

APRIL 3

Ven. Nicetas the Confessor, Abbot of Medikion

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)

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

"Lord I Call..." Tone 8

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy 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 wicked together fall into their own nets, while I escape.*

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

My thoughts, like thieves, have seized me, a wretched man.

My mind hath 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 Thou wast pleased to come, O Christ my God,

not from Samaria but from the flesh of Mary.

In Thy love for man, grant me healing//

and pour upon me Thy great mercy!

*V. I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.*

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

*V. I pour out my complaint before Him, I tell my trouble before Him.*

**Tone 8**      *(for the Martyrs)*

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

*V. When my spirit is faint, Thou knowest my way.*

**Tone 8**      *(for the Apostles, by Joseph)*      *(Lord, though Thou didst stand)*

Thou madest Thy 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 Thy Passion, //  
for Thou art merciful and lovest man!

*V. In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.*

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 Thy disciples, save us, O Lord of great mercy, //  
as with reverence we sing of Thy great love for man!"

*V. I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of 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. No refuge remains to me, no man cares for 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 Thee, the Creator of all and Healer of the sick://  
"Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!"

*V. I cry to Thee, O Lord; I say, Thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.*

Weighed down with indifference, I wallow in sin.  
Pierced by the devil's darts, I have defiled Thine image in me.  
Yet Thou convertest the heedless and savest the sinful.//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

*V. Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low.*

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

*V. Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me.*

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

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

*V. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

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. (9) The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

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

*V. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

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

*V. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

Wild beasts surround me,  
but do Thou snatch me from them, O Savior,  
for Thou desirest that all men should be saved and 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. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But  
there is forgiveness with Thee.*

O my Benefactor, my Redeemer and my Savior,  
be also my healer and reject me not!  
Look upon me as I lie in sin  
and raise me up, O Almighty One!

Then shall I confess Thy deeds and cry to Thee://  
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

*V. (5) For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

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 Thee for forgiveness.  
But in Thy patience pity me, so that I may cry to Thee://  
“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!*

When the woman with an issue of blood touched the hem of Thy garment,  
Thou didst dry up the source of her sufferings.  
If I also approach Thee with unwavering faith,  
I will receive forgiveness of my sins.  
Accept me as Thou didst accept her, and heal my grief and pain!//  
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 Lord, Who didst create heaven and earth by Thy word,  
Thou shalt sit upon the throne for judgment.  
All of us will stand in Thy presence and confess our sins.  
Before that day comes, accept me in repentance!//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

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

O only Savior,  
look upon 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. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

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 Thy face.  
But rescue me from his traps, for Thou art mighty in strength!//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

*V. To Thee I lift up mine eyes, O Thou Who art 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 122:1-2)*

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 didst become as I am!  
Pity me and convert me, O merciful Destroyer of the passions!//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

*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. 122:3-4)*

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

*V. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

For my sake Thou wast made poor and becamest 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 Thy mercy on me!  
Wash away the dirt, and heal me of my sickness!//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

*V. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Strengthen my soul, O Master!  
Let me run to Thee and always serve Thee,  
for Thou art my Guardian and Protector, my Defense and my help!  
Enable me to cry to Thee with boldness, O Word of God://

“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

*V. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

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

*V. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

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

*V. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

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 Thee, “Remember me!”//  
Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

*V. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

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

*V. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!*

Receive me as I sing to Thee each day,  
O Lamb, Who takest away my sins!  
I commend my soul and body entirely into Thy hands,  
and, as is my duty, I cry to Thee 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!  
Cast me not away from Thy face,  
O sinless and compassionate Savior,  
so that with thanksgiving and rejoicing I may cry to Thee://  
“Save me before I completely perish, O Lord!”

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

**Tone 4**      *(Theotokion)*

What inexpressible condescension!  
What a wonderful birth!  
How does the Virgin carry Thee as a babe in her arms,  
for Thou art her Creator and God?  
O Benefactor Who hast consented to take flesh from her, //  
save me before I completely perish, O Lord!

**Tone 4**      **Prokeimenon**

O Lord God of vengeance, / show Thyself! *(Ps. 93:1)*

*V. Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render to the proud their deserts! (Ps. 93:2)*

**Reading from Genesis (17:1-9)**

**Tone 4**      **Prokeimenon**

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

*V. Sing to the Lord, bless His name! (Ps. 95:2a)*

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

*(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)*

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*