**MARCH 26**

 **Monday evening Great Vespers followed by the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom/Annunciation**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 2**

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (11) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*

**Tone 2 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

O gracious Father,

my senselessness has robbed me of all Your gifts.

I have been far from You, working for a stranger.

I have tended beasts, but was not even filled with their food.

Knowing your compassion, I have run to You.//

Clothe my nakedness with Your love for mankind and save me!

*v. (10) The righteous will surround me; for You wilt deal bountifully with me.*

 *(*Repeat: “O gracious Father …”)

*v. (9) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.*

**Tone 1** *(from the Triodion, by Joseph) (O all-praised martyrs)*

Let us love the fast,

for by the power of the Holy Spirit

the evil passions of the soul will be driven out.

It will strengthen us in performing divine deeds;

it will direct our minds to heaven.

It will mediate forgiveness for our transgressions//

granted to us by the bountiful God.

 *v. (8) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.*

I have foolishly wasted my whole life with strangers, O Lord.

Now, like the Prodigal, I cry with compunction:

“I have sinned, O heavenly Father.

Be merciful to me, and save me!

Do not forsake me for ever,//

even though I, myself, had forsaken You!”

*v. (7) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 3** *(from the Triodion, by Theodore)*

Come, let us sing in psalms of joy,

embracing the precious fast!

In it we spiritually tread on the serpent,

crying to Christ with boldness:

“Count us worthy, O Savior,

to behold, uncondemned, Your Holy Cross,//

to adore it, and rejoice in it with joy!”

*v. (6) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 4** *(for the feast)*

In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin;

and with his greeting "Rejoice,"

he announced the good news that the Deliverer was to come forth from

 her.

Therefore, having received the salutation with faith,

she conceived You, the pre-eternal God, //

Who were well-pleased ineffably to become man//

for the salvation of our souls.

*v. (5) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope on the Lord!*

The Theotokos heard a tongue that she knew not,

for the Archangel addressed to her the words of glad tidings;

therefore, accepting the salutation with faith,

she conceived You, the pre-eternal God.

And so, rejoicing exceedingly, we too cry aloud to You:

“O God made flesh from her without change,//

grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls!”

*v. (4) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

Behold, our restoration has now been revealed to us:

in a manner beyond understanding God is united to mankind;

at the voice of the Archangel, delusion is destroyed,

for the Virgin receives joy;

things of the earth have become heaven;

and the world is freed from the ancient curse.

Let creation rejoice exceedingly and sing with voices of praise://

“O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to You!”

*v. (3) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

**Tone 1** *(from the Menaion, for the Archangel)(O all-praised martyrs)*

Gabriel, the greatest of the spiritual powers,

shining with heavenly brightness,

who with the hosts on high gazes upon the light of the Threefold Sun, came to the Virgin and announced to her the good news of the divine and

 awesome mystery,//

and he intercedes for our souls.

*v. (2) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

The great mystery till then unknown to the Angels

and hidden from all eternity

has been confided to you alone, O Gabriel;

and you have come to Nazareth and entrusted it to her who alone is

 pure.//

Pray with her that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

*v: (1) He makes His Angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.*

 *(Ps 103/104:4)*

O Gabriel, ever filled with light,

who do the will and fulfill the commandments of the Ruler of All,

thou Leader of the Angels, most excellent,

preserve those who honor you with love,//

and pray that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**  *(for the Feast, by John the Monk)*

The Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven,

to announce to the Virgin the good news of her conceiving.

And coming to Nazareth, he was filled with wonder at the miracle,

and reasoned within himself:

“How is it that He Who dwells on high, and Whom none can comprehend, is to be born of a Virgin?

How is He, Whose throne is Heaven and Whose footstool is the earth,

to be contained in the womb of a woman?

He upon Whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim

are not able to gaze

is well-pleased to be made flesh from her at a single word.

It is the Word of God Who is to come.

Why then do I hesitate, and not say to the Maiden:

‘Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with you!

Rejoice, pure Virgin!

Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!

Rejoice, O Mother of the Life!//

Blessed is the Fruit of your womb!’”

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

In God have we boasted all the day, and we will give thanks to Your Name

 for ever. *(Ps 43/44:8)*

*v: We have heard with our ears, O God, and our fathers have told us.*

 *(Ps 43/44:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (6:9-22)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

I will remember Your Name from generation to generation. (Ps 44/45:17)

 *v: My heart overflows with a goodly theme. (Ps 44/45:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (8:1-21)**

 **Exodus 3:1-8***(Theotokos)*

**Proverbs 8:22-30***(Theotokos)*

***The readings are followed by the Little Litany and with the singing of the Trisagion, the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom.***

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon**

From day to day proclaim the salvation of our God! *(Ps 95/96:2)*

*v: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! (Ps 95/961)*

**Epistle**

 Hebrews 2:11-18 *(Feast)*

 **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the*

*earth. (Ps 71/72:6)*

*v: May His Name be blessed for ever; may His Name continue as long as the sun! (Ps 71/72:17)*

**Gospel**

 Luke 1: 24-38 *(Feast)*

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

 **The Hymn to the Theotokos**

O earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O heavens, praise the glory

 of God!

Since she is a living Ark of God
let no profane hand touch the Theotokos.
But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her,
praising her in joy with the Angel’s song:
“Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with you!”

 **Communion Hymn**

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation.

*(Ps 131/132:14)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Liturgical music for the feast can be downloaded at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) ; Liturgical Music and Translations; Music Downloads, Major Feasts, Annunciation of the Theotokos.

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.