

THE SERVICE OF READER'S VESPERS

For use at home during the Coronavirus pandemic

With Hymns and Readings for the Annunciation: 25th March 2020

When this Service is used in Church, there will normally be a Reader and Choir, as is usual in Church services. If you are using the service at home, the 'Reader' may be the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent, according to the situation – or simply the most confident reader or singer. The parts marked for the 'Choir' can be read or sung by everyone together, or by one person alone. Music for some parts may be found on the website: www.orthodoxcommunityrugby.com/choir/ If no one present is a confident singer, the service can be chanted on one note, or simply read. You may prefer to use parts of the service in your own language. If so, please make sure that the prayers are read from an Orthodox prayer book or service book.

Before the Service

If possible, the Service should be said in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If practical, and if they are available, a Cross and a Book of the Gospels (or a copy of New Testament, or a Bible) should be placed on a table in front of the icons. A lamp or candle should be lit before the Service begins. You may wish to have other, unlit, candles that can be lit during the hymn 'O Gladsome Light'. If you have charcoal and incense, light the charcoal before the Service begins, and have incense ready to place on the hot charcoal during "Lord, I call upon Thee".

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Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, who art in all places and fillest all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, look upon and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

O come, let us worship God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

Psalm 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art become exceeding great; with confession and with majesty art thou clothed. Who dost robe thyself with light as with a garment; who spreadest out the heaven like a curtain. Who covereth with waters its upper rooms; who

doth fix the clouds for his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind. Who maketh his angels spirits, and his servers a flaming fire. Who foundeth the earth upon its firmness; it shall not be bowed down forever and ever. The abyss, like a garment, is its robe; upon the mountains shall stand the waters. At thy rebuke they shall flee; at the voice of thy thunder, they shall be afraid. The mountains go up, and the plains go down to the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound which they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. Who sendeth forth fountains into the valleys; among the mountains shalt the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses shall await in their thirst. Over them shall the birds of the heavens have their habitation; from the midst of the rocks shall they give forth their voices. Thou waterest the mountains from thy upper rooms; with the fruit of thy works is the earth sated, making grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, that thou mayest bring forth bread out of the earth, and wine that gladdeneth the heart of man; to make his face cheerful with oil; and bread that strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be sated, the cedars of Lebanon, which he hath planted. There the sparrows shall make their nest. The dwelling of the heron precedeth them. The high mountains are for the hart; the rocks a refuge for the conies. He made the moon for seasons; the sun hath known its setting. Thou didst set the darkness, and it became night; in it shall run all the beasts of the forest, the young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking of God their meat. The sun hath arisen, and they have gathered together; and in their dens shalt they lay them down. Man shall go forth to his work and to his labour until the evening. How great are thy works become O Lord; in wisdom hast thou made them all. The earth is full of thy creation. This is the sea, great and wide; there are creeping things without number, animals both small and great. There the ships go across; and that serpent which thou hast formed to play in it. All wait upon thee to give them their food in due season. When thou givest it them, they shall gather it; when thou openest thine hand, all things shall be filled with goodness. When thou turnest away thy face, they shall be troubled; thou takest away their spirit, they shall vanish and to their dust shall they return. Thou sendest forth thy spirit and they shall be created; and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in his works. Who looketh down upon the earth, and maketh it to tremble; who touchest the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord in my life; I will sing psalms unto my God as long as I

shall be. Let my conversation please him; and I shall be glad in the Lord. Let sinners vanish from the earth, and transgressors, so that they shall be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun hath known its setting. Thou didst set the darkness, and it became night. How great are thy works become O Lord; in wisdom hast thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, glory to Thee, O God. (3 times)

In place of the GREAT LITANY:

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

Immediately afterwards, the Choir sings "Lord, I call upon Thee". If you have charcoal and incense, place the incense on the hot charcoal in the censer. If it is appropriate and safe to do so, the senior person (e.g. a parent or grandparent) or an older child, may cense the icons and everyone present with the hand censer.

"LORD, I CALL UPON THEE" in Tone 4

[[Music on website](#)]

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!

[[Music on website](#)]

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!

Tone 4

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!”

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!

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Tone 1

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!

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 fulfil the divine course of abstinence
and to reach the day of salvation, by which we are saved!

If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 7

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!”

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

[Music on website]

In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin;
and with his greeting “Rejoice,”
announced the good news that the Deliverer would 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.

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, [Music on website]
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!

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

[Music on website]

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!”

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Tone 1

[Music on website]

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.

*For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth
forever.*

The great mystery till then unknown to the Angels [Music on website]
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!

He makes His Angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.)

Gabriel, ever filled with light, [Music on website]
who doest the will and fulfillst the commands of the Ruler of All,
Leader of the Angels, most excellent,
preserve those who honour 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; both now and
ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.*

[Music on website]

Tone 6

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!’”

