

THE GREAT CANON

THE WORK OF ST. ANDREW OF
CRETE, THE JERUSALEMITE

THURSDAY
AT GREAT COMPLINE,
THE FIRST WEEK
OF THE GREAT FAST:
Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή



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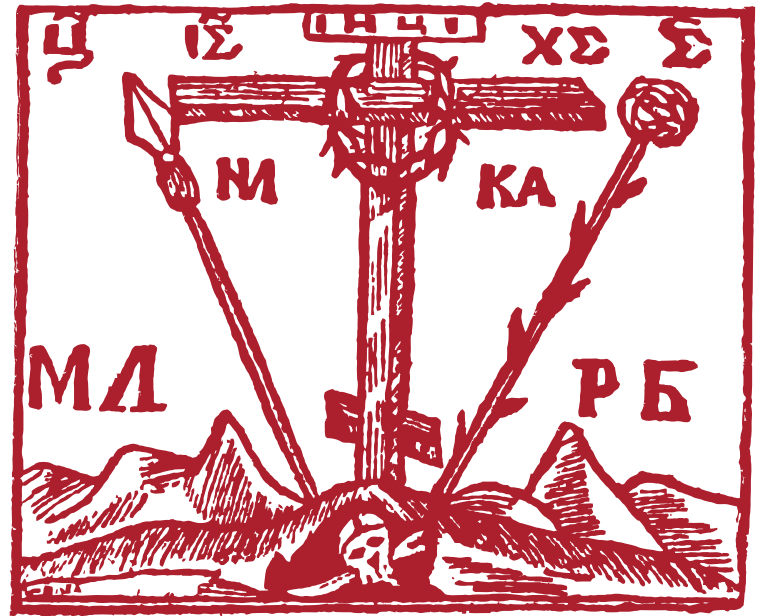
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Mother Mary; Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, *The Lenten Triodion*.
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THE GREAT CANON OF REPENTANCE

A WORK OF OUR HOLY FATHER AMONG THE SAINTS

ANDREW OF CRETE, THE JERUSALEMITE

VENERABLE ANDREW, THRICE-BLESSED FATHER,
SHEPHERD OF CRETE, DO NOT CEASE TO OFFER
PRAYER FOR US WHO SING YOUR PRAISES,
SO THAT WE, WHO HONOUR YOUR MEMORY
WITH FAITH, MAY BE DELIVERED FROM
ALL WRATH AND AFFLICTION
AND CORRUPTION, AND
RELEASED FROM
FAULTS.



ODE 1, TN 6.

IRMUS: He has become Helper and Protector
for me unto salvation.
He is my God — and I glorify Him,
God of my fathers — and I exalt Him,
for He is greatly glorified.

(Ex 15: 2, 1; Ps 117: 14)

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

O Lamb of God,
who take away the sins of all,
take from me the heavy yoke of sin,
and as You are compassionate
give me tears of compunction.

(Jn 1: 29)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Jesus, I fall down at Your feet.
I have sinned against You:
be merciful to me.
Take from me the heavy yoke of sin,
and as you are a compassionate God,
accept me in repentance.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.



KATAVASIA:

The nativity is past understanding —
from a conception without seed;
the child-bearing is undefiled —
from a Mother without a husband; for
the birth of God makes the natures new.
Therefore with true belief all generations
magnify you as Bride and Mother of God.



Venerable Andrew, thrice-blessed father,
shepherd of Crete, do not cease
to offer prayer for us who sing
your praises, so that we, who honour
your memory with faith,
may be delivered from all wrath
and affliction and corruption,
and released from faults.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAΔICON:

Let us glorify the Father,
let us exalt the Son, and with faith
let us worship the divine Spirit:
undivided Trinity, Unity in Essence,
as Light and Lights, and Life and Lives,
giving life and light to the ends
of the earth.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages
of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION:

Preserve your city,
all-pure Mother of God.
For by you she reigns in faith, and by you
she is made strong, and through you
she is victorious; she puts to flight every
temptation, and she despoils the enemy,
and she administers the subjects.

