

**VESPERS**  
**SIXTH WEDNESDAY OF THE GREAT FAST CELEBRATED IN HOMES**  
**Vigil of the Feast of the Annunciation**

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

*R:* Amen.

Glory to you, our God, glory to you!

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and dwell within us, cleanse us of all stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (*3 times*)

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

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

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

*R:* Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

Come, let us worship our King and God.

Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

**PSALM 103**

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Lord my God, how great you are,  
clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in a robe.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,  
Above the rains you build your dwelling.  
You make the clouds your chariot,  
You walk on the wings of the wind.  
You make your angels spirits  
and your ministers a flaming fire.  
You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age to age.  
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak  
the waters stood higher than the mountains.  
At your threat they took to flight;  
at the voice of your thunder they fled.  
They rose over the mountains and flowed down  
to the place which you had appointed.  
You set limits they might not pass  
lest they return to cover the earth.  
You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow in between the hills.  
They give drink to all the beasts of the field;  
The wild asses quench their thirst.  
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
from the branches they sing their song.  
From your dwelling you water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of your gift.  
You make the grass grow for the cattle,  
and the plants to serve man's needs,  
that he may bring forth bread from the earth,  
and wine to cheer man's heart;  
Oil, to make his face shine;  
and bread to strengthen man's heart.  
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,  
the cedars he planted on Lebanon;  
there the birds build their nests;  
on the treetop the stork has her home.  
The goats find a home on the mountains  
and rabbits hide in the rocks.  
You made the moon to mark the months;  
the sun knows the time for its setting.  
When you spread the darkness it is night,  
And all the beasts of the forest creep forth.  
The young lions roar for their prey,  
and ask their food from God.  
At the rising of the sun they steal away  
and go to rest in their dens.  
Man goes out to his work,  
to labor till evening falls.  
How many are your works, O Lord!

In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of your riches.  
There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great and small.  
The ships are moving there  
and the monsters you made to play with.  
All of these look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it, they gather it up;  
You open your hand, they have their fill.  
You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
you take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which they came.  
You send forth your spirit, they are created;  
and you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord last forever:  
may the Lord rejoice in his works;  
He looks on the earth and it trembles;  
the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.  
I will sing to the Lord all my life,  
make music to my God while I live.  
May my thoughts be pleasing to him:  
I find my joy in the Lord.  
Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
You made the moon to mark the months;  
the sun knows the time for its setting.  
How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory to you, O God! (*Three times*)

Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

*Leader:* O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For You are blessed forever and ever.

R. Amen.

## PSALM 140

(Tone 1) O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me;

*Refrain:* Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me;

receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you.

*Refrain:* Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer ascend to you like incense

and the lifting up of my hands like an evening sacrifice.

*Refrain:* Hear me, O Lord!

*(Psalm Chant):*

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 excuse for the 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.

Their 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 unharmed.

### PSALM 141

With 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 within 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.

*v. Bring my soul out of this prison*

*And then I shall praise your name.*

(Tone 5) Rich in the passions, I am draped in a subtle robe of hypocrisy, I delight in the evils of intemperance. I am a model of utter heartlessness. I have abandoned my reason. Starved of all good and sick from neglect, I lie before the gates of repentance. But you, O Lord, make me destitute of sin like Lazarus, save me from having to beg him to dip his finger in water to soothe my tongue in the unquenchable flames. Let me abide instead in the bosom of the Patriarch Abraham, for you love us all.

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

- Rich in the passions, I am draped in a subtle robe of hypocrisy, I delight in the evils of intemperance. I am a model of utter heartlessness. I have abandoned my reason. Starved of all good and sick from neglect, I lie before the gates of repentance. But you, O Lord, make me destitute of sin like Lazarus, save me from having to beg him to dip his finger in water to soothe my tongue in the unquenchable flames. Let me abide instead in the bosom of the Patriarch Abraham, for you love us all.

