMAN OF THE VINEYARD OF THE HOLY CHURCH; AND WITH CRIES OF JUBILATION LET US DECLARE BEFORE ALL NATIONS THAT HE IS OUR FERVENT INTERCESSOR BEFORE THE THRONE OF THE LORD OF LORDS.

"Praise the Lord all ye nations; praise Him all ye people."

(2) O LINDISFARNE, THOU HOLY ISLE, WASHED EVERLASTINGLY BY THE TIDES OF THE SEA, AS THOU DIDST BEHOLD THE SPIRITUAL STRUGGLES AND FEATS OF THE HOLY HIERARCH AIDAN, THY VERY STONES BEAR WITNESS TO THE GLORY HE HATH WON WITH CHRIST. WHEREFORE, AS THOU ART EXALTED ABOVE THE TIDES, RAISE US UP TO PRAISE HIM.

For His mercy is great towards us and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever."

(1) KINGS AND NOBLES HONOURED THEE, BUT THOU GAVEST THEIR GIFTS UNTO THE POOR IN CHRIST, THEREBY SHOWING THYSELF TO BE A MODEL OF CHRISTIAN VIRTUE AND CHARITY; WHEREFORE, THOU HAST BEEN CROWNED IN THE HEAVENS BY THE RIGHT HAND OF THE ALMIGHTY, O GLORIOUS AIDAN.

GLORY..., (SPLIT)

TONE 2

THE ISLANDS OF THE SEA LEAP FOR JOY AT THY MEMORY, O AIDAN, FOR ON THE ISLE OF SCATTERY, IN THE IRELAND OF THY BIRTH, THOU DIDST FIRST UNDERTAKE THE MONASTIC LIFE WITH THE VENERABLE SENAN, ON THE BLESSED ISLAND OF IONA IN THE LAND OF THE PICTS DIDST ATTAIN SPIRITUAL MATURITY UNDER SEGENIUS, AND DIDST FOUND THINE OWN MONASTERY ON THE HOLY ISLE OF LINDISFARNE ON THE COAST OF NORTHUMBRIA. WHEREFORE, IN THEE WERE THE WORDS OF ISAIAH THE PROPHET FULFILLED, FOR FOR THY SAKE WAS THE GLORY OF THE LORD REVEALED IN THE ISLES OF THE SEA, AND THE NAME OF THE LORD MADE GLORIOUS THEREIN.

NOW & EVER...,

for the Deposition:

TONE 2

ALL-PURE THEOTOKOS, THE CHURCH OF GOD IS ROBED IN YOUR HOLY BELT, AS WITH A SUPREME SHINING DIADEM! IT IS RADIANT TODAY AND CRIES OUT TO YOU REJOICING, REJOICE, SOVEREIGN LADY! PRECIOUS DIADEM AND CROWN OF DIVINE GLORY! REJOICE, FOR YOU ALONE ARE THE FULLNESS OF GLORY AND EVERLASTING GLADNESS! REJOICE, REFUGE OF THOSE WHO RUN TO YOU, OUR INTERCESSOR AND SALVATION!

Aposticha of the Deposition:

TONE 2

HAVING CLEANSSED OUR HEART AND MIND, LET US KEEP FEAST TOGETHER WITH THE ANGELS, JOYFULLY ADDRESSING THE SONG OF DAVID TO THE MAIDEN BRIDE OF THE KING OF ALL, CHRIST OUR GOD, SAYING: ARISE, LORD, INTO YOUR RESTING PLACE, BOTH YOU AND THE ARK OF YOUR HOLINESS!

FOR YOU HAVE ADORNED HER AS A BEAUTIFUL PALACE, GIVING HER AS AN INHERITANCE TO YOUR PEOPLE, MASTER, TO PRESERVE AND SHELTER THEM FROM THEIR ENEMIES, // BY YOUR MIGHTY POWER, THROUGH HER SUPPLICATIONS!

GLORY..., (SPLIT)

TONE 8

WITH THE RIGHT-BELIEVING KINGS OSWALD AND OSWIN THOU DIDST PLANT THE FAITH OF CHRIST AMONG THE ENGLISH, AS A TRUE APOSTLE AND DISCIPLE OF THE SAVIOR, O HOLY AIDAN; AND CARING FOR ORPHANS AND CHILDREN AS A SOLICITOUS FATHER, THOU DIDST INSTILL IN THEM TRUE PIETY AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD; AND WITH COINS ENTRUSTED TO THEE IN CHRISTIAN CHARITY THOU DIDST PURCHASE THE FREEDOM OF MANY WHO LANGUISHED IN BITTER THRALLDOM AND CAPTIVITY. O HOLY HIERARCH, LOOK DOWN FROM HEAVEN UPON US, THY SINFUL CHILDREN: BY THINE EXAMPLE TEACH US THE VIRTUES AND LEAD US TO THE VISION OF GOD, AND BY THY SUPPLICATIONS RANSOM US, THE WRETCHED, FROM SLAVERY TO DEATH AND THE DEVIL.

