

APRIL 2

Thursday of the Fifth Week of Great Lent (Vespers, Wednesday evening)
Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete. Ven. Titus the Wonderworker

(The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete is sung at Thursday Matins.)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 8

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

(After "Lord, I Call" is sung in the tone of the idiomelon, the reader continues to chant the remaining verses of Psalms 140, 141, and 129, but because 24 stichera by Simeon the Translator are added to the customary stichera, the interpolation of stichera begins earlier than usual.)

v: Let the sinners together fall into their own nets; let me alone pass through!

Tone 8 **Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

My thoughts, like thieves, have seized me, a wretched man.
My mind has been robbed, and I have been sorely beaten.
My soul is wounded, and I am stripped of virtues.
I lie naked in the highway of life.
The priest saw my pain and hopeless wounds and looked away.
The Levite could not bear my groaning and passed me by.
But You were pleased to come, O Christ my God,
not from Samaria but from the flesh of Mary.
In Your love for man, grant me healing//
and pour upon me Your great mercy!

v: I cry with my voice to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.

Tone 8 *(for the Martyrs)*

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise
rightly is ascribed to the saints,
for they bowed their necks beneath the sword,
for Your sake, Who bowed the heavens and came down.
They shed their blood for You, Who emptied Yourself,
taking the form of a servant.
They humbled themselves even unto death,
following the example of Your lowliness.
By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, //
according to Your abundant mercy!

v: I pour out my complaint before Him; I proclaim my sadness before Him.

Tone 8 *(for the Apostles, by Joseph)*

You made Your disciples into living heavens, O Lord.
By their prayers deliver me from the evils of this earth,
and by abstinence lift up my thoughts to Your Passion, //
for You are merciful and love mankind!

v: When my spirit departs from me, You know my way.

This season of fasting helps us all to do the works of God.
Let us weep, then, with our whole heart and cry to the Savior:
“Through Your disciples, save us, O Lord of great mercy, //
as with reverence we sing of Your great love for mankind!”

v: In the path where I walk, they have hidden a trap for me.

Tone 8 *(for the Apostles, by Theodore)*

O Apostles, worthy of all praise and intercessors for the world,
physicians of the sick and guardians of health,
protect us on all sides as we pass through the fast!
By God’s grace may we remain at peace with one another!
Preserve our minds untroubled by passions, //
so that we all may sing praises to the risen and victorious Christ!

v: I look to the right and watch, but there is none who knows me.

Tone 4 *(24 stichera by Simeon the Translator)**

I have wasted my whole life with harlots and publicans.
Will I be able to repent of my many sins even when I grow old?
I cry to You, the Creator of all and Healer of the sick://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v: No refuge remains for me, no man cares for my soul.

Weighed down with indifference, I wallow in sin.
Pierced by the devil’s darts, I have defiled Your image in me.
Yet You convert the heedless and save the sinful.//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say: You are my hope, my portion in the land of the living.

I have become a stumbling block.
Born of earth, I have remained attached to earthly things.
Wed to Your commandments,
I transgressed them and defiled my bed.
Yet do not despise the creature whom You formed of earth,//
but save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low!

Obsessed with the flesh, I have murdered my soul.
I have become the demons’ toy, the slave of lusts.
In Your compassion, spare me! Put the demons to flight!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

More than all men I have willfully sinned,
and this has left me helpless and forsaken.
As the enemy of my own soul, I have carnal thoughts that darken it.
O Light of those in darkness, Guide of all who go astray://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!

* In the original Greek, the initial letters of these 24 stichera by Simeon follow the order of the alphabet.

“Let me live, and I shall praise You!” said the Prophet.
Seek me, Your lost sheep, and number me among Your flock!
Grant me time for repentance,
so that with cries of sorrow I may call upon You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

I have sinned, O Christ my God.
I have sinned and rejected Your commandments.
Be merciful to me, O Bountiful One,
so that escaping from the darkness
I may see with my inner eyes and cry to You in fear://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Wild beasts surround me,
but snatch me from them, O Savior,
for You desire all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth!
As their Creator, save them, and with them save me!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

O my Benefactor, my Redeemer and my Savior,
be also my healer and reject me not!
Look on me as I lie in sin,
and raise me up, O Almighty One!
Then shall I confess Your deeds and cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Like the foolish servant
I have hidden the talent given to me and buried it in the ground.
I am condemned as useless and no longer dare to ask You for forgiveness.
But in Your patience pity me, so that I may cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

When the woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Your garment,
You dried up the source of her sufferings.
If I also approach You with unwavering faith,
I will receive forgiveness of my sins.
Accept me as You accepted her, and heal my grief and pain!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

