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READER'S GREAT ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026  
(5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in Lent<sup>1</sup>)

***The Leave-Taking (Apodosis) of Annunciation of our  
Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary  
The Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel The Annunciation***

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*Reader:* Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

*People:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

*Reader:* Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

PSALM 103

*Reader:* Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment,

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<sup>1</sup> No Triodion hymnography is used today.

Who stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent, Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire, Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be turned back for ever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid. The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice. He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, To bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares. He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad. Young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all; the earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being. May my words be sweet unto Him, and I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul. The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(Twice)*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

#### THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. *(12 times)*

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*No Kathisma is not read tonight!*  
“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE SIX

*Choir:* O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

*Choir:* Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.
- The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.
- Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.
- Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

For the Annunciation in Tone Six (\*\**Having laid up all their hope*\*\*)

*Verse 6.* If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Coming to reveal to thee \* that counsel which was determined \* from before eternity, \* Gabriel saluted thee, \* crying out: Rejoice, \* holy earth never sown; \* bush unburnt, rejoice thou; \* O rejoice, thou ladder raised on high, \* which Jacob saw of old; \* rejoice, thou depth unfathomed and unexplored; \* rejoice, thou bridge which leadest up \* to the highest Heaven; rejoice, divine \* vessel of the Manna; \* rejoice, complete destruction of the curse; \* recall of Adam to God, rejoice: \* With thee is the Lord Most High.

*Verse 5.* Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

To the Chief of Heaven's hosts, \* the undefiled Maiden answered: \* Thou dost seem to be a man; \* how is it that thou dost speak \* things beyond man's strength? \* For thou hast said to me \* that God shall be with me \* and shall make His dwelling in my womb. \* Tell me, I pray of thee, \* how shall I become then the spacious land \* and dwelling-place of holiness \* for Him that doth ride on the Cherubim? \* Do thou not beguile me \* deceitfully; for pleasure I know not, \* neither in wedlock have I been yoked. \* How then shall I bear a child?

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.* Wheresoever God doth will, \* there nature's order is conquered, \* spake he that is bodiless; \* and that which exceedeth man \* then is brought to pass. \* O thou all-holy Maid, \* purer than all telling, \* now believe these truthful words of mine. \* She cried aloud to him: \* Be it unto me now as thou hast said, \* and I shall bear the Fleshless One, \* Who shall borrow flesh from me, so that He, \* Who alone is able, \* might lead man back up to his first estate \* and ancient dignity once again \* by His union with our race.

For Archangel Gabriel in Tone One (\*\**O all-lauded Martyrs*\*\*)

*Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

That mind which is truly like to God, \* the great Gabriel, the heavenly, who shineth with splendor, who doth look upon the light \* of the Three-Sun Godhead \* with the Angels' hosts on high, \* came down unto the Virgin, announcing the good tidings unto her: \* that divine and fearful mystery; \* and he ever \* prayeth in our souls' behalf.

*Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.*

Behold, the great myst'ry that was hid \* from eternity and unknown to the Angels, is now entrusted unto thee alone; \* and as thou dost come down \* to the town of Nazareth, \* O Gabriel, thou tellest it unto the pure Maid and no one else. \* Now with her, entreat the Lord of all \* that He grant peace \* and Great Mercy to our souls.

*Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

O thou who art ever filled with light \* and fulfilllest the commands and holy will of the Sovereign and Almighty God of all, \* leader of the Angels, \* thou most excellent of all, \* O Gabriel, preserve them that honor thee with faith and fervent love, \* ever praying God in our behalf \* that He grant peace \* and Great Mercy to our souls.

#### DOXASTICON FOR THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE SIX

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Gabriel the Archangel was sent from Heaven to announce to the Virgin the glad tidings of her conceiving; and coming to Nazareth, he pondered in himself, amazed at the wonder. How shall He Who dwelleth in the highest, Whom none can comprehend, be born of a Virgin? 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 Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim cannot gaze, hath been pleased with a single word to become flesh of her. It is the Word of God Who is present. Why then do I stand here and not say to the Maiden: Rejoice, O Full of Grace; the Lord is with thee? Rejoice, O pure Virgin; rejoice, thou Bride unwedded. Rejoice, O Mother of Life; blessed is the Fruit of thy womb.

## THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

*Choir:* Gladsome light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in Heaven, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Lo now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song. Son of God, Thou Giver of Life, wherefore the world glorifieth thee.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE FIVE

*Leader:* The Evening Prokeimenon!

*Choir:* O God, in thy name save me, and in thy strength do thou judge me. (*twice*)

*Verse:* O God, hearken unto my prayer, give ear to the words of my mouth.

*Choir:* O God, in thy name save me, and in thy strength do thou judge me.

### THE PARAMIA

#### *First Passage*

*Reader:* The Reading from the Book of Exodus (3:1-8).

Moses came to the mountain of God, even Horeb. And the Angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said: I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, the Lord called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said: What is it, Lord? And He said: Draw not nigh hither; put off thy sandals from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover 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 away his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And the Lord said unto Moses: I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrow; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land and lead them into a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

#### *The Second Passage*

*Reader:* The Reading from the Book of Proverbs (8:22-30).

The Lord made me the beginning of His ways for His works. Before time was, He established me, in the beginning, before He made the earth, and before He made the depths, before the fountains of the waters came forth, before the mountains were made, and before all the hills, He begat me. The Lord made lands and uninhabited places, and the uttermost inhabited parts under heaven. When He prepared the heaven, I was present with Him; and when He appointed His own throne upon the winds; when He strengthened the clouds above, and when He secured the fountains of the waters that are under heaven; when He gave the sea its bound that the waters should not go beyond His word, and He made strong the foundations of the earth, I was with Him, working in harmony with Him. I it was in whom He took delight, and daily I rejoiced in His presence continually.

### AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

*Reader:* Lord have mercy (*40 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## THE EVENING PRAYER

*People:* Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

*Reader:* Lord have mercy (*12 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### APOSTICHA FOR THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE FOUR

In the sixth month the archangel was sent to the pure Virgin. And as he opened his mouth and said to her: Rejoice! And he announced to her that from her will come the Redeemer. And having accepted the greeting with faith, she conceived Thee, O God before eternity, Who wast pleased, in an inexplicable manner, to become incarnate for the salvation of our souls.

*Verse 1. Proclaim from day to day the good tidings of the salvation of our God.*

The Theotokos heard a language which she did not understand; for the archangel uttered to her the words of the Annunciation. And having accepted the greeting with faith, she conceived Thee, O God before eternity. Wherefore, we lift our voice to Thee in joy, saying: O God Who wast incarnate without transubstantiation, grant the world safety and our souls the Great Mercy.

*Verse 2. Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.*

Behold, now is our recall made manifest; for God is united with mankind in an ineffable manner. And at the voice of the archangel error hath vanished; for the Virgin hath received joy and earthly things have become heavenly, and the world is free from the ancient curse. Wherefore, let creation rejoice; let it raise its voice with praise, O Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, glory to Thee.

### DOXASTICON FOR THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE FOUR

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

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

Today is the Annunciation, the celebration of the Virgin; for terrestrials shall unite with celestials, Adam being renewed and Eve freed of the first sorrow. And the tabernacle who is of our own substance hath become a temple for God, by deification of the clay derived from her. What mystery, the incomprehensible quality of the condescension, and the ineffable manner of the Conception; an angel ministering the wonder, and the virgin womb receiving the Son! The Holy Spirit is sent, and on high the Father is well pleased. The reconciliation was effected by the universal will, through which and by which having been saved, let us with Gabriel sing unto the Virgin: Rejoice, O full of grace! The Lord is with thee, from whom Christ our Lord, God and Savior did take our nature and join it to Himself. Wherefore, implore thou Him to save our souls.

### THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

*Leader:* Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

## THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

*People:* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*Thrice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

## APOLYTIKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE FOUR

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: Rejoice, O full of grace! The Lord is with thee. (*thrice, without* "Glory..., Both now...")

## THE DISMISSAL

*Choir:* Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

*The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:*

*Leader:* Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

*All:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

*Leader:* O Thou 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 protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven—especially the archangel Gabriel, whose Synaxis we now celebrate; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our father among the saints, Stephen the Confessor, abbot of Triglia, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

*Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:*

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*All:* Amen.