

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Leavetaking of the Annunciation ♦ Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

*[The service for Saint John of the Ladder is not sung today because of the Leavetaking and the Synaxis]*

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 8**

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 8** *(For the Resurrection)*

We offer to Thee, O Christ,  
our evening song and reasonable service,  
for Thou didst will to have mercy on us//  
by Thy Resurrection.

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

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Thy face!  
For Thou didst will to have mercy on us//  
by Thy Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion:  
Mother of the churches, the abode of God,  
for thou wast the first to receive remission of sins//  
by the Resurrection.

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

The Word of God the Father,  
begotten before the ages,  
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin  
and endured crucifixion unto death.  
He has saved mortal man//  
by His Resurrection.

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

**Tone 6 (For the Feast)**

Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel,  
Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maiden,  
and greeting thee, he said:  
"Rejoice, earth that has not been sown!  
Rejoice, burning bush that remains unconsumed!  
Rejoice, unsearchable depth!  
Rejoice, bridge that leads to Heaven!  
Rejoice, ladder raised on high that Jacob saw!  
Rejoice, divine jar of manna!  
Rejoice, deliverance from the curse!  
Rejoice, restoration of Adam; //  
the Lord is with thee!"

**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.*

"Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man,"  
said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.  
"How then dost thou speak to me of things that pass man's power?  
Thou hast said that God shall be with me  
and shall take up His dwelling in my womb.  
How shall I become the spacious habitation  
and the holy place of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim?  
Do not deceive me with trickery;  
for I have not known pleasure,  
I have not entered into wedlock. //  
How then shall I bear a Child?"

**V. (4)** *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Then the bodiless Angel replied:  
"When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome,  
and what is beyond man comes to pass.  
Believe that my sayings are true,  
O all-holy and immaculate Lady!"  
And she cried aloud:  
"Let it be to me according to thy word,  
and I shall bear Him Who is without flesh!  
He shall borrow flesh from me,  
that through this union of natures  
He may lead man up to his ancient glory, //  
for He alone has power so to do."

**V. (3)** *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 1 (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. (2)** *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

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)** *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Gabriel, ever filled with light,  
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;*

**Tone 6** *(For the Annunciation)*

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!’”

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

**Tone 8** *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The King of heaven, because of His love for man,  
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.  
He took flesh from the pure Virgin  
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.  
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.  
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,  
we confess Christ our God!//  
Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

## **APOSTICHA**

### **Tone 8** *(For the Resurrection)*

Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,  
the eternal Life has come for death  
to raise those who are fallen;  
to enlighten those in darkness.//  
O Jesus, our Saviour and illuminator, glory to Thee!

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.  
He accepted the human body and soul,  
and freed both from suffering.  
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.  
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.//  
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

*V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

In psalms and songs we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.  
By it, Thou hast freed us from the tortures of hell//  
and as God hast granted eternal life and great mercy.

*V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,  
by Thy suffering on the Cross Thou hast gained passionlessness for me.  
Accepting burial and arising in glory,  
Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself by Thine almighty hand.  
Glory to Thy rising on the third day!  
By it Thou hast granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//  
as the only compassionate One.

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

### **Tone 4** *(For the Annunciation)*

Today the good tidings of joy are proclaimed,  
today is the festival of the Virgin;  
things below are joined together with things on high.  
Adam is made new;  
Eve is freed from the primal grief;  
and by the deification of the human nature that the Lord assumed,  
the tabernacle of our substance has become a temple of God.  
Oh, what a mystery!  
The manner of His emptying cannot be known;  
the manner of His conception is beyond speech.  
An angel ministers at the miracle; a virginal womb receives the Son;  
the Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high is well pleased,  
and according to their common counsel, a reconciliation is brought to pass  
in which and through which we are saved.  
For this reason let us unite our song with Gabriel's,  
crying aloud to the Virgin:  
"Rejoice, O Lady Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!  
From thee is our salvation, Christ our God,  
Who, by assuming our nature, has led us back to Himself.//  
Humbly pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!"

## **TROPARIA**

### **Troparion of the Resurrection**

#### **Tone 8**

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One!  
Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to Thee!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

### **Troparion of the Archangel**

#### **Tone 4**

Gabriel, Commander of the heavenly hosts,  
we who are unworthy beseech thee:  
by thy prayers encompass us beneath the wings of thine immaterial glory,  
and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry out to thee://  
"Deliver us from all harm, for thou art the Commander of the Powers on high!"

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

### **Troparion of the Annunciation**

#### **Tone 4**

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!"