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

thrones is Heaven and Whose foot-stool 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 Maid—en: Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is

with you! Rejoice, pure Virgin! Rejoice, Bride without

Bride-groom! Rejoice, Mother of the Life! Blessed is the

Fruit of your womb!"