

25 MARCH
§ Annunciation to the Theotokos

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 6

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

O Lord, listen to me.

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;

Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.

O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
O Lord, listen to me.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

O Maiden, Gabriel came and stood before you; he revealed to you the pre-eternal counsel. In greeting you he said, "Hail, O earth which has not been sown! Hail, O burning bush which remains unconsumed! Hail, O unsearchable depth! Hail, O bridge which leads to heaven! Hail, O ladder raised on high which Jacob saw! Hail, O divine jar of manna! Hail, O deliverance from the curse! Hail, O restoration of Adam, the Lord is with you."

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;
my soul has waited for your word,
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

O Maiden, Gabriel came and stood before you; he revealed to you the pre-eternal counsel. In greeting you he said, "Hail, O earth which has not been sown! Hail, O burning bush which remains unconsumed! Hail, O unsearchable depth! Hail, O bridge which leads to heaven! Hail, O ladder raised on high which Jacob saw! Hail, O divine jar of manna! Hail, O deliverance from the curse! Hail, O restoration of Adam, the Lord is with you."

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord from morning watch until night,
from morning watch.

"You appeared to me in the form of a man," said the undefiled Maiden to the chief of the heavenly hosts. How then do you speak to me about things which surpass man's power? For you have said that God will be with me and will take up his lodging in my womb. How can I become the spacious habitation and the holy place of the one who rides on the Cherubim? Do not amuse me with deceit; for I have not known pleasure; I have not entered into wedlock. How then can I bear a child?"

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
and abundant redemption with him.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

"You appeared to me in the form of a man," said the undefiled Maiden to the chief of the heavenly hosts. How then do you speak to me about things which surpass man's power? For you have said that God will be with me and will take up his lodging in my womb. How can I become the spacious habitation and the holy place of the one who rides on the Cherubim? Do not amuse me with deceit; for I have not known pleasure; I have not entered into wedlock. How then can I bear a child?"

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord; every people, acclaim him!

Then the bodiless angel replied, "When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome and what is beyond the human race comes to pass. All-holy and blameless Lady, believe that my sayings are true. And she cried aloud, "Let it be to me according to your word; I will give birth to the one who is without flesh and who will borrow flesh from me so that through this mingling he may lead the human race to his ancient glory, for he alone has power so to do.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

Then the bodiless angel replied, "When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome and what is beyond the human race comes to pass. All-holy and blameless Lady, believe that my sayings are true. And she cried aloud, "Let it be to me according to your word; I will give birth to the one who is without flesh and who will borrow flesh from me so that through this mingling he may lead the human race to his ancient glory, for he alone has power so to do.

Glory: Both now:

Gabriel the archangel was sent from heaven to announce to the Virgin the glad news of her conceiving. When he came to Nazareth he pondered in amazement at this wonder, "How can the one who lives in the heights, whom no one can comprehend, be born from a virgin? How can the one, whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is the earth, be held in the womb of a woman? The one on whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim cannot gaze, has been pleased at a single word to be made flesh from this his creature. It is the Word of God who lives in her. Why then do I stand here and not say to the maiden, "Hail, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you! Hail, O pure Virgin! Hail, O unwedded Bride! Hail, O Mother of life! Blessed is the fruit of your womb!"

Entrance

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
when we come to the setting of the sun
and see the light of evening,
we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
with voices of praise,
O Son of God *and* Giver of life.

Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeimenon

Of the Day

Prophecy 1

From the Book of Genesis (28:10-18)

Jacob went away from the well of the oath and left for Haran. ¹¹ He came to a certain place and slept there, for the sun had gone down. He took one of the stones of the place, put it under his head and lay down to sleep in that place. ¹² He dreamed and see there was a ladder fixed on the earth, whose top reached heaven, and the angels of God ascended and descended on it. ¹³ Then the Lord stood on it, and said: I am the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. Do not fear; the land on which you lie, to you I will give it, and to your seed. ¹⁴ Your seed will be like the sand of the earth; it will spread out to the sea, to the south, to the north and to the east. In you and in your seed will all the tribes of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ See I am with you to preserve you continually along all the way on which you will go. I will bring you back to this land, for I will not desert you, until I have done all that I have said to you. ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said: The Lord is in this place and I did not know it. ¹⁷ He was afraid and said: How fearful is this place! This is no other than the house of God and this is the gate of heaven.

