

Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

Vespers, Lord, I Have Cried, tone 6

Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel,
Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maid;
and greeting thee, he said:
“Rejoice, thou earth that hast not been sown;
“Rejoice, thou burning bush that remainest unconsumed;
“Rejoice, thou unsearchable depth;
“Rejoice, thou bridge that leadest to heaven and ladder raised on high that Jacob saw;
“Rejoice, thou divine jar of manna;
“Rejoice, thou deliverance from the curse;
Rejoice, thou restoration of Adam, the Lord is with thee.” (*twice*)

“Thou dost appear unto me in the form of a man,”
said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the heavenly hosts:
“How then dost Thou speak to me of things that pass man’s power?
“For thou hast said that God shall be with me,
“and shall take up His dwelling in my womb;
“and how, tell me, shall I become the spacious habitation and the holy place of Him that rideth
upon the cherubim?
“Do not beguile me with deceit:
“for I have not known pleasure, I have not entered into wedlock.
“How then shall I bear a child?” (*twice*)

“When God so wisheth,” said the bodiless Angel,
“The order of nature is overcome,
“And what is beyond man cometh to pass.
“Believe that my sayings are true, O all-holy Lady, utterly without spot.”
And she cried aloud, “Let it be unto me according to thy word:
“and I shall bear Him that is without flesh, who shall borrow flesh from me,
“that through this mingling
“He may lead man up unto his ancient glory,
for He alone hath power so to do.” (*twice*)

Both now and ever...tone 6 (by John the Monk)

Gabriel the Archangel was sent from heaven to announce to the Virgin
the glad tidings of her conceiving;
and coming to Nazareth he pondered in amazement on this wonder.
“O how shall He who dwelleth in the heights, whom none can comprehend,
“be born of a Virgin?
“How shall He whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is the earth
be held in the womb of a woman?
“He upon whom the six-winged seraphim and many-eyed cherubim cannot gaze
“hath been pleased at a single word to be made flesh of this His creature.
“It is the Word of God who dwelleth within her.
“Why then do I stand here, and not say to the Maiden:
“Rejoice, thou who art full of grace: the Lord is with thee.

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‘Rejoice, O pure Virgin;
‘Rejoice, Bride unwedded.
‘Rejoice, Mother of Life: blessed is the fruit of thy womb.’”

Two readings from the Triodion, if during a weekday of the Fast; If the feast falls on Saturday or Sunday, we first add readings from Exodus and Proverbs and then go to the other three.

Reading from Exodus ()

Reading from Proverbs ()

Reading from Genesis (28:10-17)

Reading from the Prophet Ezekiel (43:27-44:4)

Reading from Proverbs (9:1-11)

Aposticha, tone 4

In the sixth month the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin and with his greeting “Rejoice!” he brought good tidings, that the Deliverer would come forth from her. And so, accepting his salutation with faith, she conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God, who wast pleased to become man ineffably, for the salvation of our souls.

verse: Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God. (Psalm 95:2)

The Theotokos heard a voice she knew not, when the Archangel brought her the glad tidings of the Annunciation; and accepting the salutation with faith, she conceived the pre-eternal God. Therefore in great rejoicing we also cry unto Thee:
O God, who without change hast been made flesh from her, grant peace unto the world and to our souls great mercy.

verse: Sing unto the Lord a new song: sing unto the Lord, all the earth. (95:1)

Lo, our restoration is now made manifest to us:
God is ineffably united to me.
At the words of the Archangel error is laid low;
for the Virgin receiveth joy, and the things of the earth have become heaven.
The world is loosened from the ancient curse.
Let the creation rejoice exceedingly and raise its voice to sing:
O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to Thee.

Aposticha, Glory...now and ever...

Today there come glad tidings of joy:
it is the feast of the Virgin.
Things below are joined to things above.
Adam is renewed, and Eve set free from her ancient sorrow;
and the Tabernacle of the human nature which the Lord took upon Himself

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is consecrated as a Temple of God,
making divine the substance He assumed.
O mystery! The manner of His emptying is unknown,
the fashion of His conceiving is ineffable.
An angel ministereth at the wonder;
a virgin womb receiveth the Son.
The Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high giveth His consent;
and so the covenant is brought to pass by common counsel.
In Him and through Him are we saved,
and together with Gabriel let us cry aloud unto the Virgin:
“Rejoice, thou who art full of grace: the Lord is with thee.
From thee hath Christ our God and our Salvation taken human nature,
raising it up unto Himself.
Pray to Him that our souls may be saved.”

