

Compline

With Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Tuesday 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.

The 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...

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

Tuesday

Ode 1

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*)

By my own free choice have I incurred the guilt of Cain’s murder. I have killed my conscience, bringing the flesh to life and making war on the soul by my wicked actions.

O Jesus, I have not been like Abel in his righteousness. Never have I offered You acceptable gifts or godly actions, a pure sacrifice or an unblemished life.

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

As the potter molds the clay, You have fashioned me, giving me flesh and bones, breath and life. But accept me in repentance, O my Maker and Deliverer and Judge.

I confess to You, O Savior, the sins I have committed, the wounds of my soul and body, which murderous thoughts, like thieves, have inflicted inwardly on me.

Though I have sinned, O Savior, yet I know that You are full of loving-kindness. You chastise with mercy and are fervent in compassion. You see me weeping and run to meet me, like the Father calling back the Prodigal Son.

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 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. (*Bow*)

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

I am clothed with the raiment of shame as with fig leaves, in condemnation of my self-willed passions.

I am clad in a garment that is defiled and shamefully bloodstained by a life of passion and self-indulgence.

I have fallen beneath the painful burden of the passions and the corruption of material things; and I am hard pressed by the enemy.

Instead of freedom from possessions, O Savior, I have pursued a life in love with material things, and now I wear a heavy yoke.

I have adorned the idol of my flesh with a many-colored coat of shameful thoughts, and I am condemned.

I have cared only for the outward adornment, and neglected that which is within - the tabernacle fashioned by God.

I have discolored with the passions the first beauty of the image, O Savior. But seek me, as You once sought the lost coin, and find 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 Savior.

Like the Publican I cry to You: Be merciful, O Savior, be merciful to me. For no child of Adam has ever sinned against You as I have sinned.

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

I sing Your praises, One in Three Persons, God of all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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

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

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)

For me You are the Fountain of life and the Destroyer of death; and from my heart I cry to You before the end: I have sinned, be merciful to me and save me.

I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against You; be merciful to me. For there is no sinner whom I have not surpassed in my offences.

I have followed the example, O Savior, of those who lived in wantonness in the days of Noah; and like them I am condemned to drown in the Flood.

O my soul, you have followed Ham, who mocked his father. You have not covered your neighbor's shame, walking backwards with averted face.

Flee, my soul, like Lot from the burning of sin; flee from Sodom and Gomorrah; flee from the flame of every brutish desire.

Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy on me, I cry to You, when You come with Your angels to give to every man due return for his deeds.

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)

Be watchful, O my soul, be full of courage like Jacob the great Patriarch, that you may acquire action with knowledge, and be named Israel, "the mind that sees God;" so will you reach by contemplation the innermost darkness and gain great merchandise.

The great Patriarch had the twelve Patriarchs as children, and so he mystically established for you, my soul, a ladder of ascent through action, in his wisdom setting his children as steps, by which you can mount upwards.

You have rivaled Esau, the hated, O my soul, and given the birthright of your first beauty to the supplanter; you have lost your father's blessing and in your wretchedness been twice supplanted, in action and in knowledge. Therefore repent now.

No Esau was called Edom because of his raging love for women; burning always with unrestrained desires and stained with sensual pleasure, he was named "Edom," which means the red heat of a soul that loves sin.

You have heard, O my soul, of Job justified on a dung-hill, naked and covered with sores. Once he was blessed with many children and admired by all, but suddenly he is childless and homeless. Yet he counted the dung-hill as a palace and his sores as pearls.

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)*

You have heard, my soul, of the basket of Moses: how he was born on the waves of the river as if in a shrine; and so he avoided the bitter execution of Pharaoh's decree.

You have heard, wretched soul, of the midwives who once killed in its infancy the manly action of self-control; like great Moses, then, be nursed on wisdom.

O miserable soul, you have not struck and killed the Egyptian mind, as did Moses the great. Tell me, then, how will you go to dwell through repentance in the wilderness empty of passions?

Moses the great went to dwell in the desert. Come, seek to follow his way of life, my soul, that in contemplation you may attain the vision of God in the bush.

Picture to yourself, my soul, the rod of Moses striking the sea and making hard the deep by the sign of the Holy Cross. Through the Cross you also can do great things.

Aaron offered to God fire that was blameless and undefiled, but Hophni and Phinehas brought to Him, as you have done, my soul, strange fire and a polluted life.

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.

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)

The waves of my sins, O Savior, have returned and suddenly engulfed me, as the waters of the Red Sea engulfed the Egyptians of old and their charioteers.

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

O my soul, you have valued the wells of Canaanite thoughts more than the veined Rock, Jesus, the Fountain of Wisdom from which flows the rivers of divine knowledge.

The swine's meat, the flesh-pots and the food of Egypt you have preferred, my soul, to the food of heaven, as the ungrateful people did of old in the wilderness.

When Your servant Moses struck the rock with his rod, he prefigured Your life-giving side, O Savior, from which we all draw the water of life.

Like Joshua, the son of Nun, search and spy out, my soul, the land of your inheritance and take up your dwelling within it, through obedience to the Law.

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.

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.

Ode 7

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*)

When the Ark was being carried in a cart and the ox stumbled, Uzzah did no more than touch it, but the wrath of God smote him. O my soul, flee from his presumption and respect with reverence the things of God.

You have heard of Absalom, and how he rebelled against nature; you know of the unholy deeds by which he defiled his father David's bed. You have followed him in his passionate and sensual desires.

