

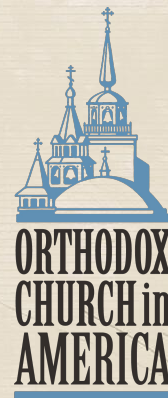
# WEBINAR I

## A CHOIR DIRECTOR'S PREPARATION FOR GREAT LENT



DEVELOPED BY  
The Academy of Orthodox Church Singing

OFFERED BY  
The Department of Liturgical Music  
Orthodox Church in America





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# THE WEBINAR SERIES

1. January 23 - A Choir Director's Preparation for Great Lent and the 1st week of Lent
2. February 6 - Preparing to Sing the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts and the first five weeks of Great Lent
3. February 20 - Preparing to Sing the Services of Great and Holy Week
4. February 27 - Preparing to Sing the Services of Great and Holy Pascha

## SOME CRITERIA BY WHICH WE MEASURE “SUCCESS”:

1. That the singing, as much as possible, creates an atmosphere conducive to liturgical prayer
2. That everything is done “decently and in order” (St Paul)
3. That there are no distractions or disruptions originating from the choir
  - a. Musical distractions (delays, false starts, wrong notes – “train wrecks” such everyone notices)
  - b. Behavioral distractions – talking, commotion, excessive movement on the kliros or in the choir, that’s visible or audible to congregation
  - c. Discordant, uncoordinated, out-of-tune singing, such that everyone notices
4. Oftentimes (but not always) this can be the result of musical selections that are not appropriate

## SOME CRITERIA BY WHICH WE MEASURE “APPROPRIATENESS”:

1. Is the character of the music in agreement with or reflective of the text and the general prayerful content of the service?
2. Is the music of a level of complexity or difficulty that is appropriate for the voices that are singing it?
  - a. Is the melody clearly heard? (which voice carries the melody?)
  - b. Are the other parts working effectively with the melody in order to produce harmonious and pleasant-sounding results?
  - c. Are the voices well balanced, or does one voice predominate?
3. Are the words being pronounced clearly and together?

# SOAR – STRENGTHS, OPPORTUNITIES, ASPIRATIONS, RESULTS

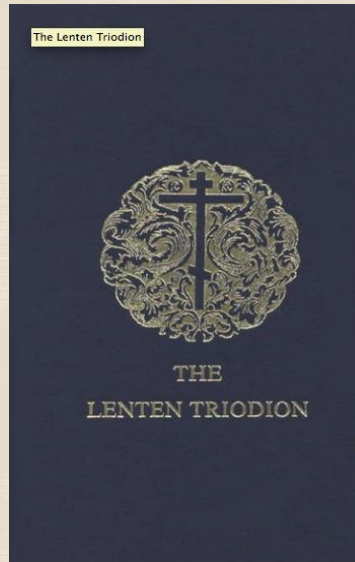
- What are our **strengths** in terms of singing the services? What has gone well? (Be specific)
- What has not gone so well? What are the **opportunities** for improvement?
- What might be some specific **aspirations** for our church singing going forward?
- What are some concrete **results** that can be achieved this year, this time around?

## PREPARATORY SUNDAYS OF GREAT LENT

1. The Sunday of Zacchaeus (Gospel reading only)
2. The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
3. The Sunday of the Prodigal Son
4. The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)
5. Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday) and the Remembrance of Adam's Expulsion from Paradise

# THE LENTEN TRIODION

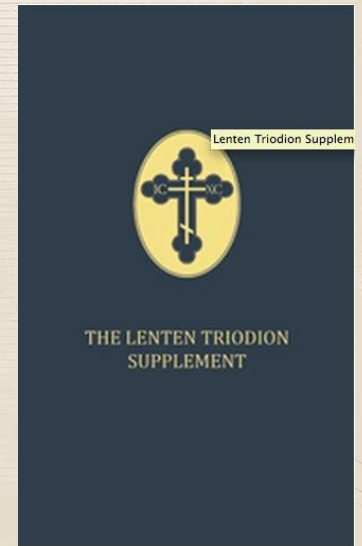
Translated by Met. Kallistos Ware and Mother Mary



<https://www.amazon.com/Lenten-Triodion-Mother-Maria/dp/1878997513>

<https://store.ancientfaith.com/the-lenten-triodion/>

<https://svspress.com/lenten-triodion-supplement/>







## BISHOP JONAH OF OBUKHOV, UKRAINE

<...> It is very sad that in many parish churches the Lenten Triodion does not reach the worshipers in its fullness: of the vast multitude of hymns, only a small percentage is used—and even those are rendered indistinctly, without the necessary attention to quality. This is a very sad thing...

<...> Finally a piece of practical advice: before going to a service, make the extra effort to look up on the Internet the texts of the service that will be sung that particular day. Review them in advance, so that you may be filled with the message that the Orthodox Church seeks to convey to us during Great Lent.

## A “HIERARCHY” OF PREFERENCE FOR ONCE-A-YEAR TEXTS:

1. Read by the reader – loudly and clearly
2. Sung well by a single singer – loudly and clearly, on the proper melodic part
3. Sung by a small select group of singers – those who know the Tones and can sing the text without mistakes
4. Sung by the full choir – but only if the choir knows the Tones and can sing the hymns clearly and without mistakes. Preferably gone over during choir rehearsal or warm-up just prior to the service.

## “SIGNATURE HYMNS” FOR PRE-LENTEN SUNDAYS

1. The Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
  - “Open to me the doors of repentance”
2. The Sunday of the Prodigal Son
  - “By the Waters of Babylon”
  - “Make haste to open unto me Thy fatherly embrace”
  - “Open to me the doors of repentance”
3. The Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare Sunday)
  - “I ponder upon the fearful day”
  - “By the waters of Babylon”
  - “Open to me the doors of repentance”
4. Forgiveness (Cheesefare Sunday)
  - “Adam sat before the gates of Eden” and other stichera of the day
  - “By the waters of Babylon”
  - “Open to me the doors of repentance”

## LINKS TO MUSICAL SELECTIONS

Kathisma hymn after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ode of the Kanon “Make Haste to Open to Me Thy Fatherly Embrace” (Bulgarian Chant)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLt6dsPLE10>

“I Ponder upon the Fearful Day” by Gavriil Lomakin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0w2NInhdPDE>

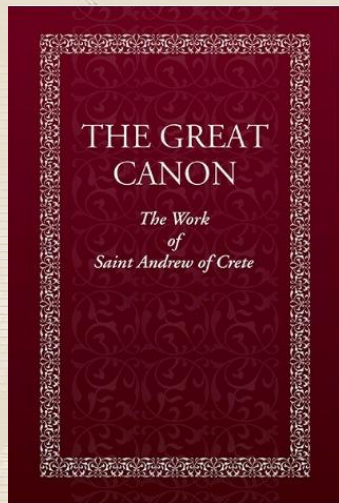
“Adam’s Lament” by Arvo Pärt

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCx-Meklym0>

“Adam Sat Before the Gates of Eden” (Sede Adam) Valaam Melody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l3PDKWWxPB0>

# THE GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW OF CRETE



Available on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.com/Great-Canon-Work-Andrew-Crete/dp/0884654524>

Also available from Holy Trinity Monastery, Jordanville;

<https://www.holytrinitypublications.com/the-great-canon-the-work-of-saint-andrew-of-crete>

SVS Bookstore

<https://svspress.com/the-great-canon-the-work-of-st-andrew-of-crete/>

Also available from Eighth Day Books (<https://www.eighthdaybooks.com/>) and other Orthodox booksellers.

# Any questions?

You can contact me at:

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