

The 26th Day of March

Ⓔ Leavetaking of the Annunciation, and the Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.

Vespers

Note: The Typicon, Triodion, and the Festal Menaion must all be consulted for the proper ordering of the services on this day.

At Vespers (*without bows or Kathisma, we sing*): **“Lord, I call...,” 11 stichera:**

2 stichera from the Triodion (*from the Aposticha, omitting that of the martyrs*);

3 stichera from the Feast, in Tone 6: (*from Lord, I call*)

Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel /
Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maiden; /
And greeting thee, he said: /
‘Rejoice, thou earth that had not been sown; /
Rejoice, thou burning bush that remains unconsumed; /
Rejoice, thou unsearchable depth; /
Rejoice, thou bridge that leads to heaven, /
And ladder raised on-High that Jacob saw; /
Rejoice, thou divine jar of manna; /
Rejoice, thou deliverance from the curse; ///
Rejoice, thou restoration of Adam, the Lord is with thee.

‘Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man,’ /
Said the undefiled Maiden to the chief of the heavenly hosts; /
‘How then dost thou speak to me of things that pass man’s power? /
For thou hast said that God shall be with me, /
And shall take up His dwelling in my womb; /
And how, tell me, shall I become the spacious habitation /
And holy place of Him who rides upon the cherubim? /
Do not beguile me with deceit: /
For I have not known pleasure, I have not entered into wedlock. ///
How then shall I bear a child?

‘When God so wishes,’ said the bodiless angel, /
‘The order of nature is overcome, /
And what is beyond man comes to pass. /
Believe me that my sayings are true, O All-Holy Lady, utterly without spot.’ /

And she cried aloud, ‘Let it be to me according to thy word; /
And I shall bear Him that is without flesh, who shall borrow flesh from me, /
That through this mingling He may lead man up to his ancient glory, ///
For He alone has power so to do.’

3 stichera of the Feast (from the Aposticha at Vigil), in Tone 4:

In the sixth month the archangel Gabriel was sent to the pure Virgin, /
And with his greeting: “Rejoice!” he brought good tidings /
That the Redeemer would come forth from her /
And so, accepting his salutation with faith /
She conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God /
Who wast pleased to become man ineffably ///
For the salvation of our souls.

The Theotokos heard a voice she knew not /
When the archangel brought her the glad tidings of the Annunciation; /
And accepting the salutation with faith /
She conceived Thee, the pre-eternal God. /
Therefore, in great rejoicing we also cry out to Thee: /
O God, who without change hast been made flesh from her, ///
Grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Lo, our restoration is now made manifest to us: /
God is ineffably united to mankind. /
At the words of the archangel error is laid low; /
For the Virgin receives joy, and the things of the earth have become heaven. /
The world is loosened from the ancient curse. /
Let the creation rejoice exceedingly and raise its voice to sing: ///
O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to Thee!

3 stichera of the Archangel, in Tone 1: To the melody, “O all-praised martyrs....”

Gabriel, the greatest and most godlike of the spiritual powers, /
Shining with heavenly brightness, /
Who with the hosts on high gazes upon the light of the Three-fold Sun, /
Came to the Virgin and announced to her the glad tidings of the divine mystery
full of awe; ///
And he intercedes for our souls.

To thee alone, O Gabriel, was entrusted the great mystery /
Till then unknown to the angels /

LEAVETAKING OF THE ANNUNCIATION; SYNAXIS OF THE
ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

And hidden from all eternity; /
Coming to Nazareth, thou hast not dared to impart it to any save the pure Virgin
alone. ///

Pray with her that our souls be granted peace and great mercy.

And the Verse at the 11th sticheron: He maketh His angels spirits and His ministers a
flaming fire.

Thou who art ever filled with light, /
Who doest the will and fulfillest the decrees of the Almighty, /
O leaders of the angels, /
Gabriel the all-perfect, preserve those who honor thee with love, ///
And ask at all times that our souls be granted peace and great mercy.

Glory..., now and ever..., Entrance Hymn of the Feast, in Tone 6:

Gabriel the Archangel was sent from heaven /
To announce to the Virgin the glad tidings of her conceiving; /
Coming to Nazareth he pondered in amazement at this wonder, /
“How shall He who dwelleth in the heights, /
Whom none can comprehend, be born of a Virgin? /
How shall He whose throne is heaven and whose footstool is the earth /
Be held in the womb of a woman? /
He upon whom the six-winged seraphīm and the many-eyed cherubīm cannot gaze /
Has been pleased at a single word to be made flesh of this His creature. /
It is the Word of God who dwells within her. /
Why then do I stand here, and not say to the Maiden: /
Rejoice, thou who art full of grace: /
The Lord is with thee. /
Rejoice, O pure Virgin; /
Rejoice Bride unwedded. ///
Rejoice, O Mother of Life: blessèd is the Fruit of thy womb!”