NOW & EVER...,

Aposticha Troparion of the Deposition

TONE 8

EVER-VIRGIN THEOTOKOS, PROTECTION OF MANKIND, YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR PEOPLE A STRONG INHERITANCE: THE ROBE AND BELT OF YOUR MOST HONORED BODY WHICH HAVE REMAINED INCORRUPT THROUGH YOUR SEEDLESS CHILDBEARING, FOR IN YOU TIME AND NATURE ARE RENEWED! // THEREFORE WE ASK YOU TO GRANT PEACE TO YOUR PEOPLE AND GREAT MERCY TO OUR SOULS!

Aposticha Troparion of the holy hierarch

TONE 1

A SCION OF IRELAND, TRANSPLANTED TO LONA, THE ISLE OF SAINTS, TENDED THERE THOU DIDST GROW TO SPIRITUAL FRUITION; AND WHEN THE FIELD OF NORTHUMBRIA WAS READY TO RECEIVE THE SEEDS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, THOU WAST SENT THITHER TO PLANT THE CROP OF SALVATION. WHEREFORE, LABORING DILIGENTLY DAY AND NIGHT, THOU DIDST PRODUCE A RICH HARVEST FOR CHRIST. O GODLY AIDAN OUR FATHER, ENTREAT HIM EARNESTLY, THAT OUR SOULS FIND MERCY.

GLORY..., NOW & EVER...

Vesperal Liturgy for St. Aidan

PSALM 104 preceding the service

"Blessed ..."

GREAT LITANY

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After the Entrance ("O Gladsome Light ...") the following troparion and kontakion

TROPARION OF ST. AIDAN (TONE 5)

O HOLY BISHOP AIDAN, APOSTLE OF THE NORTH AND LIGHT OF THE CELTIC CHURCH, GLORIOUS IN HUMILITY, NOBLE IN POVERTY, ZEALOUS MONK AND LOVING MISSIONARY, INTERCEDE FOR US SINNERS THAT CHRIST OUR GOD MAY HAVE MERCY ON OUR SOULS.

KONTAKION OF ST. AIDAN (TONE 2)

THOU DIDST TEACH AND PRESERVE CHRIST'S DOCTRINE AND DIDST SPREAD THE FAITH THROUGHOUT NORTHUMBRIA, O HOLY HIERARCH AIDAN. UNCEASINGLY PRAY TO GOD FOR US FOR THOU DOST WORSHIP BEFORE HIS THRONE FOR EVER.

Prokeimenon for a Hierarch

MY MOUTH SHALL SPEAK WISDOM, //
AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART SHALL BE OF UNDERSTANDING

VERSE: HEAR THIS, ALL YE NATIONS;
GIVE EAR, ALL YE THAT INHABIT THE WORLD

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:5-23

Alleluias for a Hierarch

VERSE 1 THE MOUTH OF THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL MEDITATE WISDOM,
AND HIS TONGUE SHALL SPEAK OF JUDGEMENT.

VERSE 2 THE LAW OF HIS GOD IS IN HIS HEART
AND HIS STEPS SHALL NOT BE TRIPPED.

Gospel: John 10:10-28

Sermon and rest of Liturgy as usual

At Matins

At "God is the Lord...", the troparion of the Deposition, twice:-

Glory... (split)

that of the holy hierarch:-

Now & ever...

that of the Deposition, once:-

After the kathismata of the Psalter, the sessional hymns of the Deposition.

Canon 1 of the Deposition, with 6 troparia, including the irmos, which is chanted twice; Canon 2 of the Deposition, with 4 troparia; and this canon of the holy hierarch, with 4 troparia, the acrostic whereof is "Eire, Scotland and England praise Aidan", in Tone 1

Ode 1

Irmos:

Let us chant a new hymn unto the Lord Who made the impassable Red Sea dry land. He caused the children of Israel to traverse it, and covered the adverse foe with the sea.

Eireann's child Aidan, growing in wisdom and stature in the land of the Picts, became a true apostle and father to the English, so that multitudes came to sojourn on earth as they were angels and dwell now in the heavens.

Iona, the sacred isle of the venerable Columba, nurtured thee, O Aidan, with the Holy Scriptures and the writings of the fathers, so that thou didst excel in the monastic struggles, in prudence and all the virtues.

