

# *Compline*

*With Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*

*Thursday Evening*

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Glory to You, our God. Glory to You.

O heavenly King, O Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who are in all places and fill all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

## *Trisagion Prayers*

PEOPLE: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy God, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

PRIEST: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

READER: Lord, have mercy. (12x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

*The reader continues with the following Psalms:*

***Psalm 51 (LXX 50)***

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your loving-kindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight - that You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sins my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, and in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, that the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering; then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

***Psalm 70 (LXX 69)***

Make haste, O God, to deliver me! Make haste to help me, O Lord! Let them be ashamed and confounded who seek my life; let them be turned back and confused who desire my hurt. Let them be turned back because of their shame, who say, "Aha, aha!" Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; and let those who love Your salvation say continually, "Let God be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

***Psalm 143 (LXX 142)***

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness, do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is distressed. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Answer me speedily, O Lord; my spirit fails! Do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving-kindness in the morning, for in You do I trust;

cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul to You. Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; in You I take shelter. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness. Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.

### *The Little Doxology*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we worship You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You for Your great glory.

O Lord King, heavenly God, Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and O Holy Spirit.

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, You Who take away the sins of the world

Receive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.

For You only are holy, You only are the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every evening I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever; yes, forever and ever.

Lord, You have been our refuge from generation to generation. I said: "Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

Lord, I have fled to You; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know You.

Grant, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; despise not the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### *The Nicene Creed*

PEOPLE: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only begotten, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made;

Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man;

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;

And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;

And ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;

And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets;

And I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

I look for the resurrection of the dead,

And the life of the world to come. Amen.

***“It is Truly Right”***

PEOPLE: It is truly right to bless you, O Theotokos, who are ever blessed and all-blameless, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

***The Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete***

***Thursday***

***Ode 1***

**Tone 6**

***Irmos*** *He is for me unto salvation Helper and Protector. He is my God and I glorify Him, God of my fathers is He and I exalt Him, for He is greatly glorified.*

**Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. (*Bow*)

*O Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of all, take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Your compassion grant me tears of compunction.*

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

*Enter not into judgment with me, bringing before me the things I should have done, examining my words and correcting my impulses. But in Your mercy overlook my sins and save me, O Lord almighty.*

*It is time for repentance; to You I come, my Creator. Take from me the heavy yoke of sin, and in Your compassion grant me tears of compunction.*

*As the Prodigal, O Savior, I have wasted the substance of my soul in sin, and I am barren of the virtues of holiness. In my hunger I cry: O Giver of mercy, come quickly out to meet me and take pity on me.*

Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt} pray to God for us.

*Bowing before the divine laws of Christ, you have drawn near to Him, forsaking the unbridled longings of sensual pleasure; and in the fear of God you have gained all the virtues as if they were one.*

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

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

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

## **Ode 2**

*Irmos See now, see that I am God, Who rained down manna in the days of old, and made springs of water flow from the rock for My people in the wilderness, by My right hand and by My power alone.*

**Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. (Bow)

*“I have slain a man to my grief and wounding,” said Lamech, “and a young man to my hurt;” and he cried aloud lamenting. Do you not tremble then, my soul, for you have defiled your flesh and polluted your mind?*

*Skillfully you have planned to build a tower, O my soul, and to establish a stronghold for your lusts; but the Creator confounded your designs and dashed your devices to the ground.*

*Ah, how I have emulated Lamech, the murderer of old, slaying my soul as if it were a man, and my mind as if it were a young man. With sensual longings I have killed my body, as Cain the murderer killed his brother.*

*Roused to anger by their transgressions, the Lord once rained down fire from heaven and burnt up the men of Sodom. And you, my soul, have kindled the fire of Gehenna, and there to your bitter sorrow you shall burn.*

*I am wounded and smitten; see the enemy’s arrows which have pierced my soul and body. See the wounds, the open sores and the injuries, that cry out to God against the blows inflicted by my freely-chosen passions.*

Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

*Sunk in the abyss of wickedness, O Mary, you have lifted up your hands to the merciful God. And, as to Peter, in His loving-kindness He stretched out His hand to you in help, seeking in every way your conversion.*

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

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

Now and ever, and unto 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: Pray to the merciful God, your Creator and your Son, that He may grant His mercy even to me.*

### **Ode 3**

*Irmos O Lord, upon the rock of Your commandments make firm my wavering heart, for You alone are Holy and Lord.*

**Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. *(Bow)*

*O my soul, you have become like Hagar the Egyptian; your free choice has been enslaved, and you have borne as your child a new Ishmael, stubborn willfulness.*

