**MARCH 25**

**Wednesday of the Fourth Week in Great Lent**

**Great Compline and Matins (sung on Tuesday)**

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

**Tone 4[[1]](#footnote-1) Troparion** *(Annunciation)*

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!”

**Tone 8 Kontakion** *(Annunciation)*

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts!

We, thy servants delivered from evil

sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos.

As thou dost possess invincible might set us free from every calamity

so that we may sing; “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

**Litya**

**Tone 1** *(by Byzas)*

In the sixth month the chief of the Angelic Hosts was sent to thee, O pure

 Virgin,

to declare to thee the word of salvation,

and to greet thee saying:

“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Thou shalt bring forth a Son, begotten before the ages from the Father,//

and He shall save His people from their sins!”

**Tone 1** *(by Anatolius)*

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 thee!

Rejoice, vessel containing the Uncontainable Nature;

for Him Whom the heavens cannot contain

thy womb now contains, O blessed One.

Rejoice, O Lady, the restoration of Adam and the deliverance of Eve,//

the joy of the world and the great exultation of the human race!

The Angel Gabriel was sent from heaven 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 thee 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 thee!”

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

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

**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 afraid.

I am an Archangel.

The serpent once beguiled Eve,

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

Thou shalt remain inviolate and shalt give birth to the Lord.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 4**

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. Proclaim from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God!*

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. Sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done wonders!*

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!”

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

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

 **Tone 4** *(for the Annunciation, by Andrew of Jerusalem)*

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!”

**Tone 4 Troparion** *(Annunciation)*

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!“ *(thrice)*

***Great Compline is followed by Matins***

***Liturgical music for the festal stichera, the Kanon, and selected hymns at Matins can be downloaded at*** [**https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos**](https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos)

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.

1. *Music from the Menaion – March 25 (Annunciation) can be downloaded at* <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)