Rejecting the acquisition of worldly power and material possessions, like the disciples of Christ thou didst go humbly among thy flock, O wondrous hierarch, preferring to walk upon thy beautiful apostolic feet, rather than to ride.

Theotokion:

Ever-virgin art thou, O all-holy and blessed

Mistress, Queen of all creation, for the preéternal Son and Logos hath preserved thy purity undefiled, from thy nativity to this day, and time without end.

Katavasia: The Irmoi of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Ode 3

Irmos:

O Lord, establish the Church which Thou hast acquired by the power of Thy Cross, whereby Thou didst vanquish the enemy and hast enlightened the whole world.

Senan, thy tutor in faith and piety, sent thee to Segenius to train as a champion in the contest against all manner of temptations; and, strengthened by the supplications of both preceptors, O Aidan, thou didst vanquish the hordes of Satan.

Called to the episcopate because of thine exceeding great discretion, thou didst tend the sheep and lambs of thy flock for Christ, the Chief Shepherd, Who hath crowned thee gloriously with an unfading wreath.

O the grace which filled thee, body and soul, O wondrous Aidan! For, sensing the power of the Almighty working in thee, the waves of the sea stilled their raging when oil thou didst provide was poured forth thereon.

Theotokion:

Tenderly didst thou feed thine own Creator at thy breast, O Virgin Mother; wherefore, He Whom thou didst cradle in thine all-pure arms took thy pristine soul into His own hands when it departed thine immaculate body.

Kontakion of the holy hierarch, in Tone 5:

With great pastoral prudence, O holy hierarch Aidan, thou didst feed the lambs of thy new flock with the milk of piety; and when they were replete with such wholesome spiritual sustenance, thou gavest them the solid provender of Orthodox doctrine, thereby confirming their souls in godly reverence and true devotion.

Ikos:

Arise and praise Aidan, O Northumbria! O Holy Isle of Lindisfarne, rejoice and be glad! Ye kings and princes, lords and commons, lift up your voices in jubilation! For the blessed hierarch ever imparteth to your land the mercy and favor of the Most High,

shedding the rays thereof upon your cities, villages and towns. Wherefore, let the streams of the River Humber carry his fame to all the world, and let York, Durham and Bamburgh declare his glory to all Christendom, that every nation may glorify God, Who is wondrous in His saints, that He may confirm our souls in godly reverence and true devotion.

Sessional hymn of the Deposition:

Glory... (split)

that of the holy hierarch: in Tone 8:

Well didst thou heed the words of David the Psalmist, O Aidan, for thou didst take care not to be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, whose jaws must be held with bit and bridle; wherefore, when a costly steed was bestowed upon thee by the pious king, thou didst straightway give it away to a pauper, reproving the sovereign when he protested thy liberality, for the poor in Christ, who are always with us, are higher in value than all the horses of this world.

Now & ever...

Sessional hymn of the Deposition, again

Ode 4

Irmos:

Thy grace hath shone forth upon the nations, and the ends of the earth have beheld Thy glory, for by Thy Cross hast Thou saved the whole world.

Let all the ends of the earth rejoice today in the memory of the holy hierarch Aidan, who cast down the idols of the heathen and shone forth the grace of God in the Kingdoms of Deira and Bernicia. All Orthodox nations exult greatly today, lauding the apostolic struggles and journeys of the wondrous Aidan, by whose tireless efforts the Faith of Christ was established.

Now let us all emulate the blessed Aidan, the model for monastics and paragon of Christian virtues, that having like him pleased our heavenly Master, we may enter into His gracious joy.

Theotokion:

Despairing of our salvation because of our manifold

offenses, in fear we flee to thee, O most immaculate one; and, clasping thy precious feet, we beseech thy mighty intercession.

Ode 5

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!

Alms didst thou constantly receive from the mighty of the world, O Aidan; and these didst thou straightway distribute among the poor and needy. Wherefore, great is thy treasure in the heavens. Neither silver nor gold didst thou keep for thyself, O friend of the Most High, but didst hold the poor in spirit to be thy true treasure; and therein didst thy heart delight, O God-bearer. Despondency and all the carnal passions didst thou dispel from thy soul by the rigors of abstinence and ascetic struggles, O venerable one, wherefore, thou becamest a true model for monks.

Theotokion:

Even the most eloquent of orators is utterly at a loss how to describe the mighty works which thine omnipotent Son hath wrought through thee, O most pure Maiden.

Ode 6

Irmos:

Emulating 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!

Nailing the uprisings of thy flesh to the fear of God, thou didst earnestly take up thy cross and follow after Christ Jesus thy Lord, by whose sufferings we have been redeemed.

