

**Saint Cuthbert the Wonderworker, Bishop of Lindisfarne  
Whom the Holy Church Celebrates on March 20.**

Saint Cuthbert was born in Britain about the year 635, and became a monk in his youth at the monastery of Melrose by the River Tweed. After many years of struggle as a true priest of Christ, in the service both of his brethren and of the neglected Christians of isolated country villages, he became a solitary on Farne Island in 676. After eight years as a hermit, he was constrained to leave his quiet to become Bishop of Lindisfarne, in which office he served for almost two years. He returned to his hermitage on Inner Farne two months before he reposed in peace in 687. Because of the miracles he wrought both during his life and at his tomb after death, he is called the “Wonderworker of Britain.” The whole English people honoured him, and kings were both benefactors to his shrine and suppliants of his prayers. Eleven years after his death, his holy relics were revealed to be incorrupt; when his body was translated from Lindisfarne to Durham Cathedral in 1104, his body was still found to be untouched by decay, giving off “an odour of the sweetest fragrancy,” and “from the flexibility of its joints representing a person asleep rather than dead.” Finally, when the most impious Henry VIII desecrated his shrine, opening it to despoil it of its valuables, his body was again found incorrupt, and was buried in 1542. It is believed that after this the holy relics of Saint Cuthbert were hidden to preserve them from further desecration.

Text: *The Great Horologion* © 1997 The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

*The Menaion* © 2005 The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

Icon courtesy The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts

## Alleluia

### *Dismissal Hymn of the Hierarch. Third Tone*

**W**HILE in thy youth thou didst lay aside all worldly care and didst take up the sweet yoke of Christ, O godly-minded Cuthbert, and thou wast shown forth in truth to be nobly radiant in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Wherefore, God established thee as a rule of faith and shepherd of His rational flock, O converser with Angels and intercessor for men.

### *Kontakion of the Hierarch. First Tone*

**H**AVING surpassed thy brethren in prayers, fasting, and vigils, thou wast found worthy to entertain a pilgrim-angel; and having shone forth with humility as a bright lamp set on high, thou didst receive the gift of wonder-working. And now as thou dwellest in the Heavenly Kingdom, O our righteous father Cuthbert, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

## Selected Hymns from VESPERS

*For Lord, I have cried, we chant the following Stichera:*

### *Third Tone. The power of Thy Cross*

**A**TTAINING to the height of Adam's grace before his fall, \* O righteous Father Cuthbert, \* thy heart became a Paradise; \* and the elements were subject to thy bidding, \* and birds and beasts revered thee, \* because they recognized in thee their Master's image.

**T**HE power of Thy Cross, O Lord, is very great: \* for by it, righteous Cuthbert \* was sanctified and glorified, \* working signs and filling Britain with Thy glory; \* and graced with incorruption, \* his relics showed Thy might to after generations.

**A**S thou dost stand in glory at the awful throne of God \* in joy and jubilation, \* in majesty and endless bliss, \* never cease to look upon us in thy kindness, \* O blessed Father Cuthbert, \* and by thy prayers, redeem us all from condemnation.

*But if the feast be on a Saturday, say the following:*

Glory. *Third Tone*

**H**AVING a mind enlightened by the Holy Spirit, thou wast able to see through all the devices of the evil one, whether in thoughts of the heart, or terrible illusions by night, or phantom fire that was quenched by thy prayer. Wherefore, O God-bearing Father Cuthbert, pour out the thick mist of thine intercessions, and conceal us from the sight of them that seek our lives; and with the boldness thou hast before God, entreat Him that our souls be saved.

Both now. *Theotokion. The power of Thy Cross*

**T**HROUGH thee we have been granted a great gift and benefit; \* and therefore, with the Prophets, \* we honour thine All-holy Child, \* Who in deigning to be born of thy most pure womb \* through His extreme compassion, \* refashioned all the race of man, O spotless Virgin.

Selected Hymns from  
**MATTINS**

*Plagal of Fourth Tone*  
**ODE ONE**

*Troparia*

**S**INCE thine achievements soar beyond the limits of the strength and wisdom of man, \* O God-bearing Cuthbert, \* how praise of thee be possible without the help of grace? Hence I pray thee, O Father, illuminate my benighted mind, \* that I might extol thee befittingly.

**W**HEN thou was playing childish games and frisking with thy friends, the Lord Sabaoth, \* Whose praise is perfected \* in the mouths of babes and sucklings, gave thee marvelous rebuke through a three-year old infant who strangely wept and admonished thee, \* setting thee apart as God's servitor.

**R**EJOICE, O Cuthbert, glory of Northumbria and Durham's glittering gem, \* thou worker of wonders, \* who hast sanctified both land and sea with tears and toil for Christ. \* As in life thou didst travel through hills and hamlets to succour all, \* so come now to us with thy quickening grace.

