

MARCH 25/26

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel,
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

"Lord I Call..." Tone 3

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

Let us perform a spiritual fast!
Let us loose every tie!
Let us flee from the pitfalls of sin!
Let us forgive our brother's debts
that our transgressions may also be forgiven!
Then we will be able to sing://
"Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, O Lord!"

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

Tone 8 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Joseph)* *(What shall we call you)*

To what shall you be likened, O wretched soul?
You are lazy in good deeds, but watchful for evil!
Repent, for judgment is at the door:
Cleanse yourself by prayer and fasting,
and cry out to the Master:
"I have sinned against You;//
pardon me in Your compassion and grant me forgiveness!"

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

Your loving kindness is wider than the sea!
Dry up the sea of my evil and sin, O Christ my God,
for You alone are sinless.
Grant my heart compunction,
and restrain the tempest of my wickedness
that I may sing Your praises
and glorify Your infinite compassion,//
O Benefactor of our souls Who are long-suffering!

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

Tone 8 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore) (The Paradise of Eden)*

You lead us through the time of the holy Fast, O God,
and have enabled us to enter into its second week.
Grant, O Lord, that in the weeks to come
we may run the race with all our might.
Give our souls and bodies grace and strength
that we may complete the course with courage and joy
and come to the royal day of Resurrection,//
that wearing crowns of victory we may ceaselessly praise You!

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!

* 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>.

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!

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)

† 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>.

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.
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 1 **Prokeimenon**

The Lord, strong and mighty! / The Lord, mighty in battle! *(Ps. 23:8b)*

V. The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. (Ps.23:1a)

Reading from Genesis (3:21-4:7)

Tone 6 **Prokeimenon**

Look upon me, and have mercy on me / for I am lonely and afflicted. *(Ps. 24:16)*

V. To You, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. (Ps.24:1)

Reading from Proverbs (3:34-4:22)

And two readings for the Feast:

Old Testament Readings

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!

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.