**APRIL 20**

**Fifth Saturday of Great Lent**

**Saturday of the Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos**

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Friday)**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 6**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 6** *Idiomelon**(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Departing from Thy divine commandments, as from Jerusalem,

going down to the passions of Jericho,

I was led astray by the vain glory of the cares of this life.

I fell prey to my own thieving thoughts.

They stripped me of the robe of sonship that was mine by grace.

Now I lie wounded, as one without the breath of life.

The priest approached and saw my body, but passed me by.

The Levite looked at it with loathing and walked away,

but Thou didst anoint me as with oil, O Lord,

Who ineffably didst take flesh from the Virgin

and of Thine own will

didst pour out blood and water from Thy side for our salvation.

Bind up my gaping wounds with linen, O Christ our God,//

and in Thy compassion join me to the heavenly choir!

V. (9) *The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

(Repeat: “Departing from Thy divine commandments…”)

V. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 6** *(for the Martyrs)*

Thy martyrs, O Lord,

did not deny Thee,

nor did they forsake Thy commandments.//

By their intercessions, have mercy on us!

V. (7) *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 6[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(for the Theotokos) (Having placed all their hope)*

Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel,

Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maiden,

and greeting thee, he said:

“Rejoice, earth that has not been sown!

Rejoice, burning bush that remains unconsumed!

Rejoice, unsearchable depth!

Rejoice, bridge that leads to Heaven!

Rejoice, ladder raised on high that Jacob saw!

Rejoice, divine jar of manna!

Rejoice, deliverance from the curse!

Rejoice, restoration of Adam;//

the Lord is with thee!”

V. (6) *If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

(Repeat: “Revealing to thee…”)

V. (5) *For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

(Repeat: “Revealing to thee…”)

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

“Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man,”

said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.

“How then dost thou speak to me of things that pass man’s power?

Thou hast said that God shall be with me

and shall take up His dwelling in my womb.

How shall I become the spacious habitation

and the holy place of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim?

Do not deceive me with trickery;

for I have not known pleasure,

I have not entered into wedlock.//

How then shall I bear a Child?”

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

(Repeat: “Thou dost appear to me…”)

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Then the bodiless Angel replied:

“When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome,

and what is beyond man comes to pass.

Believe that my sayings are true,

O all-holy and immaculate Lady!”

And she cried aloud:

“Let it be to me according to thy word,

and I shall bear Him Who is without flesh!

He shall borrow flesh from me,

that through this union of natures

He may lead man up to his ancient glory,//

for He alone has power so to do.”

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

(Repeat: “Then the bodiless Angel…”)

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

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

**Tone 2**  *(Theotokion, by Theophanes)*

Today the eternal mystery is revealed.

The Son of God becomes the Son of man.

By accepting the lowest, He grants me the highest.

Of old, Adam was deceived; he sought to become God,

but he did not receive his desire.

Now God becomes Man, that He may make Adam God.

Let creation rejoice! Let nature exult:

for the Archangel stands in fear before the Virgin,

and saying: “Rejoice!” he brings her the greeting by which our sorrow is healed.//

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who in Thy compassion didst become a man!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, / long-suffering and of great goodness. *(Ps. 102:8a)*

V. *Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy Name!*

*(Ps. 102:a)*

**Reading from Genesis (22:1-18)**

 **Tone 4** **Prokeimenon**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

*(Ps. 103:26)*

V. *Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!* *(Ps. 103:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (17:17-18:5)**

***(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)***

***(at the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning)***

**Tone 8 Troparion**  *(Theotokos)*

When the Archangel understood the mysterious command,

he came to the house of Joseph with haste and proclaimed to the unwedded Lady:

“He Who bowed the heavens by His condescension is contained fully and without change in thee!

As I behold Him in thy womb, taking the form of a servant, I am frightened, but cry://

‘Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!’”

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

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

**Tone 8** **Kontakion** *(Theotokos)*

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts!

We, thy servants delivered from evil

sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos.

As thou dost possess invincible might set us free from every calamity//

so that we may sing: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

*(Lk. 1:46-47)*

V. *For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed. (Lk. 1:48)*

**Epistle**

 (322) Hebrews 9:24-28

 (320) Hebrews 9:1-7 *(Theotokos)*

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place; Thou and the ark of Thy holiness!*

*(Ps. 131:8)*

V. *Lord, remember David, and all his meekness! (Ps. 131:1)*

 **Gospel**

 (35) Mark 8:27-31

 (54, 58) Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 *(Theotokos)*

**Communion Hymn**

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps.* *115:4)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, 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), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.

1. Music for the stichera to the Theotokos from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)