Troparion of Feast (*thrice*), tone 4

Today is the crown of our salvation
and the revelation of the mystery which is from before the ages!
The Son of God becometh the Son of the Virgin,
and Gabriel announceth the glad tidings of grace.
Wherefore, with him let us cry out to the Theotokos:
Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace!
The Lord is with thee!

Vesperal Liturgy For Annunciation

Vespers

Five stichera from the Triodion

Lord, I Have Cried...Feast, tone 4

During the sixth month the archangel was sent to the pure Virgin,
and having pronounced a salutation to her,
he announced that the Deliverer would come forth from her.
Wherefore, having accepted the salutation, she conceived Thee,
the pre-eternal God,
who wast well-pleased to become ineffably incarnate
for the salvation of our souls.

The Theotokos heard a tongue which she did not know,
for the archangel spake to her words of annunciation.
And accepting his salutation with faith,
she conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God.
Wherefore, rejoicing, we cry out to Thee:
O God who wast immutably incarnate of her,
grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls!

Behold, our restoration hath now been revealed to us!

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God uniteth Himself to men in manner past recounting!
Falsehood is dispelled by the voice of the archangel!
For the Virgin receiveth joy,
an earthly woman hath become heaven!
The world is released from the primal curse!
Let creation rejoice and chant aloud:
O Lord, our Creator and Deliverer, glory to Thee!

For the Archangel Gabriel, tone 1

The great Gabriel, the most godly radiant, and salvific intelligence,
who with the ranks on high beholdeth the light of the threefold Sun
and chanteth divine and awesome hymns,
prayeth that He grant unto our souls peace and great mercy.

tone 1

The great mystery unknown before to the Angels
and kept secret from before time began
was entrusted to thee alone, O Gabriel;
having arrived in Nazareth, thou didst declare it to her who alone is pure.
With her do thou pray that God grant unto our souls peace and great mercy.

verse: He maketh His Angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Ever full of light,
doing the will of the Almighty and carrying out His commands,
O Chief among the Angels, most excellent Gabriel,
save those who honor thee with love,
ever asking that God grant unto our souls peace and great mercy.

Glory...now and ever...tone 6

The Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven to announce the conception to the Virgin.
And, arriving in Nazareth, he pondered within himself, marvelling at the wonder:
“How is it that He who in the highest is unapproachable
is born of the Virgin;
that He who hath heaven for His throne and the earth for His footstool
is contained within the Virgin’s womb;
that He upon whom the six-winged and many-eyed beings cannot gaze
hath been well-pleased to become incarnate of her by His word alone?
This is God’s word.
Why, therefore, do I stand and not say to the Virgin:
‘Rejoice, O thou who art full of grace!
The Lord is with thee!
Rejoice, O pure Virgin!
Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!
Rejoice, O Mother of Life!
Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!’

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OT Readings

Prokeimenon

Triodion for the day

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Exodus 3:1-8 (Theotokos, in Menaion)

Proverbs 8:22-30 (Theotokos, in Menaion)

Little Litany

Trisagion

Prokeimenon, tone 4

Proclaim from day to day the good tidings of the salvation of our God.

verse: O sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord all the earth.

Alleluia, tone 1

verse: He shall descend like rain upon a fleece, like raindrops that water the earth.

verse: Let His name be blessed forever; let His name continue before the sun.

Epistle: Hebrews 306 (2:11-18)

Gospel: Luke 3 (1:24-38)

Instead of “Meet it is...” we sing (irmos tone 4)

O earth, announce glad tidings of great joy! Ye heavens, praise the glory of God!

May the hands of the profane in nowise touch the Theotokos, the animate ark of God; but let
the lips of the faithful, unceasingly chanting the cry of the angel, joyfully cry out: Truly
thou art more highly exalted than all, O pure Virgin!

Communion Verse

The Lord hath elected Zion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself. Alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.