*You know, my soul, the ladder that was shown to Jacob, reaching up from earth to heaven. Why have you not provided a firm foundation for it through your godly actions?*

*Follow the example of Melchizedek, the priest of God, the king set apart, who was an image of the life of Christ among men in the world.*

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

*Do not look back, my soul, and so be turned into a pillar of salt. Fear the example of the people of Sodom, and take refuge in Zoar.*

*Reject not, O Master, the prayer of those who sing Your praises, but in Your loving-kindness be merciful and grant forgiveness to them who ask with faith.*

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

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

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Theotokion** *O Mother of God, without knowing man you have given birth within time to the Son, Who was begotten outside time from the Father; and, strange wonder! You nursed a Child while still remaining a Virgin.*

#### **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 men, and he said: "I have heard the report of You and I was afraid." Glory to Your power, O Lord.*

**Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. *(Bow)*

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

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

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

*Now I speak boastfully, with boldness of heart; yet all to no purpose and in vain. O righteous Judge, Who alone are compassionate, do not condemn me with the Pharisee; but grant me the abasement of the Publican and number me with him.*

*I know, O compassionate Lord, that I have sinned and violated the vessel of my flesh. But accept me in repentance and call me back to knowledge. Let me not become the possession and food of the enemy; but, O Savior, take pity 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. Let me not become the possession and food of the enemy; but, O Savior, take pity on me.*

*I have not hearkened to Your voice, I have not heeded Your Scripture, O Giver of the Law. But accept me in repentance and call me back to knowledge. Let me not become the possession and food of the enemy; but, O Savior, take pity on me.*

**Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

*You were brought down into an abyss of great iniquity, yet not held fast within it; but with better intent you have mounted through action to the height of virtue, past all expectation; and the angels, O Mary, were amazed at you.*

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

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

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion You gave birth and are a virgin, and in both you remain 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.*

### **Ode 5**

*Irmos From the night I seek You early, O Lover of mankind; give me light, I pray You, and guide me in Your commandments, and teach me, O Savior, to do Your will.*

**Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. *(Bow)*

*O my soul, do as the woman did who was bowed down to the ground. Fall at the feet of Jesus, that He may make you straight again; and you shall walk upright upon the paths of the Lord.*

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

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

**Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

*Once O blessed saint, with a love beyond compare you have 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:

*We glorify You, O Trinity, the one God. Holy, holy, holy, are You: Father, Son and Spirit, simple Essence and Unity, worshipped forever.*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

### **Ode 6**

*Irmos With my whole heart I cried to the all-compassionate God; and He heard me from the lowest depths of hell, and brought my life out of corruption.*

**Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. *(Bow)*

*O Savior, I am the coin marked with the King's likeness, which You have lost of old. But, O Word, light Your lamp, Your forerunner, and seek and find again Your image.*

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

**Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

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

**Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

*Through the perfection of your earthly life, O Mother, you have gained a heavenly freedom from the sinfulness of passion. In your intercessions pray that this same freedom may be given to those who sing your praises.*

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

*"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.*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion Your 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 your intercessions.*

***Kontakion: Tone 6***

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

*Irmos We have sinned, we have transgressed, we have done evil in your sight; we have not kept or followed your commandments. But reject us not utterly, O God of our fathers.*

***Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. (Bow)*

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

*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 other man on earth. But take pity on Your creature, O Master, and call me back.*

*I have discolored Your image and broken Your commandment. All my beauty is destroyed and my lamp is quenched by the passions, O Savior. But take pity on me, as David sings, and, “restore me to Your joy.”*

*Turn back, repent, uncover all that you have hidden. Say unto God, to Whom all things are known: You alone know my secrets, O Savior; “have mercy on me,” as David sings, “according to Your mercy.”*

***Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.*

*Raising your cry to the pure Mother of God, you have driven back the fury of the passions that violently assailed you, and put to shame the enemy who sought to make you stumble. But give your help in trouble now to me also, your servant.*

***Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.*

*Pray to Him whom you have loved, O holy Mary, Whom you have desired, for Whose sake you have worn out your flesh; pray to Christ for us your servants, that He may show mercy to us all, and grant a peaceful life to those who worship Him.*

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

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

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion We praise you, we bless you, we venerate you, O Mother of God; for you have given birth to one of the undivided Trinity, your Son and God; and you have opened the heavenly places to us on earth.*

### **Ode 8**

*Irmos The hosts of heaven give Him glory; before Him tremble cherubim and seraphim; let everything that has breath and all creation praise Him, bless Him, and exalt Him above all forever.*

