

VESPERS
THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION
SIXTH THURSDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
CELEBRATED IN HOMES

Opening Hymn:

Kontakion, Tone 8:

O Theotokos, vigilant defender, your servants offer you hymns of victory in thanksgiving, for you have delivered us. But since you have invincible power, free us from all peril, that we may exclaim to you: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride.

Ikos:

An archangel was sent from heaven to greet the Mother of God, and as he saw you assuming a body at the sound of his bodiless voice, O Lord, he stood rapt in amazement and cried out to her in these words:

Rejoice, you through whom joy will shine forth;
Rejoice, you through whom the curse will disappear;
Rejoice, Restoration of the fallen Adam;
Rejoice, Redemption of the tears of Eve;
Rejoice, Peak beyond the reach of human thought;
Rejoice, depth even beyond the sight of angels;
Rejoice, for you have become a royal throne;
Rejoice, for you carry him who carries all;
Rejoice, Star who manifests the Sun;
Rejoice, Womb of the divine Incarnation;
Rejoice, you through whom creation is renewed;
Rejoice, you through whom the Creator becomes a baby!
Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride!

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 4) Two of the holy apostles, O Christ, recognizing you as one of the Holy Trinity, are sent by you on this day to fulfill the Scriptures; they go in search of a young donkey. On it you shall sit humbly, O God of tenderness. You desire to prepare a throne in the highest for those who love you; and you grant to the foolish, who are bent beneath the yoke of their passions, the courage to cry to you: Hosanna!

v. Around me the just will assemble

because of your goodness to me.

- Receive your King, O Zion! He already stands before your gates full of meekness, to raise up Lazarus and to destroy the kingdom of death. And you, the choir of holy monks assembled by God, go to meet Christ with your palms and sing to him: Blessed is he who comes to save the human race by his Passion on the Cross and to grant eternal life to our souls.

PSALM 129

v. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

Lord, hear my voice!

(Tone 8) You are borne upon the Seraphim in the heavens, O Christ, as the God and Creator of all. On earth you are seated upon a donkey. Bethany rejoices to welcome you as a Savior. Jerusalem exults to receive you as the expected Messiah. Death is slain as it sees Lazarus escaping its grasp. And we, carrying our palms, go to meet you in joy and praise the majesty of your goodness, O Lord.

v. Let your ears be attentive

to the voice of my pleading.

(Tone 4) In the sixth month the Archangel was sent to a pure virgin. He greeted her: Rejoice! He announced that the Redeemer would come forth from her. She received his greeting with faith and conceived you, the God from before all ages, for it was your inexpressible good pleasure to become man for the salvation of our souls.

v. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

- In the sixth month the Archangel was sent to a pure virgin. He greeted her: Rejoice! He announced that the Redeemer would come forth from her. She received his greeting with faith and conceived you, the God from before all ages, for it was your inexpressible good pleasure to become man for the salvation of our souls.

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.

- The Theotokos heard a voice she did not know. The Archangel spoke to her the words of good news. She received the greeting with faith and conceived you, the God from before all ages. Therefore, we also rejoice and cry out to you, O unapproachable God who were incarnate of her: Grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls

v. Let the watchman count on daybreak,

and Israel on the Lord.

- Behold our restoration is now revealed. God beyond words is united with humanity. The error is erased by the Archangel's voice, for the virgin receives the joy. What is earthly has become heaven; the world is freed from the ancient curse. Let creation rejoice and give voice to hymns: O Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, glory to you!

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

Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

(Tone 1) The archangel Gabriel, the spirit who sees God face to face, gazes upon the brilliant, saving and gleaming Light. He sings heavenly and awesome hymns with the ranks on high. He implores God to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

PSALM 116

v. Praise the Lord, all you nations;

Acclaim him, all you peoples!

