

MARCH 25

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)**

Note: Due to the Feast, there is no Kathisma from the Psalter.

"Lord I Call..." Tone 1

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) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*
- v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*
- v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Tone 1 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Let us keep a spiritual fast, O brethren!
Let us speak no lies or deceit with our tongue!
Let us not give each other cause for stumbling,
but by repentance let the lamp of our soul shine brightly!//
Forgive us our sins in Thy love for mankind!

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

(Repeat: "Let us keep a spiritual fast, O brethren...")

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

Tone 3 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph)* *(Great is the power of Your Cross)*

Through the prayers of Your divine Apostles, O Lord,
grant us to spend this time of fasting with compunction of heart,//
that being saved we may glorify You, O compassionate One!

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

Great and awesome is Your coming, O Lord,
when You will sit in righteous judgment.
Despite my guilt, do not condemn me, O God, //
but by the prayers of Your Apostles, spare me!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (Having placed all their hope)*

O Apostles of Christ,
lights for those born on earth,
rich treasuries of the knowledge of God,
by your holy prayers deliver from temptations us who praise you.
Guide us safely through the course of the Fast,
and keep our lives in peace,
so that we may reach Christ's Passion unharmed //
and with boldness offer hymns of praise to our God.

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 their 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!"

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

* 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>

“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 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 your 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 you!
Rejoice, pure Virgin!
Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!
Rejoice, Mother of the Life!//
Blessed is the Fruit of your womb!'"

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

Be glad in the Lord, / and rejoice, O you righteous! *(Ps. 31:11a)*

V. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven. (Ps. 31:1a)

Reading from Genesis (4:16-26)

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us / as we have set our hope on You! *(Ps. 32:22)*

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps. 32:1)

Reading from Proverbs (5:15-6:3)

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 28:10-17 *(Annunciation)*

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

Proverbs 9:1-11 *(Annunciation)*

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

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.