Do not enter into judgement with me,
bringing before me the things
I should have done —
examining my words
and correcting my impulses.
But in your pity overlook such things,
and save me, O All-powerful.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

It is time for repentance:
I come to you, my Creator.
Take from me the heavy yoke of sin,
and in your compassion give me
tears of compunction.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have wasted the substance
of my soul in sin —
and I am barren of the virtues of piety.
In my hunger I cry:
Grant mercy to me, O Lord, my Saviour.

(Lk 15: 13, 17)



VEN. MARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

Rowing before the laws of Christ,
you have drawn near to Him,
forsaking the ungovernable longings
of sensual pleasure;
and you have most reverently
accomplished all the virtues
as if they were one.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

ΤΡΙΑΔΙΚΟΝ:

Trinity beyond being,
worshipped in unity,
take from me the heavy yoke of sin,
and in your compassion grant me
tears of contrition.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages
of ages. Amen.

ΤΗΕΠΟΙΚΙΟΝ:

Mother of God, the help and protection
of those who sing praise to you,
take from me the heavy yoke of sin,
and, pure Lady, accept me
in repentance.



VEN. MARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

By your strange way of life
you have struck all with wonder:
the hosts of angels and the assemblies
of mortals; for you surpassed nature and
lived as though no longer in the body.
Like a bodiless being you walked on the
Jordan with your feet and crossed over.

VEN. MARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

Venerable Mother, call down
the gracious mercy of the Creator
on those who praise you,
that we may be set free
from the sufferings and afflictions
that beset us round about;
so that without ceasing,
delivered from temptations,
we may magnify the Lord
who has glorified you.



VEN. ANDREW:

Venerable Father Andrew, pray to God
for us.

as once it was opened to Your Thief,
who with faith recognized You as God.

(Lk 23: 32-42)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

The creation was in anguish when it saw
You crucified; mountains and rocks
were split from fear, and the earth
quaked, and hell was despoiled;
and the light grew dark in the day,
when they beheld You, O Jesus,
nailed in the flesh.

(Mt 27: 51-53; Lk 23: 44-45)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Do not demand from me
worthy fruits of repentance,
for my strength has failed within me.
Give me an ever-contrite heart and
poverty of spirit, so that I may offer
these to You as an acceptable sacrifice,
O only Saviour.

(Mt 3: 8; 5: 3; Ps 50: 17)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

My Judge, who know me, when You
come again with the angels to judge
the whole world, look on me then with
Your merciful eye and spare me; take
pity on me, O Jesus, for I have sinned
more than the whole nature of mankind.

(Mt 25: 31-32)



ODE 2.

VERSES: **S**ee, see, that I am God,
who of old in the desert rained down
manna and made springs of water flow
from the rock for My people,
by My right hand alone and
by My power.

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

I have killed a man to my bruising and a
young man to my hurt — said Lamech,
as he cried aloud lamenting.
O my soul, do you not tremble then,
for you have defiled your flesh
and stained your mind?

(Gn 4: 23)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O soul, you cleverly planned to build
a tower, and to construct a fortress for
your lusts; but the Creator confounded
your plans and dashed
your constructions to the ground.

(Gn 11: 3-4)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Oh, how I have emulated Lamech,
the murderer of old, slaying my body
like the man — and my mind
like the young man.

And with longings for sensual pleasures
I have slain my body as a brother, like
Cain the murderer.

(Gn 4: 23)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Roused to anger by their transgression,
the Lord once rained down fire from
the Lord and burnt up the men of Sodom.
And you, O soul, have kindled the fire of
Gehenna, in which you will burn with
them.

(Gn 19: 24)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I am wounded, I am struck:
see the arrows of the enemy which
have pierced my soul and my body;
see the wounds, the festering sores,
and the maimings — cry the blows
of my freely-chosen passions.



VEN. MARY: Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.



ODE 9.

IRMUS: **T**he nativity is past understanding —
from a conception without seed;
the child-bearing is undefiled —
from a Mother without a husband; for
the birth of God makes the natures new.
Therefore with true belief all generations
magnify you as Bride and Mother of God.