- The great mystery, previously unknown to the angels and hidden from eternity, is made known to you alone, O Gabriel. When you came to Nazareth, you told it to the pure one. Together with her, implore God to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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

he is faithful forever.

- The prince of angels, all-perfect Gabriel, you are filled with the divine brightness. You fulfill the wishes and commands of the Almighty. Save those who lovingly venerate you. Always ask God to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

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

-(Tone 6) 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 6 [*Psalm 119(120): 1.2*]
the hour of my distress, I call and he answers me.
save my soul from lying lips, from the tongue of the deceitful.

in Genesis [*Genesis 46:1-7*]

Israel set out with all that was his. When he arrived at Beer-sheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. There God, speaking to Israel in a vision by night, called: Jacob! Jacob! He answered, Here I am. Then he said: I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you a great nation. I will go down to Egypt with you and I will also bring you back here, after Joseph has closed your eyes.

Departed from Beer-sheba and the sons of Israel put their father and their wives and children on the wagons that Pharaoh had sent to transport him. They took with them their livestock and the possessions they had acquired in the land of Canaan. So Jacob and all his descendants came to Egypt. His sons and his grandsons, his daughters and his granddaughters—all his descendants—he took with him to Egypt

Tone 6 [*Psalm 120(121): 7.1*]
guard you from evil, he will guard your soul.
my eyes to the mountains, from where shall come my help.

in Proverbs [*Proverbs 23:15-24:5*]

Heart is wise, my heart also will rejoice; and my inmost being will exult, when your lips speak what is right. Do not let your heart envy sinners, but only those who always fear the Lord; for you will surely have a future, and your hope will not be cut off. Hear, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the right way. Do not join with wine bibbers, nor with those who glut themselves on meat. For drunkards and gluttons come to poverty, and lazing about clothes one in rags. Listen to your father who begot you, do not despise your mother when she is old.

Do not sell: wisdom, instruction, understanding! The father of a just person will exult greatly; whoever begets a wise son will rejoice in him. Let your father and mother rejoice; let her who bore you exult. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes keep to my ways. For the harlot is a deep pit, and the foreign woman a narrow well; for he shall perish suddenly, and every lawless man shall be destroyed. Who scream? Who shout? Who have strife? Who have anxiety? Who have wounds for nothing? Who have bleary eyes? Whoever linger long over wine, whoever go around

quaffing wine. Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup. It goes down smoothly, but in the end it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. Your eyes behold strange sights, and your heart utters incoherent things; you are like one sleeping on the high seas, sprawled at the top of the mast. They struck me, but it did not pain me; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When can I get up, when can I go out and get more.

the wicked, nor desire to be with them; for their hearts plot violence, and their lips speak of foul play. By wisdom a house is built, by understanding it is established; and by knowledge its rooms are filled with every precious and pleasing possession. The wise are more powerful than the strong, and the learned, than the mighty.

ings for the Annunciation:

n Exodus

the mountain of God, Horeb. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him as fire flaming out of a bush. When he looked, although the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed. So Moses decided, "I must turn aside to look at this remarkable sight. Why does the bush not burn up?" When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to look, God called out to him from the bush: Moses! Moses! He answered, "Here I am." God said: Do not come near! Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. And he said: I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the Lord said: I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry against their taskmasters, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them up from that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

n Proverbs

t me, the beginning of his works, the forerunner of his deeds of long ago; from of old I was formed, at the first, before the earth. When there were no deeps I was brought forth, when there were no fountains or springs of water; before the mountains were settled into place, before the hills, I was brought forth; when the earth and the fields were not yet made, nor the first clods of the world. When he established the heavens, there was I, when he marked out the vault over the face of the deep; when he made firm the skies above, when he fixed fast the springs of the deep; when he set for the sea its limit, so that the waters should not transgress his command; when he fixed the foundations of earth, then was I beside him as artisan; I was his delight day by day, playing before him all the while.

