Moleben for the Great Fast

based on the Great Canon of Repentence of Saint Andrew of Crete

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Seminary, Pittsburgh, PA
2010
Moleben for the Great Fast

Deacon: Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 

Glory to you, our God, glory to you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. 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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. (sung twice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Call to Worship

Each time with a reverence

Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

Then Psalm 3 is sung by the cantor and faithful.
Psalm 3

How many are my foes, O Lord!
   How many are rising up against me!

How many are saying about me:
   "There is no help for him in God."

But you, Lord, are a shield about me,
   my glory, who lift up my head.

I cry aloud to the Lord.
   He answers from his holy mountain.

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
   I wake, for the Lord holds me.

I will not fear even thousands of people
   who are ranged on every side against me.

Arise, Lord; save me, my God,
   you who strike my foes on the mouth,
   you who break the teeth of the wicked!

O Lord of salvation,
   bless your people!

I lie down to rest, and I sleep.
   I wake, for the Lord holds me.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:
   now and ever and forever. Amen.

And then three times, with a bow each time:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to you, O God!
Then, all together, with melody (and with a reverence):

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

The Litany of Peace

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our God-loving bishop, (Name), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.
Priest: For you are our God, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Alleluia

"Alleluia" is sung in the Tone of the Week. The deacon remains at the ambon and chants the verses. If there is no deacon, the priest remains at the Royal Doors and chants the

Deacon: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (recto tono)  
All:  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  

Deacon: My spirit yearns for you in the night, 
yes, my spirit within me keeps vigil for you. Repeat Alleluia.

Deacon: When your judgment dawns upon the earth, 
the world's inhabitants learn justice. Repeat Alleluia.

Deacon: Let them be shamed when they see your zeal for your people, 
let the fire prepared for your enemies consume them. Repeat Alleluia.

Deacon: You have increased the nation, O Lord, 
increased the nation to your own glory. Repeat Alleluia.

Hymns to the Trinity

We mor-tals now dare to sing and of-fer you the hymn of your heav-en-ly
minister: Holy, holy, holy are you, O our God;

through the protection of your angelic powers, have mercy on us.

Cantor: Glory...

As the army of angels in heaven, O Lord, with fear we on earth offer you

this hymn of victory: Holy, holy, holy are you, O our God;

through the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us.

Cantor: Now and ever...

We dare to glorify you, O Christ our God, together with your eternal Father

and your most Holy Spirit; and with the Cherubim we cry out: Holy, holy, holy

are you, O our God; through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.
1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense.

2. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

3. My offenses truly I know them; my sin is always before me.

4. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

5. That you may be justified when you give sentence and be without reproach when you judge.

6. O see, in guilt I was born, a sinner was I conceived.

7. Indeed, you love truth in the heart; then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.

8. O purify me, then I shall be clean; O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

9. Make me hear rejoicing and gladness, that the bones you have
crushed may thrill. 10. From my sins turn away your face and blot out all my guilt.

11. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me,

12. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. 13. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervor sustain me, 14. That I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. 15. O rescue me, God, my helper, and my tongue shall ring out your goodness. 16. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

17. For in sacrifice you take no delight, burnt offering from me you would refuse,

18. My sacrifice, a contrite spirit. A humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.
19. In your goodness, show favor to Zion: rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

20. Then you will be pleased with lawful sacrifice, burnt offerings wholly consumed, then you will be offered young bulls on your altar.

*Then the deacon, before the Icon of our Lord, says:*

**Deacon:** Save your people, O God, and bless your inheritance. Watch over your world in mercy and compassion. Exalt the strength of true Christians and send down upon us your abundant mercies. Through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; through the power of the precious and life-creating Cross; through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, and angelic powers; through the prayers of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; of our holy fathers, the great hierarchs and universal teachers: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom; of our holy father Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia; of the holy equals to the apostles and teachers of the Slavs, Cyril and Methodius; of the holy equal to the apostles, the faithful great prince Vladimir; of the holy martyr Josaphat, bishop of Polotsk; of the blessed martyr Theodore, bishop of Mukačevo; of our blessed fathers and confessors Paul, bishop of Prešov; and Basil, bishop of Medila; of the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers, Anthony and Theodosius of the Monastery of the Caves, and of our other venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the holy and just ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints; we beseech you, all-merciful Lord, hear the prayers of us sinners and have mercy on us.
The priest stands before the Royal Doors and says:

