On the same day, we recall how the form of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was not made by human hands, was brought from the city of Edessa to the queen of cities, Constantinople.

In life you wiped your form onto a linen cloth

In death you were placed in the final linen shroud.

A manmade tile bears your form, not made by human hands,
My Christ, creator of all.

When the goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ was working many wonders, his fame reached Abgar the ruler of Edessa. Abgar was being eaten away by black leprosy and arthritis, and wanted to see Jesus and hear his voice, although he could not go to him on account of his illness. As it was such a long journey he wrote a letter to Jesus with a request and sent it with Ananias, an artist, telling him to paint the form of Christ in all detail and take it back to him. Ananias came to Jerusalem, found Jesus Christ, and gave him the letter from Abgar. He was doing all he could to paint the divine form of Christ on the papyrus, but when Jesus saw that he could not paint his form, he called him over and said, Ananias, do not attempt what is impossible. Jesus then asked for water, washed his face and dried it on a linen cloth. He gave it to Ananias saying, “Give this to Abgar, the one who sent you, and say to him, Grace be with you, for great is your faith. And blessed are you, Abgar, and thrice blessed, because you have believed without seeing me”, and the rest of what is in the letter. Abgar received this with faith, worshipped the divine form and put it on all his body—he was immediately healed. After the saving passion and ascension, Thaddaeus the apostle came to Abgar and baptised him together with all his household and the rest of the population of Edessa. Abgar put the divine form of Christ up on the city gateway, a most suitable place, and ordered everyone to worship it. He also wrote these words for the crowds of believers, Christ, God, whoever trusts in you will never be
Ἐτὸν δὲ διαγενομένων πολλῶν παρέλαβε τὴν ἀρχὴν τῆς Ἑδέσης εἰ-δωλολάτρης τις ἀπίθη καὶ ἀπάνθρωπος καὶ ἡβουλήθη τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ Χριστοῦ καθελεῖν καὶ εἰδολον ἄντ’ αὐτῆς ἐκείς καταπῆξεν. Τοῦτο γνοῦς ὁ ἐπίσκοπος τῆς Ἑδέσης εὐσεβῆς ὑν καὶ θυραλίδα πρὸς τῇ θείᾳ ἐκείνῃ εἰκόνι ἀνάφας καὶ κέραμον ἑπιτείς, τιτάνῳ καὶ πλίνθους ἐξωθεὶν ταύτῃ ἀποφράξας εἰς ὅμιλὴν ἐπιφάνειαν τὸ τείχος ἀπημύνθη. Τι ὁν τὸ ἑντεύ-θεν οἱ Πέρσαι ἐκστρατεύσαντες κατὰ τῆς Ἑδέσης. Λαβὼν ὁ ἐπίσκοπος Εὐλάλιος τὴν ἀχειροποιήτην εἰκόνα τοῦ χυρίου καὶ εὐσήλθεν ὁ ἐπίσκο-πος εἰς τὸν πόλεμον χρατὸν τὴν εἰκόνα λάμπαν τὸν Ἥμιον. Οἱ δὲ Πέρσαι ἱδόντες τὴν βαυματήν εἰκόνα ἐδοξαζοῦν αὐτοῖς πῦρ αὐτοῖς διώκει καὶ ὑπεχώρουν ἀπρακτὴ καὶ ἡλευρώθη ἡ πόλις ἐὰν αὐτῶν. Χρόνων δὲ διαδραμένων πολλῶν ἐν τῷ καιρῷ τοῦ Βασιλέως Ῥωμαίου δέδωκε τῷ ἀμηρίᾳ τῆς Ἑδέσης ἀργυρίῳ σταῦρον ἱερὰν εἰκόνατο καὶ τὸν πόλεμον ἐκτελεῖσιν.