



SUPPLICATORY CANON  
TO OUR VENERABLE & GODBEARING MOTHER  
MILBURGA  
ABBESS OF WENLOCK  
THE WONDERWORKER

Priest: Blessed is our God... Reader: Amen. And he recites psalm 142.

*Then "God is the Lord" is sung four times, in mode iv, followed by the troparia below.*

*in Tone iv: Spec. Melody: - "You who were lifted on the Cross"*

**L**et us all now run with faith and contrition \* and venerate blessed Milburga's icon \* and drink the healing water \* that springs from her well \* chanting "Give heed to our cries, \* and come quickly to help us \* rescue us from every wrath, \* tribulation, and peril, \* and from contagious diseases keep us free, \* by your entreaties \* to God who has crowned you.

Glory...Both now. Theotokion. Same Melody.

**W**e the unworthy shall not ever be silent, \* O Theotokos, from proclaiming your powers. \* For were you not concerned to intercede for us, \* who would have delivered us \* from such manifold dangers, \* and who else would up to now \* have preserved us in freedom? \* O Lady, we shall not depart from you, \* for you ever save your serv-ants \* from evils of every kind.

*The reader recites psalm 50 and we then chant the following Canon of the saint, the acrostic whereof is "Praise to Milburga from me, the sinner David".*

*Mode pl. iv—Ode i. On crossing the water as though dry land*

**P**rotect me, Milburga, most wise in God, \* your most worthless hymner \* as I chant you a song of praise \* and scatter the shadows of my passions \* which have endarkened my mind and my intellect.

**R**emember unceasingly to beseech, \* Milburga, the Saviour \* since you have found boldness to Him \* from every affliction to deliver \* those who invoke your assistance with confidence.

**A**blaze with the ardour of love for Christ, \* you scorned earthly glories \* and the vanity of the world \* and followed the Lord, blessed Milburga, \* treading decisively the path of asceticism.

**I**n France you were trained in monastic life \* at the famous convent \* which the title most aptly bore \* of the Ever-Virgin Theotokos \* striving, Milburga, her virtues to imitate.

Theotokion.

**S**uperior in glory to angelic hosts \* you became, O Virgin, \* since you bore in your holy womb \* the Lord God whose glory they cannot face; \* hence we shall praise you, and have recourse to your aid.

Ode iii. *You constructed the heavens.*

**E**mulating the Angels \* throughout your life, you obeyed \* the divine commandments with fervour \* and crucified the flesh, \* having the Cross of Christ \* as an invincible weapon, \* wherewith you did overcome \* the demon's violence.

**T**enderly and yet firmly \* you led as Abbess your flock\* overseeing them, Mother Milburga, \* and always teaching them \* all that was valuable, \* gracious, honest, and lovely \* for Christ's word dwelt in you \* truly abundantly.

**O**wen the blessed hermit \* as an instructor you had\* and the wise Botolph as teacher, \* whereas the hierarch\* Theodore the divine \* as Abbess came to install you; \* and now pray with all of them \* for us who honour you.

Theotokion.

**M**other of God most Holy, \* blameless and pure Maid rejoice! \* whom the prophets saw as a ladder, \* as gate and sanctuary, \* from whom the Saviour came \* and saved from death and corruption \* those who were enslaved to sin \* and crushed the serpent's head.

**D**eliver us \* from all adversities, dangers, and tribulations \* through your prayers to Christ the Lord, \* and ask Him to grant to us, \* most blessed Milburga, \* help in temptations.

**L**ook graciously upon your servant, all-praiseworthy Theotokos, and upon my painful physical suffering, and remedy my anguish of spirit.

*The priest commemorates those for whom the supplication is being offered and we then chant the following sessional hymn.*

*Mode ii. In seeking the heights.*

**D**ou pour out the streams \* Milburga, of your miracles; \* you speedily come \* to help us when we pray to you \* and invoke your holy name. \* So we beg of you, as our patron saint: \* frustrate the schemes of those who plot against \* your supplicants, that we may offer you praise.

*Ode iv. I have heard, Lord, the mystery.*

**I**nexplicable miracles \* you performed, Milburga, having received this gift \* from the Lord God who was really pleased \* by your life of righteousness and abstinence.

**L**isten to me attentively, \* said the godly Abbess to those subject to her, \* and as children of obedience \* do strive to abstain from all the carnal lusts.

**B**ravely fighting the enemy\* with the Spirit's sword you did injure him; \* therefore Christ the righteous judge bestowed \* to you as a prize the crown of victory.

