**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 you!” *(thrice)*

**Magnification**

With the Archangel’s voice

we cry aloud to you, O Pure Virgin:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace,

for the Lord is with you!”

 V. *Give the King Your judgments, O God, and Your 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 2**

Have mercy on me, O God,

according to Your great mercy;

according to Your 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 you the good tidings of joy, O most pure one.//

You shall remain inviolate and shall 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.

**Ode 3 – Heirmos**

As you are a living and abundant spring,

establish, O Theotokos, those who sing your praise,

forming a spiritual chorus;

and in your 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 Your Power, O Christ!”

**Ode 5 – Heirmos**

All things were amazed at your divine glory,

for you, O Virgin, who have not known wedlock,

have held in your womb God Who is above all,

and you gave birth to a timeless Son,

Who bestows salvation upon all who sing your 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, your servants delivered from evil

sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos.

As you 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 are You and praised above all, O Lord God of our Fathers!”

**Ode 8 – Heirmos**

Hear, O Maiden, pure Virgin:

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

Make ready to receive God,

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

Therefore, rejoicing I cry aloud:

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

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

**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 you!”

*The Little Litany, then the Exaposteilarion:*

**1st Exaposteilarion** *(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 Exaposteilarion** *(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 Tone 1**

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise Him in the highest!//

To You, O God, is due a song!

Praise Him, all you Angels of His!

Praise Him, all His hosts!//

To You, O God, is due a song!

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!

You shall conceive a Son, more ancient than Adam,

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

‘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!

You shall conceive Him Who can be contained in you,

yet Whom the world cannot contain;

and you shall be seen to bear within your 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 You merciful compassion, O our God, You became man,//

glory to You!

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*Then the Augmented Litany, the Litany of Fervent Supplication, the Prayer of Inclination, and the Great Dismissal.*

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