Prophecy 2

From the Prophecy of Ezekiel (43:27-44:4)

It will come to pass that from the eighth day onwards, the priests will offer your whole-burnt-offerings on the altar, together with your peace-offerings, and I will accept you, says the Lord. ¹ Then he brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary that looks eastwards, but it was shut. ² And the Lord said to me: This

gate will be shut, it will not be opened, and no one will pass through it, for the Lord God of Israel will enter through it, and it will be shut. ³ For the prince, he will sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord. He will go through it by the way of the porch of the gate, and he will go out by the way of the same *gate*. ⁴ Then he brought me in by the way of the gate that looks northwards, in front of the house. I looked, and, see, the house was full of the glory of the Lord.

Prophecy 3

From the Book of Proverbs (9:1-11)

Wisdom has built a house for herself, and set up seven pillars. ² She has killed her sacrifices; she has mingled her wine in a bowl, and prepared her table. ³ She has sent out her servants, calling with a loud proclamation to the feast, as though in a hollow, saying: ⁴ Whoever is foolish, let him turn aside to me; and to those who want understanding she says: ⁵ Come, eat my bread, and drink wine which I have mingled for you. ⁶ Leave folly and seek; search for wisdom so that you may live. Improve understanding by knowledge. ⁷ The one who disciplines evildoers will obtain dishonour for himself. The one who rebukes an ungodly man will disgrace himself. ⁸ Do not rebuke evildoers, in case they hate you. Rebuke a wise man and he will love you. ⁹ Give an opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser: instruct someone just, and he will receive more instruction. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of holy ones is understanding, for to know the law is good understanding. ¹¹ For in this way you will live long, and years of your life will be added to you.

Ekteni

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

Liti

Tone 2

Today Gabriel announces the good tidings to the one who is full of grace, "Hail, unwedded maiden! Do not be struck with dismay by my strange form or be afraid; I am an Archangel. Once the serpent beguiled Eve, but now, O most pure *Lady*, I announce to you the joyful good news, 'You will remain inviolate and yet give birth to the Lord.'"

Apósticha

Tone 4

In the sixth month the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin and the bearer of glad news greeted her with joy as he announced that the Redeemer would come from her. She accepted his salutation with faith and conceived you, the pre-eternal God, who was pleased to become man ineffably for the salvation of our souls.

S1: Proclaim the salvation of our God from day to day;
announce his glory among the nations. *Ps 95*

The Theotokos heard the mysterious voice as the Archangel announced the words of glad news. When she accepted this salutation, she conceived you, the eternal God, in her womb. Therefore we cry out with joy, "O unchanging God who took flesh from her, grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

S2: Sing a new song to the Lord;

his praise in an assembly of holy ones. *Ps 149*

See, our restoration is now revealed; God is ineffably joined to man. At the words of the Archangel, error has vanished; the Virgin has received the joyful news and the things of earth have become those of heaven. The world is released from the ancestral curse. Let the whole creation rejoice as it sings a hymn of praise, "O Lord, our Creator and Rescuer, glory to you!"

Glory: Both now:

Today is the announcement 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 curse. The tabernacle of human nature which the Lord took on himself is consecrated as a temple of God. The manner of his emptying is past knowledge and the fashion of a virgin womb receives the Son. The Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high gives his consent, and so the covenant is brought to pass by common counsel. We are saved in him and through him. Together with Gabriel let us cry aloud to the Virgin, "Hail, O Full of Grace! The Lord is with you!" Christ our God and our salvation has taken human nature from you and raised it to himself. Pray to him that our souls may be saved.

