

SELECTED LIVES OF THE SAINTS.

ERKENWALD (Earconwald) (d. 693), bishop of London, was London's most important diocesan between *Mellitus and *Dunstan, and its principal saint in the Middle Ages. Reputed to be of royal blood he was certainly rich; he founded the monasteries of Chertsey (Surrey) and Barking (Essex). He ruled the former, while his sister *Ethelburga was abbess of the latter. Even before being consecrated bishop by *Theodore in succession to the simoniacal Wine, Erkenwald was reputed to be holy. His diocese of the East Saxons extended over Essex and Middlesex: in the preamble to the Laws of Ina of Wessex he is called 'my bishop'. He helped Theodore and *Wilfrid to be reconciled shortly before the former's death in 690. In *Bede's time miracles were reported as caused by the couch in which Erkenwald used to be carried in his declining years.

He died at Barking on 30 April 693: his relics were claimed by the nuns there, by the monks of Chertsey, and by the clergy of London. The claim of the last was successful, and Erkenwald was buried in the cathedral of St. Paul which he had enlarged. The relics escaped the fire of 1087 and were placed in the crypt; on 14 November 1148 they were transferred again to a new shrine behind the high altar; on 1 February 1326 there was a further translation to yet another shrine, which was constantly enriched by canons and merchants of London until well into the 15th century. Vernacular literature about the saint and his shrine was also written. Miracles were reported there until the 16th century. Feast: 30 April; translation feasts, 1 February and 13 May.

Bede, H.E., iv. 6. B. Colgrave (ed.), *Eddius Stephanus' Life of St. Wilfrid* (1927), p. 87; W. Dugdale, *History of St. Paul's Cathedral* (1658); W. R. Matthews and W. M. Atkins, *A History of St. Paul's Cathedral* (1957).

BECCA AND HETHOR, monks and martyrs of Chertsey (Surrey), killed by the Danes in 870. The memory of these monks, supposed to be as many as ninety, was kept alive in fragmentary chronicles and by William of Malmesbury. Their deaths, like those of monks of Peterborough, Bardney, Ely, and Crowland, were believed to be the work of the same Danish army as that which killed *Edmund of East Anglia. It seems unlikely that the number of the monks concerned is accurate. Feast: 10 April.

DEICOLA (1) (Dicul, Dicuill) (late 7th century), Irish abbot of Bosham. This devout but unimportant abbot with five or six monks was found by *Wilfrid when he evangelized Sussex (681-6). Nothing is known of him, but his name occurs in a few ancient martyrologies. Challoner's *Memorial* (for convenience only) places him on 18 April with *Deicola of Lure. Bede, H.E., iv. 13; R. Challoner, *Memorial*, p. 21.

WIGBERT (d. c.738), abbot. English by birth, Wigbert was one of *Boniface's many English helpers in the evangelization of Germany. He became abbot of Fritzlar, near Cassel, where his most famous disciple was Sturm, the future abbot of Fulda. He also founded the monastery of Ohrdruf (Thuringia), but he died at Fritzlar. In 774 during the Saxon wars, his relics were translated to Buraburg and then to Hersfeld, whose patron he thus became. Feast: 13 August. Life by Lopus, *Vita Wigberti* (ed. C. Holder-Egger), M.G.H., *Scriptores*, xv. 37-43; W. Levison, *England and the Continent in the Eighth Century* (1946), pp. 76-9, 235-6; B.T.A., iii. 322.

CAEDWALLA (d. 689), king of Wessex 658-88. A descendant of Ceawlin, king of Wessex, the Saxon Caedwalla, whose name indicates some British blood connection, became king by conquest. His notorious violence was to some extent tamed by *Wilfrid, to whom he gave 300 hides of the conquered Isle of Wight. He was a successful ruler but abdicated in order to go to Rome and become a Christian. He was baptized on Holy Saturday 689 and given the name of Peter by Pope Sergius. Soon afterwards he was taken ill and died, still wearing his white baptismal robes. He was buried in the crypt of St. Peter's: his epitaph, written by Crispus, archbishop of Milan, is reproduced by Bede. There is no clear evidence of an ancient liturgical cult: his reputed sanctity is accounted for partly by Bede's account of him and partly by the belief that the sacrament of Baptism remits all sin and makes the recipient, if he commits no subsequent sin, worthy of immediate heavenly reward. Caedwalla was the first of four Anglo-Saxon kings to end his days in Rome. He was aged about thirty and died on 20 April.

