

**The Divine Liturgy
of the Presanctified Gifts**

celebrated on Friday in the Fourth Week of the Great Fast
March 24, 2006

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY when, in the city of Nazareth, the angel of the Lord announced to Mary, "Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and he will be called the Son of the Most High." Mary said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And thus the fullness of time was accomplished, and he who before time was the only-begotten Son of God was made flesh for our sake and for our salvation, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became human.

The reading from Genesis introduces us to Abram in his home in Haran, and tells of God's covenant with him. This covenant results in Abram and his wife Sarai and all their extended nomadic family moving to Canaan.

The Lamplighting Psalms

Psalm 140

Tone 7

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! O Lord,
I have cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I call up-on
you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my
pray'r ascend to you like in-cense and the lift-ing up of my hands like an
eve-ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth *
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil, *
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting. *
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head. *
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock; *
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground, *
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned; *
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe; *
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set *
while I pursue my way *unharm*ed.

With all my voice I cry to the Lord, *
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him; *
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path. *
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *entrap* me.

Look on my right and see: *
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape, *
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord. *
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry *
for I am in the depths *of* distress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me *
for they are stronger *than* I.

Bring my soul out of this prison *
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble *
because of your goodness *to* me.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; *
Lord, hear *my* voice!

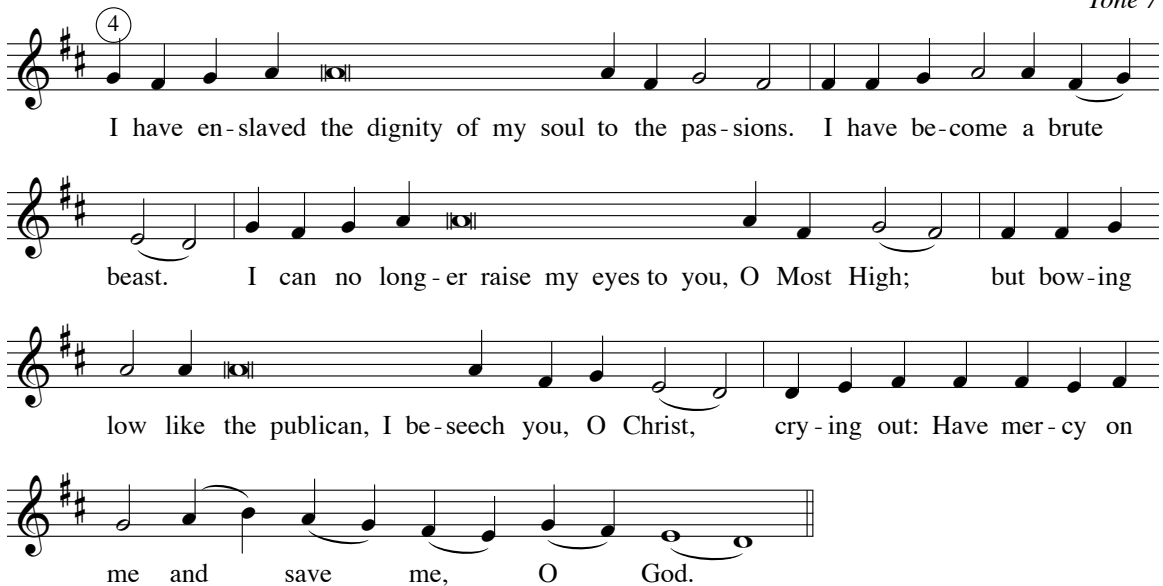
Let your ears be attentive *
to the voice of *my* pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would stand? *
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we *revere* you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word. *
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman *for* daybreak.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

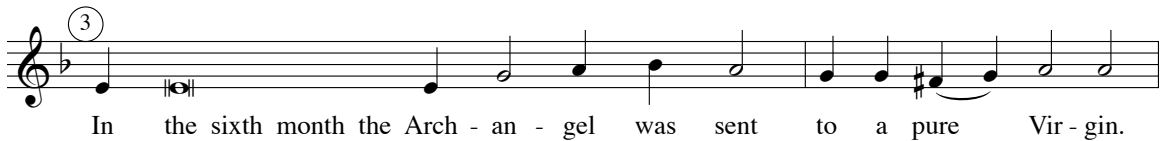
Tone 7



I have en-slaved the dignity of my soul to the pas-sions. I have be-come a brute
beast. I can no long-er raise my eyes to you, O Most High; but bow-ing
low like the publican, I be-seech you, O Christ, cry-ing out: Have mer-cy on
me and save me, O God.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Stichera of the Annunciation - Tone 4



