

MARCH 24

Forefeast of the Annunciation

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (sung on Wednesday)

"Lord I Call..." Tone 4

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 4 *Idiomelon* *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Like the Prodigal,

I recklessly squandered my Father's riches.

Forlorn and destitute, I dwelt in a land of evil men.

In my foolishness I became like the senseless beasts,

stripped of all divine grace.

But now I have returned and cry to You,

the compassionate and merciful Father://

"I have sinned, O God, but receive me in repentance, and have mercy on me!"

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

Tone 4 *(for the Martyrs)*

O Martyrs of the Lord,

living sacrifices, spiritual oblations,

perfect victims, sheep who know God and are known by Him,

whose fold no wolf can enter;//

pray that we too may graze with you beside still waters!

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

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

O Apostles, eyewitnesses of God,
rays of light from the spiritual Sun:
entreat Him to enlighten our souls and deliver us from the dark night of
passions!

Pray that we may see the day of salvation!
By your prayers and intercessions,
may our hearts, which the Evil One has wounded, be cleansed,
so that, saved by faith, we may always honor you, //
who save the world by your wise preaching.

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.

Like the Prodigal, I wandered off into an evil land.
I recklessly squandered the riches that You gave me.
Now I pine with hunger, starved of good deeds.
Stripped of divine grace, I am clothed with the shame of sin.
I have sinned, and yet I know Your goodness.
Receive me as one of Your hired servants, O compassionate Christ, //
by the prayers of the Apostles, who loved You!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Triodion, by Theodore) (At the right hand of the Savior)*

O Apostles of the Savior,
lights of the world, its benefactors and its saviors,
like the heavens you tell the glory of God,
adorned with stars of miracles and signs of healing.
Fervently intercede before the Lord for us,
that He may accept our prayers as incense,
and make us worthy to behold and kiss the life-giving Cross with fear!
As we venerate Your Cross, O Savior, //
send down on us great mercy in Your love for mankind!

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 4 *(from the Menaion, for the Forefeast) (As one valiant among the martyrs)*

The mystery hidden from all eternity,
unknown even by the Angels,
is now entrusted to the Archangel Gabriel.
He will come to you, O precious vessel;
he will salute you and cry in joy:
“Rejoice, pure dove! Rejoice, all-holy one!//
Make ready by your word to conceive the Word of God!”

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

The palace of light is ready for You, O Master,
the womb of the undefiled child of God.
Come down to her; come to visit Your fallen world,
which is held in bitter slavery to the jealous Enemy!
Many ages have passed since its beauty was destroyed.
Make haste to descend to earth, O Lord!//
Come to deliver us from the way of death!

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

Gabriel the Archangel comes to you, O all-blameless one;
he will greet you, crying with joy:
“Rejoice, deliverance from condemnation!
Rejoice, chosen vessel made perfect for God!
Rejoice, life-bearing dawn of the endless day!//
The Lord, Whom the heavens cannot contain, is pleased to dwell in you!”

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

Tone 2 *(from the Menaion, for the Forefeast, 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.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

I will trust in the mercy of God / for ever and ever. *(Ps. 51:8b)*

*V. Why do you boast, O mighty man, of mischief done against the godly?
(Ps. 51:1)*

Reading from Genesis (7:6-9)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

When the Lord turns back / the captivity of His people. [/ let Jacob rejoice and let Israel be glad.] *(Ps. 13:8b)*

V. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Ps. 13:1)

Reading from Proverbs (9:12-18)

(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.