

MARCH 25

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary
Vespers alone (sung on Tuesday)**

"Lord I Call..." Tone 8

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!*
- v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*
- 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 Joseph)* *(What shall we call you)*

O faithful, let us control our passions through abstinence;
let us have love as our food!
Let us strive to live a life that is acceptable to God!
For our sake, He was raised upon the Cross,
and His side was pierced by a spear.
In this way we shall enjoy the food of eternal life,//
glorifying the Savior of 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.*

Of old, we received death from the tree,
but now we find life again through the Tree of the Cross.
So let us put to death the impulses of the passions!
O faithful, let us entreat the Benefactor,
that, shining with the radiance of divine works, and adorned with virtues,
we may attain the saving Resurrection, //
glorifying the Savior of our souls!

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

Tone 2 *(from the Lenten Triodion, by Theodore)*

We praise Your life-bearing Cross, O Lord,
the suffering of Your holy flesh on our behalf,
the spear, the slaughter, the derision,
the spitting, scourging, and the buffeting,
the robe of purple and the crown of thorns.
By these, You have delivered us from the curse.
Therefore, we entreat You: //
“Enable us to complete the time of the Fast in peace!”

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 6* *(from the Menaion, for the Feast) (Having placed all their hope)*

Revealing to you the pre-eternal counsel,
Gabriel came and stood before you, O Maiden,
and greeting you, he said:
“Rejoice, Earth that has not been sown!
Rejoice, burning Bush that remains unconsumed!
Rejoice, unsearchable Depth!
Rejoice, Bridge that leads to Heaven!
Rejoice, Ladder raised on high that Jacob saw!
Rejoice, divine Jar of manna!
Rejoice, Deliverance from the curse!
Rejoice, Restoration of Adam; //
the Lord is with 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>

"You appear to me in the form of a man,"
said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.
"How then do you speak to me of things that pass man's power?
You have said that God shall be with me
and shall take up His dwelling in my womb.
How shall I become the spacious habitation
and the holy place of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim?
Do not deceive me with trickery;
for I have not known pleasure,
I have not entered into wedlock.//
How then shall I bear a Child?"

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

Then the bodiless Angel replied:
"When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome,
and what is beyond man comes to pass.
Believe that my sayings are true,
O all-holy and immaculate Lady!"
And she cried aloud:
"Let it be to me according to your word,
and I shall bear Him Who is without flesh!
He shall borrow flesh from me,
that through this union of natures
He may lead man up to his ancient glory,//
for He alone has power so to do."

*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 4 **Prokeimenon**

Lord, You have been our refuge / from generation to generation. *(Ps. 89:1)*

V. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and the world were made. (Ps. 89:2a)

Reading from Genesis (15:1-15)

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon**

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High / will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. *(Ps. 90:1)*

V. He will say to the Lord: “You are my Protector.” (Ps. 90:2a)

Reading from Proverbs (15:7-19)

And three readings for the Feast:

Old Testament Readings *(Annunciation)*

Genesis 28:10-17

Ezekiel 43:27-44:4

Proverbs 9:1-11

Aposticha

Tone 5 *Idiomelon* (from the Lenten Triodion)

Banished from Your straight path by the passions, O Christ,
in my wretchedness I have fallen down into the pit.
The Levite and the priest both passed me by,
but You, O Christ, had mercy on me.
You tore up the handwriting of my sins by the weapon of the Cross,
enlightening me with passionlessness and enthroning me on high with the
Father.
Therefore I cry to You://
“O incomprehensible Lord, glory to You!”

V. I lift up mine eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122:1-2)

Tone 8 *Idiomelon* (from the Lenten Triodion)

I went down from Jerusalem,
slipping away from the commandments that You wrote there for all nations,
and I journeyed to Jericho,
yielding to my lusts like the dwellers there of old,
whom You gave to be slaughtered for their sins by Your people.
Through disobedience I fell into soul-destroying passions as though into the
hands of thieves;
beating me, they left me almost dead.
But, O Lord, as You voluntarily endured the nails and the spear because of man's
sin,
and worked universal salvation through the Cross in Jerusalem, //
heal me, and save me!

V. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122:3-4)

Tone 8 *(for the Martyrs)*

Your martyrs, O Lord,
forgetting the things of this life,
and enduring tortures for the sake of the life to come,
were shown to be its inheritors,
and now they rejoice with the angels.//
By their prayers, grant Your people 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 4 *(from the Menaion, for the Feast, by Andrew of Jerusalem)*

Today the good tidings of joy are proclaimed,
today is the festival of the Virgin;
things below are joined together with things on high.
dam is made new;
Eve is freed from the primal grief;
and by the deification of the human nature that the Lord assumed,
the tabernacle of our substance has become a temple of God.
Oh, what a mystery!
The manner of His emptying cannot be known;
the manner of His conception is beyond speech.
An angel ministers at the miracle; a virginal womb receives the Son;
the Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high is well pleased,
and according to their common counsel, a reconciliation is brought to pass
in which and through which we are saved.
For this reason let us unite our song with Gabriel's,
crying aloud to the Virgin:
"Rejoice, O Lady Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!
From you is our salvation, Christ our God,
Who, by assuming our nature, has led us back to Himself.//
Humbly pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!"

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Feast)*

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!" *(once)*