

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete Wednesday in the First Week

Byzantine Chant - Tone 6

Bishop Basil Essey, 1999

Canticle One

Ison G Un. G F

He is my Help - - - er and Pro - tec - tor, and hath be -

6 E G

- come my Sal - va - tion. This is my God and I will

10

glo - ri - fy Him, the God of my fa - thers, and I will ex -

15 E F E

- alt Him, for *glo - rious - ly hath He been glo - ri - fied.

19 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*

Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

From my youth, O Savior, I have rejected Thy commandments. Ruled by the passions, I have passed my whole life in heedlessness and sloth. Therefore I cry to Thee, O Savior, even now at the end: Save me.

I lie as an outcast before Thy gate, O Savior. In my old age cast me not down empty into hell; but, before the end comes, in Thy love grant me remission of sins.

As the Prodigal, O Savior, I have wasted all my substance in riotous living, and I am barren of the virtues of holiness. In my hunger I cry: O compassionate Father, come quickly out to meet me and take pity on me.

I am the man who fell among thieves, even my own thoughts; they have covered all my body with wounds, and I lie beaten and bruised. But come to me, O Christ my Savior, and heal me.

The Priest saw me first, but passed by on the other side; the Levite looked on me in my distress but despised my nakedness. O Jesus, sprung from Mary, do Thou come to me and take pity on me.

23 G

Ho - ly Moth - er Mar - y, pray to God for us.

Grant me the light of grace, from God's providence on high, that I may flee from the darkness of the passions and sing fervently the joyful tale of thy life, O Mary.

(*The two syllables of "ri-ous" are combined into one.)

27 G

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Trinity beyond all being, worshipped in Unity, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Thy compassion grant me tears of compunction.

28 G

Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

O Theotokos, the hope and protection of those who sing thy praises, take from me the heavy yoke of sin and, pure Lady, accept me in repentance.

29 Ison G Un. G F

He is my Help - - - er and Pro - tec - tor, and hath be -

34 E G

- come my Sal - va - tion. This is my God and I will

38

glo - ri - fy Him, the God of my fa - thers, and I will ex -

43 E F E

- alt Him, for *glo - rious - ly hath He been glo - ri - fied.

Canticle Two

47 Un. G E G

At - tend, O heav - en, and I shall speak and sing in praise of

52 F E F E

Christ who took flesh from a Vir - gin and came to dwell a - mong us.

56 G (This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)

Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

Like David, I have fallen into lust and I am covered with filth; but wash me clean, O Savior, by my tears.

I have no tears, no repentance, no compunction; but as God do Thou Thyself, O Savior, bestow them on me.

I have lost the beauty and glory with which I was first created; and now I lie naked and ashamed. Lord, Lord, at the Last Day shut not Thy door against me; but open it to me, for I repent before Thee.

Give ear to the groaning of my soul, and accept the tears that fall from mine eyes; O Lord, save me.

O Lover of mankind, who desirest that all men shall be saved, in Thy goodness call me back and accept me in repentance.

61 G

Most Ho - ly The - o - to - kos, save _____ us.

O Theotokos undefiled, Virgin alone worthy of all praise, intercede fervently for our salvation.

66 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*

Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

'See now, see that I am God': give ear, my soul, to the Lord as He cries to thee; forsake thy former sin, and fear Him as thy Judge and God.

To whom shall I liken thee, O soul of many sins? Alas! to Cain and to Lamech. For thou hast stoned thy body to death with thine evil deeds, and killed thy mind with thy disordered longings.

Call to mind, my soul, all who lived before the Law. Thou hast not been like Seth, or followed Enos or Enoch, who was translated to heaven, or Noah; but thou art found destitute, without a share in the life of the righteous.

Thou alone, O my soul, hast opened the windows of the wrath of thy God, and thou hast flooded, as the earth, all thy flesh and deeds and life; and thou hast remained outside the Ark of salvation.

71 G

Ho - ly Moth - er Mar - y, pray to God for us.