Your free dignity, O my soul, you have subjected to your body; for you have found in the enemy another Ahitophel, and have agreed to all his counsels. But Christ Himself has brought them to nothing and saved you from them all.

Solomon the wonderful, who was full of the grace of wisdom, once did evil in the sight of heaven and turned away from God. You have become like him, my soul, by your accursed life.

Carried away by sensual passions, he defiled himself. Alas! The lover of wisdom became a lover of harlots and a stranger to God. And you, my soul, in mind have imitated him through your shameful desires.

O my soul, you have rivaled Rehoboam, who paid no attention to his father's counselors, and Jeroboam, that evil servant and renegade of old. But flee from their example and cry to God: I have sinned, take pity on me.

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)

You have followed Uzziah, my soul, and have his leprosy in double form; for your thoughts are wicked, and your acts unlawful. Leave what you have, and hasten to repentance.

O my soul, you have heard how the men of Ninevah repented before God in sackcloth and ashes. You have not followed them, but are more wicked than all who sinned before the Law and after.

You have heard, my soul, how Jeremiah 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.

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

My soul, you have heard how Daniel stopped the mouths of the wild beasts in the lions' den; and you know how the Children with Azarias quenched through their faith the flames of the fiery furnace.

All the names of the Old Testament have I set before you, my soul, as an example. Imitate the holy acts of the righteous and flee from the sins of the wicked.

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)*

Christ was being tempted; the devil tempted Him, showing Him the stones that they might be made bread. He led Him up into a mountain, to see in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. O my soul, look with fear on what happened; watch and pray every hour to God.

The Dove who loved the wilderness, the Lamp of Christ, the voice of one crying aloud, was heard preaching repentance; but Herod sinned with Herodias. My soul, see that you are not trapped in the snares of the lawless, but embrace repentance.

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, my soul, have not imitated them.

Marriage is honorable, and the marriage-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 to bring you, my soul, to a change of life.

Christ gave strength to the paralyzed man, and he took up his bed; He raised from the dead the young man, the son of the widow, and the centurion's servant; He appeared to the woman of Samaria and spoke to you, my soul, of worship in spirit.

By 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; He cured by His word the deaf and the dumb and the woman bowed to the ground, to bring you, wretched soul, to salvation.

The Lord fasted forty days in the wilderness, and at the end of them He was hungry, thus showing that He is man. Do not be dismayed, my soul! If the enemy attacks you, through prayer and fasting drive him away.

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.

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

Venerable Andrew, father, thrice-blessed shepherd of Crete, cease not to offer prayer for 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.

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.

The Trisagion Prayers

Troparia: Tuesday 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 6:1-13

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 O God, be gracious to me, a sinner, and have mercy on me. 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.

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.

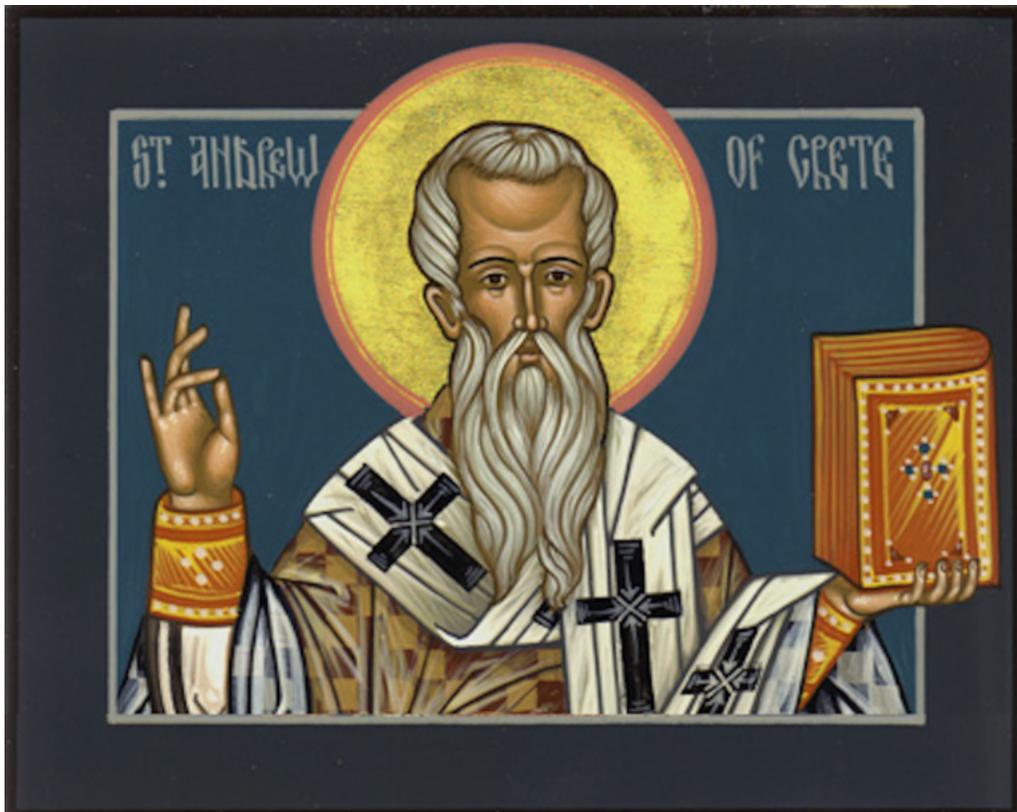
PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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.



Andrew of Crete - The Great Canon