**MARCH 25**

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

**Vespers (sung on Monday)**

***NO KATHISMA***

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 8**

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

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (What shall we call thee)*

Today, as we pass the middle of Lent

by the might of the Cross

let us glorify the One Who was raised upon it in the midst of the earth!

Let us glorify our mighty Savior and our God, crying out:

“O Master, let us behold Thy Passion and Thy holy Resurrection,//

and grant us forgiveness and great mercy!”

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

Let us humble our fleshly passions

by abstaining from food and turning away from pleasures!

Let us with faith embrace the Wood of the Cross!

It is exalted before us for our veneration

and sanctifies all with divine grace.

So let us cry aloud to the Lord:

“We give thanks to Thee, O compassionate One,//

for Thou art saving our souls through the Cross!”

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

**Tone 8** *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore)*

As we all venerate the Cross, let us cry:

“Rejoice, Tree of life!

Rejoice, holy scepter of Christ!

Rejoice, heavenly glory of man!

Rejoice, majesty of faith!

Rejoice, invincible weapon!

Rejoice, vanquisher of enemies!

Rejoice, shining radiance that saves the world!

Rejoice, great glory of martyrs!

Rejoice, power of saints!

Rejoice, light of the angels!//

Rejoice, O precious Cross!”

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.*

**Tone 6[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(from the Menaion, for the Feast) (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. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

(Repeat: “Revealing to thee…”)

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

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

(Repeat: “Thou dost appear to me…”)

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

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.”

*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, 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 thee!

Rejoice, pure Virgin!

Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!

Rejoice, Mother of the Life!//

Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!’”

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Hear my voice, O God, / when I pray to Thee. *(Ps. 63:1a)*

V. *Deliver my soul from fear of the enemy. (Ps.63:1b)*

**Reading from Genesis (8:21-9:7)**

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

Hear us, O God of our salvation, / Who art the hope of all the ends of the earth and the farthest seas. *(Ps. 64:6)*

V. *Praise is due to Thee, O God, in Zion, and to Thee shall vows be performed.*

*(Ps. 64:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (11:19-12:6)**

**Old Testament Readings** *(Annunciation)*

**Genesis 28:10-17**

**Ezekiel 43:27-44:4**

**Proverbs 9:1-11**

**Aposticha**

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

The proud Pharisee was rejected for his boasting,

but the humble Publican was justified through his silent prayer.

O my soul, learn the difference between the two;

choose humility and accept it in your heart,

for Christ has promised to give grace to the humble,//

for He is the Lover of man.

V. *To Thee I lift up mine eyes, O Thou Who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122:1-2)*

(Repeat: “The proud Pharisee…”)

V. *Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)*

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

Entreat our God, O martyrs of the Lord,

and beseech abundant mercy for our souls,//

and forgiveness of our many transgressions!

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

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

**Tone 4** *(from the Menaion, for the Feast, by Andrew of Jerusalem)*

Today the good tidings of joy are proclaimed,

today is the festival of the Virgin;

things below are joined together with things on high.

Adam is made new;

Eve is freed from the primal grief;

and by the deification of the human nature that the Lord assumed,

the tabernacle of our substance has become a temple of God.

Oh, what a mystery!

The manner of His emptying cannot be known;

the manner of His conception is beyond speech.

An angel ministers at the miracle; a virginal womb receives the Son;

the Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high is well pleased,

and according to their common counsel, a reconciliation is brought to pass

in which and through which we are saved.

For this reason let us unite our song with Gabriel’s,

crying aloud to the Virgin:

“Rejoice, O Lady Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!

From thee is our salvation, Christ our God,

Who, by assuming our nature, has led us back to Himself.//

Humbly pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!”

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(Feast)*

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!” *(once)*

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

1. Music for the Annunciation 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)