Bede, H.E., iv. 15-16; v. 7; W. J. Moore, *The Saxon Pilgrims to Rome* (1922).

ST. FURSEY'S ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND PARISH,
ST. FURSEY'S ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PARISH CHURCH,
YARMOUTH ROAD, STALHAM . NR12 9PG.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

Molly & Fred

APRIL 2023



IN the grave bodily; in Hades with Thy soul,
Although Thou wast God; in Paradise with the
thief; and on the Throne with the Father and
the Spirit wast Thou Who fillest all things,
O Christ the Uncircumscribable.

**BRITISH ORTHODOX SAINTS
COMMEMORATED IN
APRIL.**

- 01 Agilbert, Bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames
- 06 Elstan, Bishop of Ramsbury
- 09 Theodore, Abbot of Crowland and his Companion-Martyrs
- 10 Beocca, Hethor and Companions, Martyrs under the Danes
- 10 Hedda, and his 84 Companions, Abbot of Peterborough
- 11 Guthlac of Crowland, Hermit and Wonderworker
- 12 Wigbert, Monk and Missionary*
- 18 Deicola, Abbot of Bosham
- 19 Alphege the Martyr, Archbishop of Canterbury
- 20 Caedwalla, King of Wessex
- 22 Arwald and Arwald, Martyrs
- 24 Egbert of Ireland, Bishop
- Ives of Huntingdonshire, Bishop and Hermit
- Mellitus, Archbishop of Canterbury
- 27 Kenedr, Missionary
- Winewald, Abbot of Beverley
- 29 Swithbert the Younger, Bishop and Missionary*
- Wilfrid the Younger, Bishop of York
- 30 Erkenwald, Bishop of London

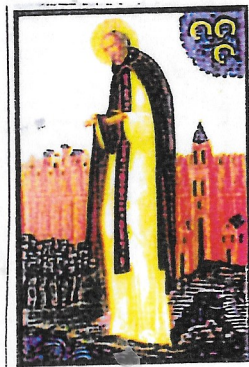
TROPARION OF ST. FURSEY.

Establishing thy monastery in a Roman fortress-
thou didst teach men that the Orthodox Faith is
a true bastion against the onslaughts of every evil
force O Father Fursey.

Where fore pray to God for us that we may all be
bastions of the Faith standing firm against the rising
tide of falsehood that our souls may be saved.

KONTAKION OF ST. FURSEY.

Thou didst need the walls of stone to defend the Faith
against its pagan enemies, O Father Fursey, but pray
for us that we may have a spiritual wall around us to
defend the Faith against its enemies. Following thee
and praising thy eternal memory we stand firm against
every error ever singing; Rejoice beloved of God,
our Father Fursey.



SERVICES IN APRIL 2023

Fri March 31 st	Akathist Hymn 7pm (Chapel)
Sat April 1 st	Fifth Saturday of Lent Vespers 4pm.
Sun April 2 nd	Fifth Sunday of Great Lent St Mary of Egypt Divine Liturgy 9:30am (St Basil)
Wed April 5 th	Compline, with Canon of St Andrew & The Life of St Mary of Egypt 7pm.
Fri April 7 th	Vespers for Lazarus Saturday 4pm.
Sat April 8 th	Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy 9:30am.
Apr 10 to 16	HOLY WEEK SERVICES MONDAY TO THURSDAY St Fursey's Chapel
Sun April 9 th	Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) Divine Liturgy 9:30am. (St John). Procession of Palms
Mon April 10 th	Great & Holy Monday <i>(St Joseph the All Righteous)</i> 3rd Hour + Reading from the Fathers 9am. 6th Hour 12 Noon Reading from Ezekiel. Vespers 4pm – Compline & Canon 7pm.
Tues April 11 th	Great & Holy Tuesday <i>(The Parable of the 10 Virgins)</i> 3rd Hour + Reading from the Fathers 9am. 6th Hour 12 Noon Reading from Ezekiel. Vespers 4pm – Compline & Canon 7pm. Parish Church.
Wed April 12 th	Great & Holy Wednesday <i>(The Sinful Woman who anointed the Lord)</i> 3rd Hour + Reading from the Fathers 9am. 6th Hour 12 Noon Reading from Ezekiel. VESPERS 4PM (ANOINTING SERVICE 7PM) PARISH CHURCH