## PSALM 129

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

- As you walked in the flesh, O Jesus, in the land beyond the Jordan, you cried out to those who were with you: Our friend Lazarus is already dead and buried in the grave. My friends, I rejoice, for you will learn that I whom you see begotten as man remain indivisibly God and know all things. Come, let us go and give him life. Let death taste its total defeat and the destruction which I will accomplish by granting great mercy to the world.

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

- O faithful, let us imitate Martha and Mary, and offer virtuous deeds as ambassadors before the Lord, that when he comes, he may uplift our minds which now lie dead and full of misery in the tomb. Without life, they have no sense of what they are neglecting, and they are unaware of the awesomeness of God. Behold, O Lord, now give life to all and grant us your great mercy, as once you had pity on your friend Lazarus, and by your awesome power, raised him from the dead.

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

(Tone 6) For two days, Lazarus has been in the grave, beholding those who have died since time began. There he sees strange and fearful sights: a numberless multitude held in Hades' chains. Therefore his relatives weep bitterly before his grave. But Christ came to give life to his friend so that all might proclaim with one voice: Blessed are you, O Savior; have mercy on us.

*v. My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.*

*My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.*

- Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin, and revealed the eternal plan to you. He greeted you and announced: Rejoice, O earth that had not been sown! Rejoice, O burning bush that was not consumed! Rejoice, O unsearchable depth! Rejoice, O bridge which leads to heaven; O high ladder which Jacob saw! Rejoice, O vessel of divine manna! Rejoice, O invocation of Adam! The Lord is with you.

*v. Let the watchman count on daybreak,*

*and Israel on the Lord.*

- Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin, and revealed the eternal plan to you. He greeted you and announced: Rejoice, O earth that had not been sown! Rejoice, O burning bush that was not consumed! Rejoice, O unsearchable depth! Rejoice, O bridge which leads to heaven; O high ladder which Jacob saw! Rejoice, O vessel of divine manna! Rejoice, O invocation of Adam! The Lord is with you.

*v. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,*

*Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.*

- The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts: You appear to me as a mortal, and your words go beyond human thought. You have said that God is with me, and that he shall take up abode in my womb. Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the infinite One, the Lord who rides on the Cherubim? Do not mislead me with deceit, for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock. Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child?

### **PSALM 116**

*v. Praise the Lord, all you nations;*

*Acclaim him, all you peoples!*

- The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts: You appear to me as a mortal, and your words go beyond human thought. You have said that God is with me, and that he shall take up abode in my womb. Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the infinite One, the Lord who rides on the Cherubim? Do not mislead me with deceit, for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock. Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child?

*v. Strong is the love of the Lord for us;*

*he is faithful forever.*

- The archangel then said to her: Whenever God wills, the order of nature is overcome, and that which is beyond human power is accomplished. Therefore, O most pure and ever-holy One, believe my true words. She then cried out, saying: Let it now be done to me according to your word, and I will give birth to the One who is without flesh. He will take flesh from me, so that by the union he may raise the human race to the original dignity, for he alone is all-powerful.

*v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.*

- The Archangel was sent from heaven to the Virgin to announce the good news of her conception. Coming to Nazareth he was amazed as he reflected on the mystery: How can the One who is incomprehensible in the highest be born of a virgin? Heaven is his throne, the earth is his footstool, and in a woman's womb is contained. The six-winged seraphim and the many-eyed cherubim cannot look upon him; yet, with a single word, he has been pleased to take on flesh. He remains the Word of God. Why do I stand still and not say to the Maiden: Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you; rejoice, pure Virgin; rejoice, unwedded Bride; rejoice, Mother of Life; blessed is the fruit of your womb?

### **HYMN OF THE EVENING**

O joyful Light of the holy glory of the Father Immortal, the heavenly, holy, blessed One, O Jesus Christ, now that we have reached the setting of the sun, and see the evening light, we sing to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to you, O Son of God, the Giver of Life. Therefore, the universe sings your glory.

