

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 Friday)**

"Lord I Call..." Tone 7

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.

Tone 7 *Idiomelon (from the Lenten Triodion)*

Like the Prodigal, I have turned away from Your grace.

I have spent the riches of Your goodness, O Lord.

I now run to You, crying, O tender-hearted One://

"I have sinned, O God, have mercy on me!"

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

Tone 6 *(for the Martyrs, in the Tone of the week)*

Walking in the steps of Christ's sufferings,

the whole company of martyrs resolutely approached their many struggles,

and proclaimed Him as God before the ungodly torturers and lawless kings;

and they endured many torments

in the hope of obtaining the glories of heaven.

Seeing them now, they rejoice,

and with all the choirs of the bodiless hosts,//

they stand in the presence of the Lord.

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

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

Your martyrs, O Lord,
did not deny You,
nor did they forsake Your commandments.//
By their intercessions, have mercy on us!

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

Your victorious Martyrs, when they contended on this earth,
endured great torments;
but now they dwell in heaven and have received a perfect crown,/
that they may offer intercession for our souls.

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.

[†] 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>.

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!

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.*

[‡] Music for Archangel Gabriel from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos>.

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 4 Prokeimenon

O grant us Your help against the enemy, / for vain is the help of men! (*Ps. 59:12*)

V. O God, You have rejected us, and have broken our defenses. (*Ps. 59:1a*)

Reading from Genesis (8:4-21a, ending with “And the
Lord smelled the pleasing fragrance.”)

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

Hear my cry, O Lord, / listen to my prayer! (*Ps. 60:1*)

V. From the ends of the earth I call to You. (*Ps. 60:2a*)

Reading from Proverbs (10:31-11:12)

And two readings for the Feast:

Old Testament Readings

Exodus 3:1-8 (*Theotokos*)

Proverbs 8:22-30 (*Theotokos*)

Tone 4 Troparion

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!”

Tone 8 Kontakion

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts!
We, your servants delivered from evil
sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos.
As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity //
so that we may sing: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

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.