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

O Son of David, with a word You healed
the possessed: be compassionate,
save me and have mercy.
Let me hear Your compassionate voice
speak to me as to the Thief — Amen,
I say to you, you will be with Me in
Paradise, when I come in My glory.

(Lk 9: 38-42; 23: 43)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

A thief accused You, a Thief
acknowledged You as God: for both
were hanging beside You on the Cross.
O Greatly-compassionate, open to me
also the door of Your glorious kingdom,

Godly Zosimas was struck
with amazement, beholding in you,
O Mother, a wonder truly strange and new.
For he saw an angel in the body
and was filled with astonishment,
praising Christ to the ages.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

ΤΡΙΑΔΙΚΟΝ:

Father without beginning,
Son also without beginning,
good Paraclete, Spirit of truth;
Begetter of the Word of God,
Word of the Father without beginning,
Spirit, living and creating:
Trinity in Unity, have mercy on me.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages
of ages. Amen.

ΤΗΕΠΟΙΚΙΟΝ:

As from purple thread, O All-Pure,
the spiritual royal robe of Emmanuel,
His flesh, was woven within your womb.
Therefore we honour you in truth
as Mother of God.



Sunk in the abyss of wickedness,
O Mary, you lifted up your hands
to the merciful God.
And as to Peter, in His love for mankind,
He stretched out His divine hand to you,
seeking in every way your conversion.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

ΤΡΙΑΔΙΚΟΝ:

Increated Trinity without beginning,
undivided Unity: accept me
in repentance, and save me, a sinner.
I am your creation, do not reject me,
but spare me and deliver me
from the fire of condemnation.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages
of ages. Amen.

ΤΗΕΠΟΙΚΙΟΝ:

Most pure Lady, Mother of God,
the hope of those who run to you
and the haven of the storm-tossed,
through your prayers grant that
your merciful Creator and Son
may be merciful even to me.





ODE 3.

IRMUS: **O** Lord, establish my wavering heart
on the rock of Your commandments,
for You alone are holy and Lord.

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

O soul, you have become
like Hagar the Egyptian of old:
your free choice has been enslaved
and you have given birth
to a new Ismael —
stubborn wilfulness.

(Gn 16: 15)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

My soul, you know the ladder of Jacob,
appearing from earth to heaven.
Why do you not have a secure step
of piety?

(Gn 28: 12)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Saviour, spare what You have made
Yourself, and as shepherd —
seek the lost sheep that has gone astray.
Snatch me from the wolf and make me
a sheep in the pasture of Your flock.

(Ps 118: 176; Jn 10: 11-16)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

When You, the compassionate Judge,
are enthroned and reveal
Your dread glory, O Christ,
what fear there will be then,
when the furnace burns with fire,
and all shrink back in terror
before Your Judgement-seat.

(Mt 25: 31-46)



VEN. MARY: Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

The Mother of the Light that never sets
illuminated you and freed you
from the darkness of the passions.
O Mary, who has received
the grace of the Spirit, give light to those
who faithfully praise you.

VEN. MARY: Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.



ODE 8.

IRMOS: Him, whom the hosts of heaven glorify,
and who terrifies the Cherubim and the
Seraphim, let everything that has breath
and every creature praise, bless,
and highly exalt to all the ages.

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

O Saviour, as ointment I empty on Your
head the alabaster box of my tears.
Like the Harlot I cry to You,
seeking mercy: I bring my prayer
and ask to receive forgiveness.

(Mt 26: 7; Lk 7: 38)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

No one has sinned against You as I have;
yet accept even me,
compassionate Saviour,
as I repent in fear and cry with longing:
I have sinned against You alone;
I have transgressed, have mercy on me.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Follow the example of the one
set apart as Priest of God and King,
the symbolic representation of the life of
Christ in the world among mankind.