**Refrain** Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. *(Bow)*

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

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

*Spare the works of Your own hands, O Savior, and as Shepherd seek the lost sheep that has gone astray. Snatch me from the wolf and make me a lamb in the pasture of Your own flock.*

*When You sit upon Your throne, O merciful Judge, 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 judgment seat.*

**Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

*The Mother of the Light that never sets illumined you and freed you from the darkness of the passions. O Mary, who have received the grace of the Spirit, give light to those who praise you with faith.*

**Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

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

We bless the Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*Father without beginning, co-eternal 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.*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Theotokion As from purple silk, O undefiled Virgin, the spiritual robe of Emmanuel, His flesh, was woven in your womb. Therefore we honor you as true Theotokos.*

### **Ode 9**

*Irmos Conception without seed; nativity past understanding, from a Mother who never knew a man; childbearing undefiled. For the birth of God makes both natures new. Therefore, as Bride and Mother of God, with true worship all generations magnify you.*

*Refrain Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me. (Bow)*

*O Son of David, with Your word You have healed the possessed: Take pity on me, save me and have mercy. Let me hear Your compassionate voice speak to me as to the Thief: "Truly, I say to you, you shall be with Me in Paradise, when I come in My glory."*

*A thief accused You, a thief confessed Your Godhead; for both were hanging beside You on the Cross. Open to me also, O Lord of many mercies, the door of Your glorious Kingdom, as once it was opened to the Thief who acknowledged You with faith as God.*

*The creation was in anguish seeing You crucified. Mountains and rocks were split from fear, the earth quaked, and hell was despoiled; the light grew dark in daytime, beholding You, O Jesus, nailed in the flesh.*

*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, that I may offer these to You as an acceptable sacrifice, O only Savior.*

*O my Judge, Who know me, when You come again with the angels to judge the whole world, look upon me then with Your eye of mercy and spare me; take pity on me Jesus, for I have sinned more than any other man.*

*Refrain Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.*

*By your strange way of life you have struck all with wonder, both the hosts of angels and the gathering of mortal men; for you have surpassed nature and lived as though no longer in the body. Like a bodiless angel you have walked upon the Jordan with your feet, O Mary, and crossed over it.*

**Refrain** Holy Mother Mary [of Egypt] pray to God for us.

*O holy Mother, call down the gracious mercy of the Creator upon us who sing your praises, that we may be set free from the sufferings and afflictions that assail us; so without ceasing, delivered from temptations, we shall magnify the Lord Who has glorified you.*

**Refrain** Holy Father Andrew, pray to God for us.

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

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

*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.*

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

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

**Katavasia** *Conception without seed; nativity past understanding, from a Mother who never knew a man; childbearing undefiled. For the birth of God makes both natures new. Therefore, as Bride and Mother of God, with true worship all generations magnify you.*

*And the rest of Compline.*

***Trisagion Prayers***

***Troparia: Thursday Evening***

Tone 8

*You know, O Lord my Creator, the sleepless vigilance of my invisible enemies and the frailty of my miserable flesh. Into Your hands, therefore, will I commit my spirit. Cover me with the wings of Your goodness, that I sleep not unto death; and enlighten the eyes of my spiritual understanding, that I may delight in Your divine words; and make me, in a time acceptable to You, to glorify You in praise, as the only good One Who loves mankind.*

*Look upon me, and have mercy on me, O Lord my God.*

*How fearful is Your judgment, O Lord, when the angels stand around, and men are led before You, and the books are opened, and deeds are tried, and all thoughts are searched out. What judgment shall then be awarded me, who was conceived in sins? Who shall quench the flame for me? Who shall enlighten my darkness, if not You, O Lord, Who show mercy on me because of Your love toward mankind.*

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

*Grant me tears, O God, as You once did to the sinful woman of old; and graciously allow that I may wash Your feet which delivered me from the path of straying, and that I may offer to You an ointment of sweet fragrance, even a pure life, fashioned by my repentance. And so shall I, also, hear Your voice which I long for, saying: Your faith has saved You; go in peace.*

*Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

*Since I have in You, O Theotokos, that hope which makes not ashamed, I shall be saved; Since I possess your intercession, O most-pure one, I will not fear. I will pursue my enemies, and drive them away, taking along your refuge as a breast-plate, as an all-powerful aid, and fervently imploring I cry to you: O Lady, save me by your intercessions, and raise me up again from dark sleep to glorify you in song, by the might of the Son of God, Who through you was incarnate.*

***Forty-fold "Lord, have mercy"***

### ***The Prayer of the Hours***

PRIEST: O Lord, Who at all times and at every hour, both in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, long-suffering, abundant in mercy and compassion; Who love the just and show mercy to sinners; Who call all men to salvation through the promise of good things to come: Receive also our supplications at this present hour, and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; and deliver us from all disaster, wrath, and distress. Surround us with Your holy angels, that guided and guarded by their host we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the comprehension of Your ineffable glory; for blessed are You unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos, we magnify you.

Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

PRIEST: May God have compassion on us and bless us; may He show the light of His countenance on us and be merciful to us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

### ***The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian***

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness, lust of power, and idle talk. (*prostration*)

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Your servant. (*prostration*)

O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen. (*prostration*)

*Then bow twelve times, saying each time:*

O God, be gracious to me, a sinner.

*The prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian is then said once more, with only one prostration at the end.*

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (*12x*)

READER: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

### ***The Evening Prayer to the Mother of God***

READER: O Lady, Bride of God, spotless, blameless, pure, and immaculate Virgin, who without corruption, by Your glorious birth-giving, have united God the Word to man and joined the fallen nature of our race to heavenly things; who alone are the hope of the hopeless, the help of those who do battle; the ready help of those who flee to you and the refuge of all Christians: Despise me not, an accursed sinner, though I have rendered myself unworthy by my shameful thoughts, words, and deeds, and through habitual idleness have become a slave to the pleasures of life; but as the Mother of God who love mankind, mercifully have compassion on me, a sinner and a prodigal, and receive my prayer, though it be offered to you by unworthy lips; and using your boldness as a mother, plead with your Son, our Lord and Master, that He may open to me also the tender compassion of His goodness so as to overlook my numberless transgressions and turn me to repentance and show me to be a zealous doer of His commandments. And because you are merciful, compassionate, and benevolent, be ever near me in this present life as an ardent help and protection, defending me from the assaults of adversaries and leading me to salvation. And at the time of my departure from

this life, care for my miserable soul, and drive far from it the dark visions of evil demons; and in the fearful day of judgment, deliver me from eternal punishment, and present me as an heir of the ineffable glory of your Son, our God. May this be my lot, O Lady, most-holy Theotokos, through your mediation and help, through the grace and love toward mankind of your only-begotten Son, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, to Whom are due all glory, honor and worship, with His unoriginate Father and His all-holy and good and life giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

### *The Evening Prayer to Christ*

READER: And grant us, O Master, when we depart to sleep, repose of body and soul; and protect us from the murky sleep of sin and from all the dark pleasures of the night. Calm the impulses of passions, and quench the fiery darts of evil which are craftily thrown against us; check the turbulence of our flesh, and still all earthly and material thoughts. And grant us, O God, a watchful mind, a prudent reason, a vigilant heart, a tranquil sleep free from all fantasies of Satan. Raise us up again at the time of prayer strengthened in Your commandments, holding steadfastly within us the remembrance of Your judgments. Grant us grace to glorify You all through the night, that we may praise and bless and glorify Your all-honorable and majestic name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

### *Concluding Prayers*

PRIEST: O most glorious, ever-virgin, blessed Theotokos, present our prayer to your Son our God, and intercede with Him that through you He may save our souls.

The Father is my Hope;

The Son is my Refuge;

The Holy Spirit is my Protection;

O Holy Trinity: Glory to You.

In you, O Mother of God, I place all my hope; keep me under your protection.

### *Gospel Reading: Matthew 7:7-11*

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

### *The Prayer to the Guardian Angel*

PRIEST: O holy Angel who accompany my wretched soul and lowly life, forsake me not, and depart not from me because of my extravagance and wickedness. Do not give access to the evil demon to rule with his might this mortal body of mine, but hold me by my wretched, feeble hand; lead me in the path of salvation. Indeed, O holy Angel of God, guardian and protector of my wretched soul and body, forgive me everything by which I have previously saddened you all the days of my life. And though this day I have sinned, still be my shelter this night. Keep me from all the wiles of the enemy, that I may not anger God with any sin. Intercede with the Lord for me, that He may confirm me in His fear and show me to be a worthy servant of His goodness.

PEOPLE: Amen.

### *The Little Dismissal*

PRIEST: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

PEOPLE: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God,...have mercy on us and save us for He is good and loves mankind.

### *Mutual Forgiveness*

PRIEST: O God, be gracious to me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. (3x)

PRIEST: Forgive me, a sinner.

PEOPLE: God forgive you, father.

