



NOVEMBER 7

Our Father Among the Saints Willibrord
of Northumbria, Bishop of Utrecht
and Apostle of the Frisians

SMALL VESPERS

If the Protos desireth a vigil, at O Lord, I have cried, we allow for four verses and chant the following Stichera, doubling the first:

Fourth Tone. As one valiant

As is fitting, we call thee blest, * O great Hierarch Willibrord, * as we come together to chant thee hymns of praise * within thy temple, which hath been founded by thine all-holy prayers; * as a great evangelist * thou hast brought the most holy Faith * to the Frisians who, * from the ages, did languish in the darkness and the falsehood of the demons, * and with the Truth thou didst lighten them. (*Twice*)

How can we ever rightly praise * thee, O Hierarch Willibrord? * Thou wast bold and fearless before the face of kings, * yet in thy meekness thou wast a gentle father and gospeler, * ever speaking of the Truth * to all those who would hear its word. * And serenely thou * didst not fear any danger or catastrophe, no matter what befell thee, * and thy success is our heritage.

WITH thy heart of divine desires, * O great Hierarch Willibrord, * thou didst wish to venture into the devil's lair, * bringing the Frisians out from his clutches, into the holy Church * and by water to receive * the adoption as sons of God. * By thy holy prayers, * grant us strength that we also may be faithful to the calling of our Saviour, * ever increasing His commonwealth.

Glory. *Plagal of Fourth Tone*

OMAN of God and faithful intercessor, minister of the Lord and shepherd of His flock, O Father Willibrord, thou hast borne the Light of Christ in the darkest of regions. The radiance of thy countenance bare witness to the fiery zeal of thy soul; the

persistence of thine apostolic labour confirmed thy love for the hopelessly benighted people. Thy life was glorious, and thy falling-asleep was holy. Intercede thou in behalf of our souls.

Both now. *Theotokion*

THE heavens sing thy praises, O unwedded Mother full of grace, and we on earth glorify thine unfathomable childbirth. O True Theotokos, pray thou that our souls be saved.

For the Aposticha, these Stichera:

Second Tone. O house of Ephratha

As a new Abraham, * thou wentest from thy home land * into a foreign nation, * becoming in the Spirit the father of a multitude.

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saint.

As a new Samuel, * and sharing in his boldness, * thou didst cast down the idols * of ancient superstition, and drove the demons from the land.

Verse: Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

As an Evangelist * and the Apostles' equal, * in thee the light shone brightly, * and by it, many nations have come to see the light of Christ.

Glory. *Same Melody*

LET the Low Countries sing * together with the whole Church * on this most holy feast day * of Willibrord, who proclaimed the tidings of the Saviour Christ.

Both now. *Theotokion*

OEVER-VIRGIN Maid, * together with the Hierarch * and all the Saints together, * make intercession for us, that Christ our God would save our souls.

The Prayer of Symeon, the Trisagion Prayers, and the Dismissal Hymn, The word of God to the Patriarch Abraham, found in Great Vespers. And the Litany and the Dismissal.



GREAT VESPERS

After Psalm 103, we chant the first stasis of the first Kathisma from the Psalter, Blessed is the Man. For O Lord, I have cried, we allow for six verses and chant the following Stichera:

Plagal of Fourth Tone. O Lord, though Thou didst stand

O HOLY Father Willibrord, from thy childhood * thou wast devoted wholly to God, * and in Ireland thou didst discover * the greatest gifts thou didst ever seek. * And finding holiness, thou * wast made ready to be sent forth * from thy dear homeland, unto the Frisians * to shine upon them the light of Christ.

O HOLY Father Willibrord, in thy whole life * thou hast revealed unto all the world * the surpassing truth of the gospel, * and through its light have we seen the Light. * And now, O Father, as thou * standest ever before the Lord * among the chorus of holy hierarchs, * pray thou that we may endure in faith.

O HOLY Father Willibrord, thou hast laboured * for Christ the Lord from thy very youth; * lifting thy voice in sacred worship, * and therein finding the truest joy; * by thine example, thou art * a guide for them that seek the Lord. * Wherefore, do thou pray to Him for our sakes, * that we may find that same blessed joy.

Other Stichera. First Tone. O all-lauded Martyrs

THY whole life was pleasing unto God, * for thou lovedst Christ with all thy heart and didst follow Him faithfully in all thy tireless deeds. * Thou hast brought the people * of the Low Countries to faith, * and many souls have thus found the perfect life. And as thou restest now * at the Lord's throne, pray thou ceaselessly * for thy children, * us who praise thy memory.

OUR Teacher thou verily hast been, * shining light upon the peoples, who were fallen in darkness, by thy preaching of the truth. * By the sacred Myst'ries, * thou hast brought them a new life. *

O Willibrord, our Father and Shepherd and Apostle, pray for us * to the Master, even Christ the Lord, * that He grant peace * and great mercy to our souls.

