

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 Wednesday)

"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.

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

My thoughts, like thieves, have seized me, a wretched man.

My mind hath been robbed, and I have been sorely beaten.

My soul is wounded, and I am stripped of virtues.

I lie naked in the highway of life.

The priest saw my pain and hopeless wounds and looked away.

The Levite could not bear my groaning and passed me by.

But You were pleased to come, O Christ my God,

not from Samaria but from the flesh of Mary.

In Your love for man, grant me healing//

and pour upon me Your great mercy!

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

Tone 8 *(for the Apostles, by Joseph)* *(Lord, though You stood)*

You made Your disciples into living heavens, O Lord.
By their prayers deliver me from the evils of this earth,
and by abstinence lift up my thoughts to Your Passion,//
for You are merciful and love man!

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

This season of fasting helps us all to do the works of God.
Let us weep, then, with our whole heart and cry to the Savior:
“Through Your disciples, save us, O Lord of great mercy,//
as with reverence we sing of Your great love for man!”

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

Tone 8 *(for the Apostles, by Theodore)*

O Apostles, worthy of all praise and intercessors for the world,
physicians of the sick and guardians of health,
protect us on all sides as we pass through the Fast!
By God’s grace may we remain at peace with one another!
Preserve our minds untroubled by passions,//
so that we all may sing praises to the risen and victorious Christ!

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 4 **Prokeimenon**

O Lord God of vengeance, / show Yourself! *(Ps. 93:1)*

V. Rise up, O Judge of the earth; render to the proud their deserts! (Ps. 93:2)

Reading from Genesis (17:1-9)

Tone 4 **Prokeimenon**

Sing to the Lord / a new song! *(Ps. 95:1a)*

V. Sing to the Lord, bless His name! (Ps. 95:2a)

Reading from Proverbs (15:20-16:9)

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!