With all eagerness and love hast thou run to Christ, turning from thy former path of sin, finding thy food in the trackless wilderness, and fulfilling in purity the commandments of God.

75 G

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

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

76 G

Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Most pure Lady, Mother of God, the hope of those who run to thee and the haven of the storm-tossed: pray to the merciful God, thy Creator and thy Son, that He may grant His mercy even to me.

77 Un. G E G

At - tend, O heav - en, and I shall speak and sing in praise of

83 F E F E

Christ who took flesh from a Vir - gin and came to dwell a - mong us.

Canticle Three

88 G F G Un. G

O Lord, up - on the rock of thy com - mand - ments make firm my

92 E F G E F E

wav - 'ring heart, for Thou a - lone art Ho - ly and Lord.

97 G (This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)

Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

O wretched soul, thou hast not inherited the blessing of Shem, nor hast thou received, like Japhet, a spacious domain in the land of forgiveness.

O my soul, depart from sin, from the land of Haran, and come to the land that Abraham inherited, which flows with incorruption and eternal life.

Thou hast heard, my soul, how Abraham in days of old left the land of his fathers and became a wanderer: follow him in his choice.

At the oak of Mamre the Patriarch gave hospitality to the angels, and in his old age he inherited the reward of the promise.

Thou knowest, O my miserable soul, how Isaac was offered mystically as a new and unwonted sacrifice to the Lord: follow him in his choice.

Thou hast heard - O my soul be watchful! - how Ishmael was driven out as the child of a bondwoman. Take heed, lest the same thing happen to thee because of thy lust.

102 *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*

Ho - ly Moth - er Mar - y, pray to God for us.

I am held fast, O Mother, by the tempest and billows of sin: but do thou keep me safe and lead me to the haven of divine repentance.

O holy Mary, offer thy prayer of supplication to the compassionate Theotokos, and through thine intercessions open unto me the door that leads to God.

106

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

O simple Unity praised in Trinity of Persons, uncreated Nature without beginning, save us who in faith worship Thy power.

107

Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

O Mother of God, without knowing man thou hast given birth within time to the Son, who was begotten outside time from the Father; and, strange wonder! thou givest suck while still remaining Virgin.

108

O Lord, up - on the rock of thy com - mand - ments make firm__ my__

112

wav - 'ring heart, for Thou a - lone art__ Ho - ly and Lord.__

Canticle Four

117


The proph-et heard of Thy com - ing, O Lord, and he__ was a-fraid:

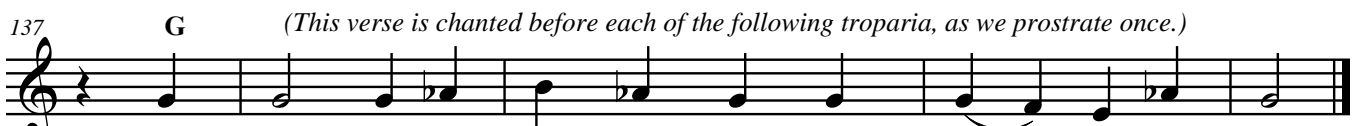
123

how Thou wast to be born of a Vir - gin and re-vealed to

128 Un. F G

 men and he said: I have heard the re - port of

132 D Un. E F E

 Thee and I was a-fraid.' Glo - ry to Thy pow - er, O Lord.

137 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*

 Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

I have defiled my body, I have stained my spirit, and I am all covered with wounds: but as physician, Christ, heal both body and spirit for me through repentance. Wash, purify and cleanse me, O my Savior, and make me whiter than snow.

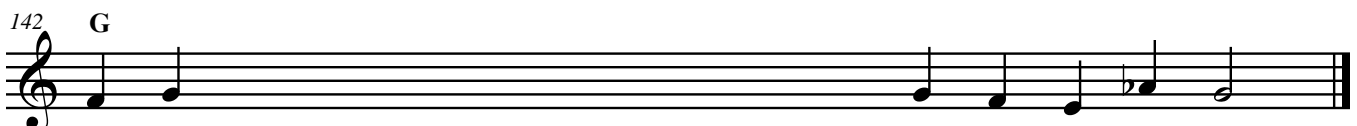
Thy Body and Thy Blood, O Word, Thou hast offered at Thy Crucifixion for the sake of all: Thy Body to refashion me, Thy Blood to wash me clean; and Thou hast given up Thy spirit, O Christ, to bring me to Thy Father.