THY feast, O our Father Willibrord, * shineth brighter than the sun and doth illumine all them who celebrate it in true faith; * we are filled with sweetness * of the life that dieth not, * and healing for our souls is poured out for us. Thus intercede, we pray * with the Master, even Christ the Lord, * that He grant peace * and great mercy to our souls.

Glory. Plagal of Second Tone

O HOLY Father Willibrord, Apostle to the Low Countries, thou didst persevere in many troubles to proclaim the good news unto the people. Thou hast confirmed the gospel's truth by the virtue of thy life, by the boldness of thy words, and the power of thy wonders. Do thou intercede for thy children who have received salvation through thee, as we celebrate thy holy memory.

Both now. Dogmatic Theotokion

WHO shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of travailing and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of our souls.

Then the Entrance, O Gladsome Light, the Prokeimennon of the day, and the following Readings:

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon

WHEN the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan. Better than this is childlessness with virtue, for in the memory of virtue is immortality, because it is known both by God and by men. For his soul was pleasing to the Lord; therefore He took him quickly from the midst of wickedness. Therefore, set your desire on my words; long for them, and you will be instructed. The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction, and

concern for instruction is love of her, and love of her is the keeping of her laws, and giving heed to her laws is assurance of immortality. Therefore, if you delight in thrones and scepters, O monarchs over the peoples, honour wisdom, that you may reign forever. I will tell you what wisdom is and how she came to be, and I will hide no secrets from you, but I will trace her course from the beginning of creation, and make knowledge of her clear, and I will not pass by the truth; neither will I travel in the company of sickly envy, for envy does not associate with wisdom. May God grant that I speak with judgment and have thought worthy of what I have received, for He is the guide even of wisdom and the corrector of the wise. For both we and our words are in His hand, as are all understanding and skill in crafts. I learned both what is secret and what is manifest, for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me. For in her there is a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, mobile, clear, unpolluted, distinct, invulnerable, loving the good, keen, and irresistible. She is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of His goodness. Though she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets. She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior. Wisdom rescued from troubles those who served her. When a righteous man fled from his brother's wrath, she guided him on straight paths; she showed him the Kingdom of God, and gave him knowledge of angels; she prospered him in his labors, and increased the fruit of his toil. She protected him from his enemies, and kept him safe from those who lay in wait for him; in his arduous contest she gave him the victory, so that he might learn that godliness is more powerful than anything. It is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. Therefore, no one who utters unrighteous things will escape notice; and justice, when it punishes, will not pass him by.

The Reading is from the Wisdom of Solomon

THE wicked reasoned unsoundly, saying to themselves, "Short and sorrowful is our life, and there is no remedy when a man comes to his end, and no one has been known to return from Hades. Let us oppress the righteous poor man; let us not spare the widow nor regard the gray hairs of the aged. But let our might be our law of right, for what is weak proves itself to be useless. Let us lie in wait for the righteous man, because he is in-

convenient to us and opposes our actions; he reproaches us for sins against the law, and accuses us of sins against our training. He professes to have knowledge of God, and calls himself a child of the Lord. He became to us a reproof of our thoughts; the very sight of him is a burden to us, because his manner of life is unlike that of others, and his ways are strange. We are considered by him as something base, and he avoids our ways as unclean; he calls the last end of the righteous happy, and boasts that God is his father. Let us see if his words are true, and let us test what will happen at the end of his life. Let us test him with insult and torture that we may find out how gentle he is, and make trial of his forbearance. Let us condemn him to a shameful death, for, according to what he says, he will be protected." Thus they reasoned, but they were led astray, for their wickedness blinded them, and they did not know the secret purposes of God, nor hope for the wages of holiness, nor discern the prize for blameless souls. But Thou, our God, art kind and true, patient, and ruling all things in mercy. For Thou hast power over life and death; Thou dost lead men down to the gates of Hades and back again. Toward the scorners He is scornful, but to the humble He shows favour.

The Reading is from Proverbs

THE memory of the just is praised; but the name of the ungodly is extinguished. The blessing of the Lord is upon the head of the just: but untimely grief shall cover the mouth of the ungodly. Blessed is the man who has found wisdom, and the mortal who knows prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no evil thing shall resist her. Wisdom is well known to all that approach her, and no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory. Out of her mouth proceeds righteousness and she carries law and mercy upon her tongue. Harken to me; for I will speak solemn truths; and will produce right sayings from my lips. Blessed is the man who shall hearken to me, and the mortal who shall keep my ways; watching daily at my doors, waiting at the posts of my entrances. For my outgoing is the outgoing of life, and in them is prepared favour from the Lord. Ye, O men, I exhort; and utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, have dwelt with counsel and knowledge, and I have called upon understanding. Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is mine. I love those that love me; and they that seek me shall find me. O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, imbibe knowledge.

