

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

*Note: Because it is the Week of the Cross, the Service to the Archangel Gabriel is set aside and said at Compline or on another day.*

"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.*

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

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

I surpass the Publican in transgressions,

but do not even compete in his repentance.

I have not accomplished the good deeds of the Pharisee,

yet I boldly out-do his boasting.

By Your infinite humility, O Christ God,

through which You laid low the high-minded demons on the Cross,

establish in me the good deeds of the one

and the humility of mind of the other,

confirming in me the good intentions of each,//

and save me, O Savior!

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

**Tone 3**     *(for the Martyrs)*

The Prophets, Apostles, and martyrs of Christ  
have taught mankind to praise the consubstantial Trinity.  
They have given light to the nations that had gone astray//  
and have made the sons of men companions of the Angels.

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

**Tone 6**     *(from the Lenten Triodion, for the Cross) (Having placed all their hope)*

You endured the Cross and Passion  
in the midst of the earth, O merciful Lord,  
granting all men redemption and freedom from passions.  
Therefore on the middle day of the Fast,  
we set Your Cross before us and venerate it with rejoicing.  
Glorious with the light of divine virtues,  
may we be counted worthy to see Your Passion and life-giving Resurrection,//  
O only merciful Word of God.

*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.*

Nailed upon the Cross,  
Your side pierced with a spear,  
You were counted as a lifeless corpse  
and given gall to drink, O long-suffering Master,  
Who sweetened the waters of Marah by the hand of Moses.  
Therefore I entreat You and pray:  
"Uproot the bitter passions from my understanding,  
sweeten my mind with the honey of repentance,//  
and grant that I may worship at Your holy Passion!"

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

**Tone 1** *(from the Lenten Triodion, for the Cross) (He Who once spoke to Moses)*

Today we see the mighty Cross placed before us  
which Moses once prefigured with outstretched arms,  
as he put Amalek to flight.  
O peoples, trembling, let us touch it with pure minds and lips,  
for Christ was raised up on it when He slew death.  
May we all be counted worthy of His grace,  
and, praising the Savior of all with hymns inspired by God, //  
let us pray that we may come to His saving Resurrection!

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

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

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!"

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8**     *Idiomelon*     *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Today, the Master of creation and Lord of glory  
is nailed to the Cross and His side is pierced.  
He Who is the sweet drink of the Church tastes gall and vinegar.  
The One Who crowned the heavens is crowned with thorns;  
He is vested in a robe of mockery.  
The Creator of the earth is struck with human hands.  
He accepts scourging, spitting, and buffeting,  
all for the sake of me, as I stand condemned!  
He is my God and compassionate Deliverer,//  
Who saves the world from deceit!

*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**

Sing to God, sing praises to His name; / lift up a sing to Him Who rides upon the clouds! (Ps. 67:4a-b)

*V. His Name is the Lord, exult before Him! (Ps.67:4c)*

**Reading from Genesis (9:8-17)**

**Tone 6      Prokeimenon**

I am afflicted and in pain; / let Your salvation, O God, set me on high. (Ps. 68:34)

*V. Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who see God, let your hearts revive! (Ps. 68:37)*

**Reading from Proverbs (12:8-22)**

*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!

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