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace
according to your word,

² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before all peoples,

³ a light of revelation for *the* nations
and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikion

Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation and 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, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"
X3

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikion

Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation and 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, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"
X3

Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 1

The mighty captain of the companies of angels drew near to the city of Nazareth. O undefiled *Lady*, he announced to you the coming of the King and Lord of the ages, saying, "Hail, O blessed Mary, you are wonderful past speech and beyond understanding. You are the restoration of mortal man. X2

Kathisma 2

Tone 3

Today all creation greatly rejoices, for the Archangel says "Hail" to you, all-pure and immaculate *Lady*. Today the proud arrogance of the serpent is brought low, for the chains of the curse which were laid on our forefather are loosened. Therefore with all the world we cry aloud to you, "Hail, O Full of Grace!" X2

Psalm 44 instead of Polyeleos

Kathisma 3

Gabriel called from heaven to the one who is holy and pure, "Hail, for you will conceive in your womb the God who was before time! He has united the ends of the earth by his word." Mary answered, "I do not know a man, so how can I bear a Son? Who has ever seen a birth without seed? The angel revealed God's purpose and said to the Virgin Theotokos, "The Holy Spirit will descend on you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."

Glory: Both now:

Gabriel was sent to the pure Virgin and revealed joy beyond speech to her. "You will conceive without seed and remain undefiled, for you will give birth to a Son who is the God before time. He will save his people from their sins. O blessed *Lady*, this is the testimony of the One who sent me to cry out to you, "Hail!" You will bear a Child, but you will remain a virgin after childbirth."

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4

- 1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth, but help me and save me, O my Saviour. X2
- 2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord; they will be withered like grass by the fire. X2
Glory:
- 3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.
Both now:
- 4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit; they water all creation and produce life.

Prokeímenon Ps 95 Tone 4

- S1: Proclaim the salvation of our God from day to day. Ps 95
S2: Sing a new song to the Lord a new song. Ps 149

Gospel Dialogue

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*
P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.
R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. X3

Praise God in his saints;
praise him in the firmament of his power. Ps 50

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy* X3
P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (1:39-49, 56)

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is the one who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹ for the one who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home.

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy

and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.

⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
and cleanse me from my sin.

⁵ For I know my lawlessness
and my sin is always before me.

⁶ I have sinned against you alone
and done this evil before you

^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
and overcome when you are judged.

⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
and my mother gave birth to me in sin.

⁸ For see, you have loved truth

and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.

⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.

¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.

¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.

¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.

¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.

¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.

¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.

¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.

¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, wipe out the abundance of our sins through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 2

Today Gabriel announces the good news to the one who is full of grace, "Hail, O unwedded maiden! Do not be struck with dismay by my strange form or be afraid; I am an Archangel. Once the serpent beguiled Eve, but now, O most pure *Lady*, I announce to you the joyful good news, 'You will remain inviolate and yet give birth to the Lord.'"

Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy, through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

Lord have mercy. XI2

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

Kontákion

Tone 8

O Theotokos, our leader in battle, I, your city which is (we your servants who are) rescued from calamity offer you songs of victory and hymns of thanksgiving. Since you possess invincible might, free us from every danger so that we may cry to you, "Hail, unwedded Bride!"

Íkos

A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos.

O Lord, as he saw you take bodily form at his bodiless word, he stood in awe and cried to her with these words.

"Hail, for through you joy will be kindled!

Hail, for through you the curse will be stifled!

Hail, O recall of fallen Adam!

Hail, O rescue of weeping Eve!

Hail, O height unattainable by human reason!

Hail, O depth unsearchable by angelic eyes!

Hail, for you are the throne of the King!

Hail, for you give birth to the one who upholds everything!

Hail, O star giving rise to the Sun!

Hail, O womb giving flesh to God!

Hail, for through you creation is renewed!

Hail, for through you the Creator becomes a newborn child!

Hail, O bride unwedded!"

