

MARCH 25, 2021
The Annunciation
of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Great Vespers & the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Lord I Call: Four stikhera from the Triodion, three for the Feast and three for the Archangel

Triodion, tone 5:

Of old, our first parents did not fast according to the Creator's command and received death as a fruit of the Tree of Knowledge.

They were banished from the Tree of Life and from the sweetness of Paradise.

Therefore, O faithful, let us fast from the food that perishes and from the passions that destroy us, so that we may acquire life from the divine Cross, and return with the Good Thief to our ancient fatherland,// receiving great mercy from Christ our God!

tone 4:

Your side was pierced when You hung upon the wood, pouring life out upon me.

I was deadened by the guile of the serpent by eating from the tree.

Therefore I glorify You, O Christ, and entreat Your compassion:

“Grant me to complete the Fast with compunction,// that I may venerate Your Passion and Resurrection!”

The fruit of the tree brought sorrow to Adam, the first-formed man,
for You banished him from Paradise,
but when You were crucified as Man upon the Tree
You called him back, O Savior.
Therefore I cry to You, O Redeemer:
“Set me free from all my sorrow.
cleansing me through tears, repentance, and fasting,
now rescue me from my sorrow,//
O most gracious Jesus, the Savior of our souls!”

O Lord, in hymns we praise Your life-creating Cross,
for by slaying death It has caused life to blossom in the world.
And now we offer It to You in intercession.
Strengthen us as we fast in these holy days;
give us strength to battle passions
and achieve a peaceful victory,//
according to the greatness of Your mercy, O Lover of man!

Feast, tone 4:

In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin;
and with his greeting “Rejoice,”
he announced the good news that the Deliverer was to come forth from
her.

Therefore, having received the salutation with faith,
she conceived You, the pre-eternal God,
Who were well-pleased ineffably to become man//
for the salvation of our souls.

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 You, the pre-eternal God.
And so, rejoicing exceedingly, we too cry aloud to You:
O God, made flesh from her without change,//
grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls!

Behold, our restoration has now been revealed to us:
in a manner beyond understanding, God is united to mankind;
at the voice of the Archangel, delusion is destroyed,
for the Virgin receives joy;
things of the earth have become heaven;
and the world is freed from the ancient curse.
Let creation rejoice exceedingly and sing with voices of praise://
“O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to You!”

Archangel, tone 1:

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!

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

GLORY...NOW & EVER... Theotokion for the feast, tone 6:

The Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven,
to announce to the Virgin the good news of her conceiving.
And coming to Nazareth, he was filled with wonder at the miracle,
and reasoned within himself:
“How is it that He Who dwells on high,
Whom none can comprehend, is to be born of a Virgin?
How is He, Whose throne is Heaven and Whose footstool is the earth,
to be contained in the womb of a woman?
He upon Whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim
are not able to gaze
is well-pleased to be made flesh from her at a single word.
It is the Word of God Who is to come.
Why then do I hesitate, and not say to the Maiden:
‘Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with you!
Rejoice, pure Virgin!
Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!
Rejoice, Mother of the Life!//
Blessed is the Fruit of your womb!’”