

Vespertal Liturgy 2020 for the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

Vespers, Lord, I Have Cried...tone 4 *Five stichera from the Triodion*
Lead forth my soul from prison, that I may confess Thy name.

The Fast that now bringeth us blessings
hath now reached its midmost point:
it hath helped us to receive God's grace in the days that are past,
and it will bring us further benefit in the days still to come.
For by continuing in what is right we attain yet greater gifts.
We therefore cry to Christ, the Giver of all good:
"O Thou who for our sakes hast fasted and endured the Cross,
make us worthy to share uncondemned in Thy divine Passover.
May we spend our lives in peace
and rightly glorify Thee with the Father and the Spirit."

The righteous await me, till Thou shalt reward me.

tone 5

If we look for a spiritual recompense,
let us perform our good deeds in secret;
let us not proclaim them in the streets but keep them hidden in our hearts.
Then He who seeth the secrets of all men will reward us for our abstinence.
Let us complete the Fast, not with a sad countenance,
but praying in the inner chamber of our souls;
and without ceasing let us cry:
Our Father, who art in heaven,
lead us not into temptation, we pray,
but deliver us from the evil one.

Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice. Of the Cross,

tone 1

Let us all wash our souls clean in the waters of the Fast,
and, approaching the precious and honored Cross of the Lord,
let us venerate it with faith;
let us draw from it divine enlightenment,
gathering the fruit of eternal salvation, peace, and great mercy.

Let Thine ears give heed to the voice of my prayer.

O Cross, glory of the apostles,
attended by principalities and powers and archangels,
keep safe from all harm those that venerate thee.
Grant us to follow rightly to the end of the divine path of abstinence,
and to reach the day of salvation when we too shall be saved.

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If thou observest transgressions, Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee is propitiation.

tone 7

As we venerate today the Cross of the Lord,
let us cry: "Rejoice, Tree of life, victor over hell;
rejoice, joy of the world and slayer of corruption;
rejoice, for by thy power thou scatteredst the demons!
Strong support of the faithful, weapon that cannot be broken,
we pray thee, guard and sanctify those who show thee honor."

*For Thy name's sake, I have waited upon Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy
word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord. Of the Feast from the Menaion*

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.

From the morning watch even to the night, let Israel hope in the Lord.

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!

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption, and He shall
redeem Israel from all his transgression.*

Behold, our restoration hath now been revealed to us!
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!
O praise the Lord, all ye nations, praise him, all ye people.
*For the Archangel Gabriel, **tone 1***

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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.

For His mercy hath been confirmed upon us, and the truth of the Lord remaineth for ever.

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!’

OT Readings

Prokeimenon

Triodion for the day: Isaiah (6th Hour), The Reading from Genesis (9:18-10:1)

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Prokeimenon

Triodion for the day; The Reading from Proverbs (12:23-13:9)

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.