Thurs April 13 th	Great & Holy Thursday <i>(The Mystical Supper)</i> 3 rd Hour + Reading from the Fathers 9am. 6 th Hour 12 Noon Reading from Ezekiel. Vesperal Liturgy 7pm <i>Parish Church.</i> <i>(Strict Fast from 1pm)</i>
Fri April 14 th	Great & Holy Friday <i>(Parish Church)</i> The Redeeming Passion of the Lord Royal Hours. 3 rd Hour 9am, 6 th Hour 12 Noon, 9 th Hour 3pm. Vespers & Procession of Icons 4pm. Compline & Canon. 7PM Parish Church.
Sat April 15 th	Great & Holy Saturday <i>(Parish Church)</i> Descent of the Lord into Hell. Vespers <i>(Part of Vigil)</i> 4pm.
Sun April 16 th	HOLY PASCHA – THE RESURRECTION Chrismation 9am Paschal Liturgy 9:30am CHRIST IS RISEN: HE IS RISEN INDEED!
	BEGINNING OF THE PENTECOSTARION
Tues April 18 th	Bright Tuesday 3 rd Hour + Fathers
Thurs April 20 th	Bright Thursday 3 rd Hour + Fathers
Sat April 22 nd	Bright Saturday Vespers 4pm.
Sun April 23 rd	St Thomas Sunday & St George the Martyr Divine Liturgy 9:30am.

NB: All the above services will be in the Parish Church unless otherwise stated.

Confessions: At Any Time: By Appointment

Daily Services in St Fursey's Chapel (Neville Road) Sutton

These are normally 3rd Hour 9am with a Reading from the Fathers.
Vespers 4pm.

Community News & Notices

A Chrismation

We look forward to the Chrismation of Jane on Easter Day = Holy Pascha.

A CATCHUMEN

We blessed James as a Catechumen on March 12th and look forward to his Chrismation at Pentecost.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday evening Bible Study will resume on Thursday April 27th. We will continue with our study of St Matthews Gospel. We begin at 7pm in the meeting room at the parish church, refreshment about pm and end with compline at 8:30. Times are approximate. It is essential that we read the Holy Gospel at home as well, so that we know what Our Lord said and did.

EVANGELISM

We hope to do something about this by attending the car-boot sale in Stalham on Friday mornings through the summer; we will see what happens. Please pray for this missionary work.

Every Blessing to our Readers

Father Stephen

HOLY THURSDAY

celebrates the Last Supper Jesus ate with His disciples. The services on this day recall:

THE WASHING OF THE DISCIPLES' FEET

Jesus' washing of His disciples' feet set an example of humility and love for the earliest members of the church. In today's cathedral churches, this action is repeated as the Bishop washes the feet of Christians after the Liturgy.



THE BETRAYAL

Jesus announced that a traitor (Judas Iscariot) was among the Twelve. He pointed out the betrayer by handing him part of the meal.



THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus offered Himself as the true food for all of us at the Last Supper. The bread and wine of this meal became the Body and Blood that give us eternal life.



CHRIST'S VIGIL IN THE GARDEN

Before He was arrested, Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane and endured the agony of His impending death. (Luke 22:43-44).



THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL

At this solemn service, we celebrate the meaning of what Christ said and did at the Last Supper. Before the great entrance, this special hymn is chanted:

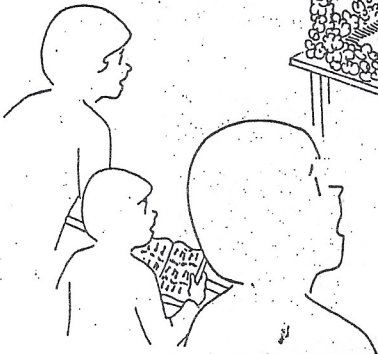
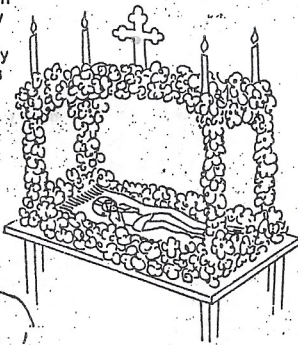
"Of Thy mystical supper, O Son of God, accept me today a communicant, for I will not speak of Thy mystery to Thine enemies; neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss, but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord, in Thy kingdom."

