

## CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE

### WEDNESDAY Ode 1

A helper and a protector / has become salvation for me. / He is my God / I will glorify Him; / my father's God will I exalt: // for gloriously has He been glorified. (Exodus 15:2, 1; Psalm 117:14)

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

From my youth, O Christ, I have rejected Your commandments. I have passed my whole life without caring or thinking as a slave of my passions. Therefore, O Savior, I cry to You: At least in the end save me.

In old age even, O Savior, do not cast me out empty to hell as I lie prostrate before Your gates. But before my end in Your love for mankind grant me release from my falls.

I have squandered in profligacy my substance, O Savior, and I am barren of virtues and piety; but famished I cry: O Father of mercies, forestall and have compassion on me. (Luke 15:13, 17)

I am the one by my thoughts who fell among robbers, and now I am all wounded by them, full of sores. But stand by me, O Christ my Savior, and heal me. (Luke 10:30)

The priest saw me first and passed by on the other side. Then the Levite took a look at my sufferings and disdained my nakedness. But stand by me, O Jesus Who dawned out of Mary, and have compassion on me. (Luke 10:31-33)

*O venerable Mary of Egypt, pray to God for us.*

Grant me that illuminating grace from on high given you by Divine Providence that I may escape the darkening of the passions and fervently sing of the thrilling achievements of your life, O Mary.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

Trinity above all essence, adored in Unity, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Your compassion grant me tears of compunction.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Mother of God, hope and intercessor of those who sing of you, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and as you are our pure Lady, accept me who repent.

## WEDNESDAY Ode 2

Listen, O heaven and I will speak, / I will sing of Christ, / Who from the Virgin // came to us in the flesh.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

I have slipped and fallen like David through lack of discipline, and I am covered with filth; but wash me too, O Savior, with my tears. (II Kings 11:1-4)

No tears, no repentance have I, no compunction. But as God, O Savior, grant me these.

I have lost my first-created beauty and comeliness; and now I lie naked, and I am ashamed.

Close not Your door to me then, Lord, Lord; but open it to me who repent to You. (Matthew 25:11)

Give ear to the sighs and groans of my soul, and accept the drops of my eyes, O Savior, and save me.

O Lover of mankind, Who desires all to be saved, in Your goodness recall me and receive me who repent. (1 Tim. 2:4)

*Most holy Mother of God, save us.*

Spotless Mother of God, only all-hymned Virgin, pray intensely that we may be saved.

See, see that I am God, Who rained manna and made water spout from the rock of old for my people in the wilderness, by My Right Hand, and by My Strength alone.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

See, see that I am God: give ear, my soul, to the Lord Who is appealing to you, and tear yourself from your former sin, and fear Him as the Avenger, and as your Judge and God. (Deuteronomy 32:35; Hebrews 10:30)

Whom do you resemble, O most sinful soul? Surely the first Cain and that wicked Lamech. For you have stoned your body with evil deeds, and you have murdered your mind with irrational appetites. (Genesis 4; 4:23)

Running through all who lived before the Law, my soul, you have not been like Seth, nor imitated Enos, nor Enoch by transfer to heaven, nor Noah. But you are seen to be bereft of the life of the righteous. (Genesis 5)

You alone have opened the cataracts of the wrath of God, my soul, and have flooded as the earth all your flesh and actions and life, and have remained outside the Ark of Salvation. (Genesis 6-8)

*O venerable Mary of Egypt, pray to God for us.*

With all eagerness and love you ran to Christ, abandoning your former way of sin. And being nourished in the untrodden wilderness, you chastely fulfilled His divine commandments.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

Unoriginate, uncreated Trinity, indivisible Unity, accept me who repent, save me who have sinned. I am Your creation, despise me not, but spare me and deliver me from the fire of condemnation.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Spotless Lady, Mother of God, hope of those who run to you, and haven of those in distress, obtain grace for me from the merciful One, Your Son and Creator, by your prayers.

