

Canons of Compline and Transfers of Menaion Services for Great Lent 2018

Aleksandr Andreev

According to the *Typicon*, “beginning on Monday of the second Week of the Fast, we chant at Compline the Canons of the Menaion for the Saints that will come to be celebrated in the period from Lazarus Saturday to Thomas Sunday, together with the Canons for the Theotokos”. In light of this instruction, and keeping in mind the other indications of the *Typicon* concerning the transfer of Menaion commemorations to Compline during the Lenten period, the following schedule of Canons at Compline is possible in 2018.

First Week of Lent

Monday, February 6/19
At Great Compline: Great Canon

St. Bucolus of Smyrna

Tuesday, February 7/20
At Great Compline: Great Canon

St. Parthenius of Lampscaus and St. Luke of Hellas

Wednesday, February 8/21
At Great Compline: Great Canon

Great Martyr Theodore and Prophet Zechariah

Thursday, February 9/22
At Great Compline: Great Canon

Martyr Nicephorus

Friday, February 10/23
At Great Compline: Canon and Stichera for Hieromartyr Blaise (from February 11)
Canon for the Departed from the *Octoechos* in Tone 4

Hieromartyr Charalampus

Saturday, February 11/24
Compline is not served because All-night Vigil is served Saturday night

St Theodore the Recruit (Triodion Commemoration)

Second Week of Lent

Sunday, February 12/25

Sunday of Orthodoxy

+ Saint Alexis, Metropolitan of Moscow

At Little Compline: Canon for the Holy Prophets from the *Triodion*
Canon and Stichera for St. Meletius of Antioch (from February 12)

Monday, February 13/26
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 5
Canon and Stichera for St. Cyril of Jerusalem (from March 18, Lazarus Saturday)

St. Martinian of Cæsarea in Palestine

Tuesday, February 14/27
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 5
Canon and Stichera for Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria (from March 19, Palm Sunday)

St. Auxentius of Bithynia

Wednesday, February 15/28
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 5
Canon and Stichera for the Fathers slain at the Monastery of Saint Sabbas (from March 20, Great Monday)

Apostle Onesimus of the Seventy

Thursday, February 16/March 1 *Martyr Pamphilus the Presbyter and companions*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 5
Canon and Stichera for St. James the Confessor (from March 21, Great Tuesday)

Friday, February 17/March 2 **+ *Hieromartyr Hermogenes, Patriarch of Moscow***
At Great Compline: Canon and Stichera for Apostles Archippus and Philemon (from February 19)
Canon for the Departed in Tone 5

Saturday, February 18/March 3 **Comm. of the Departed** *St. Leo the Great of Rome*
Compline is not served

Third Week of Lent

Sunday, February 19/March 4 **St Gregory Palamas** (Triodion Commemoration)
At Little Compline: no canon

Monday, February 20/March 5 *St. Leo of Catania*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 6
Canon and Stichera for Hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra (from March 22, Great Wednesday)

Tuesday, February 21/March 6 *St. Timothy of Symbola / St. Eustathius of Antioch*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 6
Canon and Stichera for Martyr Nicon in Sicily (from March 23, Great Thursday)

Wednesday, February 22/March 7 *Holy Martyrs at the Gate of Eugenius*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Forefeast of the Annunciation (from March 24, Great Friday)

Thursday, February 23/March 8 *Hieromartyr Polycarp of Smyrna*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 6
Canon and Stichera for Archangel Gabriel (from March 26, Pascha)

Friday, February 24/March 9 **+ *Finding of the Head of St. John the Forerunner***
At Great Compline: Canon and Stichera for St. Porphyrius of Gaza (from February 26)
Canon for the Departed in Tone 6

Saturday, February 25/March 10 **Comm. of the Departed** *St. Tarasius of Constantinople*
Compline is not served

Fourth Week of Lent

Sunday, February 26/March 11 **Veneration of the Cross**
At Little Compline: Canon and Stichera for Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica (from March 27, Bright Monday)

Monday, February 27/March 12 *St. Procopius of Decapolis*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 7
Canon and Stichera for St. John Cassian (from February 29)

Tuesday, February 28/March 13 *St. Basil the Confessor*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 7

Canon and Stichera for Martyr Eudokia of Heliopolis (from March 1)

Wednesday, March 1/14 **Wednesday of Mid-Lent**

At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 7

Canon and Stichera for Hieromartyr Theodotus (from March 2)