Synaxáron

Today we remember the Annunciation to the Theotokos. In some icons the Virgin is depicted spinning. The Archangel Gabriel said, "Hail, O Full of Grace! The Lord is with you." Mary was troubled, but he continued, "Mary, do not be afraid, for you have found favour with God. See, you will now conceive a Son and call his name Jesus." Mary accepted with the words, "See, the servant of the Lord. Let it happen to me in accordance with your word." O Woman, pure as a lily, on the Twenty Fifth Gabriel announced the wonder which the Spirit would work in you. We offer glory and might to God for ever. Amen.

Katavasias

1: I will open my mouth and be filled with the spirit. I will sing a song to the Queen and Mother. I will come, rejoice in the feast and praise her wonders.

3: O Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, in your divine glory spiritually establish your choir which is assembled in chorus. Make them worthy to receive crowns of glory in your mercy at the time of your holy feast.

4: The one who sits in glory on the throne of the Divinity, Jesus the true God, has come on a swift cloud. With his pure hand he has saved those who cry, "Glory to your power, O Christ!"

5: O Virgin, all creation was fearful at the sight of your solemn entrance, for you knew no man, yet bore the God of all. You held in your womb the Eternal Son who grants peace to those who praise you in song.

6: The prophet Jonah foreshadowed your three-day burial. He cried from the stomach of the whale, "O Jesus, King and Lord of Hosts, save me from corruption."

7: The godly youths worshipped the Creator rather than the creature. They courageously trampled on the flames and joyfully sang, "Blessed are you, most praised Lord, the God of our fathers."

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

O pure virgin Maid, listen. Let Gabriel recount to you the decision of the Most High which is ancient and true. Be prepared to receive God, for the Incomprehensible comes to live among mortals through you. Therefore I cry with joy, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord!"

Canticle Nine

The Magnificat is not sung.

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;

O heavens, praise the glory of God.

O Theotokos, as you are a living temple of God, let no impure hand touch you, but let the lips of all believers sing and continually glorify you in joy with the angelic salutation. O pure *Lady*, you are truly above all creatures.

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;

O heavens, praise the glory of God.

O Mother of the Most High, the Holy Scriptures speak about you mystically. For in time past Jacob said as he saw the ladder which prefigured you, "This is the ladder on which God will tread." Therefore you rightly hear the salutation, "Hail, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;

O heavens, praise the glory of God.

The bush and the fire revealed a strange wonder to Moses, the initiate in sacred things. As he sought its fulfilment in the course of time, he said, "I shall see it come to pass in the pure Virgin. The salutation will come to her as Theotokos, 'Hail, O Full of Grace; the Lord is with you!'"

O Earth, receive the glad news of great joy;

O heavens, praise the glory of God.

Daniel called you a 'spiritual mountain'; Isaiah 'the Mother of God.' Gideon saw you as a fleece and David called you 'the sanctuary.' Another called you 'the gate which was sealed' and Gabriel in his turn cries out to you, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!"

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Tone 2

The captain of the angelic hosts was sent by almighty God to the pure Virgin to announce the good news of a strange and secret wonder that God would be born as man and be her Child without seed. He would refashion the whole human race. O people, proclaim the good news about the re-creation of the world.

Hail, O Theotokos, rescue from the curse of Adam! Hail, O holy Mother of God! Hail, O living bush! Hail, O lamp! Hail, O throne! Hail, O ladder and gate! Hail, O divine chariot! Hail, O swift cloud! Hail, O temple! Hail, O golden vessel! Hail, O mountain! Hail, O tabernacle and table! Hail, o release of Eve!

Praises

Tone 1

Let everything with breath praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights.
To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his powers.
To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
praise him with strings and flute.
Gabriel flew down from the vault of heaven and came to Nazareth. As he stood before the virgin Mary, he cried to her, "Hail! You will conceive a Son more ancient than Adam, the Creator of everything and Saviour of those who cry to you, 'Hail, O pure Virgin!'"

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.
Gabriel flew down from the vault of heaven and came to Nazareth. As he stood before the virgin Mary, he cried to her, "Hail! You will conceive a Son more ancient than Adam, the Creator of everything and Saviour of those who cry to you, 'Hail, O pure Virgin!'"