*Theotokion.*

**A**ntelligible is indeed \* to the minds of humans the sacred mystery\* of your giving birth to Christ our God; \* therefore we extol you, Sovereign Lady.

*Ode v. Lord, enlighten us.*

**R**aising high its streams \* river Corfe saved you from the prince, \* who enraged with detestable desires\* hunted after you, Milburga, modest bride of Christ.

**G**odly, brave, and wise \* leader of monastics having been, \* you did govern them in righteousness and truth, \* and you taught them by your life to perfect holiness.

**A**s a star you shone \* and dispelled the dark of paganism; \* now we ask you: vanquish swiftly all beliefs \* that pervert the apostolic faith appallingly!

Theotokion.

**F**avourably look \* upon me, O Ever-Virgin Pure, \* and deliver your suppliant at the hour\* of my end from hell eternal and the second death.

*Ode vi. I pour out my supplication to the Lord.*

**R**efresh us, \* as we are being sprinkled, Milburga, \* with the water from your well and give comfort \* to those who suffer from manifold ailments, \* and grant to us the petitions offered in faith, \* since from the Lord you have received \* Holy Abbess, the power of miracles.

**O**rators \* would fail to suitably praise you \* and proclaim your many wonders, Milburga, \* for the dead son of a dolorous widow \* you raised to life and restored vision to the blind \* and cleansed the leprous maid who had \* venerated your relics, O glorious one.

**M**agnificent \* was your life upon the earth \* though you sought to hide your virtues, Milburga; \* hence the wild geese did obey your commandments \* as also did once the birds damaging the maize; \* and now we ask you to protect \* all the meadows of those who do honour you.

Theotokion.

**M**ilburga \* the holy Abbess of Wenlock \* at her deathbed did commend, Theotokos\* to you the choir of monastics she gathered, \* and taught the precepts of God who was born of you; \* and now, Lady, pray with her \* for those calling on you without any doubt.

**D**eliver us \* from all adversities, dangers, and tribulations \* through your prayers to Christ the Lord, \* and ask Him to grant to us, \* most blessed Milburga, \* help in temptations.

**E**ntreat for us, \* O spotless Maiden who gave birth to the divine Word \* inexplicably through a word in the latter days, \* since you indeed \* speak with motherly freedom.

*The priest commemorates those for whom the supplication is being offered and we then chant the following Kontakion.*

*Mode ii. In the pools of your blood.*

**M**other Milburga, the glory of all Shropshire, \* gentle, yet mighty protectress of us your flock, \* beseech Christ your Bridegroom to pity us \* and from our enemies promptly deliver us \* and comfort us in your kind-heartedness.

*And straightaway the Prokeimenon, in Tone IV:*

*I waited patiently for the Lord, and He heeded me; and He heard my supplication.*

*Verse: And He established my feet on a rock and kept straight my steps.*

*Gospel according to Matthew (25:1-13)*

*(See on the Saturday of the 17<sup>th</sup> week of Matthew)*

Glory. Mode ii.

At the intercession of Your holy Ascetic, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

*Sticheron. Mode pl. ii. When the saints deposited.*

*Verse: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.*

**M**ilburga our patroness, \* illustrious offspring of Mercia, \* most praiseworthy bride of Christ, \* glory of monastics, \* Abbess divinely wise, \* listen now to our pleas, \* come to our assistance, \* and do not deprive us of your aid, \* but keep us always safe, \* and from all misfortunes deliver us, \* and heal our many sicknesses, \* and our proud opponents swiftly defeat, \* and beseech with boldness \* the Lord who many wonders works through you \* to make us worthy with you His face \* to behold eternally.

PRIEST: O God, save Your people etc.

Ode vii. *The Three Youths from Judea.*

**E**rmenburga, your mother, \* and your two holy sisters \* may they unite with you, \* with Botolph and with Owen, \* and Theodore the primate \* of all England and pray to God \* for the return of your kin, \* Milburga, to the right faith.

**T**he two innocent children \* led the monks to discover \* a treasure  
priceless indeed: \* the relics of Milburga \* emitting fragrant odour;  
\* hence they rejoiced exceedingly \* and chanted: Blessèd are you, \*  
the God of our fathers.

**H**ealings sprang out, Milburga, \* from the shrine of your relics\* to  
those who had prayed with faith; \* those who were blind received  
sight, \* the lame walked, and the deaf heard\* and the lepers were  
swiftly cleansed\* and chanted: Blessèd are you, \* the God of our fathers.