Thursday, March 2/15

+ Reigning Icon of the Mother of God

At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 7

Canon and stichera for Martyr Eutropius and companions (from March 3)

Friday, March 3/16

Friday of Mid-Lent

At Great Compline: Canon and Stichera for Martyr Conon of Isauria (from March 5)

Canon for the Departed in Tone 6

Saturday, March 4/17

Commem. of the Departed *St. Gerasimus of the Jordan*

Compline is not served

Fifth Week of Lent

Sunday, March 5/18

St. John Climacus (Triodion Commemoration)

At Little Compline: Canon and Stichera for St. Hilarion the New (from March 28, Bright Tuesday)

Monday, March 6/19

42 Martyrs of Ammorina

At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 8

Canon and Stichera for St. Stephen the Wonderworker (from March 28, Bright Tuesday)

Tuesday, March 7/20

+ Holy Forty Martyrs of Sebaste

At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 8

Canon and Stichera for Hieromartyr Mark of Arethusa (from March 29, Bright Wednesday)

Wednesday, March 8/21

St. Theophylactus of Nicomedia

At Little Compline: No Canon

Thursday, March 9/22

Thursday of the Great Canon

At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 8

Canon and Stichera for St. Sophronius of Jerusalem (from March 11)

Friday, March 10/23

Martyr Quadratus and companions

At Little Compline: No Canon

In the Charnel house: Canon for the Departed in Tone 8

Saturday, March 11/24

Saturday of the Acahist Hymn

Compline is not chanted

Sixth Week of Lent

Sunday, March 12/25

St. Mary of Egypt (Triodion Comm.)

At Little Compline: Canon and Stichera for St. Theophanes the Sigriane (from March 12)

Monday, March 13/26 *St. Nicephorus of Constantinople*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 1
Canon and Stichera for St. Sophronius of Irkutsk (from March 30, Bright Thursday)

Tuesday, March 14/27 *St. Benedict of Nursia*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 1
Canon and Stichera for St. Hypatius of Gangra (from March 31, Bright Friday)

Wednesday, March 15/28 *Martyr Agapius and companions*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Theotokos in Tone 1
Canon and Stichera for St. Titus the Wonderworker (from April 2, Thomas Sunday)

Thursday, March 16/29 *Martyr Sabinus and Martyr Papas*
At Great Compline: Canon for the Afterfeast of the Annunciation (from March 26)

Friday, March 17/30 *St. Alexis the Man of God*
At Little Compline: Canon for Palm Saturday from the *Triodion*

Saturday, March 18/31 **Lazarus Saturday**
Compline is not chanted

The order of singing the Menaion services at Compline¹

Following the reading of the daily doxology, *Glory to God in the highest* (at Great Compline), or the Creed (at Little Compline), chant the Canon for the Theotokos from the Octoechos (without hirmoi) with the refrain “O Most-Holy Theotokos, save us,” and the Canon for the saint from the Menaion (also without hirmoi) with the appropriate refrain. Note that the Biblical Odes are not chanted at Compline.

If the Menaion has a Kontakion: after Ode 3: Sessional Hymn from the Menaion; G/N: Sessional Hymn for the Theotokos (printed after the 6th Ode in the Octoechos). After Ode 6: Kontakion and Ćcos from the Menaion.

If the Menaion lacks a Kontakion: after Ode 3: Sessional Hymn from the Menaion; G/N: Theotokion or Staurotheotokion from the Menaion. After Ode 6: Sessional Hymn for the Theotokos.

After Ode 9: Stichera from the Menaion written at *Lord, I have cried* of Vespers, with the same refrains as for the Canon; G: Menaion; N: Theotokion or Staurotheotokion from the Menaion. If the Menaion lacks a doxasticon, chant the first two stichera with the refrain of the canon; G: third sticheron; N: Theotokion or Staurotheotokion. If the Menaion lacks a Theotokion at *Lord, I have cried*, use the appropriate Theotokion from “the lesser ones” in the Tone of the last sticheron (these are found in the Supplement to the Menaion or the Appendix to the Octoechos, “Theotokia for the entire week”).

The *Typicon* does not specify how one ought to conclude the service. Customarily after the chanting of the stichera, *It is truly meet* is chanted, and then Compline proceeds as usual.

¹ Based on the information provided in the *Богослужебные указания* published by the Moscow Patriarchate, in turn based largely on the interpretation of Сырников, *Ключь къ Церковному Уставу*, Moscow, 1910, p. 67f.