### **THE EVENING PROKEIMENON**

**Tone 4** [*Psalm 114(116): 9.1*]

the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

the Lord for he has heard the cry of my appeal.

in Genesis [*Genesis 43:26-21; 45:1-16*]

came home, his brothers presented him with the gifts they had brought inside, while they bowed down before him to the ground. After inquiring how they were, he asked them, And how is your aged father, of whom you spoke? Is he still alive? Your servant our father is still alive and doing well, they said, as they knelt and bowed down. Then Joseph looked up and saw Benjamin, his brother, the son of his mother. He asked, Is this your youngest brother, of whom you told me? Then he said to him, May God be gracious to you, my son! With that, Joseph hurried out, for he was so overcome with affection for his brother that he was on the verge of tears. So he went into a private room and wept there. After washing his face, he reappeared, and, now having collected himself, gave the order, "Serve the meal." It was served separately to him, to the brothers, and to the Egyptians who partook of his board. Egyptians may not eat with Hebrews; that is abhorrent to them. When they were seated before him according to their age, from the oldest to the youngest, they looked at one another in amazement; and as portions were brought to them from Joseph's table, Benjamin's portion was five times as large as anyone else's. So they drank freely and made merry with him.

commanded his steward: "Fill the men's bags with as much food as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his bag. In the mouth of the youngest one's bag put also my silver goblet, together with the money for his grain." The steward did as Joseph said. At daybreak the men and their donkeys were sent off. They had not gone far out of the city when Joseph said to his steward: "Go at once after the men! When you overtake them, say to them, 'Why did you repay good with evil? Why did you steal my silver goblet? Is it not the very one from which my master drinks and which he uses for divination? What you have done is wrong.'" When the steward overtook them and repeated these words to them, they said to him: "Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do such a thing! We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the money that we found in the mouths of our bags. How could we steal silver or gold from your master's house? If any of your servants is found to have the goblet, he shall die, and as for the rest of us, we shall become my lord's slaves." But he replied, "Now what you propose is fair enough, but only the one who is found to have it shall become my slave, and the rest of you can go free." Then each of them quickly lowered his bag to the ground and opened it; and when a search was made, starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest, the goblet turned up in Benjamin's bag. At this, they tore their garments. Then, when each man had loaded his donkey again, they returned to the city. When Judah and his brothers entered Joseph's house, he was still there; so they flung themselves on the ground before him. "How could you do such a thing?" Joseph asked them. "Did you not know that such a man as I could discern by divination what happened?" Judah replied: "What can we say to my lord? How can we plead or how try to prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants' guilt. Here we are, then, the slaves of my lord - the rest of us no less than the one in whose possession the goblet was found." Joseph said, "Far be it from me to act thus! Only the one in whose possession the goblet was found shall become my slave; the rest of you may go back unharmed to your father." Judah then stepped up to him and said: "I beg you, my lord, let your servant appeal to my lord, and do not become angry with your servant, for you are the equal of Pharaoh. My lord asked his servants, 'Have you a father, or

