



The Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

“There is no other sacred hymn that compares with this monumental work, which Saint Andrew wrote for his personal meditations.” (Synaxarion of the Lenten Triodion and Pentecostarion, 2001) The Great Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete originated around 730 AD, and is a profoundly repentant and intense prayer, designed to uncover the roots of sin within ourselves and expose them to God for our healing. It closely examines the persons of the Bible, and compares them and their examples,-- good and bad,-- to our own inner selves.

Located within Great Lent, a time of repentance and preparation for renewed life, the Great Canon is a fitting means through which Christians might see their own failings, and make ready to appreciate the awesome sacrifice that Jesus made for our salvation, through His coming Crucifixion on Good Friday and Resurrection on Easter morning.

Saint Andrew was born in Damascus, Syria to Christian parents. He was unable to speak until he was seven. When his parents took him to church for communion, he received his speech. As an adult, he eventually became Archbishop of Crete and was greatly loved by the people.