**E**ven the water once used \* for the rinsing, Milburga\* of your most  
sacred bones \* restored to health a woman, \* casting out of her  
stomach \* a worm that was tormenting her; \* hence in thanksgiving  
she praised, \* the God of our fathers.

Theotokion.

**S**helter me, I beseech you, \* your most unworthy servant \* beneath  
your holy veil; \* I have no other refuge, \* save you, O Theotokos, \*  
and to you I have come for help, \* the one who has given birth\* to  
our Lord and Saviour.

Ode viii. *The King of heaven.*

**I**nstead of riches\* you wisely chose self-denial, \* and austerity instead  
of worldly splendour; \* therefore now, Milburga, you do rejoice in  
heaven.

**N**othing debarred you \* from loving God with your whole heart; \*  
hence you bore with fortitude your illness, \* being tested by fever\*  
as silver in the furnace.

**R**asty and callous \* ruffians sent by a godless \* king did set fire to  
your sacred relics; \* but your name, Milburga\* doubtlessly lives  
for ever.

**E**ntrapped by passions \* and sorely vexed by temptations, \* I petition  
you, most holy Abbess, \* guide me to the haven\* of the Lord's will,  
Milburga!

Theotokion.

**R**avaged and wounded \* is my poor soul, Theotokos, \* by many  
transgressions and offences; \* heal me, Ever-Virgin, \* that I may  
praise you.

Ode ix. *We who through you, O Virgin.*

**D**eliver from all sorrows \* those who supplicate you, \* Mother Milburga, adornment of Shrewsbury, \* and as a gift of thanksgiving \* accept the hymns I wrote.

**A**s once you cleansed a leper, \* do now cleanse, I pray you \* my soul which is a den of iniquities, \* as I am sprinkled with the water \* drawn from your holy well.

**V**isit the congregation \* which treasures your icon, \* and comfort them with the gift of your miracles, \* Milburga most virtuous virgin, \* vessel of charity.

**I**n you, blessed Milburga, \* we have fled for refuge, \* and by your well we have gathered chanting anthems of praise; \* do recompense all our labours \* through your benevolence.

Theotokion.

**D**eign to assist me, Mary \* Virgin Theotokos, \* and shield me under your veil the most wretched one, \* for all my hope I have placed in \* your tender kindness.

Megalynaria.

It is truly meet to call you blessed...

**L**et us praise Milburga the bride of Christ, \* who spurned earthly riches \* and the glories of regal life, \* the abbess of Wenlock, \* the wondrous spring of healings, \* the glory of all Shropshire, \* our help in times of need.

**D**ou cleanse the poor lepers and heal the lame \* and the paralytic; \* to the blind you give back their sight, \* to the deaf their hearing \* you do restore, Milburga; \* wherefore we gladly praise you \* and do your signs proclaim.

**L**ike you tamed the wild geese, Mother, before \* curb now our opponents \* and deliver us from their plots; \* grant us understanding \* and courage in our troubles \* and succour us, Milburga, in your benevolence.

**W**ith your pious mother and sisters pray, \* with Owen the hermit and with Botolph the holy one, \* Milburga most glorious, \* and ask the Lord to grant us \* forgiveness of transgressions, \* and his heavenly peace.

**T**hose who full of faith, having no doubts \* and no hesitations \* your most sacred well now approach \* bless and, through the sprinkling \* of its streams save, Milburga, \* from sore eyes and from other \* ailments and maladies.

**J**oin the Theotokos, all you arrays \* of angelic powers, honoured Fore-runner of the Lord, \* holy Twelve Apostles \* and all the Saints together, \* and pray for our salvation, and intercede for us.

*Trisagion Prayers, the Troparion of the Saint, and commemoration by the Priest. At the end of the service the choir chants the following sticheron.*

*Mode ii. Joseph took You down.*

**O**nce you fell asleep in Christ the Lord \* the monastics buried your body, \* Milburga, Abbess most meek, \* in the church which you had built; \* and now in Shrewsbury \* the believers with faith and love \* approaching your icon \* from various infirmities, pains and diseases are healed; \* hence, we do implore you: protect us \* from every affliction and danger \* that boldly we may proclaim your miracles.

Lady, receive the supplications of your servants, and rescue us from all necessity and affliction.

O Mother of God, I have committed my every hope wholly unto you. Keep me under your shelter.

