

APRIL 18, 2024

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday, April 17)

"Lord I Call..."

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Reader reads the rest of Psalm 140 and Psalm 141 on page 20 up to and including

Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me,
and from the snares of evildoers!

then continuing below:

THE STICHERA ARE READ

V. Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, while I escape. Tone 8

My thoughts, like thieves, have seized me, a wretched man.
My mind hath been robbed, and I have been sorely beaten.
My soul is wounded, and I am stripped of virtues.
I lie naked in the highway of life.
The priest saw my pain and hopeless wounds and looked away.
The Levite could not bear my groaning and passed me by.
But You were pleased to come, O Christ my God,
not from Samaria but from the flesh of Mary.
In Your love for man, grant me healing//
and pour upon me Your great mercy!

V. I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.

My thoughts, like thieves, have seized me, a wretched man.
My mind hath been robbed, and I have been sorely beaten.
My soul is wounded, and I am stripped of virtues.
I lie naked in the highway of life.
The priest saw my pain and hopeless wounds and looked away.
The Levite could not bear my groaning and passed me by.
But You were pleased to come, O Christ my God,
not from Samaria but from the flesh of Mary.
In Your love for man, grant me healing//
and pour upon me Your great mercy!

V. I pour out my complaint before Him, I tell my trouble before Him. Tone 8

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise
is rightly ascribed to the saints,
for they bowed their necks beneath the sword,
for Your sake, Who bowed the heavens and came down.
They shed their blood for You, Who emptied Yourself,
taking the form of a servant.
They humbled themselves even unto death,
following the example of Your lowliness.
By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, //
according to Your abundant mercy!

V. When my spirit is faint, You know my way. Tone 8

You made Your disciples into living heavens, O Lord.
By their prayers deliver me from the evils of this earth,
and by abstinence lift up my thoughts to Your Passion, //
for You are merciful and love man!

V. In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.

This season of fasting helps us all to do the works of God.
Let us weep, then, with our whole heart and cry to the Savior:
"Through Your disciples, save us, O Lord of great mercy, //
as with reverence we sing of Your great love for man!"

V. I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me. Tone 8

O Apostles, worthy of all praise and intercessors for the world,
physicians of the sick and guardians of health,
protect us on all sides as we pass through the Fast!
By God's grace may we remain at peace with one another!
Preserve our minds untroubled by passions, //
so that we all may sing praises to the risen and victorious Christ!

*V. No refuge remains to me, no man cares for me. Tone 4 (24 stichera by Simeon the Translator)**

I have wasted my whole life with harlots and publicans.
Will I be able to repent of my many sins even when I grow old?
I cry to You, the Creator of all and Healer of the sick: //
"Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!"

* In the original Greek, the initial letters of these 24 stichera by Simeon follow the order of the alphabet.

v. I cry to You, O Lord; I say, You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.
Weighed down with indifference, I wallow in sin.
Pierced by the devil's darts, I have defiled Your image in me.
Yet You convert the heedless and save the sinful.//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low.
I have become a stumbling block.
Born of earth, I have remained attached to earthly things.
Wed to Your commandments,
I transgressed them and defiled my bed.
Yet do not despise the creature whom You formed of earth,//
but save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me.
Obsessed with the flesh, I have murdered my soul.
I have become the demons' toy, the slave of lusts.
In Your compassion, spare me! Put the demons to flight!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!
More than all men I have willfully sinned,
and this has left me helpless and forsaken.
As the enemy of my own soul, I have carnal thoughts that darken it.
O Light of those in darkness, Guide of all who go astray,//
save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.
"Let me live, and I shall praise You!" said the Prophet.
Seek me, Your lost sheep, and number me among Your flock!
Grant me time for repentance,
so that with cries of sorrow I may call upon You://
"Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!"

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!
I have sinned, O Christ my God.
I have sinned and rejected Your commandments.
Be merciful to me, O Bountiful One,
so that escaping from the darkness
I may see with my inner eyes and cry to You in fear://
"Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!"

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Wild beasts surround me,
but snatch me from them, O Savior,
for You desire all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth!
As their Creator, save them, and with them save me!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

O my Benefactor, my Redeemer and my Savior,
be also my healer and reject me not!
Look upon me as I lie in sin,
and raise me up, O Almighty One!
Then shall I confess Your deeds and cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (5) For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Like the foolish servant
I have hidden the talent given to me and buried it in the ground.
I am condemned as useless and no longer dare to ask You for forgiveness.
But in Your patience pity me, so that I may cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

When the woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Your garment,
You dried up the source of her sufferings.
If I also approach You with unwavering faith,
I will receive forgiveness of my sins.
Accept me as You accepted her, and heal my grief and pain!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

O Lord, Who created heaven and earth by Your word,
You will sit upon the throne for judgment.
All of us will stand in Your presence and confess our sins.
Before that day comes, accept me in repentance!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

O only Savior,
look on me with compassion, and have mercy on me!
Wash me clean from the filth of my sins,
so that I may sing:// “Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

The devil has prepared his weapons to hunt down my humble soul.
He has made me a stranger to the light of the knowledge of Your face.
But rescue me from his traps, for You are mighty in strength!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

V. I lift up mine eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us.

(Ps 122:1-2)

I am completely enslaved by the passions.
I have forsaken the Law and the Holy Scriptures.
Heal my every part, O loving Benefactor,
Who for my sake became as I am!
Pity me and convert me, O merciful Destroyer of the passions!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

V. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)

