

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023

TONE 8

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent/ [St. John Climacus (of the Ladder)] *(not sung today because of the Leavetaking and the Synaxis/ Leavetaking of the Annunciation/ Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel*

“Lord I Call...” Tone 8

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

After “Lord I Call...” the Reader reads the rest of Ps. 140 & Ps. 141 on pgs 31 in the pew book, then:

v. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name! Tone 8*

We offer to You, O Christ,
our evening song and reasonable service,
for You willed to have mercy on us//
by Your Resurrection.

v. (9) *The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Your face!
For You willed to have mercy on us//
by Your Resurrection.

v. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Rejoice, O holy Sion:
Mother of the churches, the abode of God,
for you were the first to receive remission of sins//
by the Resurrection.

v. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

The Word of God the Father,
begotten before the ages,
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion unto death.
He has saved mortal man//
by His Resurrection.

v. (6) *If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Tone 6* Revealing to you the pre-eternal counsel,
Gabriel came and stood before you, O Maiden,
and greeting you, he said:
“Rejoice, earth that has not been sown!
Rejoice, burning bush that remains unconsumed!
Rejoice, unsearchable depth!
Rejoice, bridge that leads to Heaven!
Rejoice, ladder raised on high that Jacob saw!
Rejoice, divine jar of manna!
Rejoice, deliverance from the curse!
Rejoice, restoration of Adam;//
the Lord is with you!”

v. (5) For Your Name’s sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

“You appear to me in the form of a man,”
said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.
“How then do you speak to me of things that pass man’s power?
You have said that God shall be with me
and shall take up His dwelling in my womb.
How shall I become the spacious habitation
and the holy place of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim?
Do not deceive me with trickery;
for I have not known pleasure,
I have not entered into wedlock.//
How then shall I bear a Child?”

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Then the bodiless Angel replied:
“When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome,
and what is beyond man comes to pass.
Believe that my sayings are true,
O all-holy and immaculate Lady!”
And she cried aloud:
“Let it be to me according to your word,
and I shall bear Him Who is without flesh!
He shall borrow flesh from me,
that through this union of natures
He may lead man up to his ancient glory,//
for He alone has power so to do.”

* Music for the Annunciation from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos>

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities. **Tone 1†** (for the Archangel) (O all-praised martyrs)*

Gabriel, the greatest of the spiritual powers,
shining with heavenly brightness,
who with the hosts on high gazes upon the light of the Threefold Sun,
came to the Virgin and announced to her the good news of the divine and awesome mystery, //
and he intercedes for our souls.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

The great mystery till then unknown to the angels
and hidden from all eternity
has been confided to you alone, O Gabriel;
and you have come to Nazareth and entrusted it to her who alone is pure. //
Pray with her that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Gabriel, ever filled with light,
who do the will and fulfill the commands of the Ruler of All,
Leader of the angels, most excellent,
preserve those who honor you with love, //
and pray that our souls be granted peace and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 6** (for the Feast, by John the Monk)*

The Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven,
to announce to the Virgin the good news of her conceiving.
And coming to Nazareth, he was filled with wonder at the miracle,
and reasoned within himself:
“How is it that He Who dwells on high,
Whom none can comprehend, is to be born of a Virgin?
How is He, Whose throne is Heaven and Whose footstool is the earth,
to be contained in the womb of a woman?
He upon Whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim are not able to gaze
is well-pleased to be made flesh from her at a single word.
It is the Word of God Who is to come.
Why then do I hesitate, and not say to the Maiden:
‘Rejoice, O Lady, full of grace, the Lord is with you!
Rejoice, pure Virgin!
Rejoice, Bride without Bridegroom!
Rejoice, Mother of the Life! //
Blessed is the Fruit of your womb!’”

† Music for Archangel Gabriel from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at <https://oca.org/liturgics/music-downloads/annunciation-of-the-theotokos>.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 8 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

The King of heaven, because of His love for man,
appeared on earth and dwelt with men.
He took flesh from the pure Virgin
and after assuming it, He came forth from her.
The Son is one: in two natures, yet one Person.
Proclaiming Him as perfect God and perfect Man,
we confess Christ our God!//
Entreat Him, O unwedded Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

O Gladsome Light, Prokeimeon, Litany and the rest.

LITY (If the rector desires the Lity, these stichera are sung)

Tone 4 In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the pure Virgin;
and with his greeting “Rejoice,”
he announced the good news that the Deliverer was to come forth from her.
Therefore, having received the salutation with faith,
she conceived You, the pre-eternal God,
Who were well-pleased ineffably to become man//
for the salvation of our souls.

The Theotokos heard a tongue that she knew not,
for the Archangel addressed to her the words of glad tidings;
therefore, accepting the salutation with faith,
she conceived You, the pre-eternal God.
And so, rejoicing exceedingly, we too cry aloud to You:
O God, made flesh from her without change,//
grant peace to the world, and great mercy to our souls!

Behold, our restoration has now been revealed to us:
in a manner beyond understanding, God is united to mankind;
at the voice of the Archangel, delusion is destroyed,
for the Virgin receives joy;
things of the earth have become heaven;
and the world is freed from the ancient curse.
Let creation rejoice exceedingly and sing with voices of praise://
“O Lord, our Maker and Deliverer, glory to You!”