Note: During the singing of the stikhera the priest serves the Proskomedion.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the Day.

Four Readings:

Two of the Day, and the following two: (*except on Saturday, Sunday, or during
Passion Week*)

The Reading from Exodus (3:1-8):

^{3:1} Now Moses was feeding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he brought the sheep beyond the desert and came to the mountain, even to Horeb. ²And an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a fire of flame out of the bush, and he seeth that the bush burneth with fire, but the bush was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "When I pass by I will see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed." ⁴And when the Lord saw that he drew nigh to see, the Lord called unto him out of the bush, saying, "Moses, Moses." And he said, "What is it?" ⁵And He said, "Draw not nigh hither. Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place where thou standest

is holy ground." ⁶And He said, "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses turned his face away, for he was afraid to look upon God. ⁷And the Lord said unto Moses, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people that are in Egypt and have heard their groaning by reason of their taskmasters, for I know their affliction. ⁸And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them out of that land and to bring them into a good land and a wide, into a land flowing with milk and honey."

The Reading from Proverbs (8:22-30):

Thus saith the Lord Almighty: ^{8:22}The Lord made Me the beginning of His ways for His works. ²³He established Me before the age in the beginning, before He made the earth, ²⁴even before He made the deeps, before the fountains of water came forth; ²⁵before the mountains were settled and before all hills, He had begotten Me. ²⁶The Lord made countries and uninhabitable places and the highest habitable parts of the world. He prepared the heaven, I

was present with Him, and when He set apart His throne upon the winds, ²⁸and when He strengthened the clouds above, and when He secured the fountains of the earth, ²⁹and when He strengthened the foundations of the earth, ³⁰then I was by Him arranging all things; I was that wherein He took delight, and daily rejoiced I in His presence continually.

The Little Litany and Trisagion.

The Prokeimenon, in Tone 4: From day to day / proclaim the salvation of our God! *Verse:* O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

The Epistle: (306) Hebrews 2:11-18

26 MARCH: LEAVETAKING ANNUNCIATION; SYNAXIS OF THE
ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

The Alleluia, in Tone 1: He shall descend like rain upon the fleece, like drops of rain that water the earth. *Verse:* May His Name be blessed forever; may His Name continue even longer than the sun.

The Gospel: (3) Luke 1:24-38

And the rest of the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom in order.

Instead of “It is truly meet,” we sing the refrain and the second Irmos of Ode 9 of the Festal Canon:

Refrain.: **O** earth, announce good tidings of great joy: O ye heavens, praise the glory of God!

Second Irmos:

Let no profane hand touch the living Ark of God, but let the lips of the faithful, singing without ceasing the words of the angel to the Theotokos, cry aloud in great joy: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace: the Lord is with thee!

Communion Hymn: The Lord hath chosen Sion; He hath desired it for His habitation. Alleluia....

Matins

At “God is the Lord...,” on certain days, according to the Typicon, the Troparia of the Feast and of the Archangel are sung:

The Troparion of the Feast, in Tone 4:

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 good tidings of grace. /
Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: /
Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, ///
The Lord is with thee.

The Troparion of the Archangel, in the same Tone:

O foremost leader of the heavenly hosts /
We who are unworthy beseech thee /
By thy prayers to encompass us /
With the shadow of thine immaterial glory. /

6 MARCH

We fall down before thee, and cry out ceaselessly: /
Deliver us from all danger! ///
Since thou art the prince of the ranks of dominions on high!

The Kathisma readings and the Sessional Hymns, as appointed by the Triodion followed by Psalm 50 (51) and:

The Canon

The Canon of the Theotokos, with 4 Troparia including the Irmos; and that of the Archangel, with 6 Troparia, having the acrostic according to the alphabet, in Tone 6:

— *incomplete as of 1/2017.*

The Kontakion of the Feast, in Tone 8:

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts, /
We the servants delivered from all evil sing our grateful thanks to thee, O
Theotokos, /
As thou dost possess invincible might, set us from every calamity, ///
So that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded bride!

The Kontakion of the Archangel Gabriel, in the same Tone:

O supreme commander of the heavenly hosts, Gabriel, /
Our glorious intercessor and servant of the radiant, all-accomplishing, infinite and
awesome Trinity, /
Ceaselessly pray that we be delivered from every tribulation and danger ///
So that we may sing: Rejoice, O thou protection of us thy servants!

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