The harlot washed Your pure and precious feet with her tears.
She encourages all to approach You and receive remission of their sins.
Grant also unto me her faith, O Savior,
so that I may cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

V. Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

For my sake You were made poor and became a young Child in the flesh.
Now cleanse my soul of all filth, O Christ!
I am weak and broken; send down a drop of Your mercy on me!
Wash away the dirt, and heal me of my sickness!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

V. Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Strengthen my soul, O Master!
Let me run to You and always serve You,
for You are my Guardian and Protector, my Defense and help!
Enable me to cry to You with boldness, O Word of God://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

V. Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Be our unshakeable rampart, O Jesus, our Savior and merciful God,
for we have fallen into deceitful ways and deeds!
Raise up Your creature, O Benefactor,
and reconcile us to You in Your compassion!//Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

V. Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

I am like the Prodigal Son,
for after wasting my riches I now am dying of hunger.
Receive me as You received him, O loving Father,
for I seek refuge beneath Your protection!
Let me eat at Your table, so that I may cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

V. Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Out of envy the author of evil drove Adam from Paradise,
but by saying “Remember me,” the thief on the cross regained it.
With faith and fear I also cry to You, “Remember me!”//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

V. Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Stretch out Your hand to me as to Peter,
and raise me from the depths, O God!
Grant me grace and mercy, through the prayers of Your all-pure Mother,
who gave birth to You without seed,
and of all Your saints!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

V. Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Receive me as I sing to You each day,
O Lamb, Who take away my sins!
I commend my soul and body entirely into Your hands,
and, as is my duty, I cry to You both day and night://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
What inexpressible loving kindness,
O gracious and long-suffering Lord!
Cast me not away from Your face,
O sinless and compassionate Savior,
so that with thanksgiving and rejoicing I may cry to You:
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 4***

What inexpressible condescension!
What a wonderful birth!
How does the Virgin carry You as a babe in her arms,
for You are her Creator and God?
O Benefactor Who consented to take flesh from her, //
save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!
Choir: O Gladsome Light...

READINGS FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace to all!

Reader: And to your spirit!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: O Lord God of vengeance, / show Yourself! *(Psalm 93:1)*

Chanter: O Lord God of vengeance, / show Yourself!

Reader: Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render to the proud their deserts! *(Psalm 93:2)*

Chanter: O Lord God of vengeance, / show Yourself!

Reader: O Lord God of vengeance,

Chanter: show Yourself!

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from Genesis (17:1-9)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: When Abram was ninety nine years old the Lord appeared to him and said, 'I am your God; be well-pleasing before me and be blameless, and I will establish my covenant between me and you and I will multiply you greatly.' And Abram fell on his face and God spoke to him saying, 'See, my covenant is with you, and you will be the father of many nations. And your name will no longer be called Abram, but your name will be Abraham, because I have made you the father of many nations. And I will increase you greatly and I will make nations from you and kings will come forth from you. And I will set my covenant between you and your seed after you to all generations for an eternal covenant, for me to be your God and that of your seed after you. And I will give you and your seed the land on which you are dwelling, all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession, and I shall be God for them'. And God said to Abraham, 'You are to keep my covenant, you and your seed after to all their generations.'

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the fourth tone: Sing to the Lord / a new song! *(Psalm 95:1a)*

Chanter: Sing to the Lord / a new song!

Reader: Sing to the Lord, bless His name! *(Psalm 95:2a)*

Chanter: Sing to the Lord / a new song!

Reader: Sing to the Lord

Chanter: a new song!

EVERYONE KNEELS.

Deacon: Command!

Priest: Wisdom! Upright! The Light of Christ illumines all!

Reader: The reading is from the Proverbs of Solomon. (15:20-16:9)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: A wise son gives his father joy, but a foolish son sneers at his mother. The paths of the senseless lack intelligence, but a prudent man walks straight. Those who do not honour councils postpone thoughts, but counsel dwells in the hearts of those who take counsel. The wicked will in no way obey it, nor will he say anything appropriate or for the common good. The thoughts of the wise are ways of life, that turning aside he may be saved from Hell. The Lord pulls down the houses of scorners, but establishes the border of widows. An unjust thought is an abomination to the Lord, but the sayings of the pure are revered. One who receives bribes destroys himself, but the person who hates to take bribes will be saved. Sins are purged away by almsgiving and faithful dealings, but by fear of the Lord everyone turns from evil. The hearts of the righteous meditate faithfulness, but the mouth of the ungodly gives wicked answers. The ways of just men are acceptable to the Lord, while through them even enemies become friends. God goes far away from the ungodly, but hearkens to prayers of the just. Better a small income with justice than large receipts with injustice. Let the heart of a man consider what is just, that his steps may be set right by God. An eye that sees rightly rejoices the heart, while a good reputation fattens the bones. One who rejects instruction hates himself, but one who guards reproofs loves his own soul. Fear of God is instruction and wisdom, and the beginning of glory will answer it. All the works of the humble are manifest with God, while the ungodly will perish in an evil day. Everyone who is proud-hearted is unclean with God, and one who strikes hands with hand will not be held guiltless. The beginning of a good way is to do what is just, it is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrificing sacrifices. One who seeks the Lord will find knowledge with justice, while those who seek him rightly will find peace. All the works of the Lord are done with justice, but the ungodly is kept for an evil day.

Go to PAGE 24, the PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY continues with “Let my prayer arise...”

All KNEEL at the Great Entrance

All KNEEL at the Lord’s Prayer