

ORTHROS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023; TONE 8 / EOTHINON 8
FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT &
LEAVE-TAKING OF THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS

THE SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL; STEPHEN THE CONFESSOR, ABBOT OF TRIGLIA

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art in all places, and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life, come, and dwell in us, and cleanse us from every stain; and save our souls, O good One.

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 evil.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O fearsome champion, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God and alone art blessed.

LITANY

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" (thrice) in this litany until noted.

Again, we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) and all our brotherhood in Christ.

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men. (*thrice*)

O Lord, open Thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Thy praise. (*twice*)

PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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. (THRICE)

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

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

PSALM 87

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

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

O Lord, give ear unto my supplication and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (*twice*)
Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

THE GREAT LITANY

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.

For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

"GOD IS THE LORD" IN TONE EIGHT

Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Verse 1. O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. (*Refrain*)

Verse 2. All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. (*Refrain*)

Verse 3. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (*Refrain*)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

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

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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

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

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.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Priest: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the might, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

EIGHTH TONE RESURRECTIONAL KATHISMATA (Plain Reading)

First Kathisma

Thou hast risen from the dead, O Life of all. And a resplendent angel shouted to the women: Dry your tears and proclaim to the Apostles, and cry out in praise, that Christ the Lord hath risen, He Who hath been pleased to save mankind, since He is God.

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

Thou hast verily risen from the tomb; and Thou didst command the righteous women to preach to the Apostles the Resurrection, as it was written. And as for Peter, he did hasten to the tomb; and when he saw the light in the grave, he was dazzled with surprise. Then he saw the linen clothes lying aside, where it was not possible to see them by night, and he believed, and cried out, Glory to Thee, O Christ God; for Thou hast saved us all, O our Savior, Who still remainest in truth the Radiance of the Father.

(For the Annunciation) *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

The great leader of the immaterial hosts hath come to the city of Nazareth announcing to thee, O pure one, the Lord, the King of the ages, and saying unto thee: Rejoice, O blessed Mary, thou incomprehensible and inexplicable wonder, and the reclamer of mankind.

Second Kathisma

Men did seal Thy tomb, O Savior, and the angels did roll the stone from off Thy grave; and the women witnessed Thy Resurrection from the dead. They proclaimed to Thy Disciples in Zion that Thou didst rise, O Life of all, and didst break asunder the bonds of death, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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

Verily, when the women came with burial ointment, they heard from the grave an angelic voice, saying: Cease your tears and receive joy instead of sorrow; and cry in praise that Christ the Lord is risen, Who being God was pleased to save mankind.

(For the Annunciation) *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Today the whole creation rejoiceth; for the archangel hath cried unto thee, Rejoice, O blessed one, spotless, pure and all-blameless. Today, the haughtiness of the serpent vanisheth, as the bond of the curse of the first father is undone. Wherefore, with all things we cry unto thee, saying: Rejoice, O full of grace.

EVLOGETARIA (BENEDICTIONS) IN TONE FIVE

Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

The company of the Angels was amazed, when they beheld Thee numbered among the dead, yet Thyself, O Savior, destroyed the power of Death, and with Thee raising up Adam and releasing all men from Hell.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

Wherefore, O Women Disciples, do ye mingle sweet-smelling spices with your tears of pity? The radiant Angel within the sepulcher cried unto the Myrrh-bearing Women: Behold the grave, and understand; for the Savior is risen from the tomb.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

Very early in the morning did the Myrrh-bearing Women run lamenting unto Thy tomb; but an Angel came toward them saying: The time for lamentation is passed; weep not; but announce unto the Apostles the Resurrection.

Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes.

The Myrrh-bearing Women mourned as bearing spices they drew near Thy tomb, O Savior. But the Angel spake unto them saying: Why number ye the Living among the dead? In that He is God, He is risen from the grave.

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

We adore the Father, as also His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity in One Essence; crying with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord.

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

In that thou didst bear the Giver of Life, O Virgin, thou didst redeem Adam from sin, and didst give to Eve joy in place of sadness; and He Who was incarnate of thee, both God and man, hath restored to life those who had fallen therefrom.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (THRICE)
O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

THE LITTLE LITANY

- Priest: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.
- Choir: To Thee, O Lord.
- Priest: For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- Choir: Amen.

