



CANON
OF SUPPLICATION TO OUR HOLY AND GOD-BEARING
FATHER PAISIUS (VELICHKOVSKY)

Commemorated November 15/28

ODE 1

Hiermos, Tone 8

When Israel passed through the water as dry land and had escaped the malice of the Egyptians, they cried: Let us sing to our Redeemer and our God.

Of the Venerable One.

Blossoming forth from a God-loving and righteous family, O holy Father Paisius, from childhood thou didst show forth thy soul's purity and longing for God. Meek, gentle, cheerful and loving, thou didst acquire a wisdom and understanding beyond thy childish years.

Resolved to devote thy whole life to God while yet a child, thou didst guard well thy heart and enlarge the foundation laid by thy righteous family. Thus was a noetic temple of great spaciousness built, wherein we all take refuge, O holy Father Paisius, entrusting ourselves to thy loving intercession.

When thou didst desire to devote thyself wholly to the monastic life, fleeing the world and worldly wisdom while yet a child, thy mother grieved

inconsolably at thy departure; yet drawing near to death she beheld a vision instructing her to grieve no longer, but to follow thine example. And healed of her weakness she entered the monastic life, laboring as a nun until her peaceful and blessed repose.

Theotokion

All those who possess thee as champion and helper, O Virgin, are set free from adversities; for thou hast held the Master of creation in thy pure arms as the Fruit of thy blessed womb.

ODE 3

Hiermos

Lord, Creator of the vault of heaven and Builder of the Church, strengthen me in Thy love, O Summit of desire, O Support of the faithful, O only Friend of man.

Of the Venerable One

When thy native land groaned beneath the heavy yoke of Uniat persecution, thou didst flee to Moldavia, seeking a monastic home and a spiritual father to whom thou couldst devote thyself in a life of obedience and prayer. Like thy beloved Master, thou hadst nowhere to lay thy head; and though seeking with tears and enduring great physical hardships, thy search remained fruitless. Yet as prophesied to thee by a righteous Elder, God Himself was to be thy teacher, guiding thee along the path of asceticism laid out by the Holy Fathers.

Not trusting thyself, thou didst continue to search out a spiritual father with intense pain and longing; yet not finding one, thou didst make thy metanoia of obedience to the Holy Fathers, becoming a worthy disciple indeed of their instructions and words of life. Wherefore, help us, beloved Father Paisius, to form the intent to offer our fitting metanoia, to be transformed by soul-saving obedience.

Like Anthony the great saint of the Kiev Caves, God led thee through many lands and peoples in thy search of a spiritual father; and throughout thy journey thou didst gather spiritual wisdom from all to whom God led thee, engraving upon thy heart the noetic wisdom preserved by those thou didst encounter.

Theotokion

O Virgin Theotokos, who art the holiest of all the holy, pray to thy Son, Christ our God, that, having emulated them, we may inherit what hath been prepared for us from the foundation of the world, glorifying thee, the Ever-virgin.

ODE 4

Hiermos

Thave heard, O Lord, the mystery of Thy plan. I contemplate Thy works and glorify Thy divine nature.

Of the Venerable One

When thou camest to the Holy Mountain of Athos in thy continued search for a teacher and guide, O holy Father Paisius, thine earnest desire was still denied thee. But all the more didst thou immerse thyself in the teachings of the Holy Fathers and in the zealous study of the Scriptures, cultivating within thyself continual self-reproach, contrition, love for God and neighbor, and the unceasing remembrance of death.

The Lord raised thee up as a new enlightener for the Orthodox lands in the dark night of persecution and martyrdom by the Turks and Uniats. And spurred on by thine own inner longing, O holy Father Paisius, thou didst bring into the light of day the ancient teachings on the noetic Prayer of Jesus, which had been buried under a thick cloud of spiritual darkness. And having guarded well the inheritance entrusted to thee, thou hast become a benefactor of many lands, a universal father to all who seek the path of life.