Tone 4:

announce the good news of our God's salvation.

ord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

ws 2:11-18)

n the Letter of St. Paul the Apostle to the Hebrews.

isters: He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin. Therefore, he is not

ashamed to call them “brothers,” saying: “I will proclaim your name to my brothers, in the midst of the assembly I will praise you”; and again: “I will put my trust in him”; and again: “Behold, I and the children God has given me. Now since the children share in blood and flesh, he likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants 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 to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

1:
end like rain on the meadows, like raindrops on the earth.
ne be blessed forever, more enduring than the sun.

(:24-38)

n the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

he wife of Zechariah, Elizabeth, conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, “So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others.” In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man? And the angel said to her in reply, The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God. Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

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:

(Tone 8) Deliver me from the greed of the merciless rich man, O Christ our God, for by your Cross, you cleansed our sins. Make me an imitator of Lazarus the poor, full of patience and meekness. Do not estrange me from the bosom of Abraham, because of your great goodness.

v: To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God, till he show us his mercy.

- Deliver me from the greed of the merciless rich man, O Christ our God, for by your Cross, you cleansed our sins. Make me an imitator of Lazarus the poor, full of patience and meekness. Do not estrange me from the bosom of Abraham, because of your great goodness.

v: Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed, all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain.

O martyrs of the Lord, you sanctify all places, and you heal all diseases. Therefore, we implore you: Pray that our souls be delivered from the snares of the Enemy.

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

(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.

Troparia:

(Tone 4) O leaders of the heavenly armies, although we are always unworthy, we beseech you that with your prayers you may encircle us with the protection of the wings of your angelic glory. Watch over us as we bow low and earnestly cry out to you: Deliver us from trouble; O princes of the heavenly armies.

v. *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and forever. Amen.*
(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]

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in essence with the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. He rose on the third day according to the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, who proceeds from the Father. Together with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified; he spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I profess one baptism for the remission of sins. I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Remit, pardon, and forgive our transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, with knowledge and in ignorance, in thought and in desire, by night and by day, forgive them all,

O God, for you are good and love us all.

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: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8:

O Theotokos, vigilant defender, your servants offer you hymns of victory in thanksgiving, for you have delivered us. But since you have invincible power, free us from all peril, that we may exclaim to you: Rejoice, O Unwedded Bride.

Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Leader: Most holy Trinity, Consubstantial Power, Indivisible Kingdom, Cause of all good things, look favorably upon me, a sinner, at this present hour. Take away all the defilement of my mind and enlighten my understanding that I may always praise, glorify, and say:

Response: One is holy, one is Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Leader bows his head and together with the faithful makes a spiritual Communion praying aloud:

O Lord, I believe and confess that you are truly Christ,
who came into the world

To save sinners of whom I am the first.

Although I cannot be a partaker now of your mystical supper, O Son of God,

Come at least spiritually into my heart by Your Divine Grace
for the healing of my soul and body.

For I will not reveal your mystery to your enemies,

Nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas,

But like the thief I profess to you:

+ Remember me, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.

+ Remember me, O Master, when you come in your kingdom.

+ Remember me, O Holy One, when you come in your kingdom.

O Lord, I also believe and profess, that this,

Which I would receive, and which is now here present with us in Mystery,

Is truly your most precious Body, and your life-giving Blood,

Which, I pray, I may one day receive again

For the remission of all my sins and for life everlasting. Amen

Then immediately:

Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;

In the Lord
my soul shall make its boast
The humble shall hear
and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped,
around those who revere him, to rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is he who longs for life and many days,
to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

The just cried out and the Lord heard them,
and rescued them from all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just,
but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

He will keep guard over all their bones,
not one of their bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

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.

Closing Hymn

When the angel came and announced to her: From the Spirit you'll conceive.
In humility and with trust in God, Mary answered: I believe!
With our hearts devotion true, hymns and prayers we offer you,
Temple of his birth, fairest flower of earth, worthy of all praises due.