For my throat shall meditate truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those that understand, and right to those that find knowledge. Behold, I will bring forth to ye the utterance of my breath, and I will instruct ye in my speech. The wholesome tongue is a tree of life, and he that keeps it shall be filled with understanding.

For the Entreaty. Second Tone

As a true shepherd and teacher thou hast brought a whole nation to Christ, which was sunk in the darkness of idolatry. Those who boasted in their outward freedom have opened their eyes to the true inward freedom of the soul. Therefore, intercede ceaselessly with God for us who celebrate thy memory with love, O holy Father Willibrord.

Plagal of Second Tone

LET us sing the praise of the Light-bearing and most excellent Hierarch of Christ; for we cannot cease to extol this man, who was outstanding in dignity, gracious in countenance, and joyful in heart. By wisdom unto Solomon, character unto Job, and speech unto Peter, he was ever in the Master's service; and as we celebrate his memory, O brethren, let us cry aloud: O holy Father Willibrord, do thou pray for us before the throne of the Most High.

Glory. *Same tone*

AFTER he had lived for twelve ardent years in monasticism, Thou, O Lord, hast called Thy servant Willibrord to a distant land to convert a hostile people and teach them to call upon Thee, making them pleasing unto Thee. By the prayers of him whose feast we celebrate with love, save those who have been redeemed from error and temptation.

Both now. *Theotokion*

O THEOTOKOS, thou art the true vine that hath blossomed forth the Fruit of Life. Thee do we supplicate: Intercede, O Lady, together with the Hierarch and all the Saints that our souls find mercy.

For the Aposticha, these Stichera:

Fourth Tone. As one valiant

WHEN thy brave co-evangelists * were tormented by pangs of thirst, * thou didst work a wonder for them, O Willibrord, * when thou didst bring forth a fount of purest water for them, O Saint. * And for us, who lack in faith * and are thirsty, quench thou our thirst * by the purest fount * of the teachings of Christ the Saviour, which thou hast proclaimed to all the people: * be quick to help us who honour thee.

Verse: I will take the cup of salvation, and I will call upon the Name of the Lord.

THOU wast truly a Hierarch: * a Good Shepherd unto thy flock, * Father and Provider for all thy children's needs. * For ceaseless prayer thou hast set up monasteries across the land; * for the priesthood thou has built * seminaries, O Willibrord. * All thy life was love; * so now pray for us, who are still thy flock and members of the Church thou foundedst, * who now with grateful hearts honour thee.

Verse: My vows unto the Lord will I pay in the presence of all His people.

WHERE the idols were once adored, * where the trees were revered as gods, * thou hast brought the people unto the Faith of Christ; * and thou hast founded and consecrated churches in every place * with the relics of the Saints * and the Martyrs enshrined therein; * and thou hast prepared * holy priests for the celebration of the sacred Myst'ries of the Saviour; * and thus His Church was established there.

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

OVENERABLE Father, the fruit of thy virtues hath illuminated the hearts of the faithful. Who could hear of thy boundless humility, and not admire thy patience, thy love for the needy, and thy comfort for the afflicted? Thou hast instructed all men in the love of God, O holy Father Willibrord, and as thou hast received the incorruptible crown, do thou intercede for our souls.

Both now. *Theotokion*

O VIRGIN without groom, blameless one, Mother of the high God; O thou who didst conceive in the flesh in an inexplicable way, receive the petitions of thy servants, O thou who bestowest on all the purification of sins; and in receiving our petitions beseech thou Him for the salvation of us all.

DISMISSAL HYMN

First Tone

THE word of God to the Patriarch Abraham, “Go forth from thy country,” thou hast received as a command for thyself, as the Lord doth ask to leave all things for His sake. As an inheritance, He hath given thee a distant land, which thou hast won for Him through thy labours. Intercede for us, O holy Father Willibrord, that we may become worthy children of the Light.

Theotokion

As Gabriel cried aloud unto thee, “Hail, O Virgin,” with that cry did the Lord of all become incarnate in thee, O holy ark, as spake the righteous David; and Thou wast revealed, as more spacious than the heavens, in that thou bore thy Creator. Wherefore, glory to Him Who abode in thee; glory to Him Who came from thee; glory to Him, Who through thy birth-giving hath set us free.

And the Dismissal.



MATINS

After the First Reading from the Psalter, the following Sessional Hymns:

First Tone. The soldiers standing guard

OBRETHREN, let us praise God, the most glorious King * and Master of Hierarchs, for He hath bestowed the crown * of eternal glory upon the venerated Willibrord. * Hence, as we today observe his holy remembrance, * we receive from Christ forgiveness of our transgressions * through the Hierarch’s prayers for us.