HOLY SATURDAY

On Holy Friday evening, the Matins of Holy Saturday are sung. At this service, we sing:

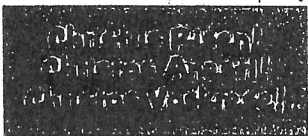
THE HYMNS OF THE LAMENTATIONS

We lament Jesus' undeserved death for our salvation. With both sorrow and joy we sing the Lamentations (Praises) to Him who is symbolically buried, yet who we already know is the risen Lord and Giver of Life. At this service, the Epitaphios is taken in a candlelight procession around the church.



"In a tomb they laid Thee, O Christ the Life. By Thy Death Thou has cast down the might of death and become the font of life for all the world."

Holy week is a magnificent celebration of CHRIST'S PASSION AND RESURRECTION!



Let Christ's glory enter your life during Holy Week and Easter!

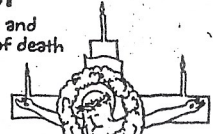
- ✓ **PARTICIPATE** in the services of Holy Week.
- ✓ **REFLECT** on Christ's supreme sacrifice and His victory over death.
- ✓ **PREPARE** yourself to receive the sacraments of Holy Confession, Holy Oil and Holy Communion.

HOLY FRIDAY

is a day of mourning, fasting and prayer. We commemorate:

THE PASSION OF JESUS CHRIST

On this day, Our Lord went to the Cross and died to take away our sins. The power of death and the reality of evil rule the world on this dreadful day. Yet, Jesus Christ's death marks the beginning of His -- and our -- victory over death's power.



This solemn service is Matins of Friday sung on Thursday evening. It consists of:

THE TWELVE GOSPEL READINGS

These narratives from the four Gospels relate the events of Jesus' Holy Passion, and His last instructions to the disciples.

THE PROCESSION

In some churches, after the fifth Gospel, the crucifix is adorned with a flower wreath, and carried in procession. This symbolizes Christ's coming to Golgotha to offer Himself as sacrifice for the world's sins.



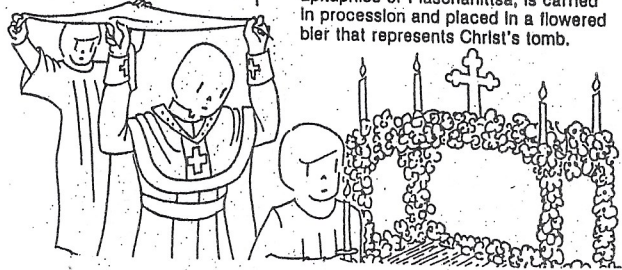
FRIDAY MORNING SERVICES

retell the story of Christ's passion with the addition of prophecies, psalms and hymns. These services, or "Royal Hours," help us keep vigil at the side of the crucified Christ, and relate Jesus' suffering to our own redemption.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE

is a vesper (The Apokathlosis) marking the beginning of Holy-Saturday:

- In many churches, the priest takes Christ's body from the Cross, wraps it in a white cloth and places it on the altar, as a sign of His burial by Joseph of Arimathea.
- A cloth loon or shroud depicting Christ's sacred body, called the Epitaphios or Placchanitza, is carried in procession and placed in a flowered bier that represents Christ's tomb.



HOLY PASCHA - EASTER SUNDAY

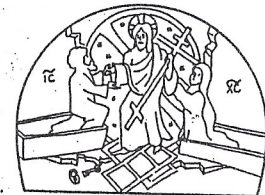
On Saturday at midnight, Easter Matins and the Divine Liturgy are sung.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE OUR LORD'S GLORIOUS RESURRECTION.

Services include:

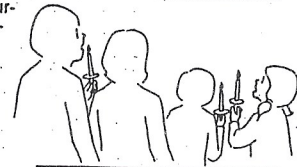
THE RESURRECTION SERVICE

At midnight in a darkened church, the faithful receive the resurrection light from the priest and form a procession out of the church. The congregation hears the good news of Christ's triumph from the Gospel. The joyous hymn of Christ's resurrection is triumphantly chanted - "Christ is Risen!"



THE PASCHAL LITURGY AND SERMON OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

invite us to take part in the feast of the resurrection and to receive Holy Communion.



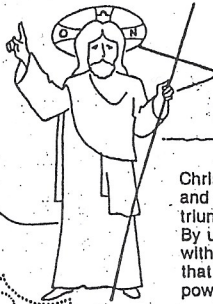
What is **HOLY WEEK** ?

It's the week before Easter when we relive Christ's suffering and death.

During Holy Week, we follow the footsteps of Christ, who passed from:

DEATH...

We, too, experience Christ's journey to the Cross. This journey takes us to the reality of sin and death.

