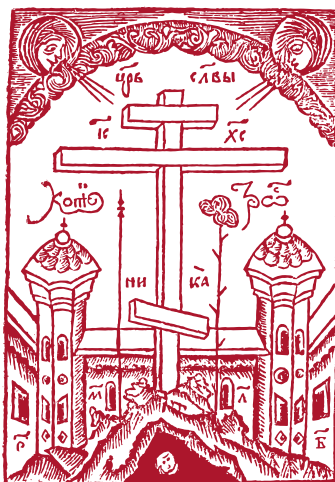


THE GREAT CANON

A WORK OF OUR HOLY FATHER
AMONG THE SAINTS

ANDREW OF CRETE,
THE JERUSALEMITE





Sources:

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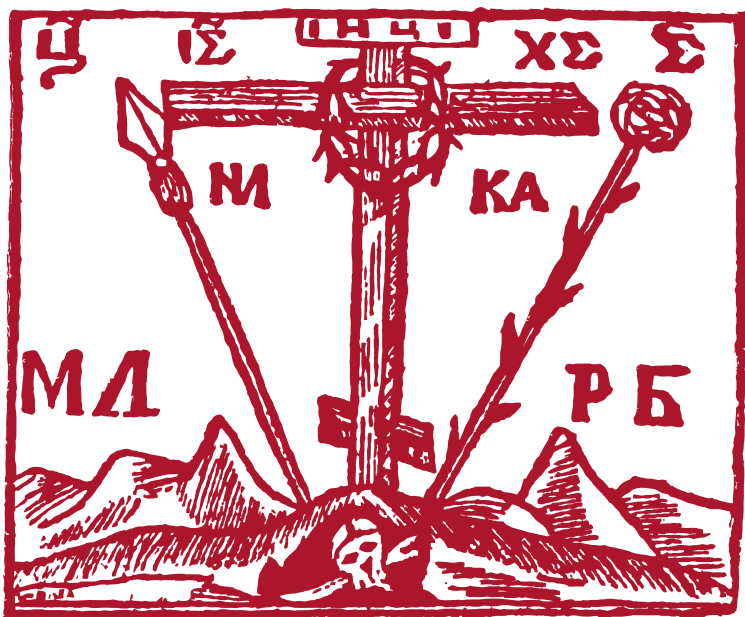
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Mother Mary; Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, The Lenten Triodion.
Faber and Faber. London, 1978.

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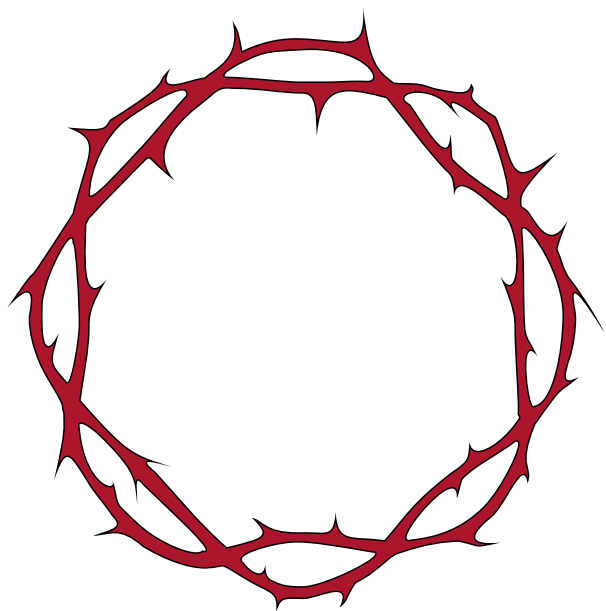


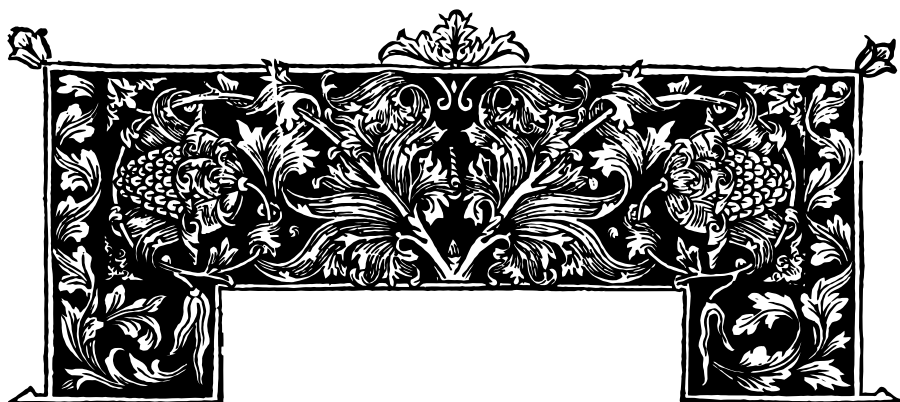
THE GREAT CANON OF REPENTANCE

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.





THE GREAT CANON

THE WORK OF ST. ANDREW OF
CRETE, THE JERUSALEMITE

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



ODE 1, TN 6.

IRMIS: 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.

Where shall I begin to weep
for the actions of my wretched life?
What first-fruit shall I offer, O Christ,
in this my lamentation?
But in your compassion grant me
remission of sins.

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

Come, wretched soul,
together with your flesh,
to the Creator of all.
Make confession, and abstain henceforth
from your past brutishness;
and offer to God tears of repentance.