### WEDNESDAY Ode 3

On the rock of Your commandments, O Lord, strengthen my wavering heart, for You alone are holy and the Lord.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

You have not inherited Shem's blessing, wretched soul, nor have you received that vast possession like Japheth in the land of forgiveness. (Genesis 9:26-27)

Come out, my soul, from sin, from the land of Haran! Come into the land of eternal life flowing with incorruption which Abraham inherited. (Genesis 12:4)

You have heard, my soul, how Abraham of old left the land of his fathers and became a nomad. Imitate his resolution. (Genesis 12:1)

At the Oak of Mamre the Patriarch entertained Angels, and inherited in his old age the seed of the promise. (Genesis 18:1)

Knowing, my wretched soul, how Isaac was mystically offered to the Lord as a new sacrifice and whole-burnt offering, imitate his resolution. (Genesis 22:2)

You have heard of Ishmael (be watchful, my soul!) who was driven out as the son of a slave-girl. Beware lest you suffer something similar by your lusting. (Genesis 21:10)

*O venerable Mary of Egypt, pray to God for us.*

I am hard pressed by the waves and billows of my sins, mother. But now bring me safely through, and lead me to the haven of divine repentance.

*O venerable Mary of Egypt, pray to God for us.*

In offering a fervent prayer at this time to the compassionate Mother of God, O Saint, by your intercession open to me the divine right of entry.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

Simple, uncreated Unity, unoriginate Nature praised in a Trinity of Persons, save us who with faith worship Your power.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

O Mother of God, unwedded you gave birth in time to the timeless Son of the Father. And - O strange wonder! - you remain a Virgin while suckling Him.

### WEDNESDAY Ode 4

The Prophet heard of Your wish to be born of a virgin / and appear to us. / And he prayed, / "Lord, I have heard of Your coming, / and am filled with awe. / Glory to Your power, O Lord!" (Habbakuk 3:2)

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

My body is defiled, my spirit is sullied, and I am all covered with sores. But as the Physician, O Christ, heal, wash, and cleanse both body and spirit with repentance, and make me, my Savior, purer than snow.

You laid down Your body and blood for all, O crucified Word: Your body in order to renew me, Your blood in order to wash me, and You surrendered Your spirit, O Christ, in order to bring me to the Father.

You have wrought salvation in the midst of the earth, O merciful Creator, that we may be saved. You were voluntarily crucified on the Tree: Eden that was closed is open; things on high and below, creation and all peoples are saved and worship You. (Psalm 73:12)

May the blood and water that wells from Your side be a font for me and a draught of forgiveness, that I may be cleansed, anointed and refreshed by both as with drink and unction by Your living words, O Word. (John 19:34; Acts 7:38)

The Church has acquired Your life-giving side as a chalice, from which gushes forth for us a twofold torrent of forgiveness and knowledge as a type of the two testaments, Old and New, O our Savior.

I am bereft of the bridal chamber, I am bereft of the marriage and supper. My lamp has gone out for want of oil, the door has been locked while I was asleep; the supper is eaten; and I, bound hand and foot, am cast outside. (Matthew 25; Luke 14:7-35; Matthew 22:1-14)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

I confess You to be undivided in essence, unconfused in persons, One Triune Divinity, co-enthroned and co-reigning. I sing You the great song thrice sung on high.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

You give birth and live a virgin life, and in both remain a virgin by nature. He Who is born of you renews the laws of nature, and a womb gives birth without travail. Where God wills, the order of nature is overruled; for He does whatever He wishes.

## WEDNESDAY Ode 5

Keeping vigil, I rise up early, / and I pray to You. / my Savior who loves mankind: / enlighten me and guide me / in your ways, / teaching me to do Your will.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

How heavy in character I have become, in soul and body, like Jannes and Jambres in Pharaoh's bitter service, and my mind has sunk low. But help me, O Lord. (Exodus 7: 11; 2 Tim. 3:8)

I, wretch that I am, have rolled my mind in mud. But wash me, O Lord, in the bath of my tears, I pray You, and make the robe of my flesh as white as snow.