O Lord, Who created heaven and earth by Your word,
You will sit upon the throne for judgment.
All of us will stand in Your presence and confess our sins.
Before that day comes, accept me in repentance!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

O only Savior,
look on me with compassion, and have mercy on me!
Wash me clean from the filth of my sins,
so that I may sing://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

The devil has prepared his weapons to hunt down my humble soul.
He has made me a stranger to the light of the knowledge of Your face.
But rescue me from his traps, for You are mighty in strength!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

I am completely enslaved by the passions.
I have forsaken the Law and the Holy Scriptures.
Heal my every part, O loving Benefactor,
Who for my sake became as I am!
Pity me and convert me, O merciful Destroyer of the passions!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

The harlot washed Your pure and precious feet with her tears.
She encourages all to approach You and receive remission of their sins.
Grant also unto me her faith, O Savior,
so that I may cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

For my sake You were made poor and became a young Child in the flesh.
Now cleanse my soul of all filth, O Christ!
I am weak and broken; send down a drop of Your mercy on me!
Wash away the dirt, and heal me of my sickness!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Strengthen my soul, O Master!
Let me run to You and always serve You,
for You are my Guardian and Protector, my Defense and help!
Enable me to cry to You with boldness, O Word of God://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Be our unshakeable rampart, O Jesus, our Savior and merciful God,
for we have fallen into deceitful ways and deeds!
Raise up Your creature, O Benefactor,
and reconcile us to You in Your compassion!//
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

I am like the Prodigal Son,
for after wasting my riches I now am dying of hunger.
Receive me as You received him, O loving Father,
for I seek refuge beneath Your protection!
Let me eat at Your table, so that I may cry to You://
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Out of envy the author of evil drove Adam from Paradise,
but by saying "Remember me," the thief on the cross regained it.
With faith and fear I also cry to You, "Remember me!" //
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Stretch out Your hand to me as to Peter,
and raise me from the depths, O God!
Grant me grace and mercy, through the prayers of Your all-pure Mother,
who gave birth to You without seed,
and of all Your saints! //
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

v: Glory to You, our God, glory to You!

Receive me as I sing to You each day,
O Lamb, Who take away my sins!
I commend my soul and body entirely into Your hands,
and, as is my duty, I cry to You both day and night: //
"Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

What inexpressible loving kindness,
O gracious and long-suffering Lord!
Do not cast me away from Your face,
O sinless and compassionate Savior,
so that with thanksgiving and rejoicing I may cry to You:
"Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!"

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

Tone 4 *(Theotokion, from the Triodion)*

What inexpressible condescension!
What a wonderful birth!
How does the Virgin carry You as a babe in her arms,
for You are her Creator and God?
O Benefactor Who consented to take flesh from her,
"Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

O Lord God of vengeance, / show Yourself! (Ps 93/94:1)

v: Rise up, O judge of the earth; render to the proud their deserts! (Ps 93/94:2)

Reading from Genesis (17:1-9)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Sing to the Lord / a new song! (Ps 95/96:1)

v: Sing to the Lord, bless His name! (Ps 95/96:2)

Reading from Proverbs (15:20-16:9)

"Aposticha" Tone 8

Tone 8 Idiomelon *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

My thoughts, like thieves, have seized me, a wretched man.
My mind has been robbed, and I have been sorely beaten.
My soul is wounded, and I am stripped of virtues.
I lie naked in the highway of life.
The priest saw my pain and hopeless wounds and looked away.
The Levite could not bear my groaning and passed me by.
But You were pleased to come, O Christ my God,
not from Samaria but from the flesh of Mary.
In Your love for man, grant me healing / /
and pour upon me Your great mercy!

v: I lift up my eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122/123:1-2)

(Repeat: "My thoughts, like thieves...")

v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps 122/123:3-4)

Tone 8 *(for the Martyrs)*

Whatever is excellent and worthy of praise
rightly is ascribed to the saints,
for they bowed their necks beneath the sword,
for Your sake, Who bowed the heavens and came down.
They shed their blood for You, Who emptied Yourself,
taking the form of a servant.
They humbled themselves even unto death,
following the example of Your lowliness.
By their prayers have mercy on us, O God, //
according to Your abundant mercy!

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

They that were deemed worthy to behold God in the flesh
proclaimed you, O Maid, to be a bride and virgin, worthy of the Father;
For you were made the mother of the Word of God,
and the glorious Temple of the Holy Spirit:
the fullness of divine grace found an abode in you!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.