another brother?’ So we said to my lord, ‘We have an aged father, and a younger brother, the child of his old age. This one’s full brother is dead, and since he is the only one by his mother who is left, his father is devoted to him.’ Then you told your servants, ‘Bring him down to me that I might see him.’ We replied to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father; his father would die if he left him.’ But you told your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you shall not see me again.’ When we returned to your servant my father, we reported to him the words of my lord. “Later, our father said, ‘Go back and buy some food for us.’ So we reminded him, ‘We cannot go down there; only if our youngest brother is with us can we go, for we may not see the man if our youngest brother is not with us.’ Then your servant my father said to us, ‘As you know, my wife bore me two sons. One of them, however, has gone away from me, and I said, “He must have been torn to pieces by wild beasts!” I have not seen him since. If you take this one away from me too, and a disaster befalls him, you will send my white head down to Sheol in grief.’ “So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father, whose very life is bound up with his, he will die as soon as he sees that the boy is missing; and your servants will thus send the white head of your servant our father down to Sheol in grief. Besides, I, your servant, have guaranteed the boy’s safety for my father by saying, ‘If I fail to bring him back to you, father, I will bear the blame before you forever.’ So now let me, your servant, remain in place of the boy as the slave of my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers. How could I go back to my father if the boy were not with me? I could not bear to see the anguish that would overcome my father.” Joseph could no longer restrain himself in the presence of all his attendants, so he cried out, Have everyone withdraw from me! So no one attended him when he made himself known to his brothers. But his sobs were so loud that the Egyptians heard him, and so the news reached Pharaoh’s house. I am Joseph, he said to his brothers. Is my father still alive? But his brothers could give him no answer, so dumbfounded were they at him. Come closer to me, Joseph told his brothers. When they had done so, he said: I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. But now do not be distressed, and do not be angry with yourselves for having sold me here. It was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here ahead of you. The famine has been in the land for two years now, and for five more years cultivation will yield no harvest. God, therefore, sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance. So it was not really you but God who had me come here; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt. Hurry back, then, to my father and tell him: Thus says your son Joseph: God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me without delay. You can settle in the region of Goshen, where you will be near me—you and your children and children’s children, your flocks and herds, and everything that you own. I will provide for you there in the five years of famine that lie ahead, so that you and your household and all that are yours will not suffer want. Surely, you can see for yourselves, and Benjamin can see for himself, that it is I who am speaking to you. Tell my father all about my high position in Egypt and all that you have seen. But hurry and bring my father down here. Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept on his shoulder. Joseph then kissed all his brothers and wept over them; and only then were his brothers able to talk with him. The news reached Pharaoh’s house: Joseph’s brothers have come. Pharaoh and his officials were pleased.

**Tone 4**      [*Psalm 115:9.1 or 18.10 (116:17.10)*]  
 O Lord I will fulfill before all his people.  
 I will even when I said, “I am sorely afflicted.”

n Proverbs [Proverbs 21:23-22:4]

ard mouth and tongue guard themselves from trouble. Proud, boastful - scoffer is the name: those who act with overbearing pride. The desire of sluggards will slay them, for their hands refuse to work. Some are consumed with avarice all the day, but the just give unsparingly. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination, the more so when they offer it with bad intent. The false witness will perish, but one who listens will give lasting testimony. The face of the wicked hardens, but the upright maintains a straight course. No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel prevail against the Lord. The horse is equipped for the day of battle, but victory is the Lord. A good name is more desirable than great riches, and high esteem, than gold and silver. Rich and poor have a common bond: the Lord is the maker of them all. The astute see an evil and hide, while the naive continue on and pay the penalty. The result of humility and fear of the Lord is riches, honor and life.

dings for the Annunciation:

n Genesis

Jacob departed from Beer-sheba and proceeded toward Haran When he came upon a certain place, he stopped there for the night, since the sun had already set. Taking one of the stones at the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. Then he had a dream: a stairway rested on the ground, with its top reaching to the heavens; and Gods angels were going up and down on it. And there was the Lord standing beside him and saying: I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; do not fear, the land on which you are lying I will give to you and your descendants. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and through them you will spread to the west and the east, to the north and the south. In you and your descendants all the families of the earth will find blessing. I am with you and will protect you wherever you go, and bring you back to this land. I will never leave you until I have done what I promised you. When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he said, Truly, the Lord is in this place and I did not know it! He was afraid and said: How awesome this place is! This is nothing else but the house of God, the gateway to heaven.

n the Prophecy of Ezechiel

Lord: when these days are over, from the eighth day on, the priests shall sacrifice your burnt offerings and communion offerings on the altar. Then I will be pleased with you, says the Lord Adonai. Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary facing east, but it was closed. The Lord said to me: This gate must remain closed; it must not be opened, and no one should come through it. Because the Lord, the God of Israel, came through it, it must remain closed. Only the prince may sit in it to eat a meal in the presence of the Lord; he must enter through the vestibule of the gate and leave the same way. Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the facade of the temple. I looked—and the glory of the Lord filled the Lord s house.