Glory.

LIKE John the Forerunner, thou wast called from the highest * to bring the joyous tidings of grace to the nations. * In spite of thy youth, thou soughtest the heights of knowledge divine; * hence thou didst excel, growing in wisdom and stature, * till thou wast received into the rank of the Angels, * surpassing all men in zeal.

Both now. *Theotokion*

O THOU who art our Master’s most honorable vessel, * O Mary, raise us up who have stumbled and fallen * into a deep gulf of sins, tribulations, and dire despair; * for, O Full of Grace, thou ever savest thy servants, * as the strong protection and salvation of sinners * and unfailing help of all.

After the Second Reading from the Psalter, the following Sessional Hymns:

Fourth Tone. Be quick to anticipate

O GREAT and wise Father, thou didst truly shine from thy youth; * thy temperate nature and thy good character wast exceedingly beyond thy years. * In this did the Lord consider thy heart’s good intentions, * and thus He prepared thee through thy pious instruction * to illumine the world with the Gospel’s truth, O Willibrord.

Glory.

WITH haste, unto Ireland’s elders didst thou journey, O Saint, * and through them, thy most excellent heart wast flooded with grace exceeding what thou couldst keep. * Wherefore, thou wast driven to enlighten the peoples * blinded by rank falsehood in the service of demons, * as thou couldst not keep secret the Gospel’s truth, O Willibrord.

Both now. *Theotokion*

BE quick to receive our prayers, O blameless Lady and Queen, * and swiftly convey them to thy Son and God, O all-spotless Virgin divinely blest. * End the troubles vexing those who flee to thy refuge; * crush the schemes and cast down the conceit of the godless * who wickedly have taken up arms, seeking thy servants’ lives.

After the Polyeleos, the following Sessional Hymns:

Fourth Tone. On this day Thou hast appeared

WITH great zeal the man of God * did boldly go forth, * sowing seed of sacred truth * and dropping dew of grace divine; * and there did sprout up abundantly * the love of Christ in the hearts of men far and wide.

Glory.

DRIVING out the disbelief * and ancient darkness, * thou didst bring the light of truth * wherever thou didst go, O Saint; * the blessed grace of the Master's throne * anticipated thee, granting success to thee.

Both now. *Theotokion*

O UNCONQUERED champion * of those in troubles, * intercessor swift to help * all them that set their hope on thee: * from ev'ry danger deliver me; * disdain me not, O pure Virgin, thou help of all.

Then, for the Hymns of Ascent, the First Antiphon in Fourth Tone.

Prokeimenon. Fourth Tone.

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.

Then, Let every breath and the Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, The Lord said to the Jews who had come unto Him: Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door... (John 10:1-9). And straightaway Psalm 50.

Glory. *Second Tone*

THROUGH the intercessions of the Hierarch, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out the multitude of my transgressions.

Both now. *Theotokion*

THROUGH the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out the multitude of my transgressions.

Verse: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgressions.

Plagal of Second Tone

WELL done, thou good and faithful servant! Entrusted with the Shepherd's staff, thou hast increased His flock a hundredfold; invested with the Spirit's grace, thou hast stirred innumerable hearts with the fire of faith; bestowed with the power to work wonders, thou hast brought forth living water for a multitude. And now, O holy Hierarch and Father Willibrord, with boldness before the Master, entreat Him earnestly, that He grant us peace and Great Mercy to our souls.

We say the Canon of the Small Paraklesis, Traversing the water, and the following of Saint Willibrord. Before the Troparia, we say, O Hierarch of Christ, intercede in our behalf.

*A Composition of Archimandrite Adriaan
Plagal of Fourth Tone*

ODE ONE

Heirmos. Ἀισωμεν τῷ Κυρίῳ

LET us all sing to the Lord, * for He led His people with His mighty arm * through the Red Sea on dry ground, * for He alone is gloriously glorified.

Troparia

LET us all praise the Hierarch, * for the people drowning have been saved through him * in the baptismal waters, * and he led them to Christ, Who is glorified.

WILLIBRORD'S heav'nly brilliance * beamed across the land and all along the sea; * his heart full of divine Light, * through him, Christ hath been gloriously glorified.

BOTH in his words and actions, * and by prayer and faith hath he enlightened us; * by love, driving out evil; * and in victory, Christ hath been glorified.

Theotokion

GOD the Most High incarnate * Who was born of thee, O Maid, was also borne * through the Hierarch's preaching; * thus thy Son hath been gloriously glorified.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

I SHALL open my mouth to chant and with the Spirit shall I be filled, and words shall I now pour forth unto the Mother and Queen; and I shall be seen in joyous jubilation, acclaiming exultantly all of her wondrous deeds.

