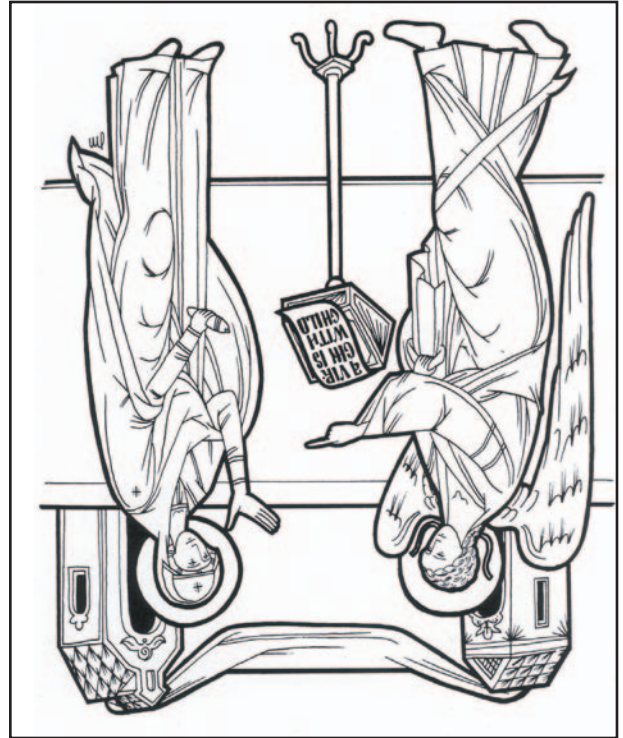


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Today is the beginning of our salvation,
and the manifestation of the mystery from
the ages; for the Son of God becometh the
Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaimeth
grace. Wherefore, do we shout with him to
the Theotokos, Hail, O full of grace.
The Lord is with thee.

Troparion



Annunciation

March 25 / April 7

God took on flesh within the womb of Mary. We celebrate this event as the Annunciation, or “announcing.” In the icon, the Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she has “found favor with God” (Luke 1:30). Although Mary did not know how she could conceive since she did not know a man, she had faith in God, and replied, “Let it be to me, according to your word” (Luke 1:38).

We call Mary the Theotokos, or God-bearer. For us, this feast is a reminder that we, too, are called to “bear God,” or “carry God” to others.

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