*Theotokion*

**W**HEN Eve consented to the serpent, death gained access to our nature through her; \* but thou, in accepting \* the strange tidings brought by Gabriel, O Virgin full of grace, \* gavest God full admittance into our nature as one of us, working our return and deliverance.



**Farne Island with St. Cuthbert II, a passenger vessel,  
standing by the island.**

**SESSIONAL HYMN**

*Plagal of Fourth Tone. By conceiving the Wisdom*

**H**AVING passed through every stage of monastic life, \* thou didst enter with joy into solitude, \* to do battle openly \* with the prince of the fallen world; \* and thine old age was called to the work of a bishopric, \* which for two years thou nobly didst bear with untiring zeal; \* then thou didst return to longed-for stillness, contending \* in fights greater than the first \* to prepare for eternal life, O divine Cuthbert, worker of signs. \* Intercede with Christ our God \* that forgiveness of all their transgressions be \* granted to them that with longing \* keep thy holy memory.

**ODE FOUR**

*Troparia*

**A**S a shepherd of blameless life, \* thou didst see the spirit of Aidan taken up \* and wast pricked with zeal to quit the world, \* being led by God to tend a greater flock.

**T**HOU wast cheerful and affable, \* good to all and wise in the meekness of thy ways, \* firm with courage in adversity, \* terrible to demons through thy faith in Christ.

**E**RE the battle of Nechtansmere, \* thou didst both foresee how the king would be cut down \* and didst tell it to a saintly nun, \* as a Prophet heralding what

God revealed.

*Theotokion*

**T**O restore our progenitors \* to their first estate, with their whole corrupted race, Thou didst find a Virgin free of blame, \* making her Thy Mother and our champion.

**ODE FIVE**

*Troparia*

**O**TTERS came forth to warm thee \* after nightlong vigil in the icy sea; \* and thy warmth of kindness \* healed thy secret observer who saw the deed \* and was fully frozen \* with dread and terror at the wonder, \* but revived at thy fatherly sympathy.

**B**EING stranded in winter, \* having no provisions nor hope of the help of man, \* 'midst the raging tempest, \* thou didst storm highest heaven with fervent prayer \* which was swiftly answered \* with wondrous food and fairest weather, \* showing what kind of servant of Christ thou wast.

**T**O the hill-country herdsmen \* thou didst take thy journey, not grudging the heavy toils; \* and thy signs and sermons \* sent the light of thy sanctity flashing forth, \* bringing to repentance \* them that had stumbled in the darkness \* but now soared to the heights, given wings by thee.



The hill country of Northumbria in Britain which St. Cuthbert trod as a Shepherd to the herdsmen.

**ODE SIX**

*Troparia*

**W**HEN thou didst come to the Farne, \* a man of prayer set aflame with grace, \* the demons fled from their haunt and thou, as a victor, didst establish thy citadel \* where no man before thee \* had been able to endure alone.

**T**HE ravens stealing thy straw \* offered repentance at thy rebuke \* and ever after obeyed thy will and commandment, showing wonderful reverence \* to a man of wonders \* who had made God's will his whole desire.

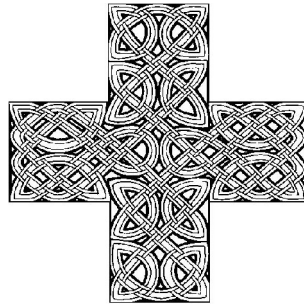
**T**HY garments cured the diseased; \* thy words of wisdom healed ailing souls; \* thy cheerful countenance filled with God-given gladness all who came to thee faithfully: \* righteous Father Cuthbert, \* visit us with thy benevolence.

*Theotokion*

**T**HE unendurable Fire \* of the Divinity dwelt in thee, \* burning away from our nature every corruption and defilement and darkening, \* making thee the Mother \* of a race redeemed from Eve's reproach.

**OIKOS**

**O** THOU who didst brave the terrible watery wilderness of the wave-beaten Farne, and by thy prayer madest the inhospitable rock to bring forth grain beyond nature, take pity on my desolate and flinty heart, O husbandman of miracles, and grant it to bear fruits of repentance, and tears of compunction, and love of God as I cry: O our righteous Father Cuthbert, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.



**SYNAXARION**

✠ On the twentieth of this month we commemorate our Father among the Saints Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, the Wonderworker.

*Verses*

With the sword of prayer, Cuthbert cutteth the demons,  
So the uncouth fiends cut a wide berth around him.

On the twentieth Cuthbert ended his life, but not his wonders.