Priest: O Lord our God, you have given us forgiveness through repentance, and as a model of knowledge and confession of sins, you have revealed to us the repentance of the prophet David that led to pardon. Master, have mercy on us who have fallen into so many and so great sins. Have mercy in your kindness, and in your compassion blot out our offenses, for against you have we sinned, Lord, who know the hidden depths of our hearts, and who alone have the power to forgive sins. A pure heart you have created for us; you have sustained us with a spirit of fervor and have given us the joy of your help. Do not cast us away from your presence, but in your goodness and love for all, grant that we may offer a sacrifice of righteousness and oblation on your holy altar until our last breath. Through the mercies and goodness and love of your only begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

The priest and deacon enter the altar.

Portions of the penitential canon of Saint Andrew of Crete are now sung. Each time the refrain, "Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me!" is sung, it is customary to make a prostration.
Ode 1
Irmos - Tone 6 samopodoben

Where shall I begin when I weep for all the deeds of my life? * How shall I sing of my grief? * But in your goodness, O Christ,* grant me the forgiveness of my sins.

Refrain

Come, my soul, and lead your body to glorify the Creator; * henceforth, regain sound judgment * that you may offer to God the tears of repentance.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.
Heavenly Trinity, I bow before your unique majesty;* lift from my shoulders the heavy burden * brought about by the yoke of my sins; * in your goodness, grant me the tears of compunction.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

O Theotokos, * the hope and protection of those who praise you, * lift off the weight, the burden of my sins; * accept me, O most holy Lady, * for I am transformed by repentance.

The irmos is not repeated at the end of each ode.

Ode 2
Irmos * Tone 6 samopodoben

Listen to my voice, O heaven, * O earth, lend your ear to my cry; * for God draws me back to him, * and I will praise him. Refrain

O Lord, God of mercy, * look upon me with compassion * and accept the confession of my sins from my lips.
Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

Eternal Trinity and indivisible Unity, * accept me in repentance and save me, a sinner; * do not despise the work of your hands; * protect me and deliver me from the fires of judgment.


O holy Lady, Mother of God, * hope of those who hasten to you, * harbor who save us from the wrath of the waters, * implore your Creator and your Son * to spare us through your intercession.

Ode 3
Irmos - Tone 6 samopoden

Up-on the un-shak-a-ble rock of your com-mand - ments,

O Christ, make firm your Church.

Refrain

Have mer-cy on me, O God, have mer-cy on me.

From the height of heaven, * the Lord once rained down a deluge of fire * upon the land of Sodom. Re-frain

Seek safety on the mountain, O my soul, * as once did Lot * who took refuge in Zoar.
Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.

O Trinity all-worthy of our praise, * one God in three Persons, * save us who in faith bow before your majesty.


O marvelous wonder! * Without seed, the Virgin and Mother of God * has conceived the Son of the eternal Father, * and you have given birth to him in time.

Ode 4
Irmos - Tone 6 samopodoben

The Proph-et heard of your com-ing, O Lord, and he was a-fraid:

how you were to be born of a vir-gin and re-vealed to men,

and he said: I have heard the re-port of you

and I was a-fraid. Glo-ry to your pow-er, O Lord.
Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Do not despise the work of your hands, * nor scorn your creation, O just Judge, * even though I alone have sinned more than all, O merciful God; * for you are the God of the universe,* and it is you who forgive sins. *Refrain*

The end is near, O my soul, * it approaches and you neglect to prepare yourself; * the time is at hand; * arise, for the Judge is at the door; * our life disappears like a dream or a flower, * and we toil in vain.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.

I confess the Holy Trinity as God, * three Persons sharing the same royal throne,* indivisible in essence and beyond confusion; * my voice resounds with the triple hymn of the angels.