### *The Concluding Litany*

PRIEST: Let us pray for the peace of the world.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for pious and Orthodox Christians.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for our father, (*metropolitan or archbishop or bishop*), N., and all our brethren in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the civil authorities of this land.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the welfare of our armed forces.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for our fathers and brethren absent from among us.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who hate us and those who love us.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who are kind to us and minister to us.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who have requested our prayers, unworthy as we are.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the deliverance of captives.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for travelers by land and sea and air.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for those who lie in sickness.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And let us pray also for abundance of the fruits of the earth.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: And for the soul of every Orthodox Christian.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Let us bless God-fearing leaders, Orthodox bishops, the founders of this holy church, our parents and teachers, and all our fathers and brethren gone before us, the Orthodox who here and everywhere lie asleep in the Lord.

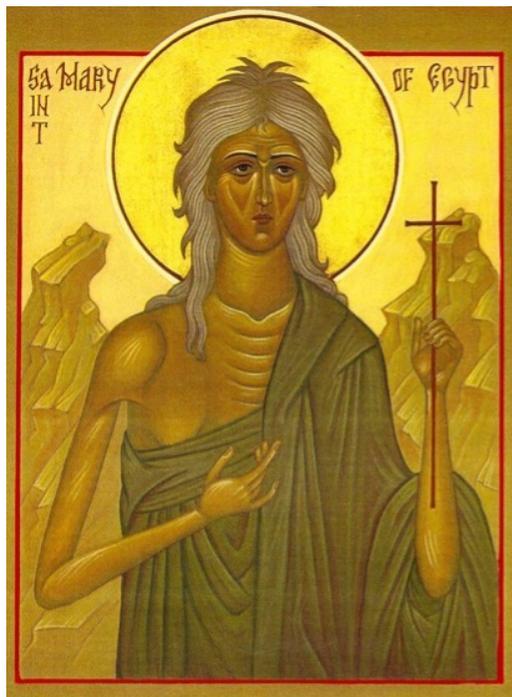
PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: Let us also say for ourselves.

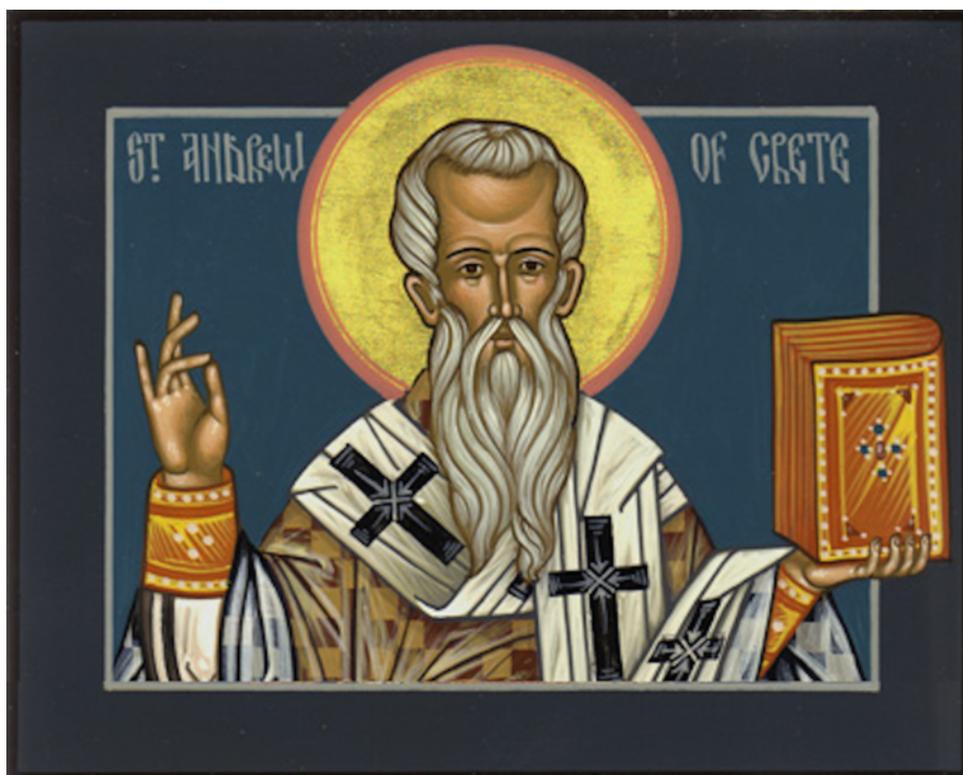
PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.



*Mary of Egypt*



*Andrew of Crete - The Great Canon*