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

Tone 2 Today Gabriel announces the good tidings to her who is full of grace:
“Rejoice, unwedded Maiden!
Be not amazed at my strange appearance, nor be afraid.
I am an Archangel.
The serpent once beguiled Eve,
but now I announce to you the good tidings of joy, O most pure one.//
You shall remain inviolate and shall give birth to the Lord.

When the singers have completed the stichera, the deacon says:

God, save your people and bless your inheritance, watch over your world in mercy and compassions, lift up the horn of right-glorifying Christians and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our all-pure lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, the remembrance of whose holy Annunciation we also fulfill, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasios, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas, archbishop of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimethos, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Ioakeim and Anna, and of the holy Archangel Gabriel whose synaxis we also fulfill, and of all your saints, we implore you, only Lord full of mercy, hear us the sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (40 and 3)

Again we pray for our rulers, that the Lord our God works together with them and makes them prosper in all. **Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

Again we pray for our Archbishop and father (name). **Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

Again we pray for every Christian soul distressed and weary, in need of God's mercy and help, for the protection of this holy house and those who dwell in it, for the peace and stillness of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, for the salvation and help of our fathers and brothers who with diligence and fear of God labor and serve, for those who are absent and those who are abroad, for the healing of those who lie in infirmity, for the repose, blessed memory and remission of sins of all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren gone before us, who piously lie asleep here and everywhere, for deliverance of the imprisoned, and for all who serve and have served in this holy house, let us say: **Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3 and 40 and 3)

Again we pray that this holy house, and every city, monastery, and countryside be kept from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, invasion of enemies, civil war, and sudden death; that our good God who loves mankind be gracious, favorable, and conciliatory, and turn away and dispel all the wrath and illness stirred up against us, and deliver us from his looming righteous threat, and have mercy on us. **Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (40 and 10 and 3)

Again we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of our supplication, of the sinners, and have mercy on us. **Choir:** Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: Hear us, God, our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, Master, be gracious to us, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. **Choir:** Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer aloud:

Master full of mercy, Lord Jesus Christ our God, through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary whose remembrance of her holy Annunciation we also fulfill, by the power of the precious and life-creating Cross, by the protections of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven, through the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and baptist John, of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable apostles, of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and teachers of the world Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John the Golden-mouth; Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria, Nicholas archbishop of Myra and Spyridon the bishop of Trimethoús, the wonderworkers; of the holy glorious and right-victorious martyrs, of the holy glorious great martyrs George the trophy-bearer, Demetrios the myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Recruit and Theodore the Commander, of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of the holy Archangel Gabriel whose synaxis we also fulfill, and of all your saints, make our supplication acceptable, grant us remission of our trespasses, shelter us in the shelter of your wings, drive away from us every enemy and adversary, make our life peaceful, Lord, have mercy on us and on your world and save our souls, for you are good and love mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. ^(x1)

Choir: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have borne the Savior of our souls. *(twice)*

The priest takes one of the loaves from the five loaves and with it makes the sign of the cross over the loaves.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Lord Jesus Christ our God, who blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and with them fed the five thousand, yourself also bless these loaves, the wheat, the wine and the oil, and multiply them in this city and in the whole world; and sanctify your faithful servants who will partake of them. For it is you who bless and sanctify all things, Christ our God, and to you we send up glory, together with your unoriginate Father and your all-holy, and good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. *(once)*

Choir: Rich men have turned poor * and gone hungry; * but they that seek the Lord * shall not be deprived of any good thing. *(twice)*

APOSTICHA

Tone 8 Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,
the eternal Life has come for death

to raise those who are fallen;

to enlighten those in darkness. // O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to You!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.
He accepted the human body and soul,
and freed both from suffering.
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb.//
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

In psalms and songs we glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.
By it, You have freed us from the tortures of hell//
and as God have granted eternal life and great mercy.

V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,
by Your suffering on the Cross You have gained passionlessness for me.
Accepting burial and arising in glory,
You resurrected Adam with Yourself by Your almighty hand.
Glory to Your rising on the third day!
By it You have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins//
as the only compassionate One.

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

Tone 4 Today the good tidings of joy are proclaimed,
today is the festival of the Virgin;
things below are joined together with things on high.

Adam is made new;

Eve is freed from the primal grief;

and by the deification of the human nature that the Lord assumed,
the tabernacle of our substance has become a temple of God.

Oh, what a mystery!

The manner of His emptying cannot be known;

the manner of His conception is beyond speech.

An angel ministers at the miracle; a virginal womb receives the Son;

the Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high is well pleased,

and according to their common counsel, a reconciliation is brought to pass
in which and through which we are saved.

For this reason let us unite our song with Gabriel's,
crying aloud to the Virgin:

"Rejoice, O Lady Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

From you is our salvation, Christ our God,

Who, by assuming our nature, has led us back to Himself.//

Humbly pray to Him for the salvation of our souls!"

TROPARIA (*taken without Glory... now...*)

Tone 8 You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 **Troparion** (*Feast*)

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 coming of Grace.

Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:

“Rejoice, O Full of Grace,//

the Lord is with you!” (*twice*)

APOLYSIS

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The blessing and mercy of the Lord come upon you with his grace and love for mankind,
always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, Christ God our Hope, glory to you.

Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages
of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

Priest: He who...

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Through the prayers...

Choir: Amen.