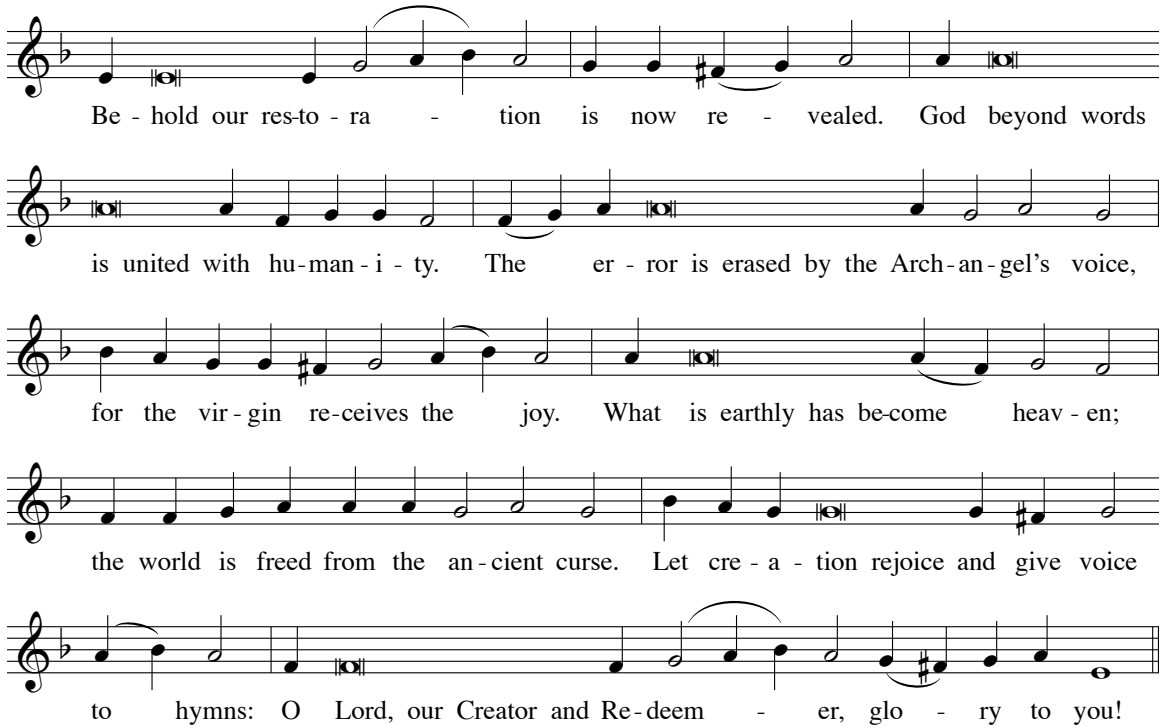
In the sixth month the Arch - an - gel was sent to a pure Vir - gin.

He greet-ed her: Re-joyce! He an-nounced that the Redeemer would come forth
 from her. She re-ceived his greet-ing with faith and conceived you, the God from
 be-fore all a - ges, for it was your inexpressible good pleasure to be-come man
 for the sal - va - - - tion of our souls.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations,
 (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

The The - o - to - kos heard a voice she did not know. The Archangel spoke
 to her the words of good news. She re-ceived the greet-ing with faith and con-ceived
 you, the God from be-fore all a - ges. There - fore, we also rejoice and cry
 out to you, O un - ap - proach - able God who were in - car - nate of her:
 Grant peace to the world and great mer - cy to our souls.