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

In transgressions I have rivalled
Adam the first-formed, and I have
found myself stripped naked of God,
of the eternal kingdom and its joy,
because of my sins.

(Gn 3)

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

Goe to you, miserable soul.
How you are like the first Eve.
For you have looked in wickedness
and were grievously wounded;
and you have touched the tree
and rashly tasted the deceptive food.

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

Instead of the visible Eve,
I have Eve in my mind:
the passionate thought in the flesh,
showing me what seems sweet;
yet whenever I taste I find it bitter.

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

Adam was justly banished
from Eden because he disobeyed
one commandment of yours, O Saviour.
What then shall I suffer, for I am always
rejecting your words of life?

(Heb 12: 25; Gn 3: 23)



- ✙ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAΔICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.





ODE 2.

IRMUS: **A**ttend, O heaven, and I shall speak —
and sing in praise of Christ,
who took flesh from a Virgin
and came to dwell among us.

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

Attend, O heaven, and I shall speak;
give ear, O earth, to the voice
of one who repents before God
and sings His praise.

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

Look on me, God my Saviour,
with your merciful eye, and accept
my fervent confession.

(Prv 15: 3; Ps 33: 15)

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

I have sinned more than all people;
I alone have sinned against you.
But as God take pity on your creation,
O Saviour.

(1 Tm 1: 15)

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

Gith my lustful desires I have given
form to the deformity of the passions
and disfigured the beauty of my mind.

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

A storm of evils surrounds me,
O compassionate Lord;
but stretch out your hand also to me
as you did to Peter.

(Mt 14: 31)

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

I have stained the garment of my flesh,
and defiled what was made
in your image and likeness, O Saviour.

(Gn 3: 21)

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

Gith the lusts of passion
I have darkened the beauty
of my soul, and turned my whole mind
entirely into dust.

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

I have now torn the first robe
that the Creator wove for me
from the beginning, and I lie naked.

(Gn 3: 21)

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

I have clothed myself in the torn garment
that the serpent wove for me,
and I am ashamed.

(Gn 3: 4-5)

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

The tears of the harlot I too offer to you,
O Merciful One.
Take pity on me, O Saviour,
in your compassion.

(Lk 7: 38; 18: 13)

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

I looked on the beauty of the tree
and my mind was deceived;
and now I lie naked and ashamed.

(Gn 3: 7)

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

All the ruling passions
have worked on my back,
lengthening their evils on me.

(Ps 128: 3)



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

ΤΡΙΑΔΙΣΜΟΣ:

I sing your praises, God of all,
one in three Persons, the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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

ΤΗΕΠΙΘΕΚΗ:

Most pure Virgin Mother of God,
alone all-praised, intercede fervently
for our salvation.





ODE 3.

IRMIS: Establish my thoughts on the unshaken
rock of your commandments, O Christ.

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

The Lord once rained down fire
from the Lord, and consumed
the land of Sodom of old.

(Gn 19: 24)

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

O soul, save yourself
on the mountain like Lot —
and take refuge in Seegor.

(Gn 19: 22)

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

O soul, flee from the flames,
flee from the burning of Sodom,
flee from destruction by the fire of God.

(Dt 4: 24; Heb 12: 29)

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

I alone have sinned against you,
I have sinned more than all;
O Saviour Christ, do not reject me.

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

You are the Good Shepherd:
seek me, the lamb, and,
though I have strayed, do not forget me.

(Jn 10: 11-14)

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

You are the sweet Jesus,
you are my Creator;
in you, O Saviour, I shall be justified.

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

I confess to you, O Saviour:
I have sinned, I have sinned against you.
But, as you are compassionate,
absolve and forgive me.



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

TRADITION:

O Trinity, one God,
save us from delusion and temptations
and misfortunes.

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

THEOTOKION:

Rejoice, womb that received God.
Rejoice, throne of the Lord.
Rejoice, Mother of our Life.





ODE 4.

IRMUS:

The 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.

O just Judge, do not despise Your works;
do not forsake Your creation,
even though I alone have sinned as a
human more than all people, O Lover of
mankind. But as Lord of all You have the
power to pardon sins.

(Mk 2: 10)

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

The end draws near, O soul, it draws
near; but you do not trouble or prepare.
The time grows short, rise up: the Judge
is near the doors. As a dream, as a
flower, the days of our life pass swiftly.
Why do we trouble ourselves in vain?

(Mt 24: 33; Ps 38: 7)

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

Return to sobriety, O my soul.

Consider the actions that you have done, and set them before your eyes, and let the drops of your tears fall.

With freedom to speak tell Christ your actions and thoughts, and be justified.

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

There has been in life no sin, no deed, no wickedness, that I have not committed, O Saviour.

In mind and in word, in intent and in design, in thought and in action, I have sinned as no other has ever done.

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

For this I am condemned, for this I am convicted in my misery by my own conscience, which is more forceful than anything in the world. My Judge and Redeemer, who know me, spare and deliver and save me, your servant.

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

The ladder, which of old the great one among the Patriarchs saw, is a sign, O my soul, of beginning an approach through action and succeeding in rising through contemplation —

if, therefore, you wish to live in action
and knowledge and contemplation,
then be made new.

(Gn 28: 12; Rom 12: 2; Titus 3: 5)

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

In privation the Patriarch endured
the burning heat of the day and the
frost of the night, making daily gains,
shepherding, fighting and serving,
so that he might gain his two wives.

(Gn 29: 16-30; 31-40)

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

By the two wives, understand action
and knowledge in contemplation.
Leah is action, for she had many children;
and Rachel is knowledge, for she toiled
much. For without toil neither action
nor contemplation will succeed, O soul.