ODE THREE

Heirmos. Ὁ στερεώσας κατ' ἀρχάς

IN the beginning, Thou, O Christ, * didst found the heavens in wisdom * and didst firmly set the earth on the waters; * do Thou now establish me upon the rock of Thy commands. * For there is none holy * save Thee, O Thou only Friend of man.

Troparia

AMIDST the marshes and the fens * of the Low Countries, O Father, * thou didst preach the gospel, setting the people * upon the Rock of Christ, and thereby confirming them in faith; * for there is no Saviour * but for Christ Jesus, the Friend of man.

DESPITE the crashing of the waves * and rising spiritual waters, * they could not overcome thy work, O Father, * for upon the Rock of Christ was the foundation of thy heart, * and therein is living * Him Who is truly the Friend of man.

OHOLY Father Willibrord, * thou art replete with true wisdom, * which revealeth the folly of the worldly. * With fearless faith, hast thou ever set thyself on Christ's commands, * for there is none holy * but for the Saviour and Friend of man.

Theotokion

O VIRGIN Mother of our God, * thy blessed childhood prepared thee * as a rock and foundation for thy calling * to be preserved in virginity, and at the Angel's word, * to conceive the Saviour * in His immeasurable love for man.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

MAKE steadfast, O holy Theotokos, thou living and never-failing spring, all them that form a company and gather to praise thy name; and by thy grace divine, O Maid, deem them all worthy of glory's crowns.

SESSIONAL HYMNS

Plagal of Second Tone. By conceiving the Wisdom

FAITHFUL preacher and herald of the Most High, * thou didst always exhort men to piety, * arousing in them the love * of the Saviour and of His Church. * Thou didst teach them to set aside their old idolatry * and to find salvation in the fountain of Baptism. * Wherefore, thou becamest, * by the Spirit, the father * of many, O Willibrord. * Thou wast shown as a champion * of the All-holy Trinity; * intercede with Christ our God * that forgiveness of all their transgressions be * granted to them that with longing keep thy holy memory.

Glory; both now. *Theotokion*

BY conceiving the Wisdom and Word of God * in thy womb, without being consumed thereby, * thou barest for all the world * Him Who filleth the universe; * thou hast held in thine arms Him that holdeth together all, * Who hath fashioned creation and giveth their food to all. * Wherefore, I beseech thee, * O thou all-holy Virgin * and Mother of God, that I * be redeemed from my many sins * when I shall have to stand before * the Face of my Creator and God; * O pure Lady Virgin, help me in that hour, * for thou canst do whatsoever thou dost will, O all-hymed Maid.

ODE FOUR

Heirmos. Εἰσακήκοα, Κύριε

IHAVE hearkened and heard, O Lord, * of Thy dispensation's most awesome mystery, * and I came to knowledge of Thy works, * and I sang the praise of Thy divinity.

Troparia

FROM the mouth of Saint Willibrord, * have we learned salvation's most awesome mystery. * Grant us understanding of it, Lord, * as we sing the praise of Thy divinity.

As a beacon of holy light, * Willibrord did shine forth across the marshy plains, * making known the Saviour to all men, * and they sang the praise of His divinity.

THROUGH this most holy Hierarchy, * Christ the Lord hath shown us the power of His love. * When the heathen saw His mighty works, * they joined in the praise of His divinity.

Theotokion

WHEN the Virgin gave birth to Thee, * the ox knew his Maker, the ass his Master's crib; * as Thy higher creatures, teach us, Lord, * how to sing the praise of Thy divinity.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

SEATED in His holy glory on the Throne of Divinity, Jesus, God transcendent, cometh on a light cloud as King of all; and He hath saved by His pure and undefiled hand them that cry to Him: Glory, O Christ, to Thy sov'reign might.

ODE FIVE

Heirmos. Ὁρθρίζοντες βοῶμέν σοι Κύριε

WAKING at dawn, we cry to Thee, O Lord: * Save us, for Thou verily art our true God, * and beside Thee we know none other.

Troparia

WAKING at dawn, Thy servant cried to Thee: * Save us, O Lord, from ev'ry necessity, * for beside Thee we know none other.

“**D**O not be tempted: rather watch and pray”; * teach us, O Lord, to pray in our ev'ry need, * for beside Thee we know none other.

THOU hast brought peace to us through Willibrord; * therefore, do Thou take possession of us, Lord, * for beside Thee we know none other.

Theotokion

THE pangs of labour come when birth is near, * yet painlessly thou didst bear the Saviour Christ. * O Lady, rescue us from distress.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

ALL creatures were sore amazed at thy divine and great glory, Maid, O pure Virgin who hast not known wedlock; for thou didst hold in thy womb the God of all, and gavest birth to the timeless Son,

Who doth grant salvation unto all them that acclaim thy name.

