

MARCH 25

Wednesday of the Fourth Week in Great Lent

Vespers (sung on Tuesday)

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

"Lord I Call..." Tone 6

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

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

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

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

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

**Tone 6** (from the Lenten Triodion, for the Cross) (Having placed all hope)

You endured the Cross and Passion

in the midst of the earth, O merciful Lord,

granting all men redemption and freedom from passions.

Therefore on the middle day of the Fast,

we set Your Cross before us and venerate it with rejoicing.

Glorious with the light of divine virtues,

may we be counted worthy to see Your passion and life-giving Resurrection!//

O only merciful Word of God.

*v. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Nailed upon the Cross,  
Your side pierced with a spear,  
You were counted as a lifeless corpse,  
and given gall to drink, O long-suffering Master,  
Who sweetened the waters of Marah by the hand of Moses.  
Therefore I entreat You and pray:  
“Uproot the bitter passions from my understanding,  
sweeten my mind with the honey of repentance,//  
and grant that I may worship at Your holy Passion!”

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

**Tone 1** *(from the Lenten Triodion, for the Cross) (He Who once spoke to Moses)*

Today we see the mighty Cross placed before us  
which Moses once prefigured with outstretched arms,  
as He put Amalek to flight.  
O peoples, trembling, let us touch it with pure minds and lips,  
for Christ was raised up on it when he slew death.  
May we all be counted worthy of His grace,  
and, praising the Savior of all with hymns inspired by God,//  
let us pray that we may come to His saving Resurrection!

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

**Tone 6\*** *(from the Menaion, for the Feast) (Having placed all hope)*

Revealing to you the pre-eternal counsel,  
Gabriel came and stood before you, O Maiden,  
and greeting you, 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 you!”

---

\* Music for the stichera from the Menaion – March 25 (Annunciation) can be downloaded at <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos>

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

“You appear to me in the form of a man,”  
said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.  
“How then do you speak to me of things that pass man’s power?  
You have 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. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards 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,  
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, Mother of the Life!//  
Blessed is the Fruit of your womb!'"

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon**

Sing to God, sing praises to His name; / lift up a sing to Him Who rides upon the  
clouds! (Ps 67/68:4)

*v: His name is the Lord, exult before Him! (Ps 67/68:4b)*

**Reading from Genesis (9:8-17)**

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon**

I am afflicted and in pain; / let Your salvation, O God, set me on high. (Ps 68/69:29)

*v: Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who see God, let your hearts revive!*  
(Ps 68/69:32)

**Reading from Proverbs (12:8-22)**

**Old Testament Readings**

**Reading from Genesis (28:10-17) (*Annunciation*)**

**Reading from Ezekiel (43:27-44:4) (*Annunciation*)**

**Reading from Proverbs (9:1-11) (*Annunciation*)**

## Aposticha

### Tone 3      Idiomelon

I surpass the Publican in transgressions,  
but do not even compete in his repentance.  
I have not accomplished the good deeds of the Pharisee,  
yet I boldly out-do his boasting.  
By Your infinite humility, O Christ God,  
through which You laid low the high-minded demons on the Cross,  
establish in me the good deeds of the one  
and the humility of mind of the other,  
confirming in me the good intentions of each, //  
and save me, O Savior!

*v: I lift up mine eyes to You, 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 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: "I surpass the Publican...")

*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 122/123:3-4)*

### Tone 3      (for the Martyrs)

The Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs of Christ  
have taught mankind to praise the consubstantial Trinity.  
They have given light to the nations that had gone astray //  
and have made the sons of men companions of the Angels.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4**      *(for the Annunciation, 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 you!  
From you 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**      *(Annunciation)*

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!"

---

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.