

# 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 **cleans**e 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 Who 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 Genesis [9:18-10:1]**

The sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan. These three were the sons of Noah; and from these the whole earth was peopled. Noah was the first tiller of the soil. He planted a vineyard; and he drank of the wine, and became drunk, and lay uncovered in his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it upon both their shoulders, and walked backward and covered the nakedness of their father; their faces were turned away, and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan; a slave of slaves shall he be to his brothers." He also said, "Blessed by the Lord my God be Shem; and let Canaan be his slave. God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his slave." After the flood Noah lived three hundred and fifty years. All the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died. These are the generations of the sons of Noah, Shem, Ham, and Japheth; sons were born to them after the flood.

**Reader & Singers: Tone 4 / Prokeimenon**

It is good for me / to be near my God.

Vs. Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

**Reader: The Reading from Proverbs [12:23-13:9]**

A prudent man conceals his knowledge, but fools proclaim their folly. The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor. Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad. A righteous man turns away from evil, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. A slothful man will not catch his prey, but the diligent man will get precious wealth. In the path of righteousness is life, but the way of error leads to death. A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke. From the fruit of his mouth a good man eats good, but the desire of the treacherous is for violence. He who guards his mouth preserves his life; he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin. The soul of the sluggard craves, and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied. A righteous man hates falsehood, but a wicked man acts shamefully and disgracefully. Righteousness guards him whose way is upright, but sin overthrows the wicked. One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth. The ransom of a man's life is his wealth, but a poor man has no means of redemption. The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

**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.

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**(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**.

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**(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.

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**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.)**