You have given birth, O Virgin, * and you still remained a Virgin,* for your virginal womb brought forth the One who renewed the laws of nature in himself; * for God has willed it so.

Ode 5

Irmos - Tone 6 samopodoben

From the night I seek you ear - ly, O Lov - er of us all:

en - light - en me, I pray, and guide me in your com-mand - ments,
and teach me, O Savior, to do your will.

Refrain

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

My life has slipped away in the night, * in darkness, deep chaos and the dark night of sin; * enlighten me, O Savior, * that I may become a child of light. Refrain

Woe is me, for I have become like Ruben; * I have sinned and given great offense to the Most High, * by transgressing his paternal love.

Glorify to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

We glorify you as one God, * O thrice-holy Trinity, * Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, * consubstantial divinity, * and we unceasingly adore you.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

From you, O most pure Virgin and holy Mother of God, * the divine Creator of the ages becomes flesh, * to unite himself intimately to our mortal nature.

Ode 6
Irmos - Tone 6 samopodoben

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.

In all purity, I offer you, O God and Savior, * the tears of my eyes, * my deep sighs and the cries of my heart: * I have sinned; forgive me. Refrain

You have separated yourself from your Lord, O my soul, * as did Dathan and Abiram; * but cry out to him with all your heart:* Spare me, O Lord, * and may the earth not open and swallow me!

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

I am the indivisible Trinity, * one in nature, * says the Father, together with the Son and Holy Spirit.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Your womb has brought into the world for us * a God who is conformed to our humanity; * O Theotokos, * beseech the Creator of the world * that, through your prayers, we may be saved.
Kontakion - Tone 6

My soul, my soul, arise! Why are you sleeping? The end is drawing near, and you will be confounded. Awake, then, and be watchful that Christ our God may spare you, for he is everywhere present and fills all things.

Ikos

Seeing the healings worked by Christ * and salvation flowing upon Adam, * the Devil was struck with grief; * in face of this threat, he sighed and said to his companions: * What shall I do with the Son of Mary? * For he is going to put me to death, * the One who is born in Bethlehem,

and he is everywhere present and fills all things.

Reading of the Gospel

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 59: 13, 3)

Give us help against the foe, for the help of
man is vain.

Verse: O God, you have rejected us and broken us.

The deacon censes the altar and the people.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For you are holy, O our God, and you dwell in the holy place, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

Deacon: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Response: Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord,

give praise to the Lord.

Deacon: Praise God in his holy place, praise him in his mighty heavens.

Response: All repeat "Let everything that lives..."
Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

Response:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Wisdom, let us stand and listen to a reading of the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all!

Response:

And to your spirit, to your spirit.


Response:

Glory to you, glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive.

Priest: At that time, some were present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. He said in reply, "Do you think that these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? By no means! But I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you reform. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! But I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you reform."

Jesus spoke this parable: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he came out looking for fruit on it but did not find any. He said to the vinedresser, 'Look here! For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?' In answer, the man said, 'Sir, leave it another year, while I hoe around it and manure it; then perhaps it will bear fruit. If not, it shall be cut down.'"
Response:

Glo - ry to you, glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo-ry to you.

Ode 7
Irmos - Tone 6 samopoden

We have sinned, we have trans-gressed, we have done e-vil

in your sight, we have not kept or fol-lowed your

com-mand-ments, but re-ject us not, O God of our

fa-thers.

Refrain

Have mer-cy on me, O God, have mer-cy on me.

I have sinned, I have transgressed, and I have scorned your commandments; * for I was
born in sin, and I have added to my wounds; * but, in your goodness spare me, O Lord,
God of our fathers. Refrain

I confess the secrets of my heart to you, O my Judge; * behold my grief and my
humiliation; * be attentive to my judgment, * and in your goodness spare me, O Lord,
God of our fathers.
Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.


We praise you, we bless you, * and we bow before you, * O Mother of God; * for you have given birth to One of the Holy Trinity, * your Son and your God, * opening for us heaven on earth.