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

TRADITION:

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.





ODE 5.

IRMOS: From 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.

I have ever passed my life in night,
for the night of sin has been for me
darkness and deepest gloom.
But show me to be as a child of the day,
O Saviour.

(Eph 5: 8)

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

I, the wretched one, imitating Reuben
have devised an unlawful
and disobedient plan
against God Most High,
defiling my bed as he did his father's.

(Gn 35: 21; 49: 3-4)

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

I confess to you, Christ King:
I have sinned, I have sinned
like the brothers of Joseph, who once
sold the fruit of purity and chastity.

(Gn 37)

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

The righteous soul was bound
by his kinsmen; the sweet one was
sold into slavery as a figure of the Lord;
but as for you, O soul, you have sold
yourself entirely to your evils.

(Gn 37: 27-28)

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

Gretched and worthless soul,
imitate the righteous
and pure mind of Joseph,
and do not defile yourself
with inordinate lusts, for ever sinning.

(Gn 39: 7-23)

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

If Joseph was once cast into a pit,
O Master and Lord,
then it was as a figure of Your death
and Your rising; but what could I
ever offer You such as this?

(Gn 37)



- ✙ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

ΤΡΙΑΔΙΣΜΟΣ:

Ge 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.

ΤΗΕΩΤΟΚΙΣΜΟΣ:

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.





ODE 6.

IRMOS: With 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.

I offer to you in purity, O Saviour,
the tears of my eyes and groanings
from the depths of my heart, crying:
I have sinned against You, O God —
be merciful to me.

(Lk 18:13)

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

O soul, like Dathan and Aveiron
you have become a stranger to God
— but from the lowest depths of hell
cry out: Spare me — so that the chasm
of the earth may not cover you.

(Nm 16)

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

O soul, raging like a heifer
you have become like Ephraim.
Rescue your life,
like a deer from the snares,
gaining wings for the mind
through action and contemplation.

(Hos 4: 16)

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

O soul, the hand of Moses will be our
assurance, proving how God
can make a leprous life white and clean;
and do not be in despair of yourself,
even though you are leprous.

(Ex 4: 6-8)



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

TRIADICON:

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.

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.





ODE 7.

IRMOS:

We 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.

I have sinned, I have offended,
and I have rejected Your commandments,
for I came forth in sins
and added bruises to my wounds.
But, as You yourself are compassionate,
have mercy on me, O God of our fathers.

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

I have confessed the secrets of my heart
to You, my Judge.
See my abasement, and see my affliction,
and attend to my judgement now;
and, as You yourself are compassionate,
have mercy on me, O God of our fathers.

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

O soul, once when Saul lost his father's
asses, in searching for them
he found Himself proclaimed as king.
Beware, lest unknown to yourself
you prefer your animal appetites
to the Kingdom of Christ.

(1 Kgs 10: 12)

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

My soul, David, the forefather of God,
once sinned doubly, pierced with
the arrow of adultery and the point
of the spear of vengeful murder.
But you are sick from weightier acts,
the impulses of your will.

(2 Kgs 11: 12; 12: 1-23)

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

David once joined sin to sin, mixing
murder with adultery; yet he then
showed at once a twofold repentance.
But you, O soul, have yourself
done things more evil,
yet you have not repented before God.

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

David once raised a hymn,
setting forth, as in an ikon,
the action he had done,
which he condemned, crying:

Have mercy on me, for I have sinned
against you alone, O God of all —
cleanse me yourself.

(Ps 50)



✙ 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:

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.





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.

I have sinned, O Saviour, have mercy.
Awaken my mind so that I may be
converted; accept me in repentance,
have pity as I cry:
I have sinned against you, save me;
I have done evil, have mercy on me.

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

The charioteer Elias
once mounted a chariot of the virtues,
and was carried as if to heaven,
high above earthly things.
My soul, reflect on his ascent.

(4 Kgs 2: 11)

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

Elissaïos once took the mantle of Elias,
and received a double portion
of grace from the Lord;
but you, O my soul,
have no share in this grace
because of your uncontrolled desires.

(4 Kgs 2: 9)

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

With the mantle of Elias,
Elissaïos made the stream
of the Jordan stand still on either side;
but you, O my soul,
have no share in this grace
because of your uncontrolled desires.

(4 Kgs 2: 14)

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

The goodly minded Sonamite woman
once entertained the righteous man;
but you, O soul, have not admitted
to your house either stranger or traveller,
and so you will be cast out weeping
from the bridal chamber.

(4 Kgs 4: 8)

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

Owretched soul, you have always
imitated the unclean thoughts of Giëzi.
Drive away his love of money,
at least in old age.

Flee from the fire of Gehenna,
turning away from your sins.



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

TRIDICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.





ODE 9.

IRMUS:

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.

REFRAIN:

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

The mind is wounded, the body
has grown feeble, the spirit is sick,
reason is infirm, life is dead;
the end is at the doors.

What will you do then, my wretched soul,
when the Judge comes to examine what
you have done?

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

I have put before you, O soul, Moses'
account of the creation of the world,
and after that all the recognized
Scriptures that tell you the story
of the righteous and the wicked.

But you, O soul, have followed
the second of these and not the first,
and have sinned against God.

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

The Law is powerless, the Gospel
of no effect, and the whole of Scripture
is ignored by you; the Prophets and all
the words of the righteous are useless.
Your wounds, O soul, have been multiplied,
and there is no physician to heal you.

