THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY, THE THEOTOKOS
AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

To follow the service, have a Divine Liturgy service book and, if possible, a Vespers service book. This text will direct you when to use those books.

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages...

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, O God, glory to Thee. O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things. Treasury of blessings, and Giver of Life, come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us! Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, 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.

Most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities of Thy names sake. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

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

Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed by Thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom...

Reader: Amen! Lord, have mercy (12 times). Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.

Come let us worship God our King. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

Reader: Psalm 104 — Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, Thou art very great! Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, who hast stretched out the heavens like a tent, who hast laid the beams of Thy chambers on the waters, who makest the clouds Thy chariot, who ridest on the wings of the wind, who makest the winds Thy messengers, fire and flame Thy ministers. Thou didst set the earth on its foundations, so that it should never be shaken. Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At Thy rebuke they fled; at the sound of Thy thunder they took to flight. The mountains rose, the valleys sank down to the place which Thou didst appoint for them. Thou didst set a bound which they should not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth. Thou makest springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, they give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches. From Thy lofty abode Thou waterest the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy work. Thou dost cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for man to cultivate, that he may bring forth food from the earth, and wine to gladden the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart. The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly, the cedars of Lebanon which He planted. In them the birds build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for the wild goats; the rocks are a refuge for the badgers. Thou hast made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is night, when all the beasts of the forest creep forth. The young lions roar for their prey, seeking their food from God. When the sun rises, they get them away and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work and to his labor until the evening. O LORD, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is full of Thy creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, which teems with things innumerable, living things both small and great. There go the ships, and Leviathan which Thou didst form to sport in it. These all look to Thee, to give them their food in due season. When Thou givest to them, they gather it up; when Thou openest Thy hand, they are filled with good things. When Thou hidest Thy face, they are dismayed; when Thou takest away their breath, they die and return to their dust. When Thou sendest forth Thy Spirit, they are created; and Thou renewest the face of the ground. May the glory of the LORD endure for ever, may the LORD rejoice in His works, who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke! I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being. May my meditation be pleasing to Him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the LORD, O my soul! The sun knows its time for setting. Thou makest darkness, and it is
night. O LORD, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages, Amen.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Glory to Thee, O God

Priest & Singers: Great Litany

(may be followed from Vespers or Liturgy service book)

Singers: Tone 4 / "Lord, I call upon Thee…"
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.

ON 10

Tone 4 / Wednesday of the Fourth Week
The fast, the source of blessings / now has brought us midway through its course / Having pleased God with the days that have passed / we look forward to making good use of the days to come / for growth in blessings brings forth even greater achievements / While pleasing Christ, the giver of all blessings, we cry: // O Lord, who fasted and endured the cross for our sake / make us worthy to share blamelessly in Thy Paschal victory / by living in peace and rightly giving glory to Thee /// with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Tone 5
Those who thirst for spiritual blessings / practice their good deeds in secret / not announcing them in the streets and marketplace / but keeping them hidden deep within their hearts / and He who sees all that is done in secret / will reward us for our abstinence / Let us complete the fast without wearing gloomy faces / Let us pray without ceasing in the inner chamber of our souls: // Our Father, who art in heaven / lead us not into temptation /// but deliver us from evil.

Tone 1 / Cross
Let us cleanse our souls in the waters of the fast / Let us approach the precious and most pure Cross of the Lord / venerating it in faith and drawing forth divine enlightenment / reaping even now the rich harvest: /// eternal salvation, peace and great mercy.

O Cross, boast of the apostles / surrounded by archangels, powers and principalities: // Save us from all harm who bow down before you / Enable us to fulfill the divine course of abstinence /// and to reach the day of salvation, by which we are saved.

Tone 7
Today, as we bow before the cross of the Lord, we cry: // Rejoice, O Tree of life, the destroyer of hell! // Rejoice, O joy of the world, the slayer of corruption! // Rejoice, O power that scatters demons! // O invincible weapon, confirmation of the faithful: /// Protect and sanctify those who kiss you!