Glory and majesty shine forth on this day of thy memorial, O blessed one; for having shed the old man like a garment, thou didst put on Christ, Who shineth with uncreated light.

Lowly and humble, O Aidan, thou didst yet consort with kings, princes and highborn nobles, teaching them to repent, in that the mighty will be cast down and those of low degree will be exalted.

Theotokion:

All-blessed art thou, O Lady Theotokos, for within thy pure womb did the Author of all deign to dwell, so that it

surpasseth all the celestial heights in glory.

Kontakion & Ikos of the Deposition.

Ode 7

Irmos:

O Lord God of our fathers, Who didst appear to the law-giver
in the fiery bush and therein prefigure Thy nativity from the Virgin:
Blessed art Thou!

Now still do the tides sunder thy Holy Isle from the coastal
lands, O Aidan our helmsman; yet during thy life did naught separate
thee from the love of thy Lord.

Devoutly did the pious Oswald grant thee the islands of the sea,
O boast of monks: wherefore, on Lindisfarne thou didst found a
mighty monastery; while Farne witnessed thy solitary struggles in
prayer.

Prudence, the highest of pastoral virtues, reigned supreme in
thy life, so that multitudes of the heathen, perceiving the light of
Christ shining forth from thee, glorified God, crying: Blessed art Thou!

Theotokion:

Robed in gold inwrought with many colours, the all- immaculate Queen
and Mother standeth in majesty by the throne of the Most High,
mercifully interceding for her sinful servants.

Ode 8

Irmos:

Hymn the Lord, Who preserved the children in the burning
fiery furnace and descended unto them in the form of an angel, and
exalt Him supremely forever!

At thy preaching, O godly hierarch Aidan, the hearts of men
were opened to the teachings of Christ Jesus; for as thou didst teach,
so didst thou live, conforming thyself to the divine precepts.

In time of strife, when pagan hordes strove to burn the royal
city to the ground, O Aidan, thou didst set their malice at nought, and
by the power of God didst turn back against them the very flames
they kindled.

Singing the praises of God, like the youths in the furnace, while
fires threatened to consume Bamburgh, by thine entreaty thou didst
preserve the Christian city unharmed by the flames, turning them

back upon the malefactors.

Theotokion:

Exalting thee among all women, Christ made His abode within thee,
O pure Theotokos, miraculously issuing forth from
thee at His birth v/ithout breaking the seal of thy virginity.

Ode IX

Irmos:

With hymns do we magnify Thee, the God and man, Who
wast first begotten without mother, and then wast born without
father.

As a good shepherd, and not a hireling, O Aidan, thou didst call
upon the infidels to cast away their unbelief and to enter, rejoicing,
into the fold of the Church, embracing the one true Faith.

Instructing believers in word and deed, O holy hierarch, thou
didst strengthen them in the doing of good deeds, that their faith
might be alive within them and bear the ripe fruits of piety.

Devoting thyself to monastic ideals, thou didst found many
monasteries and convents throughout Northumbria, O most glorious
one, nurturing generations of monastics in continence, and uprooting
the passions from them like tares.

Again and again were the timbers of the church where thou
didst repose reduced utterly to ashes, O holy Aidan; yet the wooden
buttress whereon thou didst lean when thy soul took flight was
never touched or consumed by the flames.

Theotokion:

Now let us entreat the mediation of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of the all-seeing Judge
Who hath pardoned mankind, Whose sufferings, resurrection and ascension the
wondrous Aidan gloriously preached.

Exapostilarion of the Deposition:-

Glory... (split)

that of the holy hierarch:

Great was thy mastery of the Christian virtues, O Aidan, for
thou wast utterly free of greed and avarice. Readily didst thou tend
to the needs of the souls of thy new flock, unceasingly preaching to

them the words of life. Wherefore, the sheep and lambs entrusted to

thee by the Chief Shepherd greatly increased in number through thy pious ministrations.

Now & ever...

Exapostilarion of the Deposition, again.

On the Praises, 4 stichera of the Deposition; and Glory..., of the holy hierarch, in Tone 6

O royal Bamburgh, be thou exalted among all the cities of England, for within thy precincts did the holy Aidan commit his soul into the hands of his Master. And thou, O Holy Isle of Lindisfarne, whose soil was hallowed by the sacred remains of the athlete of Christ, do thou shine forth upon us the grace of the Almighty, as the sun sheddeth its rays upon the whole world, that, enlightened thereby, our eyes may clearly behold the straight and narrow path vvhich Aidan trod, which leadeth us surely to the mansions of heaven.

Now & ever..., of the *Deposition*.

Great Doxology. Troparia. Litanies. Dismissal. First Hour.