

Friday, March 25 The Annunciation

Tropar, tone 4: Today is the source of our salvation * and the revelation of an eternal mystery: * the Son of God becomes a virgin's Son, * and Gabriel announces this grace. * Therefore, let us exclaim with him to the Mother of God: * "Hail, O woman full of grace; the Lord is with you!"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and ever. Amen!

Kondak, tone 8: O Mother of God,* we your servants sing a hymn of thanksgiving to you,* a hymn of triumph to a valiant leader;* for you have delivered us from all peril.* We now exclaim to you: "Hail, O Bride and Virgin ever-pure!"

Prokimen, tone 4: Day after day, announce the salvation of our God.

Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Epistle: Hebrews 2: 11-18

Brothers and Sisters! He who consecrates and those who are consecrated have one and the same Father. Therefore he is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, "I will announce your name to my brothers, I will sing your praise in the midst of the assembly"; and, "I will put my trust in him"; and again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me?" Now since the children are men of blood and flesh, Jesus likewise had a full share in ours, that by his death he might rob the devil, the prince of death, of his power, and free those who through fear of death had been slaves their whole life long. Surely he did not come to help angels, but rather the children of Abraham; therefore he had to become like his brothers in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God on their behalf, to expiate the sins of the people. Since he was himself tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Alleluia Verses: He shall be like the rain coming down on the meadow, like showers watering the earth.

May His name be blessed forever, as long as the sun his name shall remain.

Gospel: Luke 1: 24-38

In those days, Elizabeth conceived. She went into seclusion for five months, saying: "In these days the Lord is acting on my behalf; he has seen fit to remove my reproach among men." In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Upon arriving, the angel said to her: "Rejoice, O highly favoured daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." She was deeply troubled by his words, and wondered what his greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her: "Do not fear, Mary. You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name of Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end. Mary said to the angel, "How can this be since I do not know man?" The angel answered her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God. Know that Elizabeth your kinswoman has conceived a son in her old age; she who was thought to be sterile is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with God." Mary said: "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." With that the angel left her.

Instead of 'It is truly right': O earth, proclaim the good news of great joy. You heavens, sing the glory of God. Let no unclean hand touch the living Tabernacle of God; but let the lips of the faithful sing endlessly with joy to the Mother of God the greeting of the angel: "Rejoice, O woman full of grace; the Lord is with you!"

Communion Hymn: The Lord has chosen Sion and was pleased to make it His dwelling. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!