Tone 4 / Annunciation
In the sixth month the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin / and with his greeting, “Hail,” he brought good tidings / that the Deliverer would come forth from her / And so, accepting his salutation with faith / she conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God / Who wast pleased to become man inexplicably /// for the salvation of the souls.

The Theotokos heard a voice she did not know / when the Archangel brought her the glad tidings of the Annunciation / and accepting the salutation with faith / she conceived Thee the pre-eternal God / therefore in great rejoicing we also cry unto Thee / O God, Who without change hast been made flesh from her /// grant peace to the world and mercy to our souls.

Lo, our restoration is now made manifest to us / God is inexplicably united to men / At the words of the Archangel error is laid low / for the Virgin receives joy, and the things of the earth have become heaven / The world is loosened from the ancient curse / Let the creation rejoice exceedingly and raise its voice to sing /// O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to Thee.

Tone 1 / Archangel Gabriel
Gabriel, the greatest of the spiritual powers / shining with heavenly brightness / who with the hosts on high gazes upon the light of the Threefold Sun / came to the Virgin and announced to her the good news of the divine and awesome mystery /// and he intercedes for our souls.

The great mystery till then unknown to the Angels / and hidden from all eternity / has been confided to you alone, O Gabriel; / and you have come to Nazareth and entrusted it to her who alone is pure /// Pray with her that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

Reader: He makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.

Gabriel, ever filled with light / who does the will and fulfills the commands of the Ruler of All / Leader of the Angels, most excellent / preserve those who honor you
with love /// pray that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

Glory, now and ever, Amen.

Tone 6 / Annunciation
Gabriel the Archangel was sent from heaven / to announce to the Virgin the glad tidings of her conceiving / and coming to Nazareth he pondered in amazement on this wonder / “O how shall He Whose dwelleth in the heights / 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 the womb of a woman? / He upon Whom the six-winged seraphim and the many-eyed cherubim cannot gaze / has been pleased at a single word to be made flesh of this His creature / It is the Word of God Who dwells within her / Why then do I stand here and not say to the Maiden / “Hail, full of Grace, the Lord is with you / Hail, O pure Virgin / hail, Bride unwedded / Hail, Mother of Life /// blessed is the fruit of your womb.”

(Entrance with the Gospel) Wisdom, let us attend!
Singers: O Gladsome Light
(may be followed from Vespers service book)

Reader & Singers: Tone 4 / Prokeimenon
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel / who alone does wondrous things.
Vs. Give the king Thy justice, O God, and Thy righteousness to the royal son.

Reader: The Reading from Exodus [3:1-8]
Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then He said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites."

Reader: The Reading from Proverbs [8:22-30]
The LORD created me at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first,
before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth; before He had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world. When He established the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when He established the fountains of the deep, when He assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside Him, like a master workman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing before Him always.

**Priest & Singers: Little Litany** (may be followed from Vespers or Liturgy book)

**Singers: Trisagion (Holy God…)** (the service is the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom from this point forward; follow the Liturgy book)

**Tone 4 / Prokeimenon**
**Reader:** The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone:
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!

**Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18**
**Reader:** The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews
Brethren: He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim Thy name to My brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise Thee." And again, "I will put My trust in Him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given Me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that He is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

**Tone 1 / Alleluia**
Vs. He shall descend like rain upon the fleece, like drops of rain that water the earth.
Vs. May His Name be blessed forever; may His Name continue even longer than the sun.

**Gospel: Luke 1:24-38**
At that time: After these days Zachariah’s wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And 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 bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called Holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

+ (Follow the Liturgy service book. After the Anaphora Prayers and Consecration of the Holy Gifts, we sing: )

**Tone 6 / Hymn to the Theotokos**
Receive, O earth the glad tidings of great joy /// Praise, O heavens, the Glory of God. * As you are a living Temple of God / let no impure hand touch you, O Theotokos / But let the lips of all believers sing / constantly magnifying you in joy / with the angelic salutation /// Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One.

+ (The Liturgy continues with “Among the First”, the Litany with the Lord’s Prayer, Preparation for Holy Communion, and the Communion of the Clergy.)

**Communion Hymn:**
The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

+ **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 you.”

(After Holy Communion, the Liturgy concludes as usual.)