O compassionate Lord, Thou hast worked salvation in the midst of the earth, that we might be saved. Thou wast crucified of Thine own will upon the Tree; and Eden, closed till then, was opened. Things above and things below, the creation and all the peoples have been saved and worship Thee.

May the Blood from Thy side be to me a cleansing fount, and may the Water that flows with it be a drink of forgiveness. May I be purified by both, O Word, anointed and refreshed, having as chrisim and drink Thy words of life.

As a chalice, O my Savior, the Church has been granted Thy life-giving side, from which there flows down to us a twofold stream of forgiveness and knowledge, representing the two Covenants, the Old and the New.

I am deprived of the bridal chamber, of the wedding and the supper; for want of oil my lamp has gone out; while I slept the door was closed; the supper has been eaten; I am bound hand and foot, and cast out.

142 G

 Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Undivided in Essence, unconfused in Persons, I confess Thee as God: Triune Deity, one in kingship and throne; and to Thee I raise the great thrice-holy hymn that is sung on high.

143 G

 Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Thou givest birth and art a virgin, and in both thou remainest by nature inviolate. He who is born makes new the laws of nature, and the womb brings forth without travail. When God so wills, the natural order is overcome; for He does whatever He wishes.

144 G F G E F G F E
 The proph-et heard of Thy com - ing, O Lord, and he__ was a-fraid:
 150 F G E
 how Thou wast to be born of a Vir - gin and re-vealed to
 155 Un. F G
 men__ and he said: 'I have heard the re - port__ of
 159 D Un. E F E
 Thee and I__ was a-fraid.' Glo - ry to Thy pow - er, O Lord.

Canticle Five

164 Un. F G
 From the night I seek Thee ear - ly, O__ Lov - er of__ man -
 168 E Un.
 -kind: give me light,__ I__ pray__ Thee, and
 171 G E
 guide me in Thy com - mand - ments, and teach__ me, O
 174 F E
 Sav - - - ior, to do__ Thy__ will.

177 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*
 Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

In my soul and body, O Lord, I have become like Jannes and Jambres, the magicians of cruel Pharaoh; my will is heavy and my mind is drowned beneath the waters. But do Thou come to my aid. Woe is me! I have defiled my mind with filth. But I pray to Thee, O Master: wash me clean in the waters of my tears, and make the garment of my flesh white as snow.

When I examine my actions, O Savior, I see that I have gone beyond all men in sin; for I knew and understood what I did; I was not sinning in ignorance.

Spare, O spare the work of Thine hands, O Lord. I have sinned, forgive me: for Thou alone art pure by nature, and none save Thee is free from defilement.

Thou who art God, O Savior, wast for my sake fashioned as I am. Thou hast performed miracles, healing lepers, giving strength to the paralyzed, stopping the issue of blood when the woman touched the hem of Thy garment.

(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)

182 G

Ho - ly Moth - er Mar - y, pray to God for us.

Crossing the stream of Jordan, thou hast found peace, escaping from the deadening pleasures of the flesh. Deliver us also from them, holy Mary, by thine intercessions.

186 G

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

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

187 G

Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

O Virgin inviolate and Mother who has not known man, from thee has God, the Creator of the ages, taken human flesh, uniting to Himself the nature of men.

188 Un. F G

From the night I seek Thee ear - ly, O — Lov - er of — man -


192 E Un. G


-kind: give me light, I — pray Thee, and guide me in Thy com -


196 E F E


-mand - ments, and teach — me, O Sav - ior, to do — Thy will.

Canticle Six

201 G F G

 With my whole heart I cried to thē all - com - pas - sion - ate

205 E D E

 God: and He heard me from the low - est depths of hell, and

209 G E F E

 brought my life out of cor - rup - - - - tion.