n Proverbs

uilt her house, she has set up her seven columns; she has prepared her meat, mixed her wine, yes, she has spread her table. She has sent out her maidservants; she calls from the heights out over the city: Let whoever is naive turn in here; to any who lack sense I say, “Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine I have mixed! Forsake foolishness that you may live; advance in the way of

understanding. Whoever corrects the arrogant earns insults; and whoever reproves the wicked incurs opprobrium. Do not reprove the arrogant, lest they hate you; reprove the wise, and they will love you. Instruct the wise, and they become still wiser; teach the just, and they advance in learning. The beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied and the years of your life increased”

### **HYMN OF GLORIFICATION.**

y, O Lord, to be kept sinless this evening.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. Amen.

May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us who have placed our hope in you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments.

Blessed are you, O Master, make me understand your commandments.

Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments.

O Lord, your mercy is forever; despise not the work of your hands.

To you is due praise; to you is due a hymn; to you is glory due.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

*Leader:* Blessed are you, Master and Ruler of All, for you have lighted the day with the brilliance of the sun and the night with fiery stars. You have counted us worthy of the length of this day and to come to the beginning of night.

Hear our prayer and forgive the voluntary and involuntary sins of all your people. Accept our evening prayers and upon your inheritance. send down in return your abundant mercy and kindness.

Guard us by your holy angels, clothe us in righteousness as a defense, protect us in your truth and keep us in your strength. Deliver us from all enemies and from every hostile attack. Grant that this evening and the approaching night and all the days of our life be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, and free from violence and evil dreams.

Through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who have been pleasing to you from all ages.

R. Amen.

*Then we sing or say:*

#### **Apostichera, Tone 4:**

- In the sixth month, the archangel was sent to the pure Virgin. Telling her to rejoice, he announced the good tidings that the Savior would be born of her. Having accepted his greeting, she conceived the eternal God who ineffably deigned to become incarnate for the salvation of our souls.

*v. Day after day announce the good news of our God's salvation.*

- The Mother of God, upon hearing, did not understand the message of the archangel because he was speaking the words of glad tidings to her. She accepted his greeting with faith and conceived you, the eternal God. Therefore, we joyfully sing to you: O God, you became

incarnate, without change, from her; and you grant peace and great mercy to the world.

*v. Sing a new song to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

- Behold, the promised one now manifests himself to us. It is beyond comprehension that God unites himself to the human race. At the word of the archangel, deceit is cast out because the Virgin receives the joy. The things of the earth become like heaven; the world is freed of the original curse. Let creation rejoice, and may voices cry out: O our Creator and Deliverer, O Lord, glory to you!

**v. Glory ...now and ever ... Tone 4:**

- Today is the joy of the annunciation and the feast of virginity. The creatures of earth unite with those of heaven. Adam is renewed and Eve is freed from her ancient sorrow. She who is of our own substance becomes the temple of God by the divinity of him who was conceived. O what mystery, the incomprehensible quality of the condescension and the inexpressible wealth of goodness! An angel announces this miracle. The virginal womb receives the Son, and the Holy Spirit is sent down, and the Father on high is well pleased. Through the universal will, reconciliation is accomplished for all. Let us, who have been saved in it and through it, sing with Gabriel to the Virgin: Rejoice, O Full of Grace! For our salvation, Christ our God took nature from you and joined it to himself. Therefore, implore him to save our souls.

*Then:*

Now you may dismiss your servant, O Lord,

in peace, according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation

which you have prepared before the face of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and the glory of your people, Israel.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us. (3 times)

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

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us of our sins; Master, forgive our transgressions; Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

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

R. Amen.

*Troparion of the Annunciation, sung three times:*

(Tone 4): Today is the summit of our salvation, and what was hidden from before all ages is revealed: the Son of God becomes a virgin's son, and Gabriel announces the good news of grace. Therefore, let us exclaim with him to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

*[The we make three prostrations in silence]*

*Then:*

It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos, the ever-Blessed, Immaculate and the Mother of

our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, who, a Virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

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

*R:* Amen.