When I examine my actions, O Savior, I see that I have gone beyond all men in sins; for I have sinned with knowledge consciously, and not in ignorance.

Spare, spare, O Lord, Your works. I have sinned; forgive me, for You alone are pure by nature, and apart from You there is none without defilement. (1 Peter 3:21)

Being God, for my sake You took my form, and worked miracles, healing lepers and bracing paralytics; and You stopped the flow of blood of the woman with hemorrhage, O Savior, through the touch of Your hem. (Phil. 2:6; Matthew 4:24; Luke 8:43-48)

*O venerable Mary of Egypt, pray to God for us.*

Having crossed Jordan's stream, you found rest by giving a wide berth to the deadening pleasure of the flesh, from which deliver us also by your prayers, O saint.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

You, O Trinity, we glorify, the one God: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, Father, Son and Spirit, simple Being, Unity ever adored.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

From you, O pure maiden Mother and Virgin, God Who created the worlds and ages was clad in my clay and united to Himself human nature.

## WEDNESDAY Ode 6

With my whole heart, / I cried to the merciful God; / and He heard me / from the depths of hell, / and He raised my life // from corruption.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

Rise and make war against the passions of the flesh, as Joshua did against Amalek, and ever conquer the Gibeonites - illusive thoughts. (Exodus 17:8; Josh. 8:21)

Pass through the flowing nature of time, like the Ark of old, and take possession of the Land of Promise, my soul: It is God's command. (Josh. 3:17; Deuteronomy 1:8)

As You saved Peter when he cried, "Save me!", forestall and deliver me from the beast, O Savior; stretch out Your hand and raise me from the depths of sin. (Matthew 14:25-31)

I know You as a calm haven, O Lord, Lord Christ; but forestall and deliver me from the innermost depths of sin and despair.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

I am the Trinity, simple and undivided, divided Personally, and I am the Unity, united in nature, says the Father, the Son, and the Divine Spirit.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Your womb bore God for us Who took our form. Implore Him as the Creator of all, O Mother of God, that through your intercessions we may be justified.

*Kontakion, tone 6: (music on page 14)*

My soul, my soul, arise! / Why are you sleeping? / The end is at hand, / destruction hangs over you. / Come again to your senses / that you may be spared by Christ our God, / Who is everywhere filling all things.

## WEDNESDAY Ode 7

We have sinned, we have transgressed, / and done wrong before You, / we neither remembered / nor kept Your commandments. / Yet do not forget us utterly, // O God of our fathers.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

You have piled up sins like Manasseh by deliberate choice, my soul, setting up your passions as idols and multiplying abominations. But now fervently emulate his repentance and acquire compunction. (IV Kings 21; II Chronicles 33)

You have rivaled Ahab in defilements, my soul. Alas, you have been a lodging-place of fleshly pollutions and a shameful vessel of passions. But groan from your depths and tell God your sins. (III Kings 16:30)

Heaven is closed to you, my soul, and the famine of God has reached you, for you have been disobedient as was Ahab of old to the words of Elias the Thesvite. But be like the woman of Sarepta, and feed the Prophet's soul. (III Kings 17)

Elias once burned a hundred of Jezebel's lackeys when he had destroyed her shameful prophets as a proof and rebuke for Ahab. But avoid imitating these two, my soul, and master yourself. (IV Kings 1:10-15; III Kings 18:40)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

O Trinity simple and undivided, of one essence and one nature, Lights and Light, three Holies and one Holy, God the Trinity is hymned. But sing, my soul, and glorify the Life and Lives, the God of all.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

We sing of you, we bless you, we worship you, O Mother of God, for you gave birth to one of the inseparable Trinity, the one Son and God, and to us on earth you have opened the heavenly realms.