213 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*

 Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

Rise up and make war upon the passions of the flesh, as Joshua against Amalek, ever gaining the victory over the Gibeonites, thy deceitful thoughts.

O my soul, pass through the flowing waters of time like the Ark of old, and take possession of the land of promise: for God commands thee.

As Thou hast saved Peter when he cried out, 'Save me', come quickly, O Savior, before it is too late, and save me from the beast. Stretch out Thine hand and lead me up from the deep of sin.

I know Thee as a calm haven, O Lord, Lord Christ: come quickly, before it is too late, and deliver me from the lowest depths of sin and despair.

218 G

 Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

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

219 G

 Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Thy womb bore God for us, fashioned in our shape. O Theotokos, pray to Him as the Creator of all, that we may be justified through thine intercessions.

220 G F G
 With my whole heart I cried to thē all-com-pas-sion-ate

224 E D E
 God: and He heard me from the low-est depths of hell, and

228 G E F E
 brought my life out of cor-rupt-ion.

♩ = 55

Kontakion

232 D A
 O my soul, O my soul: A-

236 G A D C
 -rise! A- rise! Why art thou sleep-

240 D A G D G
 -ing? Thē end is draw-ing near and

243 A D
 thou wilt be con-found-

247 A G A G
 -ed. A-wake then and watch, that Christ

251 D C

God may spare _____ thee, who is ev - ry - where _____

255 D

pre - - - sent and fill - eth all _____

258 Un. C D

things. _____

Canticle Seven

260 Un. G Un.

We have sinned, we have trans - gressed, we have done e - vil in

264 G F E

Thy _____ sight; we have not kept or fol - lowed Thy com -

268 Un. G E

-mand - ments. But _____ re - ject us not ut - ter - ly, O _____

272 F E

God _____ of _____ our _____ fa - thers.

275 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*

Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

By deliberate choice, my soul, thou hast incurred the guilt of Manasseh, setting up the passions as idols and multiplying abominations. But with fervent heart emulate his repentance and acquire compunction.

Alas, my soul! Thou hast rivaled Ahab in guilt. Thou hast become a dwelling-place of fleshly defilements and a shameful vessel of the passions. But groan from the depths of thy heart, and confess thy sins to God.

Heaven is closed to thee, my soul, and a famine from God has seized thee: for thou hast been disobedient, as Ahab was to the words of Elijah the Tishbite. But imitate the widow of Zarephath, and feed the Prophet's soul.

Elijah once destroyed with fire twice fifty of Jezebel's servants, and he slew the prophets of shame, as a rebuke to Ahab. But flee from the example of both of them, my soul, and be strong.

280 G

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

O simple and undivided Trinity, O holy and consubstantial Unity: Thou art praised as Light and Lights, one Holy and three Holies. Sing, O my soul, and glorify Life and Lives, the God of all.

281 G

Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we venerate thee, O Mother of God: for thou hast given birth to One of the undivided Trinity, thy Son and God, and thou hast opened the heavenly places to us on earth.

282 Un. G Un.

We have sinned, we have trans - gressed, we have done e - vil in

286 G F E

Thy ___ sight; we have not kept or fol - lowed Thy com -

290 Un. G E

-mand - ments. But ___ re - ject us not ut - ter - ly, O ___

294 F E

God ___ of ___ our ___ fa - thers.

Canticle Eight

297 Un. G
 The hosts of heav - en give Him glo - ry: be - fore Him

301 E
 trem - ble the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim; let ___ ev - 'ry -

305 G F G
 -thing that hath ___ breath and all cre - a - tion praise Him,

309 E F E
 bless and ex - alt ___ Him a - bove ___ all for ev - er. ___

314 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*
 Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

O righteous Judge and Savior, have mercy on me and deliver me from the fire that threatens me and from the punishment that I deserve to suffer at the Judgment. Before the end comes, grant me remission through virtue and repentance.

Like the Thief I cry to Thee, 'Remember me'; like Peter I weep bitterly; like the Publican I call out, 'Forgive me, Savior'; like the Harlot I shed tears. Accept my lamentation, as once Thou hast accepted the entreaties of the woman of Canaan.

