**SUNDAY, MARCH 25 TONE 1**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent: St Mary of Egypt**

**Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary**

*(The service to St Mary of Egypt from the Triodion is omitted today because of the Feast of the Annunciation.)*

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

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!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 1** *(for the Resurrection)*

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins,//

for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Encircle Zion

and surround her, O people!

Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!

For He is our God, //

Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Come, O people,

let us hymn and fall down before Christ,

glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!

For He is our God, //

Who has delivered the world from the Enemy’s deceit!

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

*(Resurrection stichera by Anatolius)*

Be glad, O heavens!

Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!

Sing in gladness, O mountains!

Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!

Granting life, He has slain death.//

He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 6** *(from the Menaion, for the Feast) (Having placed all hope)*

Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel,

Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maiden,

and greeting thee, he said:

“Rejoice, O earth that has not been sown!

Rejoice, burning bush that remains unconsumed!

Rejoice, unsearchable depth!

Rejoice, bridge that leads to Heaven!

Rejoice, ladder raised on high that Jacob saw!

Rejoice, divine jar of manna!

Rejoice, deliverance from the curse!

Rejoice, restoration of Adam;//

the Lord is with thee!”

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

(Repeat: “Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel …”)

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

“Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man,”

said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.

“How then dost thou speak to me of things that pass man’s power?

Thou hast said that God shall be with me

and shall take up His dwelling in my womb.

How shall I become the spacious habitation

and the holy place of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim?

Do not deceive me with trickery;

for I have not known pleasure,

I have not entered into wedlock.//

How then shall I bear a Child?”

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

(Repeat: “Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man …”)

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Then the bodiless Angel replied:

“When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome,

and what is beyond man comes to pass.

Believe that my sayings are true,

O all-holy and immaculate Lady!”

And she cried aloud:

“Let it be to me according to thy word,

and I shall bear Him Who is without flesh!

He shall borrow flesh from me,

that through this union of natures

He may lead man up to his ancient glory,//

for He alone has power so to do.”

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

(Repeat: “Then the bodiless Angel replied: …”)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**  *(for the Feast, by John the Monk)*

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,

and 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 thee!

Rejoice, pure Virgin!

Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!

Rejoice, O Mother of the Life!//

Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb!’”

**Reading from Genesis (28:10-17)** *(Annunciation)*

**Reading from Ezekiel (43:27-44:4)** *(Annunciation)*

**Reading from Proverbs (9:1-11)** *(Annunciation)* **Reading from Exodus  (3:1-8)** *(Theotokos)*

**Reading from Proverbs  (8:22-30)** *(Theotokos)*

**Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary**

**Litya**

**Tone 1** *(by Byzas)*

In the sixth month the chief of the Angelic Hosts was sent to thee, O pure

 Virgin,

to declare to thee the word of salvation,

and to greet thee saying:

“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Thou shalt bring forth a Son, begotten before the ages from the Father,//

and He shall save His people from their sins!”

**Tone 1** *(by Anatolius)*

In the sixth month the Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven

to the city of Nazareth in Galilee,

to bring glad tidings of joy to the Maiden.

And coming before her, he cried out saying:

“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

Rejoice, vessel containing the Uncontainable Nature;

for Him Whom the heavens cannot contain,

thy womb now contains, O blessed One.

Rejoice, O Lady, the restoration of Adam and the deliverance of Eve,//

the joy of the world and the great exultation of the human race!“

The Angel Gabriel was sent from heaven by God

to an undefiled Virgin in the city of Nazareth in Galilee,

to bring her glad tidings of the wondrous manner of her conceiving.

The bodiless servant was sent to the living city and the spiritual gate,

to proclaim the condescension of the Master’s coming.

The heavenly warrior was sent to the living palace of glory,

to prepare in advance an everlasting abode for the Creator.

And coming before her, he cried:

“Rejoice, O fiery throne, surpassing in glory the likeness of the

 four living creatures!

Rejoice, O seat of the heavenly King!

Rejoice, unhewn mountain and most precious vessel;

for in thee all the fullness of the Godhead has come to dwell bodily,

by the good pleasure of the everlasting Father,

and the cooperation of the Holy Spirit.//

Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 8** *(by John the monk)*

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;

for the Son, Who with the Father is coeternal,

also without beginning, and co-enthroned with Him,

took pity and showed merciful love for mankind,

and emptied Himself, in accord with the Father’s good pleasure and

 counsel,

and made His abode in a virginal womb purified beforehand by the Spirit. Oh, wonder!