### WEDNESDAY Ode 8

Him Whom the hosts of heaven glorify, / Whom the Cherubim and Seraphim dread: / let every breath and creature praise, // bless and exalt Him throughout all ages.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

Just Judge and Savior, have mercy on me and deliver me from the fire and the threat which I shall justly incur at the judgment. Forgive me before my end by virtue and repentance.

Like the robber I cry, "Remember me!" Like Peter I weep bitterly, "Release me, O Savior!" I croak like the publican; I weep like the harlot. Accept my lamentation as You once did the Canaanite woman. (Luke 23:42; Matthew 26:75; Luke 18:13; Luke 7:37-38; Matthew 15:22-28)

Heal, O Savior, the corruption of my debased soul, O only Physician. Apply the compress to me, and the oil and wine - works of repentance, compunction and tears. (Luke 10:34)

Imitating the woman of Canaan, I also cry, "Have mercy on me, O Son of David!" I touch Your hem like the woman with hemorrhage. I weep like Martha and Mary over Lazarus.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

Eternal Father, co-eternal Son, gracious Comforter, Spirit of the Truth; Father of the Divine Word, Word of the Eternal Father, living and creative Spirit, Trinity Unity, have mercy on us.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

As from scarlet silk, O spotless Virgin, within your womb the spiritual purple was woven, the flesh of Emmanuel. Therefore we honor you as in truth Mother of God.



## WEDNESDAY Ode 9

O virgin, by the birth in the flesh / of God Who, in you, was ineffably conceived / without seed or corruption, / has all nature been renewed. / Therefore, all generations rightly magnify you // as both Mother and Bride of God.

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!*

Christ the Word healed diseases, preached the Gospel to the poor, cured cripples, ate with publicans, conversed with sinners, and He brought back the departed soul of Jairus' daughter by the touch of His hand. (Matthew 9:11; Mark 5:41-42)

The publican was saved, the harlot was made chaste, but the pharisee through boasting was condemned. For the first said, "Be merciful," the second, "Have mercy on me," but the last boasted and cried, "O God, I thank You," and then some foolish words. (Luke 7:36-50; 18:9-14)

Zacchaeus was a publican, but yet was healed, and Simon the Pharisee was disappointed; but the harlot received the release of full forgiveness from Him Who has power to forgive sins. Obtain His forgiveness yourself, my soul. (Luke 19:1-10; 7:36-50)

You, my wretched soul, have not emulated the harlot who took the alabaster jar of perfumed oil and anointed with tears and wiped with her hair the feet of the Savior, Who tore up for her the handwriting of her old accusation. (Luke 7:37-38; Colossians 2:14)

You know how the towns to which Christ offered the Gospel were cursed. Fear this example, my soul, do not be like them; for the Lord compared them to the Sodomites and condemned them to hell. (Luke 10:13-15)

Do not let despair make you worse than the Canaanite woman, my soul, for you have heard of her faith through which her daughter was healed by the Word of God. Call to Christ like her from the depth of your heart, "Son of David, save me." (Matthew 15:22)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

Let us glorify the Father, exalt the Son, and faithfully worship the Divine Spirit, inseparable Trinity, Unity in essence, as the Light and Lights, the Life and Lives, giving life and light to the ends of the earth.

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

Protect your city, spotless Mother of God, for in you it faithfully reigns, and in you is made strong, and through you it conquers and routs every trial and temptation, and spoils its foes and rules its subjects.

*O venerable father Andrew, pray to God for us.*

Venerable Andrew, thrice-blessed father, shepherd of Crete, cease not to pray to God for those who sing of you, that He may deliver from anger, oppression, corruption and our countless sins, all of us who faithfully honor your memory .

*And again the Irmos: (music on page 24)*

O virgin, by the birth in the flesh / of God Who, in you, was ineffably conceived / without seed or corruption, / has all nature been renewed. / Therefore, all generations rightly magnify you // as both Mother and Bride of God.