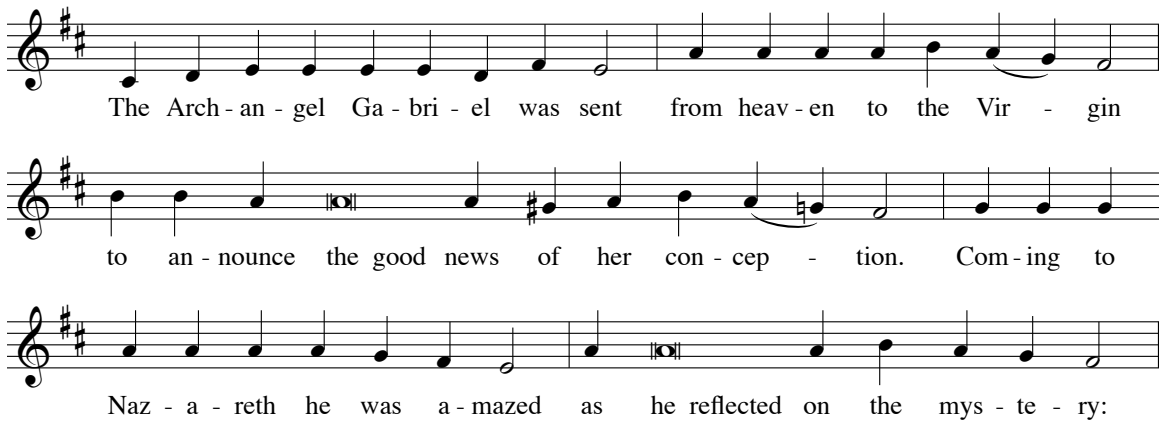
Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.



Be - hold our res-to - ra - tion is now re - vealed. God beyond words
is united with hu-man - i - ty. The er - ror is erased by the Arch-an-gel's voice,
for the vir - gin re-ceives the joy. What is earthly has be-come heav - en;
the world is freed from the an-cient curse. Let cre - a - tion rejoice and give voice
to hymns: O Lord, our Creator and Re-deem - er, glo - ry to you!

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Theotokion - Tone 6



The Arch - an - gel Ga - bri - el was sent from heav - en to the Vir - gin
to an - nounce the good news of her con - cep - tion. Com - ing to
Naz - a - reth he was a - mazed as he reflected on the mys - te - ry:

How can the One Who Is incomprehen-si-ble in the high - est be born of a
vir - gin? Heav - en is his throne, the earth is his foot - stool, and in a
wom-an's womb he is con-tained. The six - winged seraphim and the many-eyed
cherubim cannot look up-on him; yet, with a single word, he has been pleased to
take on flesh. He re-mains the Word of God. Why do I stand still and
not say to the Maid - en: Re - joice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you;
Re-joyce, pure Vir - gin; re - joice, Un - wed - ded Bride; re - joice, Moth - er of Life;
bless - ed is the fruit of your womb.

The Hymn of the Evening

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the
Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the un - i - verse sings your glo - ry.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 1 - Tone 4 (Psalm 79: 2abc)



O Shep - herd of Is - ra - el, hear us, you who lead Jo - seph's flock.

Verse: Shine forth from your cherubic throne.

Deacon: Wisdom!


Lector: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!


Lector: [Genesis 12: 1 - 7]

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon 2 - Tone 4 (Psalm 80: 2a,3a)



Ring out your joy to God, our strength. Ring out your joy to



God, our strength.

Verse: Raise a song and sound the timbrel.

The faithful kneel.

The Blessing With Light

Deacon: Give the command!

Celebrant: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The light of Christ shines upon everyone.

The faithful give no response to these words. All make three prostrations in silence. The faithful are seated. The lector, without introduction, begins:

Lector: A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Genesis 28: 10 - 17]

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Ezekiel 43: 27 - 44]

Celebrant: Peace ❖ be to you, reader.

PASTORAL NOTE:

During the Fourth Week of the Great Fast, the Cross is venerated after every service. Usually, the Cross would be venerated and then removed at the Friday morning service. If the pastor desires to keep the cross to be venerated by the largest number of the faithful, this may be done after the celebration of the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, in the following manner:

At the Veneration:

3 times

We bow to your Cross, O Lord, and we glo - ri - fy

your ho - ly res - ur - rec - tion.