EIGHTH TONE RESURRECTIONAL HYPAKOE (Plain Reading)

The ointment-bearing women came to the tomb of the Life-giver, seeking among the dead the Lord Who is not dead; and when they received the glad tidings from the angels, they preached to the Apostles that the Lord hath risen, and granted the world the Great Mercy.

EIGHTH TONE RESURRECTIONAL ANABATHMOI (Plain Reading)

First Antiphony

- + From my youth the enemy hath tempted me and with temptations hath he beguiled me. But I, O Lord, trusting in Thee, have rejected him in shame.
- + They who hate Zion shall become like grass before it is pulled up; for Christ shall cut down their necks with the scythe of torment.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily in the Holy Spirit all shall live; for He is the Light of Light, a great God. Let us, therefore, praise Him with the Father and the Word.

Second Antiphony

- + Yea, let my humble heart be lighted by Thy fear, lest it rise and fall from Thee, O all-compassionate One.
- + He that trusteth in the Lord shall not fear when God shall judge all with tormenting fire.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily, by the Holy Spirit every divine one seeth and uttereth things to be, and performeth heavenly wonders; for he singeth to one God in three; for the Godhead, albeit of three Lights, is one in Leadership.

Third Antiphony

- + To Thee have I cried, O Lord. Listen and turn Thine ear towards me when I shout. Purify me before Thou raisest me from this place.
- + Verily, everyone shall return and disappear in his mother the earth, and shall be dissolved at once, to receive either honors or punishments as reward for what he hath done in his lifetime.

- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily, through the Holy Spirit one speaketh of the Godhead, the One, the Thrice-Holy; for from the Father, Who is without beginning, the Son did proceed without time. And the Spirit, Who is Their equal in appearance and on the throne, hath shone forth from the Father likewise.

Fourth Antiphony

- + Behold, how good and how beautiful for the brethren to live together; for of this did the Lord promise eternal life.
- + Verily, He Who beautifieth the flowers of the field commandeth that no one take heed for his dress.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Verily, the Holy Spirit is the cause of all, and containeth in Himself the harmony of safety; for He is truly equal to the Father and the Son in substance.

PROKEIMENON FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE EIGHT

The Lord shall reign forever, Thy God, O Zion, from generation to generation. (TWICE)

Stichos: Praise the Lord, O my soul.

The Lord shall reign forever, Thy God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who retest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (TWICE)

Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

THE EIGHTH EOTHINON GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John (20:11-18).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: At that time, Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Saying this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God, and your God." Mary Magdalene went and said to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord." And she told them that He had said these things to her.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Reader: In that we have beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy holy resurrection we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's holy resurrection. For lo, through the cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His resurrection, for in that He endured the cross for us, He hath destroyed death by death.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

LENTEN TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE EIGHT

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

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-giver; for my soul goeth early to the temple of Thy holiness, coming in the temple of my body, wholly polluted. But because Thou art compassionate, purify me by the compassion of Thy mercies.

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

Prepare for me the way of salvation, O Theotokos; for I have profaned myself with coarse sins, and consumed my whole life with procrastination. But by thine intercessions purify thou me from all abomination.

(TONE SIX) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

If I think upon the multitude of my evil deeds, wretch that I am, I tremble for the terrible Day of Judgment. But, trusting the compassion of Thy mercy, I shout to Thee like David, Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy.

THE INTERCESSION¹

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary—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—especially Gabriel, whose synaxis we now celebrate—at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampos and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, especially Paisios of Athos; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our righteous father Stephen the Confessor, abbot of Triglia, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

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

Priest: Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

¹ Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

EIGHTH TONE RESURRECTIONAL KONTAKION AND OIKOS (Plain Reading)

Arising from the tomb, O mighty Savior, Thou didst rouse the dead; Thou didst raise Adam; while Eve danceth in her new joy at Thy blest Resurrection, O Lord. And the world's farthest regions keep the festival on Thine arising from the dead with gladness and thanksgiving, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

When Thou hadst despoiled the dominion of Hades and hadst raised the dead, O Long-suffering One, Thou didst meet the myrrh-bearing women, bringing them joy instead of sorrow. And unto Thine apostles, Thou madest known the symbols of victory, O my Savior, Giver of Life. Thou hast enlightened creation, O Lover of mankind. Wherefore, the world rejoiceth at Thine arising from the dead, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On March 26 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we take leave of the feast of the Annunciation to the Most-holy Theotokos, and we celebrate the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel, which hath been handed down to us from the most ancient times, since he ministered unto the divine, supernal and ineffable Mystery.