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

O soul, I bring you examples
from the New Testament,
to lead you to contrition.
Follow the examples of the righteous,
turn away from the sinful —
and through prayers and fasting,
through chastity and reverence,
propitiate Christ.

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

Christ became man, calling thieves
and harlots to repentance.
Repent, O soul: the door of the Kingdom
is already open — and Pharisees
and tax collectors and adulterers
pass through it before you, having
changed their lives.

(Mt 21: 31; 11: 12)

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

Christ became man, keeping company
with me in flesh; and of His own will
He fulfilled all that belongs to this nature,
except for sin: a model for you,
O soul, and an image illustrating
His condescension.

(Mt 1: 25)

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

Christ saved the Magi,
called the Shepherds,
revealed as martyrs a multitude of Infants,
and glorified the Elder
and the aged Widow.

But you, O soul, have not followed
their actions or their lives.

Woe to you, then, when you are judged.

(Mt 2: 12; Lk 2: 9-12; Mt 2: 16; Lk 2: 25-38)

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

The Lord fasted for forty days
in the wilderness, and afterwards
He was hungry, showing His humanity.
My soul, do not be dismayed:
if the enemy attacks you,
drive Him from your feet
through both prayer and fasting.

(Mt 4: 1-11; 17: 21; Mk 9: 29)



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

TRIADICON:

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.

VEN. ANDREW:

Venerable Father Andrew, pray to God
for us.

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.



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.







THE GREAT CANON

THE WORK OF ST. ANDREW OF
CRETE, THE JERUSALEMITE

T U E S D A Y

AT GREAT COMPLINE,

THE FIRST WEEK

OF THE GREAT FAST:

Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή



ODE 1, TN 6.

IRMIS:

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.

By choice I have shared in the murder
by Cain: I have become a murderer
of the conscience of my soul,
bringing the flesh to life, and making war
on the soul by my wicked actions.

(Gn 4: 8)

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

O Jesus, I have not been like Abel
in his righteousness.

I have never offered you acceptable gifts,
or godly actions, or a pure sacrifice, or
an unblemished life.

(Gn 4: 4)

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

Owretched soul, like Cain we too have
offered together defiled actions and a
polluted sacrifice and a worthless life
to the Creator of all;
and so we are also condemned.

(Gn 4: 5; Heb 11: 4)

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

As the potter you gave life to the clay,
giving me flesh and bones,
and breath and life.
But accept me in repentance,
O my Maker and Deliverer and Judge.

(Gn 2: 7; Heb 18: 1-10; Rom 9: 21)

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

I confess to you, O Saviour,
the sins that I have committed,
the wounds of my soul and body,
which murderous thoughts, like bandits,
have inflicted inwardly on me.

(Lk 10: 30)

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

And though I have sinned, O Saviour,
yet I know that you are a lover of
mankind. You chastise with mercy and
are fervent in compassion.
You see the tears and run to meet me, like
the father welcoming back the Prodigal.

(Lk 15: 20)



- ✙ Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

TRIAIDICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.





ODE 2.

IRMIS: Attend, O heaven, and I shall speak —
and sing in praise of Christ,
who took flesh from a Virgin and came
to dwell among us.

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

Sin has sewed for me garments of skin;
it has stripped me of the robe
that God once wove for me.

(Gn 3: 21)

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

I am clothed with the raiment of shame
as with fig leaves, as a reproach
for my self-willed passions.

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

I am clothed in a garment
that is stained and defiled with blood,
the product of a life of passion and
self-indulgence.

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

I have fallen beneath the pain of passions
and the corruption of material things;
and from then until now the enemy
oppresses me.

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

Instead of voluntary poverty, O Saviour,
I have preferred a life in love with
possessions and in love with material
things — and now I wear the heavy yoke.

(Mt 5: 3)

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

I have adorned the human shape of
my flesh with the many-coloured coat
of shameful thoughts, and I am
condemned.

(1 Jn 5: 21)

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

I have cared only for the outward adorn-
ment, and have neglected what is within
— a body bearing the divine likeness.

(1 Pt 3: 3-4)

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

O Saviour, I have discoloured with the
passions the first beauty of the image.
But, as once with the lost coin —
seek it and find it.

(Lk 15: 8)

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

Like the harlot I cry to you: I have sinned,
I alone have sinned against you.
Accept my tears also as sweet ointment,
O Saviour.

(Lk 10: 30)

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

Like the Tax Collector I cry to you:
Be merciful, O Saviour, be merciful
to me. For no child of Adam has ever
sinned against you as I have sinned.

(Lk 18: 13)



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

TRADITION:

I sing your praises, God of all,
one in three Persons —
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

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

THEOTOKION:

Most pure Virgin Mother of God,
alone all-praised, intercede fervently
for our salvation.





ODE 3.

IRMIS: **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.

I have acquired You, source of life,
the destroyer of death; and from
my heart before the end I cry to You:
I have sinned, be merciful and save me.

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

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned
against you; be merciful to me,
for there is no sinner amongst humans
whom I have not surpassed in sins.

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

O Saviour, I have followed the example
of those who lived in wantonness in the
time of Noë; I have inherited from them
the condemnation to drown in the flood.

(Gn 6)

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

O soul, you have followed that Ham,
who sinned against his father;
you have not covered your neighbour's
shame — walking backwards with
averted gaze.

(Gn 9: 20-27)

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

My soul, flee like Lot
from the burning of sin;
flee from Sodom and Gomorrah;
flee from every abnormal desire.

