

MARCH 25/26

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (sung on Thursday)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 5

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!*

Tone 5 *Idiomelon* (from the Lenten Triodion)

Of old, our first parents did not fast according to the Creator's command
and received death as a fruit of the Tree of Knowledge.

They were banished from the Tree of Life and from the sweetness of Paradise.

Therefore, O faithful, let us fast from the food that perishes

and from the passions that destroy us,

so that we may acquire life from the divine Cross,

and return with the Good Thief to our ancient fatherland,//

receiving great mercy from Christ our God!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

(Repeat: "Of old, our first parents...")

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

* Note: There is an extra sticheron and verse, for Archangel Gabriel, to make 11 total verses.

Tone 4 (from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph) (You have given a sign)

Your side was pierced when You hung upon the wood,
pouring life out upon me.
I was deadened by the guile of the serpent by eating from the tree.
Therefore I glorify You, O Christ, and entreat Your compassion:
“Grant me to complete the Fast with compunction,//
that I may venerate Your Passion and Resurrection!”

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

The fruit of the tree brought sorrow to Adam, the first-formed man,
for You banished him from Paradise,
but when You were crucified as Man upon the Tree
You called him back, O Savior.
Therefore I cry to You, O Redeemer:
“Set me free from all my sorrow.
cleansing me through tears, repentance, and fasting,
now rescue me from my sorrow,//
O most gracious Jesus, the Savior of our souls!”

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

Tone 5 (from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (In the time of Moses, O Lord)

O Lord, in hymns we praise Your life-creating Cross,
for by slaying death It has caused life to blossom in the world.
And now we offer It to You in intercession.
Strengthen us as we fast in these holy days;
give us strength to battle passions
and achieve a peaceful victory,//
according to the greatness of Your mercy, O Lover of man!

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.

Tone 4† *Idiomela* *(from the Menaion, for the Feast)*

In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin;
and with his greeting “Rejoice,”
he announced the good news that the Deliverer was to come forth from her.
Therefore, having received the salutation with faith,
she conceived You, the pre-eternal God,
Who were well-pleased ineffably to become man//
for the salvation of our souls.

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

The Theotokos heard a tongue that she knew not,
for the Archangel addressed to her the words of glad tidings;
therefore, accepting the salutation with faith,
she conceived You, the pre-eternal God.
And so, rejoicing exceedingly, we too cry aloud to You:
O God, made flesh from her without change,//
grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls!

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

Behold, our restoration has now been revealed to us:
in a manner beyond understanding, God is united to mankind;
at the voice of the Archangel, delusion is destroyed,
for the Virgin receives joy;
things of the earth have become heaven;
and the world is freed from the ancient curse.
Let creation rejoice exceedingly and sing with voices of praise://
“O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to 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>.

Tone 1[‡] *(from the Menaion, for the Archangel) (O all-praised martyrs)*

Gabriel, the greatest of the spiritual powers,
shining with heavenly brightness,
who with the hosts on high gazes upon the light of the Threefold Sun,
came to the Virgin and announced to her the good news of the divine and
awesome mystery, //
and he intercedes for our souls.

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

The great mystery till then unknown to the angels
and hidden from all eternity
has been confided to you alone, O Gabriel;
and you have come to Nazareth and entrusted it to her who alone is pure. //
Pray with her that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

V. He makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. (Ps. 103:5)

Gabriel, ever filled with light,
who do the will and fulfill the commands of the Ruler of All,
Leader of the angels, most excellent,
preserve those who honor you with love, //
and pray that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

*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.

[‡] Music for Archangel Gabriel from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at www.oca.org.

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 4 Prokeimenon

Your mercy, O Lord, is in heaven, / and Your truth reaches to the clouds. *(Ps. 35:5)*

V. Your righteousness is like the mountains of God. (Ps. 35:6a)

Reading from Genesis (5:1-24)

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, / and He shall exalt you to inherit the earth! *(Ps. 36:35a)*

*V. Fret not yourself because of evildoers; do not be envious of those who do evil!
(Ps. 36:1)*

Reading from Proverbs (6:3-20)

And two readings for the Feast: **Exodus 3:1-8** *(Theotokos)*
 Proverbs 8:22-30 *(Theotokos)*

The readings are followed by the Little Litany and the Trisagion, and the rest of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Annunciation)*

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)

Epistle (306) **Hebrews 2:11-18** *(Annunciation)*

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth.
(Ps. 71:6)*

*V. May His Name be blessed forever; may His Name continue as long as the sun!
(Ps. 71:17)*

Gospel

(3) Luke 1:24-38 (*Annunciation*)

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

The Hymn to the Theotokos

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!"

Communion Hymn

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. (*Ps. 131:14*)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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.