

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

DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: **For Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.**

Choir: **Lord, have mercy.**

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Give the King Thy judgments, O God, and Thy righteousness unto the King's Son. May the mountains bring peace to Thy people, and the little hills righteousness.

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

Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God. The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David, and He will not turn from it; of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.
(Refrain)

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

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

He shall come down as rain upon a fleece, and as the dew which falls upon the earth. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle.

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

Our God shall plainly come, and shall not keep silence. *(Refrain)*

In His days righteousness shall shine forth; and abundance of peace, so long as the moon endureth.
(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

Tell forth from day to day the glad 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.*

KONTAKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION 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

Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

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

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.

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 chosen it for His dwelling. Alleluia.

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

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May He Who condescended to become 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.