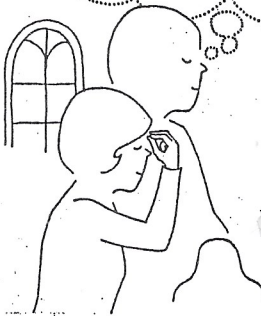


TO LIFE

Christ conquered sin and death, and His triumph is ours as well. By uniting ourselves with Christ, we discover that death has no power over us.

OPEN YOUR HEART TO CHRIST!

The events of Holy Week are the most moving of the year. To get the most out of them, participate in each day's services. Make prayer, fasting, confession and Holy Communion essential parts of your Holy Week.



PALM SUNDAY

celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

JESUS ENTERED THE CITY

on a donkey. The people met Him with palm branches and cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

HE CAME AS KING of Israel. Jesus showed He was the triumphant but humble Messiah prophesied by Zechariah.



WE RECEIVE PALM BRANCHES

on this day to show that we too accept Jesus as King, and that we are willing to follow Him to the Cross.

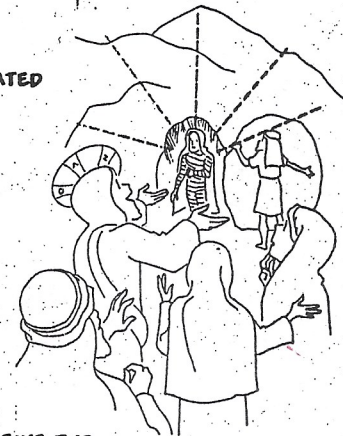


LAZARUS SATURDAY

and Palm Sunday introduce us to Holy Week and Christ's Journey to the Cross. On Lazarus Saturday, we find that death is the enemy that Christ came to conquer, and that Christ is truly the giver of life!

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS IS CELEBRATED ON THIS DAY.

- Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, had been dead four days when Jesus went to the tomb where he was buried.
- Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life;" and brought Lazarus back to life.
- This miracle led many to faith, but also to the chief priests' decision to kill Jesus.

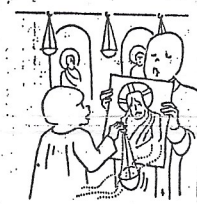


WE, TOO, RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE.

- We celebrate the divine love that brought Lazarus back to life -- the same love that Christ offers to each one of us today.

HOLY MONDAY

services help us understand Christ's passage from death to life -- and how each of us can also become free from sin and death. So we commemorate:



CHRIST THE BRIDGROOM

by singing "The Hymn of the Bridegroom," warning us to be prepared for Christ's coming. The priest carries the Icon of Christ the Bridegroom in procession. We behold Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, bearing the marks of suffering, yet preparing a marriage Feast for us in God's Kingdom.

HOLY TUESDAY

services urge us to be spiritually prepared to receive Christ. We should take this time to reflect on:

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

The maidens who filled their lamps with oil were prepared to receive the bridegroom. Those with empty lamps were shut out of the marriage feast.

So each of us should light our lives with faith and good works and be ready to receive Christ.

OUR READINESS TO MEET CHRIST

This is the message of the hymn proclaiming: "Thy Bridal Chamber I see adorned, O my Savior, but I have no wedding garment that I may enter. O Giver of Light, enlighten the vesture of my soul, and save me."

HOLY WEDNESDAY

services ask us to repent our sins and to forgive others. Today's services are:

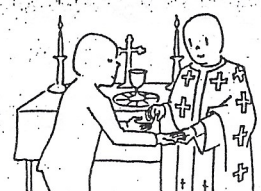
THE BRIDEGROOM SERVICE

sung on Tuesday evening. We remember the sinful woman who anointed Christ in anticipation of His death. Her repentance and love of Christ is the theme of the Hymn of Cassiane chanted tonight. We, too, may be forgiven if we confess our sins and obey God's will. The Gospel reading is John 12:17-50.



THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY OIL

is celebrated (in many Orthodox churches) on Wednesday evening when we confess our sins and seek to be reconciled with God. The priest anoints us with holy oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.



BAKHITA HOUSE UPDATE

Since the opening of BAKHITA HOUSE Fr Stephen and myself as co-ordinator for ST FURSEYS ORTHODOX COMMUNITY have whole heartily supported this Safe House. In all their fantastic work for women that have been rescued from slavery in this country. Often from the worst kind of slavery.

I first learnt of this house at a meeting at Rotary Club of Norwich St Edmunds.