(Gn 19)

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

Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy on me,
I cry to You, when you come with Your
angels to give to everyone what is due
for their deeds.



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

TRADITION:

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.





ODE 4.

IRMUS: **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.

O my soul, be watchful, be courageous,
like the great one among the Patriarchs,
so that you may acquire action with
knowledge, so that you may be called
'mind that sees God,' and may reach
by contemplation the innermost
darkness and become a rich merchant.

(Gn 32: 28; Lk 19: 13-15)

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

The great one among the Patriarchs
had the Twelve Patriarchs as children,
mystically setting up for you, my soul,
a ladder of ascent through action —
most wisely setting up his children
as the rungs — the steps for ascent.

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

O soul, you have rivalled Esau the hated,
and given the birthright of your
former beauty to the supplanter —
and lost the paternal blessing,
and in your wretchedness
have been twice supplanted —
in action and in knowledge.

Therefore repent now.

(Gn 25: 31; 27: 37)

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

Esau was called Edom because of
his madness for women —
burning always with unrestrained desires
and stained with pleasures.

He was named 'Edom', which means:
the red heat of a soul that loves sin.

(Gn 25: 30)

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

O my soul, having heard of Job justified
on a dung-hill, you have not emulated
his fortitude.

You have had no firmness of purpose
in all that you have experienced
and known and been tempted by —
but have shown yourself inconstant.

(Jb 1)

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

He who was once on a throne is now on a dung-hill, naked and covered with sores. He who had many children and was admired by all people is suddenly childless and homeless. Yet he counted his dung-hill as a palace and his sores as pearls.

(Jb 2: 7-8)



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

TRIADICON:

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.





ODE 5.

IRMOS:

From 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, you have heard of Moses,
how he was carried of old
in the reed basket on the waves
of the waters of the river,
as in a chamber, escaping the bitter
execution of the decree of Pharaoh.

(Gn 1: 22-2: 3)

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

O wretched soul, you have heard of the
midwives who once killed in its infancy
the manly action of self-control:
now like great Moses be suckled on
wisdom.

(Gn 1: 16; 2: 9; Acts 7: 22)

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

Owretched soul, you have not struck
and killed the Egyptian mind
like Moses the great.
Tell me, then, how will you go to dwell
through repentance in the desert empty
of the passions?

(Ex 2: 12)

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

Moses the great went to dwell in the
desert. Come, O soul, and follow his
way of life, so that you also may attain
the vision of God in the bush.

(Ex 3: 1)

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

Picture, O soul, the rod of Moses
striking the sea — and making the deep
solid by the sign of the divine Cross,
through which you also can do
great things.

(Ex 14: 16)

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

Aaron brought to God fire that was
blameless and pure, but Hophni and
Phineës, like you, O soul, brought
to God a strange fire, a defiled life.

(Lv 9: 21-24: 1 Kgs 2: 12-34)



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

TRIADICON:

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.





ODE 6.

IRMOS:

With 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, the billows of my sins have returned and suddenly engulfed me, as once in the Red Sea the billows engulfed the Egyptians and their captains.

(Ex 14: 7-31)

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

O soul, you have made a foolish choice, like Israel before you; instead of the divine manna you have senselessly preferred the pleasure-loving gluttony of the passions.

(Ex 21: 5; 1 Cor 10: 9)

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

My soul, you have valued the wells of Canaanite thoughts more than the veined Rock, from whom torrents of the wisdom of divine knowledge pour forth as from a chalice.

(Gn 21: 25; Ex 17: 16)

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

My soul, you have preferred swine's meat and cauldrons and Egyptian food to the heavenly, as the ungrateful people did of old in the wilderness.

(Gn 16: 3; Nm 11: 4-7)

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

When Moses your servant struck the rock with his rod, he pre-figured your life-giving side, O Saviour, from which we all draw the water of life.

(Num 20: 11; 1 Cor 10: 4)

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

O soul, like Jesus son of Navi, search and spy out the nature of the Promised Land, and take up your dwelling in it through obedience to the Law.

(Jo 2)



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

TRIADICON: 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.

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.





ODE 7.

IRMOS:

We 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.

When the Ark was being carried
on a cart and the ox stumbled,
Zan only touched it, but the wrath of God
struck Him. O soul, flee from his
presumption and rightly show reverence
for the divine things.

(2 Kgs 6: 6)

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

You have heard of Avessalom, and how
he rebelled against nature; you know
the abominable deeds by which he
despised the bed of his father David.
Yet you have followed Him in his passion-
ate and pleasure-seeking impulses.

(2 Kgs 15; 16: 21)

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

O soul, you have subjected
your free dignity to your body;
for you have found the enemy,
another Ahitophel, and you have
agreed to his counsels.

But Christ Himself has brought them to
nothing, so that you might be saved
from them all.

(2 Kgs 16: 20)

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

Solomon the wonderful,
who was full of the grace of wisdom,
once did evil opposing God,
and turned away from Him.

You have become like Him, O soul,
by your accursed life.

(3 Kgs 11; Eccclus 47: 12-20)

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

Carried away by the desires
of his passions, he had fallen.
Alas, the lover of wisdom became
a lover of wanton women
and a stranger to God.

You, O soul, have imitated Him in mind
through shameful pleasures.

(3 Kgs 3: 12; 11: 4-12)

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

O soul, you have emulated Rovoam,
who paid no regard to his father's
counsellors, and at the same time
also the evil servant, Ierovoam,
the rebel of old.