With fasting, tears and great spiritual labors didst thou toil in the Garden of the Panagia as a noetic husbandman, planting, tending, watering and bringing forth a bountiful harvest, kneading the dough of the life-giving teachings of the Holy Fathers to produce the spiritual bread that nourisheth thy followers even after thy blessed repose.

Theotokion

Together with our shepherd, who trusted in thee, O Mistress, pray to thy Son, Christ our God, for us who take shelter beneath thy protection, that He vouchsafe His kingdom to us sinners.

ODE 5

Hiermos

Enlighten us by Thy commandments, O Lord, and by Thine uplifted arm grant us Thy peace, O Friend of man.

Of the Venerable One

With untiring labor and zeal didst thou compel thyself in the angelic life; and dismayed neither by the frailness of thy body nor the difficulty of thy task, thou didst claim the crown of victory through humility, self-reproach and constant thanksgiving to God, O greatest of spiritual athletes, leaving for us an example that waxeth not old and whereby we too may ascend the ladder to heaven.

In the young monk Bessarion did the Lord send thee a fellow struggler of like mind and heart; and together ye fulfilled the life of obedience thy soul had sought for so many years. Soon others, seeing thine exemplary life and skill in the guidance of souls, desired to join thee and live under thy holy direction; but in thy great humility thou didst refuse all until, moved by the tearful entreaty of thy fellow men, thou didst set aside thine own desires, out of thy great love and compassion for all.

Thy quickly growing brotherhood soon outgrew the small cells where thou hadst settled on the Holy Mountain. Without food, barely clad in tattered rags, without a roof over their heads, thy fledgling brotherhood was forged amid great physical suffering and privation; and finding refuge with the Prophet Elias, thy brotherhood was transplanted to his skete, where it soon flourished like a lily of great beauty in Panagia's Garden.

Theotokion

O all-pure Theotokos, thou knowest how utterly bereft am I of any hope of salvation because of my indolence and negligence. But I entreat thee: Vanquish these Amaleks, that undespoiled by them, I may stand before thy Son.

ODE 6

Hiermos

I will pour out my prayer to the Lord, and to Him will I confess my grief; for my soul is full of evil and my life has drawn near to hell, and like Jonah I will pray: Raise me up from corruption, O God.

Of the Venerable One

Thy disciples found a true refuge within the safe harbor of thy fatherly heart and soul-saving instructions; for leading them to the Fountain and Source of life, thou didst fashion of them vessels of the Spirit, bearers of Living Water which they bore throughout the world, transforming barren souls into verdant gardens, fit dwelling-places for the Most High.

Having drunk deeply of the living water of the Patristic writings, and applying thyself unceasingly to the practice of the prayer of the heart, thou wast illumined with grace and didst attain unto the heights of noetic prayer and theoria. Training thy disciples in this nearly forgotten science of sciences, thou didst once more set the Holy Mountain aflame with the ceaseless invocation of the name of Christ.

Like the Gospel merchant seeking goodly pearls thou didst search out the writings of the God-bearing Fathers, O holy Father Paisius, giving thyself no rest until thou hadst found so many writings as had been lost through neglect, and didst work with diligence to make clear and comprehensible the words of Truth that had been obscured by ignorance and careless translation.

Theotokion

Bent beneath the weight of multitudes of sins, I am scarce able to move; yet do I bend the neck of my soul and body before thee, O Mistress, and entreat thee: Lift thou the burden from me, that I may stand erect.

ODE 7

Hiermos

Having arrived in Babylon from Judea, the Children of old by their faith in the Trinity trod down the flame of the furnace, singing: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Of the Venerable One

Establishing thy disciples firmly in the monastic life, thou didst lead them to the tree of life, holy obedience. Eating therefrom, feeble novices achieved self-denial and detachment from self-will and self-reasoning, becoming skilled warriors in the army of monastics and righteous elders that would, for generations

to come, wage the good fight against the enemy of our salvation and become a wall of refuge for countless souls seeking a life of repentance and prayer.

