

# *Annunciation*

## *Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel*

### *March 25/26*

#### VESPERAL LITURGY

DEACON: Bless, Father.

PRIEST: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

#### *“Come Let Us Worship...”*

*Great Vespers continues as usual. After “O Joyful Light,” we begin Liturgy with the singing of the Troparion & Kontakion of the Feast.*

#### *Psalm 104*

Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord You are very great: / You are clothed with honor and majesty, / Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment, / Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.

**He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, / Who makes the clouds His chariot, / Who walks on the wings of the wind, / Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire.**

You Who laid the foundations of the earth, / so that it should not be moved forever, / You covered it with the deep as with a garment; / the waters stood above the mountains.

**At Your rebuke they fled; / at the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. / They went up over the mountains; they went down into the valleys, / to the place which You founded for them.**

You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, / that they may not return to cover the earth. / He sends the springs into the valleys, / which flow among the hills.

**They give drink to every beast of the field; / the wild donkeys quench their thirst. / By them the birds of the heavens have their habitation; / they sing among the branches.**

He waters the hills from His upper chambers; / the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.

**He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, / and vegetation for the service of man, / that he may bring forth food from the earth, / and wine that makes glad the heart of man,**

oil to make his face shine, / and bread which strengthens man’s heart.

**The trees of the Lord are full of sap, / the cedars of Lebanon which He planted, / where the birds make their nests; / the stork has her home in the fir trees.**

The high hills are for the wild goats; / the cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.

**He appointed the moon for the seasons; / the sun know its going down. /**

**You made darkness, and it is night, / in which all the beasts of the forest creep about.**

The young lions roar after their prey, / and seek their food from God. / When the sun arises, they gather together / and lie down in their dens.

**Man goes out to his work / and to his labor until the evening. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.**

The earth is full of Your possessions / – this great and wide sea, / in which are innumerable teeming things, / living things both small and great.

**There the ships sail about and there is that Leviathan / which You have made to play there. / These all wait for You, / that You may give them their food in due season.**

What You give them they gather in; / You open Your hand, they are filled with good. / You hide Your face, they are troubled; / You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

**You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; / and You renew the face of the earth. / May the glory of the Lord endure forever; / may the Lord rejoice in His works.**

He looks on the earth, and it trembles; / He touches the hills, and they smoke.

**I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; / I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. / May my meditation be sweet to Him; / I will be glad in the Lord.**

May sinners be consumed from the earth, / and the wicked be no more. / Bless the Lord, O my soul! / Praise the Lord!

**The sun knows its going down. / You make darkness and it is night. / O Lord, how manifold are Your works! / In wisdom You have made them all.**

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

PEOPLE: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3x)

O our God and our hope, glory to You!

### *The Great Litany*

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this holy house, and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For travelers by sea, by land, and by air; the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance our most-holy, most-pure, most-blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

*Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer*

PRIEST: For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

*“O Lord, I Cry...” – Tone 8*

***Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)***

O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord over my mouth; keep watch o'er the door of my lips.

*Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, to practice wicked works with men who work iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.*

Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness, and let him reprove me; it shall be as excellent oil. Let not my head refuse it, for still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked.

*Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff and they hear my words for they are sweet. Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth.*

But my eyes are upon You, O God the Lord; in You I take refuge; do not leave my soul destitute.

*Keep me from the snares which they have laid for me, and from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I escape safely.*

***Psalm 142 (LXX 141)***

I cry out to the Lord with my voice; with my voice to the Lord I make my supplication.

*I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble.*

When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path. In a way in which I walk they have secretly set a snare for me.

*Look on my right hand and see, for there is no one who acknowledges me; refuge has failed me; no one cares for my soul.*

I cried out to You, O Lord. I said, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.

*Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low; deliver me from my persecutors for they are stronger than I."*

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Your name.

*The righteous shall surround me, for You shall deal bountifully with me.*

***Psalm 130 (LXX 129)***

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice!

*Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.*

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, that You may be feared.