ODE SIX

Heirmos. Χιτῶνά μοι παράσχου φωτεινόν

ENROBE me in a garment made of light, * Thou Who coverest Thyself with a garment of light, * O Thou Who art rich in mercy, O Christ our God.

Troparia

IN Thee, O Lord, all things are filled with light, * Thou Who art the Light of the Divine Light Himself, * O Thou Who art rich in mercy, O Christ our God.

THY servant Willibrord, enrobed with light, * shone forth as a light in the darkness; and, O Lord, * grant that we may find Thy way in that light, O God.

THE waters compass us about, O Lord; * they envelop us in darkness, but raise us up; * clothe us in Thy light, O merciful Christ our God.

Theotokion

OTHEOTOKOS, Mother of the Light, * Who enrobed Himself in flesh and came down to us: * pray for us unto the merciful Christ our God.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

ON this divine and most honoured feast of God's all-holy Mother, let all of godly mind now celebrate; come, let us faithful now clap our hands, and send up glory unto the God whom she hath borne.

KONTAKION

Plagal of Second Tone. Thou art the good hope

THOU hast shone a heavenly light * in Frisia's land, O Willibrord, * and through thy labours, thou hast shown * us the way unto Christ our God. * And those who were turned away from Him for so long * have come to knowledge of the truth by thy preaching. * O holy Father Willibrord, do thou pray for us * before the throne of the Most High.

OIKOS

THY father brought thee to the monastery as a young child, and there thou didst learn to serve God and to love Him with all thy heart. At His call, thou didst leave thy country for Ireland, and in the monastery of Egbert thou wast perfected in asceticism; but again came the Lord's call unto thee, through the mouth of thy spiritual father, and with thy companions thou didst cross the sea to preach the faith unto a stiff-necked people. By the grace given unto thee, thou hast shone the light of Christ on them after ages of darkness, and thou hast become the Apostle of the Low Countries. O holy Father Willibrord, do thou pray for us before the throne of the Most High.

SYNAXARION

✠ On the seventh of this month we commemorate our Father among the Saints Willibrord of Northumbria, Bishop of Utrecht and Enlightener of the Frisians. He reposed in peace on this day in the year 739 in Echternach, where his relics rest to this day.

Verses

O Lord, like a light rising up in the West,
Hast Thou sent Thy servant Willibrord to us.

Like another Abraham he was pulled from his home,
For the Lord desired that he inherit a new land.

The clement high priest of Christ doth depart today,
Translated to the Highest on angelic wings.

On the seventh, Willibrord joyously entered the glory
of his Master.

THE LIFE OF SAINT WILLIBRORD

Willibrord was born about the year 660 in Northumbria in England. His mother died soon after his birth, and his father, Wilgis, desired to retire as a hermit to a small church he had built on his land. Thus he arranged for his son to be raised and educated in the monastery of Ripon. From a young age, Willibrord participated in the divine services and received excellent instruction. As he grew, he devoted himself more and more to the study of Holy Scripture, and the love of Christ burned within his heart.

When he came of age, he sought a means to dedicate himself even more fully to the Lord. In those days, there

were many monasteries in Ireland, renowned for their holiness and headed by abbots who were living saints.

Willibrord decided to break his ties with his beloved homeland and seek a greater perfection in the land of saints. He arrived at the monastery of Egbert, and excelled as his student for twelve years.

After this apprenticeship, he was sent as the leader of twelve monks to preach the faith to the Frisians. Willibrord founded a church and seminary in Utrecht, and a great monastery in Echternach. This solid foundation was the basis for all his evangelical works that would follow. So clear was God's blessing upon him that he was soon ordained as bishop of Utrecht.

To his old age, he went about in strength, building churches, opening schools, establishing monasteries for monks and nuns, organizing the church government, providing for the training of sorely-needed priests, all by which becoming a new Apostle. Much of his work was only possible by the ready help of Egbert's monastery, and the names of these fellow-labourers are still known throughout the Netherlands as the earliest Dutch Saints.

When Willibrord felt his end approaching and his strength failing him, he retired to his beloved Echternach, where he died on the seventh of November 739, at 80 years of age. His sacred relics remain there to this day.

O Lord, through the intercessions of Thy servant Willibrord, who was truly a father unto us, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

ODE SEVEN

Heirmos. Ὁ ἐν ἀρχῇ τὴν γῆν

THOU Who didst found the earth in the beginning * and didst establish the heavens by Thy word, * blessed art Thou unto the ages and all ages, * O Thou Lord God of our Fathers.

Troparia

O LORD, when all the world had come to know Thee, * Thy Name was still unknown among the Low Lands. * The people knew not the blessed One in all ages, * O Thou Lord God of our Fathers.

THUS, Willibrord was sent to them in mercy, * and through him, love and light were poured out on them. * The people learned that Thou art blessed in all ages, * O Thou Lord God of our Fathers.

