

25th MARCH 2022

The Annunciation to our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom (sung on Friday evening)

“LORD I CALL ...” Tone 7

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. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

Tone 7 (*From the Lenten Triodion*)

Like the Prodigal, I have turned away from Thy grace.

I have spent the riches of Thy goodness, O Lord.

I now run to Thee, crying, O tender-hearted One://

“I have sinned, O God, have mercy on me!”

v. (9) *The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Repeat: “Like the Prodigal...”

v. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Tone 6 (*For the Martyrs, in the Tone of the week*)

Walking in the steps of Christ’s sufferings,

the whole company of martyrs resolutely approached their many struggles,

and proclaimed Him as God before the ungodly torturers and lawless kings;

and they endured many torments

in the hope of obtaining the glories of heaven.

Seeing them now, they rejoice,

and with all the choirs of the bodiless hosts,//

they stand in the presence of the Lord.

v. (7) *Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

Thy martyrs, O Lord,

did not deny Thee,

nor did they forsake Thy commandments.//

By their intercessions, have mercy on us!

v. (6) *If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

Thy victorious Martyrs, when they contended on this earth,
endured great torments;
but now they dwell in heaven and have received a perfect crown,//
that they may offer intercession for our souls.

v. (5) *For Thy Name's sake I wait 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. (4) *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. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

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. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Tone 1 *(From the Menaion, for the Archangel)*

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. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures 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. *He makes His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire. (Ps. 103:5)*

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 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 ages of ages. Amen.*

Tone 6 (For the Feast)

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!'"

PROKEIMENA AND OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

PROKEIMENON in the Fourth Tone

O grant us Thy help against the enemy, * for vain is the help of men!
v. O God, Thou hast rejected us, and hast broken our defences.

The Reading from Genesis

In the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest upon the mountains of Ararat. And the waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains were seen. At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made, and sent

forth a raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put forth his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent forth the dove; and she did not return to him any more. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried from off the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold, the face of the ground was dry. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go forth from the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring forth with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh – birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth – that they may breed abundantly on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth." So Noah went forth, and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him. And every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves upon the earth, went forth by families out of the ark. Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled the sweet savour. [Genesis 8:4-21]

PROKEIMENON in the Sixth Tone

Hear my cry, O Lord, * listen to my prayer!

v. From the ends of the earth I call to Thee.

The Reading from the Proverbs of Solomon

The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse. A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight. When pride comes, then comes disgrace; but with the humble is wisdom. The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them. Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness. The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust. When the wicked dies, his hope perishes, and the expectation of the godless comes to nought. The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked gets into it instead. With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbour, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. He who belittles his neighbour lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. [Proverbs 10:31-11:12]

The Reading from Exodus

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. [Exodus 3:1-8]

The Reading from the Proverbs of Solomon

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. [Proverbs 8:22-30]

THE LITTLE LITANY

TRISAGION

And the rest of the Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom.

PROKEIMENON in the Fourth Tone

From day to day * proclaim the salvation of our God!

v. Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews.

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. [Hebrews 2:11-18]

ALLELUIA

- v. He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth.
v. May His Name be blessed forever; may His Name continue as long as the sun!

GOSPEL

The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

In those days: Elizabeth the wife of Zacharias conceived and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord had 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 favored 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 favor 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. [Luke 1:24-38]

ZADOSTOYNIK

"Receive, O earth, the glad tidings of great joy ..."

White Book page 111

COMMUNION HYMN

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

AFTER THE DISMISSAL

The Priest and Servers come to stand in front of the Icon of the Feast, and sing the Troparion (White Book page 105) and Kontakion (Sheet) of the Feast.