*(Tone 4) – Annunciation*

*In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin and with his greeting "Rejoice!" he brought good tidings, that the Deliverer would come forth*

*from her. And so, accepting his salutation with faith, she conceived You, the pre-eternal God, Who were pleased to become man ineffably, for the salvation of our souls.*

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

*When the Archangel brought the Theotokos the glad tidings of the Annunciation; she heard a voice that she did not know, and accepting the salutation with faith, she conceived You the pre-eternal God. Therefore, in great rejoicing we also cry to You: O God, Who without change have been made flesh from her, grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy.*

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord;

*Behold, our restoration is now made manifest to us: God is ineffably united to men. At the words of the Archangel error is laid low; for the Virgin receives joy, and the things of earth have become heavenly. The world is released from the ancient curse. Let the creation rejoice exceedingly and raise its voice to sing: O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to You.*

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

*(Tone 1) – Synaxis Gabriel*

*Gabriel, the greatest and most godlike 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 glad tidings of the divine mystery full of awe; and he intercedes for our souls.*

***Psalm 117 (LXX 116)***

O, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

*O Gabriel, to you alone was entrusted the great mystery, till then it was unknown to the angels and hid from all eternity. Coming to Nazareth, you have not dared to impart it to any save the pure Virgin alone. Pray with her that our souls may be granted peace and great mercy.*

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

*You who are ever filled with light, who do the will and fulfill the decrees of the Almighty, O Leader of the angels, Gabriel, the all-perfect, preserve those who honor you with love, and ask at all times that our souls may 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)*

*Gabriel the Archangel was sent from heaven to announce to the Virgin the glad tidings of her conceiving; and coming to Nazareth he pondered in amazement on this wonder. "O how shall He Who dwells in the heavens, Whom none can comprehend, be born of a Virgin? How shall He Whose throne is heaven and Whose*

*footstool is the earth be held in the womb of a woman? He upon Whom the six-winged seraphim and the many-eyed cherubim cannot gaze has been pleased at a single word to be made flesh of this His creature. It is the Word of God Who dwells within her. Why then do I stand here, and not say to the Maiden: Rejoice, you who are full of grace; the Lord is with you. Rejoice, O pure Virgin; Rejoice, O Bride unwedded. Rejoice, O Mother of Life; blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*

### ***The Prayer before the Entrance***

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise... For unto You, Lord, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

### ***“O Joyful Light” (Monk Martin)***

O Joy-ful Light of the Ho-ly glo - ry, of the im-mor - tal heav-en - ly  
9 ho - ly bless-ed Fa - ther, O Je - sus Christ! Now that we have come to the  
15 set-ting of the sun and be - hold the light of eve - ning we praise  
21 God: the Fa-ther, Son and Ho-ly Spi - rit. For it is right at all times to  
28 wor-ship You with voi - ces of praise, O Son of God and  
34 Giv - er of Life. There-fore all the world glo - ri - fies You.

*Liturgy begins with the singing of the Troparion & Kontakion.*

*Troparion: Tone 4 (Znammeny)*

4 To - day is the crown of our sal - va - tion and the  
8 manifestation of the mystery which is from all e - ter - ni - ty.  
11 The Son of God becomes the Son of the Vir - gin, and Gabriel an -  
13 nounces the good ti - dings of grace. So with him let us also cry  
15 to the Moth - er of God: Re - joice, you who are full of grace!  
The Lord is with you.

*Kontakion Annunciation: Tone 8 (Byzantine - Special Melody)*

7 To you, the Cham - pion Lead - er, do I of - fer thanks of  
12 vic - to - ry, O The - o - to - kos, you who  
17 have de - liv - ered me from ter - ror; but since you have that  
21 pow - er in - vin - ci - ble, O The - o - to - kos,  
29 you a - lone can set me free from all forms of dan - ger  
38 free me and de - liv - er me, that I may cry un - to you:  
Hail, O Bride with - out Bride - - - groom.

*Trisagion – “Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal...”*

*Old Testament Readings*

**Exodus 3:1-8a**

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover 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 upon God. And the LORD said: “I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey.

**Proverbs 8:22-30**

The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; while as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world. When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above, when He strengthened the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him as a master craftsman and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.

***Prokeimenon: Tone 4 - Psalm 96:2***

Announce the glad tidings from day to day; the salvation of the Lord our God.

*Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Verse: Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among the peoples.*

*Verse: For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the peoples with His truth.*



### ***The Epistle Reading – Hebrews 2:11-18***

Brethren, for both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.” And again: “I will put My trust in Him.” And again: “Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.” Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

### ***The Alleluia before the Gospel – Psalm 72 (LXX 71)***

*Verse: He shall come down like rain upon the meadows, and like showers that water the earth.*

*Verse: His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue longer than the sun.*

### ***The Gospel Reading – Luke 1:24-38***

Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people.” Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?” And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

*Magnification Hymn – 9<sup>th</sup> Ode Matins*

2 O earth, an-ounce the glad tid - ings of great joy; O  
heavens, praise the glo - ry of God!

**Irmos:**

3 Being the living taber-na-cle of God, the Theotokos shall never be  
5 touched by an un-clean hand. But let the lips of the faith - ful  
8 joyfully sing-ing with-out ceas-ing and crying aloud in great joy the  
10 words of the Angel to the The - o - to - kos: Re -  
11 joice, O you who are full of grace. The Lord is with you!

