**MARCH 25**

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

**Matins (sung on Monday)**

**"God is the Lord…" Tone 4**

**Tone 4 Troparion**

Today is the beginning of our salvation,

the revelation of the eternal mystery!

The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin

as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.

Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace,//

the Lord is with thee!” *(thrice)*

**Magnification**

With the Archangel’s voice

we cry aloud to thee, O Pure Virgin:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace,

for the Lord is with thee!”

 V. *Give the King Thy judgments, O God, and Thy righteousness unto the King’s son. (Ps. 71:1)*

V. *He shall come down as rain upon a fleece. (Ps.71:6a)*

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

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

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon**

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

V. *Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! (Ps. 95:1)*

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

V. *Praise God in His sanctuary! Praise Him in His mighty firmament! (Ps. 150:1)*

 **Gospel**

 (4) Luke 1:39-49, 56

**Tone 2 Post-Gospel Stichera**

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

Through the prayers of the Theotokos,

O merciful One,//

blot out the multitude of our transgressions.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos,

O merciful One,//

blot out the multitude of our transgressions.

**Tone 6**

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to Thy great mercy;

according to Thine abundant mercy,//

blot out my transgression!

**Tone 2** *(by Cosmas the Monk)*

Today Gabriel announces the good tidings to her who is full of grace:

“Rejoice, unwedded Maiden!

Be not amazed at my strange appearance, nor be afraid.

I am an Archangel.

The serpent once beguiled Eve,

but now I announce to thee the good tidings of joy, O most pure one.//

Thou shalt remain inviolate and shalt give birth to the Lord.

**The Canon**

**Tone 4 Ode 1 – Heirmos** *(by John the Monk)*

I will open my mouth, and it will be filled with the Spirit,

and I will pour forth my words to the Queen and Mother.

I will be seen radiantly keeping feast

and will joyfully praise her conceiving.

*On Ode 2, the Biblical Canticle is NOT SUNG, but the verses from the Triodion are sung, preceded by the refrain “Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!”*

**Ode 3 – Heirmos**

As thou art a living and abundant spring,

establish, O Theotokos, those who sing thy praise,

forming a spiritual chorus;

and in thy divine glory

count them worthy of crowns of glory.

*The Little Litany, then the Sessional Hymn (not presented here).*

**Ode 4 – Heirmos**

He Who sits in glory on the throne of the Godhead,

Jesus, the transcendent God, has come in a light cloud,

and by His immaculate hand has saved those who cry:

“Glory to Thy Power, O Christ!”

**Ode 5 – Heirmos**

All things were amazed at thy divine glory,

for thou, O Virgin, who hast not known wedlock,

hast held in thy womb God Who is above all,

and thou gavest birth to a timeless Son,

Who bestows salvation upon all who sing thy praises.

**Ode 6 – Heirmos**

Prefiguring the three days’ burial,

the Prophet Jonah in the whale cried out in prayer:

“Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, King of Hosts!”

*The Little Litany, then the Kontakion:*

**Tone 8 Kontakion**

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!”

**Ode 7 – Heirmos**

The Godly-minded Children

would not worship the creation rather than the Creator,

but bravely trampling on the threat of fire, they rejoiced and sang:

“Blessed art Thou and praised above all, O Lord God of our Fathers!”

**Ode 8 – Heirmos**

Hear, O Maiden, pure Virgin:

let Gabriel tell thee the counsel of the Most High which is ancient and true!

Make ready to receive God,

for through thee, He Who cannot be contained will dwell among mortals.

Therefore, rejoicing I cry aloud:

“Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord!”

*After the Festal Canon of Ode 8, the Eighth Ode of the Canon from the Triodion is sung, without the Biblical Canticle, with the refrain “Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!”*

We praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

*The Katavasia from the Triodion is sung after Ode 8.*

**Ode 9 – Megalynarion and Heirmos**

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 thee!”

*After the Festal Canon of Ode 9, the Ninth Ode of the Canon from the Triodion is sung, without the Biblical Canticle, with the refrain “Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!” The Katavasia from the Triodion is sung after Ode 9.*

*The Little Litany, then the Exapostilarion:*

**1st Exapostilarion** *(While the disciples)*

The Captain of the Angelic Hosts

was sent by God the Almighty

to the pure Virgin

to announce the good tidings of a strange and secret wonder:

that as a man, God would be born

of her without seed,

fashioning again the whole race of man.//

O people, announce the good tidings of the renewal of the world!