O GLADSOME LIGHT

O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, heavenly, holy,
blessed, Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and
behold the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of
God, thou Giver of Life; therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.

THE EVENING PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Evening Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

Reader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone doeth wonders!

Choir: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone doeth wonders!

Reader: O God, give Thy judgement to the King; and Thy righteousness to
the King’s son!

Choir: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Who alone doeth wonders!

Reader: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel

Choir: Who alone doeth wonders!

Reader: The Reading from the Book of Genesis [9:18-10:1]
The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was peopled. Noah was the first tiller of the soil. He planted a vineyard; and he drank of the wine, and became drunk, and lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers." He also said, "Blessed by the Lord my God be Shem; and let Canaan be his slave. God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his slave." After the flood Noah lived three hundred and fifty years. All the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died. These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth; sons were born to them after the flood.

PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

Reader: It is good for me to cleave close to God.

Choir: It is good for me to cleave close to God.

Reader: How good is God to Israel, to those who are upright in heart!

Choir: It is good for me to cleave close to God.

Reader: It is good for me

Choir: to cleave close to God.

Reader: The Reading from the Book of Proverbs (12:8-22)
A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of perverse mind is despised.
Better is a man of humble standing who works for himself than one who plays the great man but lacks bread.
A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.
He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits has no sense.
The strong tower of the wicked comes to ruin, but the root of the righteous stands firm.

An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble.
From the fruit of his words a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.
The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.
The vexation of a fool is known at once, but the prudent man ignores an insult.
He who speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.
There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.
Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan good have joy.
No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.
Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

Reader: The Reading from the Book of Exodus [3:1-8]
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 Jebusites.

Reader: The Reading from the Book of 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, 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.

VOUCHSAFE, O LORD

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on Thee: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, is forever; despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

THE TRISAGION

Choir: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (x 3)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

PROKEIMENON

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone.

Reader: Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.

Choir: Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.

Reader: Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Choir: Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.

Reader: Tell forth from day to day

Choir: the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.

EPISTLE

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews [Hebrews 2:11-18]

Ye Brethren: 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.

ALLELUIA

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: He shall come down as rain upon a fleece, and as the dew which falls upon the earth.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Reader: His Name be blessed for ever; His Name shall continue longer than the sun.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

THE GOSPEL

All stand for the reading of the Gospel. In normal circumstances, only the Subdeacon or the Tonsured Reader reads the Gospel, with the permission of his Parish Priest. In these exceptional circumstances, the Gospel may be read by the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent – according to the situation.

Reader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke [1:24-38]
Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Reader: In those days, Elizabeth the wife of Zacharias 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, O favoured one, 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 favour 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 shall 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.

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Instead of the EVENING LITANY, the Choir sings:
Lord, have mercy. (12 times).

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

THE APOSTICHA

Tone 8

The leader of the hosts on high, flying down from the heavens to Nazareth, saluteth the Virgin, saying: “Rejoice, O pure chariot of the Godhead! God hath loved thee from ages past, and hath chosen thee for his dwelling-place! I am the servant of the Master, who am come to thee to cry out: Thou shalt give birth to the Lord, yet shalt remain incorrupt!”

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

“Wherefore is thy visage fiery?” the pure one said to Gabriel in amazement; “What is thy dignity, and what the power of thy words? Thou declarest that I shall conceive a Son, yet have I not known a man. Get thee far away, and deceive me not, O man, as once the false serpent did to my first mother Eve!”

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

“The all-holy Spirit of God will come upon thee, O all-pure one, O Mistress who shalt contain God, and the power of the Most High will overshadow thee, and thou shalt bear a Son Who shall preserve thy virginity intact. He is the Son without lineage! And having appeared, He will save His people, as is His good pleasure!”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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 hast been well pleased to become ineffably incarnate for the salvation of our souls

THE PRAYER OF SAINT SYMEON, THE GOD-RECEIVER

Reader: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of Thy people Israel.

Holy God, Holy Mighty Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, look upon and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

TROPARION

Tone 4

[Music on website]

Today is the beginning of our salvation,
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:
Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Repeat: Today is the beginning of our salvation ...

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Repeat: Today is the beginning of our salvation ...

DISMISSAL

Reader: Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Choir: More honourable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without defilement gavest birth to God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord!

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Thy most pure mother, whose Annunciation we celebrate; by the power of the honourable and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplications of our Holy, Venerable and God-bearing Fathers; of our Father among the Saints, Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Patron and Protector of this Community; and of all Thy saints, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

If you have an icon of the Annunciation (or any icon of the Mother of God) you may wish to reverence it while singing the Kontakion of the Feast:

KONTAKION

[Music on website]

To thee the champion leader we thy flock dedicate a feast of victory and of thanksgiving, as ones rescued out of sufferings. O Theotokos. But as thou art one with might which is invincible, from all dangers that can be, do thou deliver us; that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, thou Bride unwedded!

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.