Verses

O Word, with fitting honor doth all flesh honor
The fleshless mind who announced Thine Incarnation.
On the twenty-sixth Gabriel rouseth creation to hymns.

The Archangel Gabriel is the announcer of the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation of mankind. He appeared to Zacharias about the birth of the Forerunner. Gabriel said of himself, "I am Gabriel, who stands before God" (Luke 1:19). His name Gabriel means "Man-God." The Holy Fathers, in speaking about the Annunciation, interpret that an archangel with such a name was sent to signify who and what Jesus Christ would be like, fully man and fully God, who must be born of the All-pure Theotokos. Some of the Fathers understood that this same Gabriel appeared to Joachim and Anna concerning the birth of the Virgin Mary, and that Gabriel instructed Moses in the wilderness to write the Book of Genesis. The Holy Fathers of the Church rank the Archangel Gabriel in the Seraphic Order which stands closest to God.

On this day, we also commemorate Stephen the Confessor, abbot of Triglia. By the intercessions of Thy saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

THE KATAVASIAE OF THE ANNUNCIATION CANON IN TONE FOUR

(NOTE: Odes 3, 6, 8 and 9 differ from the Akathist Katavasias.)

Ode 1. I shall open my mouth and it will be filled with the Spirit; and I shall speak forth to the Queen and Mother. I shall be seen joyfully singing her praises, and I shall delight to sing of her wonders.

Ode 3. As a living and copious fountain, O Theotokos, do thou strengthen those who hymn thy praises, and are joined together in spiritual company for thy service; and in thy divine *conception* make them worthy of crowns of glory.

Ode 4. He Who sits in clouds of glory upon the throne of Godhead, Jesus the most high God, came with mighty hand and saved those who cried out unto Him: Glory to Thy power, O Christ.

Ode 5. All creation was amazed at thy divine glory, for thou, O unwedded Virgin, didst hold in thee the God of all, and didst bear the Eternal Son, Who rewards with salvation all those who hymn thy praises.

Ode 6. In the belly of the whale, Jonah the Prophet foreshadowed the three-day Burial, lifting his voice and imploring: Deliver me from corruption, O Jesus, King of the powers.

Ode 7. The godly-minded children worshipped not the creature rather than the Creator, but trampling upon the threat of fire in manly fashion, they rejoiced and sang: O All-praised Lord and God of our Fathers, blessed art Thou.

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Ode 8. Hearken, O Maiden, virgin and pure, that Gabriel may tell the eternal will of the Highest. Make thee ready to receive God; for the Uncontainable shall, through thee, mingle with mankind. Wherefore, rejoicing, I cry: Bless the Lord, all His works.

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

MAGNIFICATIONS IN TONE FOUR

Choir: My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

Refrain: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word, and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee. *(Repeat after each verse.)*

- + For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. *(Refrain)*
- + For He that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is His Name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him, throughout all generations. *(Refrain)*
- + He hath showed strength with His arm; He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. *(Refrain)*
- + He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the empty with good things, and the rich hath He sent empty away. *(Refrain)*
- + He remembering His mercy hath helped His servant Israel, as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. *(Refrain)*

Ode 9. *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.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do they ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Holy is the Lord our God. (THRICE)

Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at His footstool, for He is holy.

THE EIGHTH EOTHINON EXAPOSTELARION IN TONE TWO

*(**Upon that mount in Galilee**)*

Seeing two angels in the tomb, * Mary was sore astonished; * and then not recognizing Christ, * she asked Him as the gard'ner: * Sir, where hast thou laid the body * of my longed-after Jesus? * But when she heard Him call her name, * then she verily knew Him, * that it was He, * and heard: Touch Me not, spoken by the Savior; * for to My Father I depart; * go thou and tell My brethren.

EXAPOSTELARION & THEOTOKION OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN TONE TWO

*(**Upon that mount in Galilee**)*

The Chief of all the Angel hosts * was sent by God Almighty * unto a Virgin Maid most pure, * bringing to her good tidings * of a strange wonder past telling: * that as a man, the Lord God * shall be conceived without man's seed * and shall be brought forth from her, * born as a babe, * to refashion all of the race of mortals. * Ye people, preach the tidings of * the whole world's restoration.