Ode 8
Irmos - Tone 6 samopodoben

The hosts of heav-en give him glo-ry; be-fore

him trem-ble cher-ub-im and ser-a-phim; let ev-ry-thing

that has breath and all cre-a-tion praise him, bless

him, and ex-alt him a-bove all for-ev-er.

Refrain

Have mer-cy on me, O God, have mer-cy on me.
I have sinned, O Savior, have mercy on me; * stir my soul to conversion; * accept my repentance and spare me when I cry: * Against you alone have I sinned, have mercy on me. **Refrain**

Riding in the chariot of fire, * Elijah was carried aloft on the wings of virtue * from earth to heaven; * O my soul, imitate his ascent.

Glo-ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.


Emmanuel was clothed in the purple of your blood, * and therefore, we truly honor your divine maternity, * O most pure Virgin.

**Ode 9**

**Irmos - Tone 6 samopodoben**

Con-cep-tion with-out seed; na-tiv-i-ty past un-der-stand-ing, from a moth-er who nev-er knew a man;

child-bear-ing un-de-filed. For the birth of God makes both na-tures new. There-fore as Bride and
The - o - to - kos, with true wor - ship all gen - er - a - tions

mag - ni - fy you.

Refrain

Have mer - cy on me, O God, have mer - cy on me.

My soul is wounded, my body is sickly, and my spirit is weak;* my thoughts have no strength;* the end is near and my life fades away;* what shall you do, O my poor soul, * when the Judge shall come to reveal your secret deeds? Refrain

I have placed before you, O my soul, * the writings of Moses concerning the beginning of the world, * along with his exhortations, * and the story of the just and the wicked; * you have imitated these latter and not the former; * for you have sinned unceasingly before God, O my soul.

Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.


O most holy Theotokos, * keep under your protection the Christian people * who share your royal power, * and through you, make them triumphant over the assaults of the Enemy * and over all temptation.
Deacon: On bended knee, let us pray to the Lord.

Response:

Priest: O my God and Lord Jesus Christ, lead me in your way that I may walk in your truth; gladden my heart that I may fear your holy name. O Lord so mighty in mercy, so gracious in your might; assist and comfort me; save me, for I put my trust in your holy name. In your wrath, do not let me perish, O Lord and Lover of us all, but show me your great mercy and compassio

Response:

Dismissal

All: As we stand in the temple of your glory, we consider ourselves standing in heaven.

O Mother of God, heavenly Gate,
Open to us the doors of your mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
(sung four times)

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Father, give the blessing.

Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: A - - - - men.

Priest: King of heaven, support our civil authorities, confirm the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world and safeguard this city (or this holy monastery), grant those who have gone before us a dwelling place among the righteous, accept us in repentance and have mercy, for you are good and love us all.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, give the blessing, Father.

Priest Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: A - - - - men.
Prayer of St. Ephrem

All: Lord and Master of my life,
spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair,
lust for power, and idle chatter. (Prostration)

Instead, bestow on me, your servant,
the spirit of integrity, humility,
patience, and love. (Prostration)

Yes, O Lord and King,
let me see my own sins
and not judge my brothers and sisters;
for you are blessed forever and ever. Amen. (Prostration)

Then, with a simple bow, the following is repeated four times:

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.
O Lord, forgive me, for I have sinned without number.

Once more, the Prayer of St. Ephrem is recited, without the usual prostrations.
One prostration is made at the conclusion of the prayer.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ, our God, our hope; glory to you!

Response: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
Now and ever and forever. Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his
most pure Mother; of the honorable and glorious prophet, forerunner, and Baptist
John; of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles, and of holy (patron of the church), and of holy (the saint of the day), and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.
Having suffered (Preterpivyj)

Hav-ing suf-fered the pas-sion for us, Je-sus Christ, Son of God,
have mer-cy, have mer-cy, have mer-cy on us.

Pre-ter-piv-yj za nas stras-ti, Isu-se Chri-ste, Sy-ne Bo-žij,
pom-i-luj, pom-i-luj, pom-i-luj nas.