

The Annunciation - Vespers Liturgy

March 25

Vespers is celebrated as at Great Vespers

1. "Blessed is the Man" is not sung.
2. Lord I Call - from the Annunciation

Tone 4

In the sixth month the archangel was sent to the pure Virgin
The bearer of glad tidings greeted her with awe,
Announcing that the redeemer would come forth from her.
She accepted his salutation with faith,
And conceived You, the pre-eternal God,
Who were pleased to become man in wondrous manner, //
For the saluvation of our souls.

The Theotokos heard a voice she did not understand,
When the archangel brought her the glad tidings.
Accepting the greeting with faith, she conceived You, the pre-eternal God.
Therefore we sing to You with great joy,
O unchanging God who took flesh from her: //
Grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Behold, our restoration is now made manifest,
God is wondrously joined to man.
At the words of the archangel error has vanished;
The Virgin has received the joyful news,
And the things of earth have become those of heaven.
The world is released from the ancestral curse.
Let the whole creation rejoice, singing a hymn of praise, //
O Lord, our Creator and Deliverer, Glory to You!

Tone 1 (for the Archangel)

O Gabriel, most Godlike and greatest of the bodiless hosts,
You radiated with heavenly brightness.
With the hosts on high you gaze upon the light of the Threefold Sun,
You came to the Virgin announcing the glad tidings of God's awesome mystery //
Never cease to intercede for us!

O Gabriel, to you alone was entrusted the great mystery,
Which was unknown to the angels and hidden from all eternity.
You came to Nazareth not daring to reveal it to anyone except the pure Virgin//
Pray with her for peace and great mercy for our souls!

O Gabriel, full of light,
The all-perfect leader of the angels
Who obeyed the will and fulfilled the decrees of the Almighty:
Preserve those who honour you with love, //
And always pray for peace and great mercy for our souls.

Glory... Now and Ever...Tone 6

Gabriel the Archangel was sent from heaven
To announce to the Virgin the glad tidings of her conceiving.
Coming to Nazareth he pondered in amazement on this wonder:
How shall He who dwells in the highest,
whom none can comprehend,
Be born of a Virgin?
How shall He whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is the Earth,
Be held in a woman's womb?
He upon whom the six-winged seraphim and the many-eyed
cherubim cannot gaze,
Has been pleased to be made flesh of this His creature.
It is the Word of God Who dwells in her.
Why then do I stand here and not say to the maiden:
Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you!
Rejoice, O pure Virgin!
Rejoice, O unwedded bride!
Rejoice, O mother of life!//
Blessed is the Fruit of your womb!

3. Entrance with the Gospel and "O Gladsome Light"
4. Daily Prokeimenon
5. Old Testament Readings: Exodus 3:1-8; Proverbs 8:22-30
6. Little Litany
7. Trisagion

8. Prokeimenon of the Feast: (Tone 4)

From day to day * Proclaim the salvation of our God!

vs. O sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord all the earth!

9. Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18

10. Alleluia

vs. He descends like the rain on the grass, like showers that water the earth!

vs. May His name be blessed forever, His name continue as long as the sun!

**The remainder of the Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

11. Hymn to the Theotokos: "Receive O Earth" (see music next page)

12. Communion Hymn:

The Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His habitation. Alleluia...

13. At Communion:

Troparion *Tone 4*

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 you!

Glory... Now and Ever...

Kontakion *Tone 8*

O Victorious leader of triumphant hosts

We, your servants delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks

to you O Theotokos,

As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity

So that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded bride!