

CANON  
*for* RACIAL RECONCILIATION



GLORY *to* GOD *for* ALL *the* FLOWERS  
*in* HIS GARDEN

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*[with minor adaptations by Priest Aleksey Paranyuk for the use at Saint John the*  
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*Priest:* Blessed is our God always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Reader:* Glory to You, our God, glory to You.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

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.

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, 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 the Son and the Holy

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

*Reader:* 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.

Come, let us worship 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.

## PSALM 51 (50 LXX)

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your great mercy, and in the abundance of Your compassions blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness, and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against You alone have I sinned, and done evil before You,

so that You are justified in Your words and victorious in Your judgment.

For, behold, I was conceived in iniquity, and in sin my mother gave birth to me.

For, behold, You love truth, You revealed to me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom.

Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed.

Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Make me to hear joy and gladness,  
let the bones that You have humbled rejoice.  
Turn Your face away from my sins,  
and blot out all my transgressions.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right 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 establish me with Your guiding Spirit.  
Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
and sinners will return to You.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God,  
the God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will rejoice at Your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will declare Your praise,  
for if You had desired sacrifice,  
I would have given it,  
You will not take pleasure  
in whole burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit,  
a broken and humbled heart God will not despise.  
Do good, O Lord, to Zion, in Your good pleasure,  
and let the walls of Jerusalem be rebuilt.  
Then You will be pleased

with the sacrifice of righteousness,  
with offerings and whole-burnt offerings,  
then bulls will be offered on Your altar.

## ODE 1

*Irmos:* In the deep of old, the infinite power overwhelmed Pharaoh's whole army, but the incarnate Word annihilated pernicious sin, exceedingly glorious is the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

Because "the Stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," the disparate races are conjoined again. (*Psalm 118:22*)

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

Even as Christ commanded us to love the Lord our God "with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and with all our strength," so He also called us to "love our neighbor as ourselves" (*Mark 12:30-31*).

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages.  
Amen.

The sum of humanity's reconciliation to God is voiced in one acclamation. Theotokos. She who bears God.

### ODE 3

*Irmos:* By establishing me on the rock of faith, You have enlarged my mouth over my enemies, and my spirit rejoices when I sing, "There is none holy as our God, and none righteous beside You, O Lord."

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

Putting behind Noah's curse (*Genesis 9:26*), we press "toward the mark for the prize of high calling of God in Christ Jesus," by seeing the mark of God upon each face. (*Philippians 3:14*)

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

Splintered by callous condemnation, Noah's sons split the races in three. But the blood of the Second person of the Trinity filled the divide, restoring a common humanity in Christ.

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The Theotokos not only joined man to God but also began the process of reconciling man to man and race to race.

## KATHISMA HYMN

O Lord, when You close all the loftily divisive and distracting worldly windows, bring us to the doors of repentance.

By the left door of remorse, let us bring our hearts, broken and humbled. By the right door of resolve, let us bring our minds entirely redirected by Your Holy Spirit to the throne of Christ.

Bring us to that table where all may find a place.

For all the races of humanity can be found in Your garden, where each of us is one of Your beloved flowers.

## ODE 4

*Irmos:* You came from a Virgin, not as an ambassador nor as an angel, but the very Lord Himself incarnate, and saved me the whole man. Therefore, I cry to You, “Glory to Your power O Lord.”

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

Putting behind the pain of his brother’s murder, Saint Dionysius applied the fruit of familial repentance. He applied the forgiving balm of Christ to the repentant soul of his brother’s murderer. He gave him the sacrament of absolution after the man sincerely confessed his sins.

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

The three Hypostases, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, regard the heart, not the might nor the melanin. Alas I will trust in Him Who has made all things, sees all things, hears all things, and feels all things, both great and small.

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O compassionately loving Mary, full of grace and mercy, teach us to love one another, even if love is not initially returned.

## ODE 5

*Irmos:* You are the light of those lying in darkness, and the salvation of the despairing, O Christ my Savior, I rise early to pray to You, O King of Peace. Enlighten me with Your radiance, for I know no other God beside You.

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

Putting behind the mark of Cain, we strive to see past our neighbor's specks and concentrate on our own remarkably large beams of sin that need unceasing prayer.

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

The consubstantial Trinity in God glorified seeks the restoration by adoption of all mankind. Yet all must come to the throne of grace by free will. How wonderful is our God.