I was invited by Mark Little founder of ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY. There I met Karen Antiss service manager.

The house was opened in 2015 since then they have helped 173 women 13 Babies from 47 countries AGE 15 to 70 yrs

ST FURSEYS ORTHODOX COMMUNITY as helped in our small way by donating (CONS funding towards ART-REHAB ICE CREAM MAKER and also helping to get MOTHERS TO BOND WITH THEIR BABIES and so much more.

Also both ROTARY CLUB OF BROADLANDS and ROTARY e CLUB OF INNOVATION and GLASSGIVING and readers of this program /newsletter plus church contacts Etc have supported us both with prayer support and small donations.

Many of the women have given evidence in court of their traffickers and brought them to justice.

In a newsletter sent to me CARITAS BAKHITA HOUSE former guest helped to bring a serial sex offender to 31 yrs on the 23rd Jan at Snaresbrook county court found guilty of 22 offences against women.

She had come from being a victim to survivor. WHAT CAN WE DO

Read more Look up www.caritaswestminster.org.uk

Prayer Support for both the women and those that work tirelessly against slavery.

On their website there is info on how to donate if you wish so.

PAT

Member of ROTARY ACTION GROUP AGAINST SLAVERY (Rotary e Club of Innovation)

Modern Day Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700

Gift Aid Pledge 2023 - As the new tax year begins again on 6th April, I would like to draw your attention once again to the UK Government's scheme of Gift Aid, i.e. that any amount donated to our church by anyone who pays tax, the government will top it up with 25% of the giving/donation. So, it would be most beneficial that, if you are a taxpayer, when you make donations for whatever purpose to St Fursey's Church, to sign up for Gift Aid. There are declaration forms for you to fill in at the entrance porch of the church. Unless the church has your signed declaration, we are unable to claim Gift Aid on your behalf from your donations. This does make a huge difference to our income. In order that the church knows where each donation has come from, there are yellow envelopes available in the church for you to put the donations in. All that is required then is for you to write your name on the outside of the envelope and then simply either put the envelope into the donation box in the church or give the envelope to Fr. Stephen. Another method of giving, which is already done by many of our church members, is for you to set up a Bank Standing Order. If you require further information, please do come and either have a chat with me at church, contact me via email: alioekkehungboddy@gmail.com or via Fr. Stephen. With prayers and thanksgiving from Phoini (Alicia) Boddy.

From an Easter homily by Saint Melito of Sardis, bishop

(In. 65-71: SC 123, 95-101)

THE LAMB THAT WAS SLAIN HAS DELIVERED US FROM DEATH AND GIVEN US LIFE
There was much proclaimed by the prophets about the mystery of the Passover: that mystery is Christ, and to him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

For the sake of suffering humanity he came down from heaven to earth, clothed himself in that humanity in the Virgin's womb, and was born a man. Having then a body capable of suffering, he took the pain of fallen man upon himself; he triumphed over the diseases of soul and body that were his cause, and by his Spirit, which was incapable of dying, he dealt man's destroyer, death, a fatal blow.

He was led forth like a lamb; he was slaughtered like a sheep. He ransomed us from our servitude to the world, as he had ransomed Israel from the hand of Egypt; he freed us from our slavery to the devil, as he had freed Israel from the hand of Pharaoh. He sealed our souls with his own Spirit, and the members of our body with his own blood.

He is the One who covered death with shame and cast the devil into mourning, as Moses cast Pharaoh into mourning. He is the One who smote sin and robbed iniquity of offspring, as Moses robbed the Egyptians of their offspring. He is the One who brought us out of slavery into freedom, out of darkness into light, out of death into life, out of tyranny into an eternal kingdom; who made us a new priesthood, a people chosen to be his own for ever. He is the Passover that is our salvation.

It is he who endured every kind of suffering in all those who foreshadowed him. In Abel he was slain, in Isaac bound, in Jacob exiled, in Joseph sold, in Moses exposed to die. He was sacrificed in the Passover lamb, persecuted in David, dishonored in the prophets.

It is he who was made man of the Virgin, he who was hung on the tree; it is he who was buried in the earth, raised from the dead, and taken up to the heights of heaven. He is the mute lamb, the slain lamb, the lamb born of Mary, the fair ewe. He was seized from the flock, dragged off to be slaughtered, sacrificed in the evening, and buried at night. On the tree no bone of his was broken; in the earth his body knew no decay. He is the One who rose from the dead, and who raised man from the depths of the tomb.