

## March 25 – Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation

### Tone 1

Lord, I have cried unto The, hearken unto me  
Hearken unto me, O Lord.  
Lord, I have cried unto Thee, Hearken unto me  
Attend to the voice of my supplication  
When I cry unto Thee.  
Hearken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth  
As incense before Thee,  
The lifting up of my hands  
As an evening sacrifice,  
Hearken unto me, O Lord.

*Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.*

*Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.*

*With men that work iniquity, and I will not join with their chosen.*

*The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me, as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.*

*For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.*

*They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened, as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades*

*For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.*

*Keep me from the snare with they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity*

*The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.*

*With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.*

*I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.*

*When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.*

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*In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.*

*I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, but there was none that did know me.*

*Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.*

*I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.*

*Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.*

*Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.*

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison // That I may confess Thy Name.*

### **Tone 1** *(from the Triodion)*

Thou wast clothed, O my soul, in the divinely-woven purple of self-mastery and in the fine linen of incorruption, but thou hast insulted thine own dignity. Thou hast made sin thy wealth and thy delight, and looked with scorn upon thy fellow men, like the rich man who despised Lazarus in his poverty. Lest thou share the rich man's punishment, become poor in spirit and cry to the Lord who for thy sake became poor: Before Thy Crucifixion Thou hast worn the purple of mockery, and for my sake wast nailed naked to the Cross; deliver me from eternal shame, O Christ, and clothe me in the raiment of Thy Kingdom.

*v. (9) The righteous shall wait patiently for me // Until Thou shalt reward me.*

**(Repeat: "Thou wast clothed, O my soul...")**

*v. (8) Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord // O Lord, hear my voice.*

Ruled by many passions, weakened by all the assaults of the evil one, my heart lies shamefully in the tomb of slothfulness, and it is crushed by lack of feeling as by a stone. O Savior, who by the Word of Thy lifegiving Cross hast brought to life all in hell, awaken me and give me life, that in fear I may glorify Thy divinity.

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive // To the voice of my supplication.*

At the prompting of the evil one I have always loved the riches of corrupting pleasure, and without conscience I have delighted in vanity. I have neglected my mind when it groaned like another Lazarus and hungered for God's food. O Word, deliver me in Thy tender mercy from the flames to come, that I may glorify Thy love for mankind.

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*v. (6) If Thou shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? // For with Thee there is forgiveness.*

### Tone 3

Today Lazarus has died and Bethany laments for him: but Thou, our Savior, shalt awaken him from the dead. Through the raising of Thy friend, Thou hast given us in advance an assurance of Thine own dread Resurrection, of hell's death and Adam's restoration to life; and we therefore sing Thy praises.

*v. (5) For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word // My soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

### Tone 4 *(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 Thee, the pre-eternal God,  
Who wast 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 in 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 Thee, the pre-eternal God.  
And so, rejoicing exceedingly, we too cry aloud to Thee:  
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 shall redeem Israel out of 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.

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Let creation rejoice exceedingly and sing with voices of praise://  
“O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to Thee!”

*v. (2) O praise the Lord, all ye nations // Praise Him all ye 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 He hath made His mercy to prevail over us // And the truth of Lord  
abideth forever.*

The great mystery till then unknown to the Angels  
and hidden from all eternity  
has been confided to thee alone, O Gabriel;  
and thou hast 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. (add.) He maketh his angels spirits, // and His ministers a flame of fire.*

Gabriel, ever filled with light,  
who doest the will and fulfilllest the commands of the Ruler of All,  
Leader of the Angels, most excellent,  
preserve those who honor thee with love, //  
and pray that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

*Glory... Now and ever...*

**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?”

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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 thee!  
Rejoice, pure Virgin!  
Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!  
Rejoice, Mother of the Life!//  
Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!'"

*Entrance with the Gospel: O Gladsome Light*

### **Prokimenon Tone 4** *(from the Triodion)*

The fear of the Lord / is the beginning of wisdom.

*v. I will give thanks to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart in the council of the upright and in the congregation.*

### **Reading from Genesis** (31:3-16)

Then the Lord said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was, and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. You know that I have served your father with all my strength; yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not permit him to harm me. If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. Thus God has taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me. In the mating season of the flock I lifted up my eyes, and saw in a dream that the he-goats which leaped upon the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that leap upon the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go forth from this land, and return to the land of your birth.'" Then Rachel and Leah answered him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has been using up the money given for us. All the property which God

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has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children; now then, whatever God has said to you, do.”

### Prokimenon Tone 4

He is merciful, full of compassion, and righteous.

*v. Blessed is the man that fears the Lord: he will delight greatly in His commandments.*

### Reading from Proverbs (23:3-21)

To do righteousness and justice  
is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.  
Haughty eyes and a proud heart,  
the lamp of the wicked, are sin.  
The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance,  
but every one who is hasty comes only to want.  
The getting of treasures by a lying tongue  
is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.  
The violence of the wicked will sweep them away,  
because they refuse to do what is just.  
The way of the guilty is crooked,  
but the conduct of the pure is right.  
It is better to live in a corner of the housetop  
than in a house shared with a contentious woman.  
The soul of the wicked desires evil;  
his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.  
When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise;  
when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge.  
The righteous observes the house of the wicked;  
the wicked are cast down to ruin.  
He who closes his ear to the cry of the poor  
will himself cry out and not be heard.  
A gift in secret averts anger;  
and a bribe in the bosom, strong wrath.  
When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous,  
but dismay to evildoers.  
A man who wanders from the way of understanding  
will rest in the assembly of the dead.  
He who loves pleasure will be a poor man;

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he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.  
The wicked is a ransom for the righteous,  
and the faithless for the upright.  
It is better to live in a desert land  
than with a contentious and fretful woman.  
Precious treasure remains in a wise man's dwelling,  
but a foolish man devours it.  
He who pursues righteousness and kindness  
will find life and honor.

### **Reading from Exodus (3:1-8)** *(from the Menaion for the Feast)*

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb'usites.

### **Reading from Proverbs (8:22-30)**

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,  
the first of his acts of old.  
Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.  
When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.  
Before the mountains had been shaped,

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before the hills, I was brought forth;  
before he had made the earth with its fields,  
or the first of the dust of the world.  
When he established the heavens, I was there,  
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of the deep,  
when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
then I was beside him, like a master workman;  
and I was daily his delight,  
rejoicing before him always.

*Small Litany. Trisagion Hymn.*

### **Prokimenon Tone 4** (*from the Menaion for the Feast*)

Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.  
*v. Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth.*

### **The Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews (2:11-18)**

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

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### The Gospel according to Luke (1:24-38)

After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, “Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.”

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no husband?” And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

*And the rest of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*