**APRIL 4**

**Saturday of the Fourth Week of Great Lent**

**Vespers alone (sung on Friday)**

**Saturday of the Akathist to the Most Holy Theotokos**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 6**

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

**Tone 6[[1]](#footnote-1)** *(to the Theotokos) (Having placed all their hope)*

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

(Repeat: “Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel…”)

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

(Repeat: “Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel…”)

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited 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!*

(Repeat: “Thou dost appear to me in the form…”)

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

(Repeat: “Thou dost appear to me in the form…”)

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

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. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

(Repeat: “Then the bodiless Angel replied…”)

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

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

**Tone 2**  *(Theotokion, by Theophanes)*

Today the eternal mystery is revealed.

The Son of God becomes the Son of man.

By accepting the lowest, He grants me the highest.

Of old, Adam was deceived; he sought to become God,

but he did not receive his desire.

Now God becomes Man, that He may make Adam God.

Let creation rejoice! Let nature exult:

for the Archangel stands in fear before the Virgin,

and saying: “Rejoice!” he brings her the greeting by which our sorrow is healed.//

Glory to Thee, O Lord, Who in Thy compassion didst become a man!

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, / long-suffering and of great goodness. (Ps 102/103:8)

*v: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy*

*name! (Ps 102/103:1)*

**Reading from Genesis (22:1-18)**

**Tone 4 Prokeimenon**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, / in wisdom hast Thou made them all!

(Ps 103/104:24)

 *v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!*

 *(Ps 103/104:1)*

**Reading from Proverbs (17:17-18:5)**

***(and the rest of the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts)***

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6 Idiomelon** *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

Departing from Thy divine commandments, as from Jerusalem,

going down to the passions of Jericho,

I was led astray by the vain glory of the cares of this life.

I fell prey to my own thieving thoughts.

They stripped me of the robe of sonship that was mine by grace.

Now I lie wounded, as one without the breath of life.

The priest approached and saw my body, but passed me by.

The Levite looked at it with loathing and walked away,

but Thou didst anoint me as with oil, O Lord,

Who ineffably didst take flesh from the Virgin

and of Thine own will

didst pour out blood and water from Thy side for our salvation.

Bind up my gaping wounds with linen, O Christ our God,//

and in Thy compassion join me to the heavenly choir!

*v: To Thee I lift up mine eyes, O Thou who art enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us. (Ps 122/123:1-2)*

(Repeat: “Departing from Thy divine commandments…”)

*v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud. (Ps. 122/123:3-4)*

**Tone 6** *(for the Martyrs)*

Thy martyrs, O Lord, did not deny Thee,

nor did they turn from Thy commandments.//

By their intercessions have mercy on us!

*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 Theotokos)*

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!”

**Tone 8 Troparion**  *(Theotokos)*

When the Archangel understood the mysterious command,

he came to the house of Joseph with haste and proclaimed to the

unwedded Lady:

“He Who bowed the heavens by His condescension is contained

fully and without change in thee!

As I behold Him in thy womb, taking the form of a servant, I am

frightened, but cry://

‘Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!’”

***(at the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning)***

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

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

**Tone 8** **Kontakion** *(Theotokos)*

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!”

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul magnifies the Lord, / and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior. (Lk 1:46-47)

*v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. (Lk 1:48)*

 **Epistle**

 Hebrews 9:24-28

 Hebrews 9:1-7 *(Theotokos)*

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Arise, O Lord, into Thy resting place; Thou and the ark of Thy holiness!*

*(Ps 131/132:8)*

*v: Lord, remember David, and all his meekness! (Ps 131/132:1)*

**Gospel**

Mark 8:27-31

 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 *(Theotokos)*

 **Communion Hymn**

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 for the stichera for the Theotokos can be downloaded at* <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)