But flee from their example and cry
to God: I have sinned, take pity on me.

(3 Kgs 12: 13-20)



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

TRIADICON:

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:

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.





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 soul, you have followed Ozias,
and have his leprosy in double form:
for your thoughts are wicked
and your acts unlawful.

Leave what you have,
and hasten to repentance.

(4 Kgs 15; 2 Chr 26: 19)

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

O soul, you have heard of
the Ninevites repenting before God
in sackcloth and ashes.

You have not followed them,
but have shown yourself to be
more wicked than all who sinned
before the Law and after the Law.

(Jon 3: 5)

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

O soul, you have heard how Jeremias
in the muddy pit cried out with
lamentations for the city of Zion
and asked to be given tears.
Follow his life of lamentation —
and be saved.

(Jer 38: 6)

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

Jonas fled to Tharsis,
foreseeing the conversion
of the Ninevites;
for as a prophet he knew
the loving-kindness of God,
but he was jealous that his prophecy
should not be proved false.

(Jon 1: 3)

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

O soul, you have heard
how Daniel in the pit stopped
the mouths of wild beasts;
and you know how the Youths
who were with Azarias quenched the
flames of the fiery furnace through faith.

(Dn 6: 16-22; 3: 23)

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

O soul, I have set before you
all the people from the Old Testament
as examples.

Imitate the pious acts of the righteous,
but flee rather from the sins of
the wicked.



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

TRIADICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.





ODE 9.

IRMOS:

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.

REFRAIN:

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

Christ was tempted.
The Devil tempted Him,
showing Him the stones so that
they might be made into bread.
He led Him up into a mountain, to see in
an instant all the kingdoms of the world.
O soul, fear fantasy, be vigilant,
pray every hour to God.

(Mt 4: 3-9; 26: 41)

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

The Turtle-dove who loved the wilderness,
the voice of one crying aloud,
the Lamp of Christ, was heard
preaching repentance.

Herod sinned with Herodias. My soul, see that you are not trapped in the snares of the lawless, but embrace repentance.

(Mk 1: 3; Mt 14: 3)

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

The Forerunner of grace went to dwell in the wilderness, and Judaea and all Samaria ran to hear Him; they confessed their sins and were baptized eagerly. But you, O soul, have not followed them.

(Mt 3: 5-6)

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

Marriage is honourable, and the bed undefiled.

For on both Christ has given His blessing, eating in the flesh at the wedding in Cana, turning the water into wine and revealing His first miracle, so that you, O soul, might be converted.

(Heb 13: 4; Jn 2: 1-11)

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

Christ gave strength to the paralysed man, who took up his bed; He raised from the dead a young man, the son of the widow, and the centurion's servant; He appeared to the Samaritan woman, and depicted beforehand to you, O soul, worship in spirit.

(Mt 9: 2-7; Lk 7: 14; Mt 8: 6-13; Jn 4: 26; Jo 4: 24)

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

Ry the touch of the hem of His garment, the Lord healed the woman with an issue of blood; He cleansed lepers and gave sight to the blind and made the lame walk upright; by His word He cured deaf and dumb and the woman bowed to the ground, so that you, wretched soul, might be saved.

(Mt 9: 20-22; 10: 8; 11: 5; Lk 13: 11-13)



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

TRIADEON:

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.

VEN. **A**NDREW:

Venerable Father Andrew, pray to God for us.

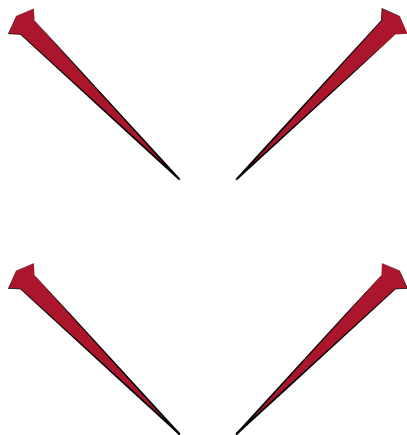
Venerable Andrew, thrice-blessed father, shepherd of Crete, do not cease to offer prayer for us who sing your praises, so that we, who honour your memory with faith, may be delivered from all wrath and affliction and corruption, and released from faults.



IRMOIS:

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.







THE GREAT CANON

THE WORK OF ST. ANDREW OF
CRETE, THE JERUSALEMITE

WEDNESDAY

AT GREAT COMPLINE,

THE FIRST WEEK

OF THE GREAT FAST:

Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή



ODE 1, TN 6.

IMPROVIS:

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.

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

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

Having cast me out before your gates,
O Saviour, do not, in my old age,
cast me down empty into hell;
but before the end, as you are
the Lover of mankind,
grant me remission of sins.

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

In my hunger I cry:
O Saviour, I have wasted all my
substance in riotous living,
and I am barren of the fruit of piety.
O Father, in your compassion
you ran to meet me to take pity on me.
(Lk 15: 13, 17)

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

I am the one who fell among thieves —
my own thoughts;
now I am wounded all over by them,
beaten and bruised.
But you yourself came to me,
Christ Saviour, to heal me.
(Lk 10: 30)

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

Seeing me first, the Priest
passed by on the other side,
and the Levite, looking in terror,
despised my nakedness.
But, O Jesus, who sprang from Mary,
you came to me to take pity on me.
(Lk 10: 31-33)



VEN. MARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

Grant me the light of grace,
from divine providence on high,
to flee from the darkness of the
passions and to sing fervently
the joyful narrative of your life, O Mary.