(Heb 7: 1-4; Gn 14: 18)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Turn back, wretched soul, and lament,
before the festival of life
comes to an end —
before the Lord shuts the door
to the bridal chamber.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Do not look back, O soul,
and become a pillar of salt.
May the precedent of Sodom
make you fearful, and may you go up
to refuge in Segor.

(Gn 19: 26)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Master, do not reject the prayer
of those who sing praise to You,
but, O Lover of mankind,
be merciful and grant forgiveness
to those who ask with faith.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAIDICON:

Simple Unity,
uncreated Nature without beginning,
praised in a Trinity of Persons,
save us who in faith worship Your power.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION:

O Mother of God, strange wonder:
without knowing a man you have
conceived within time the Son,
who is from the Father outside time,
remaining a Virgin while giving suck.



Pray to Him whom you loved,
to Him whom you desired,
for whose sake you wore out your flesh,
O Venerable Mother; pray now to Christ
for your servants, that He may show
mercy on us all, and grant a peaceful
existence to those who worship Him.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAIDICON:

Trinity, simple, undivided, consubstantial,
and one in Essence, Lights and Light,
three Holies and one Holy,
God the Trinity is praised in song.
So, O soul, praise and glorify
Life and Lives, the God of all.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION:

God we praise you, we bless you,
we venerate you, O Mother of God:
for you have given birth to Christ God,
one of the undivided Trinity; and you
yourself have opened the heavenly
places to us who dwell on earth.



Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have discoloured Your image
and broken Your commandment.
All my beauty is darkened and my lamp
is quenched by the passions, O Saviour.
But take pity on me, as David sings,
and restore to me Your joy.

(Ps 50: 14)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Turn back, repent,
uncover all that you have hidden.
Say to God, to whom all things are known:
You alone know my secrets, O Saviour;
have mercy on me yourself,
as David sings, according to Your mercy.



VEN. MARY: Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

Grying out to the most pure Mother
of God, of old you drove back the fury
of the passions that violently attacked
you, and put to shame the enemy who
sought to make you stumble.
But give your help in trouble also to me,
your servant.

VEN. MARY: Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.



ODE 4.

IRMOUS: **T**he prophet heard of Your coming,
O Lord, and he was afraid —
how You were to be born of a Virgin
and revealed to mankind; and he said:
I have heard the report of You, and I was
afraid. Glory to Your power, O Lord.

(Hb 3: 2)

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

The time of my life is short,
filled with trouble and evil.
But accept me in repentance and call me
back to knowledge.
Do not let me become the possession or
the food of the enemy; but, O Saviour,
take pity on me Yourself.

(Gn 47: 9)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

A man of great wealth and righteous,
of royal dignity, clothed in diadem
and purple, abounding in riches
and cattle, became suddenly a beggar,
stripped of wealth, glory and kingship.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

If he who was righteous and blameless above all did not escape the snares and pits of the deceiver, what will you do, wretched and sin-loving soul, when some unexpected misfortune befalls you?

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Now I begin to speak boastfully, with rashness of heart, to no purpose and in vain. O just Judge, who alone have pity, do not condemn me with the Pharisee, but grant me the humility of the Tax Collector and number me with Him.

(Lk 18: 9-14)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Merciful One, I know that I have sinned, that I have shown contempt for the vessel of my flesh. But accept me in repentance and call me back to knowledge. Do not let me become the possession or the food of the enemy; but, O Saviour, take pity on me Yourself.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.



ODE 7.

IRMOSES: **W**e have sinned, we have transgressed, we have done evil before You, and neither have we followed, nor have we done, what You commanded us. But do not reject us utterly, O God of our fathers.

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

My days have vanished like a dream of one awaking; and so, like Hezekias, I weep on my bed, so that years may be added to my life. But what Esaias will come to me, O soul, except the God of all?

(4 Kgs 20: 3; Is. 38: 2)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I fall before You, and as tears I offer You my words. I have sinned as the Harlot never sinned, and I have transgressed as no one else on earth. But take pity on Your creature, O Master, and call me back.

THEOTOKION:

Your womb gave birth to God for us,
fashioned in our shape.