WHEN all his worldly longings were extinguished, * he doused the fires of sacrifice to idols. * Those who denied Thee now bless Thee unto all ages, * O Thou Lord God of our Fathers.

Theotokion

OTHEOTOKOS, thou didst bear within thee * the fire of God without the threat of burning. * O Lady, teach us to bless Him unto all ages, * thy Son, Lord God of our Fathers.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

No created thing, but only the Creator would the godly-minded Youths adore and worship as God; but manfully trampling down threats of fire, they cried out: O supremely-praised and all-acclaimed One, blest art Thou, O Thou Lord God of our Fathers.

ODE EIGHT

Heirmos. Τὸν ἐν ὄρει, ἀγίῳ

LET us ever extol and praise the Lord God * Who was seen of old on the holy mountain in glory, * Who by the fiery bush revealed the great mystery of the Ever-virgin * and undefiled Maiden unto the Prophet Moses.

Troparia

FROM his youth hath he glorified the Lord God, * and the Spirit, like a flame, hath ever engulfed him. * Thereby was he illumined in the flesh as he worshipped the God of glory, * and he now doth magnify Him in song forever.

IN his heart, Willibrord dwelt on the mountain * where the glory of the Lord was revealed to Moses. * He hath not held the myst'ry for himself, but extended it to the nations, * teaching them to magnify Christ in song forever.

BLEST is God, Who doth glorify His servants * and doth rescue them from all perils and all dangers. * Bless ye the Lord, ye spirits and ye souls of the righteous and humble-hearted, * praise and bless and worship the Lord in song forever.

Theotokion

LIKE a flame, did the myst'ry of the Virgin * shine with brilliance in the words of the Hierarch's preaching. * Thereby did Willibrord lighten us and teach us how to sing to the Master, * and to magnify her who gave Him birth forever.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

THREE guiltless Youths cast in the furnace were saved by the Offspring which the Theotokos bare, then in figure and in type, now in very truth and deed; and He hath gathered all the world, which crieth out in chant: Ye works of His, O sing the Lord's praises, and exalt Him greatly for ages and all ages.

ODE NINE

Heirmos. Τὸν προδηλωθέντα

UNTO the Lawgiver was clearly shown on the mountain * in the flaming bush the sign of the holy Virgin's childbirth, * and in it, the salvation of all men; * wherefore, let us raise our voices unto Him.

Troparia

DIGNIFIED and comely, and cheerful, and wise in counsel; * golden-tongued and iron-willed in thy zeal for Christ the Master; * to all men was the wealth of thy soul known, * thou who taught them to glorify the Saviour.

HAVING no concern for thyself in travails and danger, * thou didst cross the roiling sea and the lands of hostile people * who reclined in the darkness and shadows, * lighting them with the radiance of the Gospel.

THOU hast brought a nation to Christ, O our holy Father, * and our faithful intercessor art thou in all our troubles. * O Willibrord, our patron protector, * pray thou for us who celebrate thy mem'ry.

Theotokion

THOU didst bear a Child while remaining in truth a Virgin; * He Who is the Word is ever-begotten of the Father, * but accepted our flesh through His Mother. * Therefore, salvation hath come to all peoples.

Katavasia. Fourth Tone

LET ev'ry earth-born man leap up in the Spirit and now hold his torch on high; and let all the bodiless, noetic hosts now celebrate joyously the Theotokos's sublime and sacred festival, as they cry out: Rejoice, O thou all-blessed one, Ever-virgin and pure Mother of our God.

EXAPOSTILARIA

Third Tone. O Changeless Light

ON this bright feast of the Hierarchy, * let us with joy greet him, brethren; * for those in fetters are set free, * and he doth stand as a rampart. * O Father Willibrord, protect * all us, thy children, * that we may be faithful always.

Another. Same Tone. Thou Who as God adornest

THY life, O Monk, was all prayer; * the Myst'ries thou didst serve, O Priest; * thou didst spread the truth, O Preacher; * and led the Church, O Hierarchy. * O thou who art our Apostle, * entreat Christ for us, O Willibrord.

Theotokion. Same melody

CHRIST, Who is joy ineffable, * was borne of thee, O purest one. * Make us to share in unending joy, * as we give thanks with all our hearts. * O Mary, full of grace divine, * remember us, all thy servants.

For the Praises we allow for four verses and chant the following Stichera:

Plagal of Fourth Tone. O strange wonder

WHAT name shall we give thee, Willibrord? * The wonderworker, whose acts * heal the broken and cure the sick? * High priest, for thou wast bestowed * with the Chief Shepherd's sacred staff? * A bold rebuker of darkness, from whose grip * thou didst unloosen the souls of countless men? * O servant of the Lord, * whose untiring labours in the vineyard bore * a rich harvest in the vintage of the souls of men.