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

TRIAΔICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.





ODE 2.

IRMIS: **A**ttend, O heaven, and I shall speak —
and sing in praise of Christ,
who took flesh from a Virgin
and came to dwell among us.

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

Like David, I have fallen through incon-
tinence, and I am covered with filth.
But with my tears, you, O Saviour,
have washed me clean.

(2 Kgs 11: 1-4)

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

I have no tears, no repentance,
no contrition. O Saviour, as God,
grant them to me yourself.

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

I have lost the beauty and dignity
with which I was first created,
and now I lie naked, and I am ashamed.

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

Lord, Lord, do not close your door
against me then;
but open it to me who repent to you.

(Mt 25: 11)

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

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

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

O Lover of mankind, who desire that all
shall be saved, call me back, as you
are good, and accept me in repentance.

(1 Tm 2: 4)



THEOTOKOS:

Most holy Mother of God, save us.

Indefiled Virgin Mother of God,
alone all-praised, intercede fervently
for our salvation.



IRMOS:

See, 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.

See, see that I am God.
Give ear, my soul, to the Lord
as He cries, and forsake your former sin,
and fear Him as Avenger and as Judge
and God.

(Dt 23: 35; Heb 10: 30)

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

To whom shall I liken you,
O soul of many sins?
Alas, to the first Cain, and to that Lamech.
For you have stoned your body to death
with evil deeds, and killed your mind
with inordinate lusts.

(Gn 4; 4: 23)

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

O soul, call to mind all who were
before the Law.
You have not been like Seth,
or followed Enos or Enoch
who was translated to heaven;
but you are found to be lacking the life
of the righteous.

(Gn 5)

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

My soul, you alone have opened the windows of the wrath of your God, and you have flooded, as the earth, all your flesh and your deeds and your life; and you have remained outside the Ark of salvation.

(Gn 6-8)



VEN. **MARY:**

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God for us.

With eagerness and longing you have run to Christ, turning from your former path of sin, and being sustained in the trackless wilderness, and thereby fulfilling in purity the divine commandments.



✙ **Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

TRADITION:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.

IRMIS: **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.

Gretched soul, you have not inherited
the blessing of Sem, nor have you
received, like Japheth, a spacious
domain in the land of forgiveness.

(Gn 9: 26-27)

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

My soul, depart from the land of Harran,
from sin, and enter into the land
that Abraham inherited,
which flows with everlasting incorruption.

(Gn 12: 4)

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

My soul, you have heard how Abraham
of old left the land of his fathers
and became a wanderer:
follow Him in his choice.

(Gn 12: 1)

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

At the oak of Mamvre the Patriarch
gave hospitality to the angels; in old age
he inherited the rewards of the promise.

(Gn 18: 1)

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

My miserable soul, you know how Isaac
was mystically presented as a whole
burnt offering, a new sacrifice
to the Lord: follow Him in his choice.

(Gn 22: 2)

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

My soul, be vigilant! You have heard
how Ismael was driven out as the
offspring of a slave girl.
Watch lest you suffer the same because
of your lechery.

(Gn 21: 10)



VEN. **M**ARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

O Mother, I am held fast by the tempest
and billow of sins; but keep me safe
now yourself, and lead me to the haven
of divine repentance.

VEN. MARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God for us.

Venerable Mother,
offer now your prayer also
to the compassionate Mother of God,
and through your intercessions
open to me the divine entrances.



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

TRIADICON:

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.





ODE 4.

IRMUS:

The 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.

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

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

O Word, when you were crucified
You offered Your Body and Your Blood
for the sake of all:
Your Body to refashion me,
and Your Blood to cleanse me;
and You gave up the spirit, O Christ,
to bring me to Your Father.

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

In your pity you worked salvation
in the midst of the earth so that we
might be saved. Of our own will you
were crucified on the Tree; and Eden,
closed until then, was opened.
Things above and things below, the
creation and all nations have been
saved and worship you.

(Ps 73: 12)

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

May the Blood that flows from your
side be to me a font, and may the
Water that flows with it be a drink of
forgiveness, so that by them both,
O Word, I may be purified, anointed and
refreshed, having as chrism and drink
your words of life.

(Jn 19: 34; Acts 7: 38)

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

Our Saviour, the Church has been
granted your life-bearing side
as a chalice, from which there
flows down to us the twofold stream
of forgiveness and knowledge,
representing the two Covenants,
the Old and the New.

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

I am deprived of the bridal chamber,
and I am deprived of the wedding,
and also of the supper;
for lack of oil my lamp went out;
while I slept the bridal chamber was
closed to me, the supper was eaten,
and I was cast out, bound hand and foot.

(Jn 19: 34; Acts 7: 38)



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

TRIADICON:

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.





ODE 5.

IRMOS: From 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.

As Jannes and Jamvres were grievous
to the will of cruel Pharaoh,
so have I become in soul and body,
and my mind is overwhelmed:
but, O Lord, come to my aid.

(Ex 7: 11; 2 Tm 3: 8)

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

I, the wretched one,
have destroyed my mind with mire.
Cleanse me in the bath of my tears,
I pray you, O Master, and make the
garment of my flesh as white as snow.

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

When I examine my works,
O Saviour, I see that I have myself
gone beyond all mankind in sins,
for I knew and understood what I did;
I did not sin in ignorance.

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

Spare, O Lord,
spare what you have made.
I have sinned, forgive me:
for you alone are pure by nature, and
none except you is free from pollution.