*The Communion Hymn - Psalm 132:13 (LXX 131)*

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling. Alleluia.



*Exapostilaria: Tone 2 (Znamenny)*

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of 32 measures. The lyrics are: "The cap - tain of the heav'n - ly hosts was sent by God to the pure Vir - gin to an - nounce the tid - ings of a strange and se - cret won - der: That God would be born as man, a Child of her with - out seed, re - stor - ing a - gain the whole hu - man race! Pro - claim, O peo - ple, the good tid - ings of great joy of the re - cre - a - tion of all the world!" The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and slurs. Measure numbers 5, 10, 15, 20, 24, and 28 are indicated on the left side of the staff.

*The Dismissal*

PRIEST: May Christ our true God,... through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother whose Annunciation we commemorate today... Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us and save us.

PEOPLE: Amen.

*Troparion Annunciation: Tone 4 (Znamenny)*

Today is the crown of our salvation and the manifestation of the mystery which is from all eternity. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good tidings of grace. So with him let us also cry to the Mother of God: Rejoice, you who are full of grace! The Lord is with you.

***Kontakion Annunciation: Tone 8 (Byzantine – Special Melody)***

To you the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, you who have delivered me from terror; but since you have that power invincible, O Theotokos, you alone can set me free from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto you: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom.

***Ikos***

*A prince of the angels was sent from heaven to greet the Theotokos saying, 'Rejoice!' And beholding You, O Lord, taking bodily form at his bodiless voice he was filled with awe and cried out to her:*

Rejoice, you through whom joy will shine forth;  
Rejoice, you through whom the curse will be destroyed.  
Rejoice, restoration of fallen Adam;  
Rejoice, deliverance of the weeping of Eve.  
Rejoice, height unscaled by human minds;  
Rejoice, depth hard to perceive even for the eyes of angels.  
Rejoice, you who are the throne of the King;  
Rejoice, you who hold in your arms the Upholder of all.  
Rejoice, star giving rise to the Sun;  
Rejoice, womb of the divine incarnation.  
Rejoice, for through you creation is made new;  
Rejoice, you through whom the Creator becomes a newborn child.  
Rejoice, O Bride without bridegroom!

***Troparion Synaxis Archangel Gabriel: Tone 4 (Znamenny)***

Archangel Gabriel, captain of the heavenly hosts, we implore you that by your prayers you will encircle us, unworthy as we are, with the protection of the wings of your immaterial glory, and guard us who fall down before you and fervently cry: Deliver us, from dangers, as commander of the powers on high.



*“Awed by the beauty...” Tone 3 (Byzantine – Special Melody)*

Awed by the beau - - - ty of your vir-gin - i - ty,  
6 and the ex - ceed - ing ra - di - ance of — your pu - ri - ty,  
12 Ga - bri - el stood a - mazed and cried to you, O Moth - er of God:  
17 "What praise may I of - fer you — that is  
21 wor - thy of your beau - ty? By what name shall I call —  
25 you? I am lost and be - wil - dered; but I shall greet you  
29 as I was com - mand - ed: Re - - - jice, you who are —  
34 full — of grace. —



*The Annunciation*

*O Pure Virgin: Tone 5*

O pure and virgin lady, O spotless Theotokos: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O virgin queen and mother, O dewy fleece most sacred: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O height transcending heav'n above, O beam of light most radiant: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O joy of chaste and virgin maids, surpassing all the angels: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O brilliant light of heav'n above, most clear and most radiant: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

Commanding chief of heav'nly hosts, O holiest of holies: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O ever-virgin Mary, O mistress of creation: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O bride all pure and spotless, O lady all holy: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O holy Mary bride and queen, O cause of our rejoicing: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O maiden queen most hon'rabl, O mother most holy: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

More precious than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

Surpassing principalities, dominions, thrones and powers: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

Rejoice song of the cherubim, rejoice, hymn of the angels: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

Rejoice, ode of the seraphim, and joy of the archangels: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

Rejoice, O peace, rejoice, O joy, and haven of salvation: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O bridal chamber of the Word, unfading, fragrant blossom: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

Rejoice, delight of paradise, rejoice, life everlasting: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

Rejoice of holy tree of life, and fount of immortality: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

I supplicate thee, Lady, I humbly call upon thee: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O queen of all, I beg thee to grant me thy favor: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O spotless and most honored maid, O lady all holy: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

I call upon thee, fervently, thou temple most holy: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

O thou my help, deliver me from harm and all adversity: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

And by thy prayers show me to be an heir of immortality: **Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!**