**2nd Exapostilarion** *(Hearken, ye women)*

The mystery of God from all eternity

is made manifest today:

the Word of God in His mercy becomes the Son of the Virgin,

and Gabriel proclaims the joy of the Annunciation.

Let us with him exclaim to her://

“Rejoice, O Mother of the Lord!”

*The Praises are read, not sung. Stichera of the Feast are sung, presented below:*

V. *Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness! (Ps. 150:2)*

**Tone 1** *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

From the vault of heaven Gabriel flew down

and came to Nazareth;

and standing before the Virgin Mary, he cried to her: “Rejoice!

Thou shalt conceive a Son, more ancient than Adam,

the Maker of all things and the Deliverer of those who cry to thee://

‘Rejoice, O pure Virgin!’”

V. *Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp! (Ps. 150:3)*

(Repeat: “From the vault of heaven…”)

V. *Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe!*

 *(Ps. 150:4)*

Gabriel brought the Good News from heaven to the Virgin,

and he cried out the greeting, “Rejoice!

Thou shalt conceive Him Who can be contained in thee,

yet Whom the world cannot contain;

and thou shalt be seen to bear within thy womb//

Him Who shone forth from the Father before the morning star.”

V. *Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! (Ps. 150:5)*

The coeternal Word of the Father Who is from all eternity,

without being parted from things on high,

now has come among those below,

in His infinite compassion taking pity upon our fall;

He has assumed the poverty of Adam//

and taken a form that is alien to Him.

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

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

**Tone 2** *(by Theophanes)*

The mystery from all eternity is revealed today,

and the Son of God becomes the Son of man,

that, by sharing in what is worse, He may make me share in what is better.

Adam was cheated of old;

he did not become God, as he desired.

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

Let creation rejoice, let our nature exult;

for the Archangel stands in awe before the Virgin

and brings the greeting “Rejoice!” to take the place of Eve’s sorrow.

In Thy merciful compassion, O our God, Thou didst become man,//

glory to Thee!

*Then the Lesser Doxology and the Morning Litany, followed by the Aposticha:*

**Aposticha**

**Tone 8** *Idiomelon (from the Lenten Triodion)*

Contemplate, O my soul, the condemnation

of the prideful Pharisee

which came from his self-exaltation.

Understand that the humble Publican’s justification

came from his confession of sin.

Set aside the one’s tendency to boast of his deeds;

accept the other’s confession, for thou hast sinned.

Arise and obtain from Christ indestructible nobility

which comes from controlling the passions,//

for Christ has great mercy!

V. *Satisfy us in the morning with Thy steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Make us glad as many days as Thou hast afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil. Let Thy work be manifest to Thy servants, and Thy glorious power to their children.* *(Ps. 89:16-18)*

(Repeat: “Contemplate, O my soul…”)

V. *Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it.* *(Ps. 89:19)*

 **Tone 8** *(for the Martyrs)*

You bound yourselves to noble tasks, O saints,

by steadfastly enduring the tortures of lawless men,

and confessing Christ before the kings.

After departing from life, you still act in the world,

healing the sick of their passions.//

Pray that our souls may be saved, O saints!

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

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

 **Tone 8** *(for the Feast, by John the Monk)*

Let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice:

For the Son Who is co-eternal with the Father,

sharing His throne, and equally without beginning,

has submitted Himself to emptying in His compassion and merciful love for mankind,

according to the good pleasure and the counsel of the Father;

and He has gone to dwell in a Virgin’s womb, sanctified by the Spirit.

Oh, wonder!

God is come among men!

He Who cannot be contained is contained in a womb;

the Timeless enters time, and oh, great mystery:

His conception is without seed, His emptying past telling!

So great is this mystery!

For God empties Himself, takes flesh, and is fashioned as a Creature,

when the angel tells the pure Virgin of her conception://

“Rejoice, O Full of grace! The Lord Who has great mercy is with thee!”

*“It is good to give thanks…” and the Trisagion Prayers. After “Our Father…”, the Troparion of the Feast:*

**Tone 4 Troparion**

Today is the beginning of our salvation,

the revelation of the eternal mystery!

The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin

as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.

Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace,//

the Lord is with thee!”

*The remainder of the service follows the order for Lenten Matins on a Feast.*

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*