In the sixth month the chief of the Angelic Hosts was sent to you, O pure Virgin, to declare to you the word of salvation, and to greet you saying: “Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you! You shall bring forth a Son, begotten before the ages from the Father,
and He shall save His people from their sins!"

In the sixth month the Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven to the city of Nazareth in Galilee, to bring glad tidings of joy to the Maiden. And coming before her, he cried out saying:

"Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you! Rejoice, Vessel containing..."
The Uncontainable Nature; for Him Whom the heavens can-not con-tain,

your womb now con-tains, O bless-ed One. Re-joice, O Lady, the

restoration of Adam and the de-liv-er-ance of Eve,// the joy of the

world and the great exultation of the hu-man race!”

Sticheron 3
Tone 1

The An-gel Gab-riel was sent from heav-en by God to an
undefiled Virgin in the city of Nazareth in Galilee, to bring her

glad tidings of the wondrous manner of her conceiving. The bodiless

servant was sent to the living City and the spiritual Gate,

to proclaim the condescension of the Master's coming. The heavenly

warrior was sent to the living Palace of glory, to prepare
in advance an everlasting abode for the Creator. And coming before her, he cried: "Rejoice, O fiery Throne, surpassing in glory the likeness of the four living creatures! Rejoice, O Seat of the heavenly King! Rejoice, unhewn Mountain and most precious Vessel; for in you all the fullness of the Godhead has come to
dwell bodily, by the good pleasure of the everlasting Father,

and the cooperation of the Holy Spirit. // Rejoice, O full of grace,

the Lord is with you!"

v. *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Sticheron 4
Tone 8
by John the Monk

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; for the

* If it be a Saturday or Sunday, we have a split “Glory...”, singing “Let the heavens be glad” and then “Now and ever...” and the sticheron “Today Gabriel announces”. But if the feast falls on a weekday, then we sing “Glory...now and ever...” and the sticheron “Today Gabriel announces”.

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Son, Who with the Father is co-e-ter-nal, also without be-gin-ning,
and co-en-throned with Him, took pity and showed merciful love for
man-kind, and emptied Himself, in accord with the Father's good
pleasure and coun-sel, and made His abode in a virginal womb
purified be-fore-hand by the Spir-it. Oh, won-der!
God is come among men! He Who cannot be contained is contained in a womb; the Timeless One enters time. Oh, great mystery! His conception is without seed, His emptying inexplicable! So great is this mystery! For God empties Himself and is made flesh and is formed, when the Angel tells
the pure Virgin of her conception, saying: "Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord, Who has great mercy, is with you!"

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Sticheron 5  
Tone 2  
by Cosmas the Monk

Today Gabriel announces the good tidings to her who is full of grace:

"Rejoice, unwedded Maiden! Be not amazed at my strange appearance, nor
be a-fraid. I am an Arch-an-gel. The serpent once be-guiled Eve,

but now I announce to you the good tidings of joy, O most pure one.//

You shall remain inviolate and shall give birth to the Lord."