

The Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos

March 25

The service begins with the singing of the Troparion and Kontakion of the Feast while the deacon censes.

Troparion: 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: 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.

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHYRSOSTOM

The Second Antiphon (Psalm 46)

O Son of God, **Who came in the flesh for us**, save us who sing to You:
Alleluia

The Third Antiphon - Psalm 245 (LXX 44)

Verse by cantor then sing Troparion of the Feast (3x)

Annunciation Troparion: Tone 4 (Znamenny)

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

The Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, O Son of God, Who **came in the flesh for us**, save us who sing to You. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Troparion: 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.

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

Kontakion: 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.

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 – 9th Ode Matins

2 O earth, an-nounce 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 ten lines of music. 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 bar numbers 5, 10, 15, 20, 24, and 28. Red curved lines are drawn under certain notes, likely indicating phrasing or breath marks.

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)

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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.

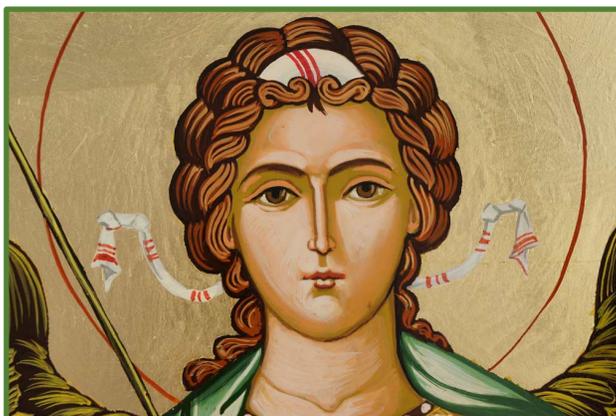
Rejoice, for through you creation is made new;

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