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Sweet Mother of the Merciful God, your raiment has threads from the four corners of the earth. All generations bless you.

## ODE 6

*Irmos:* Whirled about in the abyss of sin, I appeal to the unfathomable abyss of Your compassion: Raise me up from corruption, O God.

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

Putting behind the memories of being sold into slavery, Joseph acknowledged that it was God and not his apologetic brothers who “sent me before you to preserve life” (*Genesis 45:5*). So also let us acknowledge the fulfillment of God’s inexpressible will.

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

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one in essence and undivided. Man, though created, has been granted everlasting salvation by partaking of

the Body and Blood of Christ. Thus, man is reunited to God and to man.

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice O Virgin, for He Who made your womb more spacious than the Heavens, has come to reconcile man to God and man to man.

### KONTAKION

For the weak, let us share strength. For the strong in Christ, let us forego condemnation. For the strong can bear the infirmities of weak in Christ. Through Him all things can be done, for the Trinity alone is Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal.

### ODE 7

*Irmos:* When the golden image was worshipped in the plain of Dura, Your three children despised the godless order. Thrown into the fire, they were bedewed and sang, “Blessed are You, O God of our fathers.”

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

As all races may build the bridge of reconciliation through a sharing of the fruits of repentance, so relationship is reformed. While the Prodigal Son can give the fruit of humility, the Big Brother can give the fruit of patience and forgiveness.

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

Putting behind the cries of betrayal, Christ carried forward His Cross. By love and obedience, not by nails, He remained on the Cross, trampling down death by death.

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Putting behind the crucifying cries, the Holy Virgin endured pain worse than the travail of birth. By love, she gave birth to Love. By faith, she went from strength to strength. By hope, she watched the Light of Light, slip into hell and then soar back to the Heavens.

## ODE 8

*Irmos:* O you works, praise the Lord God, who descended into the fiery furnace with the Hebrew children and changed the flame into dew, and supremely exalt Him unto all ages.

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

Putting behind the memories of Israel, Daniel kept his sight on God, though he was a stranger in a strange land.

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

Even as repentance is more than being sorry, so racial reconciliation is more than having the oppressor offer an apology. The fruit of repentance may vary in form and fashion. The Prophet David would offer a psalm. Saint Zacchaeus would offer a four-fold restoration. Saint John Maximovitch would offer his fasting and an orphanage. Saint Menas would offer his martyr's blood. Apostle Luke would offer his icons and healing counsel. Saint Herman would leave familiar surroundings and bring Orthodoxy to America. Saint Thais would offer her thankful, heartfelt, and tearful prayers. Saint Moses would offer his humble bag of spilling sand.

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O Joy of All who Sorrow, sanctify us by your intercession before your Son and our Savior. For He, Who sat upon your arm, is strong and mighty, True God of True God. Help us to reunite together in love, patient co-suffering, and unspeakable joy.

## ODE 9

*Irmos:* God the Word, Who came from God, and Who by inexpressible wisdom came to renew Adam after his grievous fall to corruption through eating, and Who inexpressibly took flesh from the Holy Virgin for our sake, Him we the faithful with one accord magnify with hymns.

*Refrain:* Glory to God for all the flowers in His garden.

Putting behind the sorrow of racial division, let us see the good and commonality of one another in Christ. For the garment of gladness is the same for all.

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

Let God be glorified from above and from united voices below. Let those with much share, so there would be none with little. Let the daily loaves that the Lord sends, be split generously, so that the races will no longer be prone to splitting.

*Refrain:* Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O Holy Mother, Great Reconciler who cannot be put to shame, help us to heal our wounds of race, class, gender, and nationality with the binding oil of the all-embracing Christ, Who will come again with glory, and Whose manifold united Kingdom will have no end.

### *a PRAYER for PEACE*

*Priest:* Let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* O Almighty God and Creator, the Father of all the people on the earth. Guide, we pray, our nation, the civil authorities, and all of us in the ways

of righteousness and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict, and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness, and hatred. Teach us to end the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find harmony, respect, and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease, and oppression. Grant that we may grow in unity and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and glory, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## DISMISSAL

*Priest:* Wisdom. Most Holy Theotokos, save us.

*Reader:* More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos we magnify you.

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

*Reader:* 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, by the prayers of His most pure Mother; by the prayers of the honorable and glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and

Baptist John, the heavenly intercessor of our community; by the prayers of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and by the prayers of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

*Reader:* Amen.