TO whom can we liken thee, O Saint? * As a new Joshua, thou * led'st God's people to a new land;

* or perchance to Samuel, * putting out the false deities? * Or to Elias, whose boldness thou didst share, * fearlessly standing before a godless king? * Or can we name thee as * the Apostles' equal, sharing in their work * as a faithful shepherd and a Father full of love.

HOW shall we give praise to Willibrord? * What have we sinners to add * to the praise which Christ hath bestowed? * Yet we still make bold to chant * in the praise of this holy one: * How great his zeal in his preaching of the Truth; * how great his charity given to the poor! * How much more can we say * of his cheer and wisdom, dignity, and strength? * He did forsake the world to behold in glory Christ.

OSTRANGE wonder! O dread mystery! * How on this day we behold * heaven opening to receive * the soul of this righteous one, * the faithful husbandman of Christ. * O holy Father, as thou art now received, * upborne by multitudes of the Angel host: * Ceaselessly intercede * for thy children gathered in thy temple here, * that we may also find the light of the Saviour's grace.

Glory. *Plagal of Second Tone*

BRETHREN, let us celebrate the feast of our venerable Father with spiritual rejoicing, as it is right. Let us drink deeply from the chalice of divine love; let us eat of the table richly laden with every fruit of the Spirit. Let us glorify God, Who hath given unto us this light-bearing Apostle, clement Wonderworker, valiant Hierarchy, and loving Father to intercede for us. O holy Willibrord, ever-present and quick to hear, do thou intercede for the healing of our bodies, and even more, for our souls. Bring before the face of our Saviour our petitions, that He will quickly come to us with His Great Mercy.

Both now. *Theotokion*

THEOTOKOS, thou art the true vine that hath blossomed forth the Fruit of Life. Thee do we supplicate: Intercede, O Lady, together with the Hierarchy and all the Saints that our souls find mercy.

*The Great Doxology, and the remainder of Matins.
And the brethren are anointed with holy oil.*



THE LITURGY

If the Protos desireth, the Typica and the Beatitudes. Or the Antiphons with the festal verses and the usual refrains:

Verses of the First Antiphon

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy Name.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee.

Verse: The Lord in Heaven hath prepared His throne, and His Kingdom ruleth over all.

Verses of the Second Antiphon

Verse: Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.

Verse: Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Verse: The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Sion, unto generation and generation.

The Third Antiphon. First Tone

Verse: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saint.

The word of God to the Patriarch Abraham . . .

Verse: Thy priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.

The word of God to the Patriarch Abraham . . .

The Prokeimenon of the Epistle. First Tone

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.

The Epistle of Saint Paul to the Hebrews (7:26–8:2)

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest . . .

Alleluia. Second Tone

The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Verse: The law of his God is in his heart, and his steps shall not be tripped.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John (10:9-16)

The Lord said: I am the door . . .

The Communion Hymn

The just shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings. Alleluia.

Megalynarion

WITH the Church in heaven above art thou, * standing in the glory * of the radiant Trinity * He hath given us thee, O pure one, as a refuge; * from tribulations rescue us, * holy Father Willibrord.

If the Protos desireth, this Ambon Prayer:

MASTER, Christ our God, the Word and Son and Lamb of God, the most pure Priest, the unblemished Calf, Who out of extreme goodness didst accept to be called our High Priest, Who with various orders didst adorn Thy holy Church, which Thou didst redeem with Thy precious blood: Grant us always spiritually to celebrate the memory of the venerable ones and, in holiness, to remember our holy shepherds and teachers, who have rightly divided the word of Thy truth and have enlightened us, whom Thou hast led to the harbour of Thy will and hast worthily glorified, for they also have glorified Thee. Make us worthy, by their prayers and intercessions, and above all, by those of the luminary and teacher Willibrord, unrestrainedly and without stumbling to conduct ourselves, so that, having served Thee in fear, we, together with them, may find Thy grace and love for man: For Thou art the bestower and giver of eternal good things, and to Thee is due glory, honour, and worship always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

NOTE

For the preceding service (*acoluthia*) of Saint Willibrord, the Dutch *Menaion* has only a partial service, composed by Archimandrite Adriaan Korporaal of blessed memory (+2002), of the Monastery of Saint John the Baptist in The Hague, Netherlands. This includes, at Great Vespers: the first three stichera, the Aposticha, and the Apolytikion; and at Matins: the Canon, Kontakion, Synaxarion, and the second Exapostilarion. Father Adriaan's Sessional Hymns have been moved to the Entreaty and his two stichera at the Praises have been moved to the second set of stichera at Vespers. The other hymns of the preceding service were written in thanksgiving for the establishment of Saint Willibrord Antiochian Orthodox Church in 2014. *Revised 11/6/17*