

MARCH 25/26

**Wednesday/Thursday of the Fourth Week in Great Lent**

**Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (sung on Wednesday)**

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.**

**Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel.**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 4**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (11) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 4      Idiomelon      *(from the Lenten Triodion)***

The Fast, the source of blessings,

now has brought us midway through its course.

Having pleased God with the days that have passed,

we look forward to making good use of the days to come,

for growth in blessings brings forth even greater achievements.

While pleasing Christ, the Giver of all blessings, we cry:

"O Lord, Who didst fast and endure the Cross for our sake,

make us worthy to share blamelessly in Thy Paschal victory,

by living in peace and rightly giving glory to Thee//

and to the Father and the Holy Spirit!"

*v. (10) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

## Tone 5

Those who thirst for spiritual blessings  
practice their good deeds in secret,  
not announcing them in the streets and marketplace,  
but keeping them hidden deep within their hearts;  
and He Who sees all that is done in secret  
will reward us for our abstinence.

Let us complete the fast without wearing gloomy faces!  
Let us pray without ceasing in the inner chamber of our souls:  
Our Father, Who art in heaven, lead us not into temptation,//  
but deliver us from the Evil One!

*v. (9) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

**Tone 1**      *(for the Cross)*      *(O all-praised martyrs)*

Let us cleanse our souls in the waters of the fast!  
Let us approach the precious and most pure Cross of the Lord,  
venerating it in faith and drawing forth divine enlightenment,  
reaping even now the rich harvest://  
eternal salvation, peace, and great mercy!

*v. (8) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

O Cross, boast of the Apostles,  
surrounded by Archangels, Powers, and Principalities:  
save us from all harm who bow down before thee!  
Enable us to fulfill the divine course of abstinence//  
and to reach the day of salvation, by which we are saved!

*v. (7) If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

## Tone 7

*(Today Judas keeps vigil)*

Today, as we bow before the Cross of the Lord, we cry:  
“Rejoice, O Tree of life, the destroyer of hell!  
Rejoice, O joy of the world, the slayer of corruption!  
Rejoice, O power that scatters demons!  
O invincible weapon, confirmation of the faithful,//  
protect and sanctify those who kiss thee!”

*v. (6) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on 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. (5) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on 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. (4) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

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\* Music for this feast can be downloaded at <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos>

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 Thee!”

*v. (3) 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. (2) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth 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. (1) He makes His Angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire. (Ps 103/104:4)*

Gabriel, ever filled with light,  
who doest the will and fulfillest 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 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 thee!  
Rejoice, pure Virgin!  
Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!  
Rejoice, Mother of the Life!//  
Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!’”

**Tone 4**      **Prokeimenon**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, / Who alone does wondrous things!  
*(Ps 71/72:18)*

*v: Give the king Thy justice, O God, and Thy righteousness to the royal son!*  
*(Ps 71/72:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (9:18-10:1)**

**Tone 4**      **Prokeimenon**

It is good for me / to be near my God. *(Ps 72/73:28)*

*v: Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. (Ps 72/73:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (12:8-22)**

*And two readings for the Feast:*

## Old Testament Readings

Reading from Exodus (3:1-8) (*Theotokos*)

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

*The readings are followed by the Little Litany and with the singing of the Trisagion, the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom.*

### Tone 4 Prokeimenon

From day to day / proclaim the salvation of our God! (Ps 95/96:2)

*v: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth! (Ps 95/96:1)*

### Epistle

Hebrews 2:11-18 (*Feast*)

### Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth.  
(Ps 71/72:6)*

*v: May His Name be blessed forever; may His Name continue as long as the sun!  
(Ps 71/72:17)*

### Gospel

Luke 1: 24-38 (*Feast*)

*(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 thee!"

## Communion Hymn

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. (*Ps 131/132:14*)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.