By his holy intercessions, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

**ODE SEVEN**

*Troparia*

**T**HE divine grace within thee \* both transfigured thy soul and transformed  
those seeing thee \* from vassals of deception \* to vessels of election \* who  
had learned to cry out with thee; \* O God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

**A**S a priest at God's altar, \* thou didst serve Him with tears thou couldst not  
restrain nor hide; \* for in thy Master's presence \* thy labours for His love's  
sake \* burst in flower with shouts of joy: \* O God of our Fathers, blessed art  
Thou.

**T**hou didst set an example \* for thy monks by thy lowly and wise simplicity; \*  
for even in the bishop, \* the monk was ever present, \* scorning pride and  
beholding Christ: \* O God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

*Theotokion*

**T**HOUGH our failings be many, \* we confess with assurance that He Whom  
thou didst bear \* is God, our Lord and Maker; \* and by thy pleas for our  
pardon, \* we are saved as we cry to Him: \* O God of our Fathers, blessed art  
Thou.

**ODE EIGHT**

*Heirmos*

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

*Troparia*

**F**OR the zeal of thy service to a stranger, \* thou wast honoured with loaves \*  
from Paradise, O Cuthbert, \* enkindling thee to diligence more marvellous, \*

bartering things earthly \* for the endless treasure \* of love for God and neighbour.

**A**s the sun at his setting is majestic, \* as the moon at the morn \* is pale with silver splendour, \* so thou wast fair with beauty at thy going-forth \* from thine earthly struggles \* to the longed-for haven \* of glory everlasting.

**B**OTH at Melrose and Lindisfarne, O Cuthbert, \* thou wast always at prayer, \* and crucified to all things, \* while preaching Christ to the country folk, as a true Apostle \* pouring forth the brightness \* of Heaven on the earthborn.

*Theotokion*

**O** MAGNIFICENT vessel of the splendour \* of the glory of God, \* O ever-virgin Lady, \* O portal of the mercy God doth show to men, \* open thy compassions \* unto our afflictions \* and help us in our weakness.

**ODE NINE**

*Heirmos*

**T**HE heavens were astonished and stood in awe, \* and the ends of the earth, Maid, were sore amazed, for God appeared \* bodily to mankind as very man. \* And lo, thy womb hath proved to be \* vaster and more spacious than heaven's heights. For this, O Theotokos, \* the choirs and assemblies \* of men and Angels magnify thy name.

*Troparia*

**F**orlorn upon the Farne in thy final days, \* spent with sickness and age, thou by demons wast more fierce assailed \* in those five long days than in all thy life, \* to purge away the last remains \* of the fallen man from thy mighty soul; \* that, shining with the trophies \* of contest fought completely, \* thou mightest go to Christ a perfect man.

**T**HE awesome incorruption of thy remains \* through the ages hath shown to what holiness thou didst attain \* through thy living faith in the Son of God, \* Who loved and chose thee from thy youth, \* making thee a worker of miracles, foreknowing that the greatest \* of thy many wonders \* would be thy never-scathed humility.

**T**HE water whence thou drankest was turned to wine, \* and the ills of the suffering were turned to health, \* by the Holy Spirit Who dwelt in thee, in Whom thou livest evermore, \* and dost come invisibly even now \* to those who call with longing \* upon thy name. O Cuthbert: \* Come turn our sorrows into godly joy.

*Theotokion*

**I**N thee, the deepest yearning of all mankind \* and of angels, to see our Artificer, hath been fulfilled, \* to behold Him openly face to face: \* for He upon Whom none may gaze \* took our human form from thy blameless womb, \* not lowering the Godhead, \* but raising man to glory, \* and making thee the longed-for Queen of all.



**Hodigitria Virgin and Child – Detail**

Saint Gregory of Sinai Monastery Kelseyville, California

*For the Praises we allow for four verses and chant the following Stichera, repeating the first one:*

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

**O** LORD, Thy servant was an unlearned herdsman, \* yet not uncouth in the ways of grace; \* and with lightening miracles mantled \* and the august robes of priestly pow'r he proved a light unto all, \* doer of Thy saving will, \* a healer banishing every sickness, \* a destroyer of the devil's works. *(Twice)*

**T**HOU wast a Prophet seeing things yet afar off \* and present secrets, concealed in hearts, \* an invincible Martyr of patience, \* enduring all things with faith unmoved; \* a new Apostle of Grace, \* a worker of unceasing prayer, \* a shepherd great in paternal mercy, \* which do thou employ with Christ for us.

**L**ORD, every time Thy servant's relics were opened, \* they were found fragrant and incorrupt, \* showing what incomp'rble boldness \* his spirit hath at Thine awful throne. \* So condescend to the cries \* of us invoking faithfully \* the grace of Cuthbert, the ever-living \* and the ever-loving man of prayer.



Our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ  
the Lord God Almighty