God is among men!

He Who cannot be contained is contained in a womb;

the Timeless One enters time.

Oh, great mystery!

His conception is without seed, His emptying inexpressible!

So great is this mystery!

For God empties Himself and is made flesh and is formed,

when the Angel tells the pure Virgin of her conception, saying:

“Rejoice, O full of grace,//

the Lord, Who has great mercy, is with thee!”

 *now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 2** *(by Cosmas the monk)*

Today Gabriel announces the good tidings to her who is full of grace:

“Rejoice, unwedded Maiden!

Be not amazed at my strange appearance, nor be afraid.

I am an Archangel.

The serpent once beguiled Eve,

but now I announce to thee the good tidings of joy, O most pure one.//

Thou shalt remain inviolate and shall give birth to the Lord.

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 1**  *(for the Resurrection)*

We have been freed from sufferings

by Thy suffering, O Christ.

We have been delivered from corruption

by Thy Resurrection.//

O Lord, glory to Thee!

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Let creation rejoice!

Let the heavens be glad!

Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,

for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross.

Slaying death, He has given life.//

He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

 *v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

As King of heaven and earth,

Thou wast voluntarily crucified in Thy love for man.

Hell was angered when it met Thee below.

Adam rose seeing Thee, the Creator, under the earth.

O wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?

Thou didst enlighten the world which cries://

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

*v. Holiness befitteth Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Thy tomb,

bearing myrrh and lamenting.

Not finding Thy most pure body,

they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.

They told the Apostles:

“The Lord is risen, //

granting the world great mercy.”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

 **Tone 4** *(for the Annunciation, by Andrew of Jerusalem)*

Today the good tidings of joy are proclaimed,

today is the festival of the Virgin;

things below are joined together with things on high.

Adam is made new;

Eve is freed from the primal grief;

and by the deification of the human nature that the Lord assumed,

the tabernacle of our substance has become a temple of God.

Oh, what a mystery!

The manner of His emptying cannot be known;

the manner of His conception is beyond speech.

An Angel ministers at the miracle; a virginal womb receives the Son;

the Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high is well pleased,

and according to their common counsel, a reconciliation is brought to pass

in which and through which we are saved.

For this reason let us unite our song with Gabriel’s,

crying aloud to the Virgin:

“Rejoice, O Lady full of grace, the Lord is with thee!

From thee is our salvation, Christ our God,

Who, by assuming our nature, has led us back to Himself.//

Humbly pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!”

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary**

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,

while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**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 thee!

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

***(at Vigil)***

**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 thee! *(thrice)*

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

***(at the Divine Liturgy of St Basil)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,

while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,

Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,

granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Thy Kingdom!//

Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!”

**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 thee!

**Tone 8 Kontakion** *(Annunciation)*

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts!

We thy servants, delivered from evil

sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos.

As thou dost possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity

so that we may sing: “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

**Tone 1** **Prokeimenon**

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

(Ps 32/33:22)

*v: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)*

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon**

From day to day proclaim the salvation of our God! *(Ps 95/96:2)*

**Epistle**

 Hebrews 9:11-14

 Hebrews 2:11-18 *(Feast)*

 **Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.*

*(Ps 17/18:47)*

*v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever. (Ps 17/18:50)*

 **Tone 1**

*v: He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the*

*earth. (Ps 71/72:6)*

**Gospel**

 Mark 10:32-45

 Luke 1: 24-38 *(Feast)*

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

 **The Hymn to the Theotokos**

O earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O heavens, praise the glory

 of God!

Since she is a living Ark of God
let no profane hand touch the Theotokos.
But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her,
praising her in joy with the Angel’s song:
“Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!”

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation.

*(Ps 131/132:14)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Liturgical music for the feast can be downloaded at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org) ; Liturgical Music and Translations; Music Downloads, Major Feasts, Annunciation of the Theotokos

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Elizabeth Theokritoff, Father Benedict Churchill, Dr Sergei Arhipov, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.