

THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

Divine Liturgy Variables



“And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’”
(Luke 1)

ALL SAINTS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
Chicago, Illinois

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Divine Liturgy Variables



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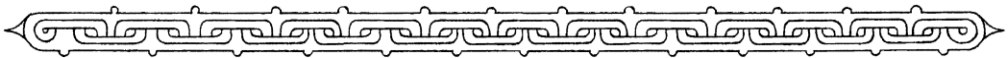
NOTE: The liturgical guidelines for celebrating the feast of the Annunciation change each year, depending on the day of the week. If March 25 falls on a weekday, we normally have the option of celebrating Festal Orthros and Divine Liturgy in the morning of March 25, or a Vesperal Divine Liturgy in the evening of March 25 (not the evening before).

The Second Antiphon: O Son of God, who wast incarnate for our sake, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia!

Entrance Hymn: From day to day show forth the salvation of our God. O Son of God, who wast incarnate for our sake, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Troparion of the Annunciation (Tone 4): 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, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee!’

Kontakion of the Annunciation (Tone 8): O Champion Leader, to thee I offer thanks of victory! O Theotokos, thou hast delivered me from terror. As thou hast invincible power, O Theotokos, thou truly can set me free from all danger. Set me free and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: ‘Hail, O bride without bridegroom!’



EPISTLE READING

For the Feast of the Annunciation

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)

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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.

GOSPEL READING

For the Feast of the Annunciation

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

Let us attend! 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.”

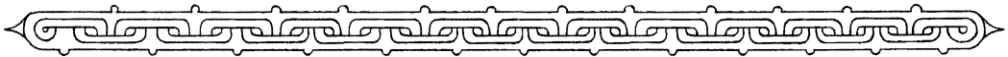
In the sixth month the archangel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. And the archangel came to her and said, “Rejoice, O favored one, the Lord is with thee! Blessed 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.”

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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.



*Then the homily, and the rest of the Divine Liturgy as usual. The following **Hymn to the Theotokos** and **Communion Hymn** replace the usual ones.*

Hymn to the Theotokos (Tone 4): Receive, O earth, the glad tidings of great joy, and ye heavens, praise the glory of God! Since thou art a living temple of God, O Theotokos, no impure hand shall touch thee. But let the lips of believers praise thee, and cry joyfully unto thee forevermore, with the voice of the angel: ‘Hail, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee!’

Communion Hymn (Tone 4): The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His dwelling. Alleluia. (Psalm 131)