Soon in need of a larger dwelling for the many monks seeking entrance to thy brotherhood, thou didst for a time take shelter in the holy Monastery of Simonopetra. But driven from that abode by the Turks, thou didst with tears depart from the Garden of the Theotokos and didst transplant the tree of thrice-blessed obedience to the land of Moldavia, where it could flourish and blossom free of oppression.

Like the leaven hidden in the three measures of meal, thy disciples carried with them the sacred teachings thou didst embody in thy whole life, renewed monastic order throughout the Orthodox lands and enkindled once again the life of obedience and the ceaseless calling on the name of Jesus, as imparted to us by the fathers and teachers of the Church.

Theotokion

O impassable gate, open unto me the portal of true repentance, I pray; and show me the path of repentance, O pure guide of all.

ODE 8

Hiermos

The King of Heaven Whom hosts of angels praise, let us praise and exalt throughout all ages.

Of the Venerable One

Gathering the works of the Holy Fathers wherever they could be found, thou didst labor unceasingly to preserve these precious maps and charts indicating the path to Heaven. And giving no rest to thy frail body thou didst make these teachings available to the Moldavian and Slavic peoples, and didst safeguard and preserve this precious inheritance for the Greek people as well, who were then languishing in the dark night of Turkish bondage and oppression.

Warming those who came to thee with the great flame of thy love for God and neighbor, thou wast a merciful and compassionate

father to all. Unrelenting in thy severity towards thyself, thou didst sacrifice thyself for thy children, laboring with love, entreaty and fatherly admonition until thou hadst utterly cured spiritual ills and made each steadfast in obedience and unceasing prayer.

Unable to endure thy fruitful cultivation of the Jesus Prayer, the evil one stirred up against thee a fierce storm of slander and persecution, O holy Father Paisius. But with humility, love and wisdom from the Holy Fathers thou didst refute all the falsehoods and clearly show forth the Prayer of Jesus as the blessed inheritance and means for all Christians desiring to purify their hearts and draw closer to Christ.

Theotokion

The tempest of sins hath grievously assailed me, but I cry unto thee, O pure Mistress: By thy mediation steer me to saving repentance and the most tranquil harbor, that I who am ever darkened by slothfulness may behold the light of salvation.

ODE 9

Hiermos

Saved by thee, O pure Virgin, we confess thee to be supremely the Mother of God, and with the bodiless choirs we magnify thee.

Of the Venerable One

Passing through the land of Moldavia in thy youth as a lamb in search of a shepherd, thou didst thrice pray before the wonder-working icon of the Theotokos of Neamts, finding consolation before that precious image. After many years, thou didst again find refuge beneath her holy protection; for, driven out from Dragomirna monastery by Uniat persecution, thou wast given as a new monastic abode the holy Monastery of Neamts, placing into the hands of the Queen of Heaven thine own soul and the souls of the seven hundred monks who called thee father and shepherd.

The hearts of thy disciples wished to be illumined by thee forever and to be counted worthy ever to gaze upon thy most sweet and beloved countenance. Yet, moving from this life to that of heaven, thou bearest all seekers of God in thy

heart, and as a true Moses leadest all those desiring eternal life out of the slavery of Egypt to the Land of Promise, feeding with the milk of prayer and the honey of blessed obedience, all who place their trust in thine intercession.

Though thou didst depart this life and dwellest now in never-ending joy with Christ the Master, for Whom thou didst yearn, thou hast not left us fatherless. As in thine earthly life thou didst nurture the homeless and orphans with great love and care, so dost thou now embrace with thy fatherly protection and intercession all those seeking the true life of asceticism and prayer, through thy translation of the Holy Fathers and thine own words of life, reaching down to us through the ages, O blessed Father Paisius. In a world of darkness and delusion thou dost illumine for all the path to Christ and dost help us to bear the light and easy yoke of obedience.

Theotokion

Unto Him, before Whom the ranks of angels stand with trembling, and Who in His goodness united Himself unto men, didst thou give birth, O pure one. Him do thou earnestly entreat, that He have pity on thy servants.