O Savior, heal the putrefaction of my humbled soul, for Thou art the one Physician; apply plaster and pour in oil and wine - works of repentance, and compunction with tears.

Like the woman of Canaan I cry to Thee, 'Have mercy on me, Son of David.' Like the woman with an issue of blood, I touch the hem of Thy garment. I weep as Martha and Mary wept for Lazarus.

319 G
 We bless the Lord, Father, Son and Ho - ly Spir - it.

Father without beginning, coeternal Son, and loving Comforter, the Spirit of righteousness; Begetter of the Word of God, Word of the eternal Father, Spirit living and creative: O Trinity in Unity, have mercy on me.

320 G

Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

As from purple silk, O undefiled Virgin, the spiritual robe of Emmanuel, His flesh, was woven in thy womb. Therefore we honor thee as Theotokos in very truth.

321 Un. G

The hosts of heav - en give Him glo - ry: be - fore Him

325 E

trem - ble the cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim; let___ ev - 'ry -

329 G F G

-thing that hath___ breath and all cre - a - tion praise Him,

333 E F E

bless and ex - alt___ Him a - bove___ all for ev - er.___

Canticle Nine

338 G Un. F G

Con - cep - tion with - out seed; na - tiv - i - ty past un - der - stand - ing,

342 E

from a Moth - er who nev - er___ knew a man; child - bear - ing un - de -

346 E F G F G

-filed. For the birth of God mak - eth both___ na - tures new.

351 F G Un.

There-fore, as Bride and Moth - er of God, with true wor - ship

354 E F E

all gen - er - a - tions mag - ni - fy thee.

357 G *(This verse is chanted before each of the following troparia, as we prostrate once.)*

Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

Healing sickness, Christ the Word preached the good tidings to the poor. He cured the crippled, ate with publicans, and conversed with sinners. With the touch of His hand, He brought back the departed soul of Jairus' daughter.

The Publican was saved and the Harlot turned to chastity, but the Pharisee with his boasting was condemned. For the first cried 'Be merciful', and the second, 'Have mercy on me'; but the third said, boasting, 'I thank Thee, O God', and other words of madness.

Zacchaeus was a publican, yet he was saved; but Simon the Pharisee went astray, while the Harlot received remission and release from Him who has the power to forgive sins. Make haste, O my soul, to follow her example.

O wretched soul, thou hast not acted like the Harlot, who took the alabaster box of precious ointment, and anointed with tears and wiped with her hair the feet of the Lord. And He tore in pieces the record of her previous sins.

Thou knowest, O my soul, how the cities were cursed to which Christ preached the Gospel. Fear their example, lest thou suffer the same punishment. For the Master likened them to Sodom and condemned them to hell.

Be not overcome by despair, my soul; for thou hast heard of the faith of the woman of Canaan, and how through it her daughter was healed by the word of God. Cry out from the depth of thy heart, 'Save me also, Son of David', as she once cried to Christ.

362 G

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

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

363 G

Both now and ever, and unto ages of a - ges. A - men.

Watch over thy city, all-pure Mother of God. For by thee she reigns in faith, by thee she is made strong; by thee she is victorious, putting to flight every temptation, despoiling the enemy and ruling her subjects.

364 G

Ho - ly Fa - ther An - drew, pray to God for us.

Venerable Andrew, father thrice-blessed, shepherd of Crete, cease not to offer prayer for us who sing thy praises; that we may be delivered from all danger and distress, from corruption and sin, who honor thy memory with faith.

368 G Un. F G

Con - cep - tion with - out seed; na - tiv - i - ty past un - der - stand - ing,

372 E

from a Moth - er who nev - er knew a man; child - bear - ing un - de -

376 E F G F G

- filed. For the birth of God mak - eth both na - tures new.

381 F G Un.

There - fore, as Bride and Moth - er of God, with true wor - ship

384 E F E

all gen - er - a - tions mag - ni - fy thee.