Rejoice, redemption from the curse * of our forefather Adam; * O modest Mother of our God, * rejoice, thou throne and gate-way; * rejoice, O temple and mountain; * rejoice, all-golden vessel; * rejoice, thou godly chariot; * rejoice, swift cloud, and ladder, * and living bush; * rejoice, O tabernacle and lamp and table; * rejoice, deliverance of Eve; * rejoice, O Theotokos.

AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE EIGHT

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

For the Resurrection in Tone Eight

Verse 1. This glory shall be to all His saints.

Though Thou didst stand in judgment, O Lord, condemned by Pilate, Thou didst not vacate Thy throne, sitting with the Father. Thou didst arise from the dead, releasing the world from the bondage of the stranger; for Thou art compassionate and the Lover of mankind.

Verse 2. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Though, O Lord, the Jews placed Thee in a grave like dead, the soldiers guarded Thee as a slumbering King; and as a Treasure of life, they sealed Thee. But Thou didst rise and grant incorruptibility to our souls.

Verse 3. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Thou didst give us Thy Cross, O Lord, as a weapon against Diabolus, who, unable to behold its power, doth fear and tremble; for it raiseth the dead and hath annulled death. Wherefore, do we worship Thy Burial and Resurrection.

Verse 4. *Praise Him with sound of trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

The angel proclaiming Thy Resurrection, O Lord, did frighten the guards; but to the women he cried out, saying: Why seek ye the Living among the dead? Verily, He hath risen, being God and hath granted life to the universe.

For the Annunciation in Tone One (Thou art the joy**)**

Verse 5. *Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.*

Having flown down from the vaults of Heaven to Nazareth, * Gabriel cried the greeting unto Mary the Virgin: * Rejoice, O all-pure Maid; thou shalt bring forth a Son * Who existed ere Adam was: * He is the Maker of all, and the Ransomer * of all them that cry Rejoice to thee.

Verse 6. *Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

Having flown down from the vaults of Heaven to Nazareth ... (repeat above)

Verse 7. *Proclaim from day to day the good tidings of the salvation of our God.*

From Heaven Gabriel brought the good tidings full of joy * unto the holy Virgin, crying out Rejoice to her. * In thy womb shalt thou both conceive and contain * Him Whom all things cannot contain, * and shalt be seen as the Mother of Him that shone * from the Father ere the morning star.

Verse 8. *Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.*

Now the beginningless Father's own co-eternal Word, * in His extreme compassion and immeasurable mercy, * parting not from things above, cometh below, * to take pity on us who fell; * and having taken a form that is not His own, * He assumeth Adam's poverty.

THE DOXASTICON FOR FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT IN TONE ONE (CHANT) (MP3)

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

Come, let us labor in the mystical field, working therein fruits of repentance. Let us not spend ourselves in food and drink, but reap virtues with fasting and prayer; for these doth the Master of labor accept, and for them He giveth us the pence through which He redeemeth our souls from the debt of sin; for He alone is most compassionate.

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

Most blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for through Him that was incarnate of thee is Hades despoiled, Adam is recalled from the dead, the curse is made void, Eve is set free, death is slain, and we are endowed with life. Wherefore, in hymns of praise, we cry aloud: Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who is thus well pleased, glory to Thee.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE ONE

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.

- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (THRICE)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + 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.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

TROPARION IN TONE EIGHT

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of Hades, Thou didst loose the condemnation of Death, O Lord, releasing all mankind from the snares of the enemy. Having manifested Thyself to Thine Apostles, Thou didst send them forth to proclaim Thee; and through them Thou hast granted Thy peace unto the civilized world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

END NOTE

When the leave-taking of the Annunciation (March 26) falls on the Fourth Sunday of Great Lent, our Typikon prescribes that we suppress the commemoration of St. John Climacus. In Orthros, the Praises (Ainoi) for the Annunciation mark the moment of the leave-taking. We keep hymnography for this Lenten Sunday reflecting the ascetical practice of the season and the ancient preparation for catechumens to enter the Church through baptism on Pascha. Thus, we keep the doxasticon in Orthros and the readings in the Divine Liturgy from the Triodion.

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