S2: Proclaim the salvation of our God from day to day;
announce his glory among the nations. *Ps 95*
Gabriel brought the good news to the Virgin from heaven and cried to her, "Hail! You will conceive him whom the world cannot contain; he will be enclosed within your womb. You will bear him who shone from the Father before the morning star."

S1: Sing a new song to the Lord;
his praise in an assembly of holy ones. *Ps 149*
The co-eternal Word of the Father who has no beginning was not parted from the things on high, but has now descended here below for the sake of his boundless love which pities fallen men. He has assumed the poverty of Adam and clothed himself in a strange form.

Glory: Both now: Tone 2

Today is revealed the eternal mystery. The son of God becomes the Son of Man. By accepting the lowest, he grants me the highest. In time past Adam was deceived; he tried to become God, but he did not receive his desire. Now God becomes man so that he may make Adam god. Let creation rejoice; let nature exult, for the Archangel stands in fear before the Virgin and says, "Hail!" He brings her the greeting by which our sorrow is healed. O Lord, glory to you, for in your compassion you became man!

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!
² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,
³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!
⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.
⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.
⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*
⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. *Ps 144*
⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.
⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. *Amen. Daniel 3*
¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. *Ps 32.*
¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. *X3 Ps 118*
¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. *Ps 89*
I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." *Ps 40*
¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. *Ps 142*
¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. *Ps 35*
¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. *Ps 35*

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation and 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, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you."

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 71, 95 & 131 Tone 2

S1: O God, give your judgement to the king
and your justice to the king's son.

R: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us.

S2: The mountains will receive peace for the people
and the hills justice.

S3: Proclaim the salvation of our God from day to day.

S4: The Lord has sworn in truth to David
and will not set it aside.

S5: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 71, 45 & 49 Own Tone

S1: He will come down like rain on a fleece
and like drops which trickle on the earth.

R: Save us, O Son of God; you were incarnate for our sake.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: The Most High has made his tabernacle holy.

S3: God will come openly; our God will not be silent.

S4: In his days justice will dawn *with* abundant peace.

S5: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 71 Tone 4

S1: His name will be blessed for ever.

R: Today is the beginning of our salvation and 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, "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you."

S2: May the Lord God of Israel be blessed
who alone accomplishes wonders.

S3: Blessed is the name of his glory for ever
and to the ages of ages.

Entrance Ps 95

Proclaim the salvation of our God from day to day.
Save us, O Son of God.
You were incarnate for our sake.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikion

Tone 4

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Kontakion

Tone 8

O Theotokos, our leader in battle, I, your city which is (we your servants who are) rescued from calamity offer you songs of victory and hymns of thanksgiving. Since you possess invincible might, free us from every danger so that we may cry to you, "Hail, unwedded Bride!"

Triságion

Prokeímenon Lk 1 Tone 3

R: My soul glorifies the Lord
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
S: For he has observed the humility of his servant.

Apóstolos

Jesus was obligated to become like his brothers.

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (2:11-18)

Brothers, both the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying, "I will declare your name to my brothers. In the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." ¹³ Again, "I will put my trust in him." Again, "See, here am I and the children whom God has given me." ¹⁴ Since then the children have shared in flesh and blood, he also himself in the same way partook of the same, that through death he might bring to nothing the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and might deliver all of them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. ¹⁶ For most assuredly, not to angels does he give help, but he gives

help to the seed of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he was obligated in all things to be made like his brothers, that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Alleluia Ps 71 Tone 2

S1: He will come down like rain on a fleece
and like drops which trickle on the earth.
S2: His name will be blessed for ever.

Gospel

The Annunciation

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (1:24-38)

In those days Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, ²⁵ "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" ³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ 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.

Epecially

O Earth, receive the glad tidings of great joy;

O heavens, praise the glory of God.

O Theotokos, as you are a living temple of God, let no impure hand touch you, but let the lips of all believers sing and continually magnify you in joy with the angelic salutation, "O pure *Lady*, you are truly above all creatures."

Communion Ps 131

For the Lord has selected Zion
and chosen her to be his home. Alleluia!