(1 Pt 3: 21)

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

Being God, O Saviour,
you were formed like me for my sake.
You performed wonders,
you healed lepers,
you gave strength to the paralysed,
and you stopped the issue of blood
when the woman touched the hem
of your garment.

(Phil 2: 6; Mt 4: 24; Lk 8: 43-48)



VEN. MARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

Crossing the stream of Jordan
you found peace, escaping from
the deadening pleasures of the flesh.
Deliver us also from them by your
intercessions, O Venerable Mother.



✙ 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.





ODE 6.

IRMOS:

With 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.

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)

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

God commands you, O soul:
pass through the flowing nature
of time like the Ark of old —
and take possession of
that promised land.

(Jo 3: 17; Dt 1: 8)

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

As You saved Peter when he cried out —
Save me — come quickly, O Saviour,
and deliver me from the beast.
Stretch out Your hand and lead me up
from the deep of sin.

(Mt 14: 25-31)

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

O Master, I know you as a calm haven:
come quickly, O Christ the Master, and
deliver me from the lowest depths of sin
and despair.



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

TRIADICON:

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.

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.



ΚΟΝΤΑΚΙΟΝ:

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.





ODE 7.

IRMOS:

We 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.

By choice you heaped up the faults of
Manasses, O soul, setting up
passions as abominations,
and multiplying offences.
But with fervour imitate his repentance
and acquire compunction.

(4 Kgs 21; 2 Chr 33)

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

God is me, my soul!
You have rivalled Ahab in crimes.
You have become a lodging
for fleshly defilements and
a shameful vessel of the passions.
But groan from the depths
and tell your sins to God.

(3 Kgs 16: 30)

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

Heaven is closed to you, O soul,
and a famine from God
has come upon you: for you have been
disobedient, as Ahab was to the words
of Elias the Thesbite.
But imitate the woman of Saraphtha,
and feed the soul of the prophet.

(3 Kgs 17)

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

Elias once set fire
to twice fifty of Jezebel's men,
and he slew the prophets of shame,
as a rebuke to Ahab.
But flee from the examples of them both,
O soul, and be strong.

(4 Kgs 1: 10-15; 3 Kgs 18: 40)



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

TRADITION:

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:

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.





ODE 8.

IRMIS:

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.

Righteous Judge and Saviour,
have mercy on me and deliver me
from the fire, and from the punishment
that I rightly expect to suffer
at the Judgement.

Before the end release me
through virtue and repentance.

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

Like the thief I cry to You —
Remember me; like Peter I weep bitterly;
like the Tax Collector I call out —
Release me; like the Harlot I shed tears:
accept my lamentation as once You
accepted that of the Canaanite woman.

(Lk 23: 42; Mt 26: 75; Lk 18: 13; Lk 7: 37-38; Mt 15: 22-28)

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

O Saviour, the only Physician, heal
the putrefaction of my humbled soul;
apply plaster to me, and oil and wine —
works of repentance and compunction
with tears.

(Lk 10: 34)

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

I too follow the Canaanite woman, and cry:
Son of David, have mercy on me.
Like the woman with an issue of blood
I touch the hem of Your garment.
I weep as Martha and Mary
wept for Lazaros.



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

TRADITION:

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.





ODE 9.

IRMUS:

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.

REFRAIN:

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

Christ the Word healed sicknesses,
preached the gospel to the poor,
cured cripples, ate with tax collectors,
and talked with sinners. With the touch
of His hand He brought back the
departed soul of the daughter of Jairos.

(Mt 9: 11; Mk 5: 41-42)

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

The Tax Collector was saved,
and the Harlot turned to chastity,
but the Pharisee with his boasting
was condemned.

For the first said — Be merciful;
and the second — Have mercy on me;

but the third said, boasting: I thank You,
O God — and other words of madness.

(Lk 7: 36-50; 18: 9-14)

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

3acchaeus was a tax collector, yet he
was saved; but Simon the Pharisee
went astray; while the Harlot received
remission and release from Him
who has power to forgive sins.
Make haste, O soul, to follow her example.

(Lk 19: 1-10; 7: 36-50)

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

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

(Lk 7: 37-38; Col 2: 14)

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

My soul, you know how the cities
were cursed to which Christ
gave the Gospel. Fear their example,
lest you become like them, for the
Master compared them to the men of
Sodom, and condemned them to hell.

(Lk 10: 13-15)

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

My soul, do not be overcome by despair; for you have 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 your heart, as she did to Christ: Save me also, O Son of David.

(Mt 15: 22)



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

TRIADICON:

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.



VEN. ANDREW: Venerable Father Andrew, pray to God for us.

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.



KATAVASIA: **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.







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



ODE 1, TN 6.

IRMIS:

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.

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.

TRIADICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.





ODE 2.

IRMIS:

See, 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. **M**ARY:

Venerable Mother Mary, pray to God
for us.

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.

TRIADICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.

IRMIS:

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.

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.

TRIADICON:

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.





ODE 4.

IRMOS:

The 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.

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.

TRIAΔICON:

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.





ODE 5.

IRMOS: From 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. **M**ARY:

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.

TRIADICON:

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: **I**nviolable 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.





ODE 6.

IRMOS:

With 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.

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.

TRADITION:

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.

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.





ODE 7.

IRMUS: We 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 Esaiās 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.

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.

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.

TRIADICON:

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.





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.

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.

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.

TRIADICON:

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.

THEOTOKION:

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.





ODE 9.

IRMUS:

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.

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,

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)



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.

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.



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.