Pray to Him as the Creator of all,
O Mother of God, that through
your prayers we may be justified.



KONTAKION:

My soul, my soul, rise up.
Why are you sleeping?
The end draws near,
and soon you will be troubled.
Watch, then, so that Christ God may
spare you, for He is present everywhere
and fills all things.



I have become my own idol,
utterly defiling my soul with
the passions.
But accept me in repentance
and call me back to knowledge.
Do not let me become the possession
or the food of the enemy;
but, O Saviour, take pity on me Yourself.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have not listened to Your voice,
I have not heeded Your Scriptures,
O Giver of the Law.
But accept me in repentance
and call me back to knowledge.
Do not let me become the possession
or the food of the enemy;
but, O Saviour, take pity on me Yourself.



VEN. MARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

You were brought down into the depth
of great iniquities, yet not held fast;
but with better intent you perceptibly
ascended to the height of virtue,
beyond all expectation;
and the angelic nature was amazed,
O Mary.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAIDICON:

Individed in Essence,
unconfused in Persons,
I confess You as God:
the Trinity in one Godhead,
equal in kingship and throne;
and I raise to You the great threefold
song that is sung in the highest.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages
of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION:

You give birth and are a virgin,
and in both you remain by nature Virgin.
He who is born makes new
the laws of nature, and the womb
brings forth without labour pains.
When God so wills,
the natural order is overcome;
for He does whatever He wishes.



In order to quench
the burning of the passions, O Mary,
with your soul on fire
you have ever shed streams of tears.
Grant the grace of these also to me,
your servant.

VEN. MARY:

**Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.**

O Mother, you attained
heavenly detachment through
the excellence of your way of life
on earth.
Pray that those who sing praise to you
may be delivered from passions
through your intercessions.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAIDICON:

I am Trinity, simple and undivided,
divided in Persons,
and I am Unity from the beginning,
by Nature one — says the Father
and the Son and the divine Spirit.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages
of ages. Amen.



ODE 6.

IRMOS: **W**ith my whole heart I cried
to the compassionate God, and He
heard me from the lowest depths of hell,
and brought my life up from corruption.

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

O Saviour, I am the coin marked
with the likeness of the King
and which You lost of old.
But light Your lamp, Your Forerunner,
O Word, and seek and find Your image.

(Lk 15: 8)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Rise up and make war on the passions
of the flesh, like Jesus against Amalek,
ever gaining victory over the Gavaonites,
your deceitful thoughts.

(Ex 17: 8; Jo 8: 21)



VEN. MARY: Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.



ODE 5.

IRMOS: **F**rom the night I seek You early,
O Lover of mankind: give me light,
I pray You, and guide me also
in Your commandments, and teach me,
O Saviour, to do Your will.

REFRAIN: Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me.

O soul, imitate the woman who was
bowed down to the ground:
fall at the feet of Jesus,
so that He may make you straight again,
and you will walk uprightly
on the paths of the Lord.

(Lk 13: 11)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Since You are a deep well, O Master,
make springs gush forth for me
from Your pure veins —
so that like the woman of Samaria
I may drink and thirst no more;
for from You flow the streams of life.

(Jn 4: 13-15)

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Master and Lord,
may my tears be to me as Siloam,
so that I also may wash clean
the eyes of my heart, and with my mind
behold You, the pre-eternal Light.

(Jn 9: 7; Gn 1: 2-19)



VEN. MARY:

**Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.**

All-blessed one, with a love
beyond compare you longed
to venerate the wood of the Cross,
and your desire was granted.
Make me also worthy to attain
the glory on high.



✠ Glory to the Father and to the Son and
to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAΔICON:

We glorify You, O Trinity, the one God:
Holy, holy, holy
is the Father, the Son, and the Spirit,
simple Essence and Unity,
worshipped for ever.

✠ Both now and ever and unto the ages
of ages. Amen.

THEOTOKION:

Inviolable Virgin Mother without a husband,
from you God, the Creator of the ages,
was clothed in my shape,
and He took human nature to Himself.

