

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON MARCH 25 THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

O God, give Thy judgment to the king, and Thy righteousness to the son of the king. Let the mountains receive peace for the people, and let the hills receive righteousness.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Proclaim from day to day the good tidings of His salvation. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David, and He will not annul it; of the fruit of thy loins will I set upon thy throne. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

He shall come down like rain upon a fleece, and like raindrops that fall upon the earth. The Most High hath hallowed His tabernacle.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who wast incarnate for our sake; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

God shall come visibly, yea, our God, and shall not keep silence. (*Refrain*)

In His days shall righteousness dawn forth an abundance of peace, until the moon be taken away. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

His Name shall be blessed forever; His Name shall continue longer than the sun. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious Name unto the ages, and unto the ages of ages.

- *During the Little Entrance, after the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the Annunciation. Then, the following:*

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF THE FEAST

Proclaim from day to day the good tidings of the salvation of our God. Save us, O Son of God, Who wast incarnate for our sake; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *After the Entrance, sing the hymns in the following order below.*

APOLYTIKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

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.

- *Do NOT sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

- *NOTE: The actual kontakion of the Annunciation is “With mystic apprehension” as evidenced in the words of the hymn. The kontakion “To thee, the champion leader” belongs to the Saturday of the Akathist Hymn which commemorates military victories. It has also come to be used on Greek Independence Day. Therefore, sing both kontakia as ordered below.*

KONTAKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE EIGHT (CHANT)

(**The original melody**)

With mystic apprehension of the divine commandment, the bodiless angel quickly appeared in the dwelling-place of Joseph and said to the unwed Virgin: Lo, He Who in His Descent did bow the Heavens is housed unchanged and whole in thee; as I behold Him in thy womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and I cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

KONTAKION OF AKATHIST SATURDAY IN TONE EIGHT (CHANT) (CHORAL)

(**The original melody**)

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom.

THE EPISTLE

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For He hath regarded the humility of His servant.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (2:11-18)

Brethren, the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from One; for this reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, “I will proclaim Thy Name to My brethren; in the midst of the Church I will praise Thee.” And again, “I will rely on Him.” And again, “Lo I, and the children whom God has given Me.” Since then “the children” have become partakers in the flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise partook of both things; that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil; and release all those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For surely He did not take upon Himself the nature of angels; but, He took upon Himself “the seed of Abraham.” Therefore, it behooved Him to be in the likeness of His “brethren” in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, for the atonement of the sins of the people. For in that He has suffered, and was Himself tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (1:24-38)

At that time, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah, 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 archangel 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 the archangel came to her and said, “Rejoice, O favored one, the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the archangel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou wilt conceive in thy 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 forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end.” And Mary said to the archangel, “How shall this be, since I have known no man?” And the archangel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon thee, and the power of the Most High will overshadow thee; 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 archangel departed from her.

MEGALYNARION OF THE FEAST IN TONE FOUR

Proclaim, O earth, the glad tidings of great joy, and ye heavens, praise the glory of God.

The Theotokos, being the living tabernacle of God, shall never be touched by an unclean hand. But the lips of believers shall sing unto her ceaselessly with the voice of angels, crying joyfully: Hail, O full of grace. The Lord is with thee.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE EIGHT

The Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired her for His dwelling. Alleluia.

- *Post-Communion Hymn: “We have seen the true light.”*

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who deigned to be incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary for us men and for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother, whose Annunciation we now celebrate; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.