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The Service of Matins

for Monday, March 25, 2019

Menaion - March 25

Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

Katavasias of Annunciation

Text in English

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vol Orthodox Monastery of the Veil of our Lady

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Menaion - March 25

Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

MATINS

CHOIR

Mode 4.

God is the Lord, and He revealed Himself to us. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. [SAAS]

Verse 1: Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His name.

or: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Verse 2: All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the Lord I defended myself against them.

Verse 3: And this came about from the Lord, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

From Menaion ---

Apolytikion of the Feast.

Mode 4.

Today is the summary of our salvation, and the revelation of the age-old mystery. For the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of grace. Therefore, let us join him, and cry aloud to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace! The Lord is with you." (3) [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 4. It would be followed by the short litany.

PRIEST

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma I.

From Menaion ---

Mode 1. The soldiers keeping watch.

The great commanding Chief of the bodiless powers * in Nazareth appears and announces the coming * to you, O Immaculate, of the King of the ages and Lord, * saying unto you, "Rejoice, O all-blessed Mary, * incomprehensible and inexplicable wonder, * the restoration of humanity." [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

The great commanding Chief of the bodiless powers * in Nazareth appears and announces the coming * to you, O Immaculate, of the King of the ages and Lord, * saying unto you, "Rejoice, O all-blessed Mary, * incomprehensible and inexplicable wonder, * the restoration of humanity." [SD]

The appointed Kathisma of the Psalter may be read, i.e. Kathisma 5. It would be followed by the short litany.

PRIEST

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You, O God, are good and love mankind, and to You we offer glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma II.

From Menaion ---

Mode 3. Seeing how beautiful.

Today creation all exults with greatest joy, * for the Archangel came and said to you, "Rejoice! * Blessed are you, all-blameless Maid, and undefiled and dignified." * And today the insolence * of the serpent is mortified. * The fetters of the curse once laid * on our forefather now are loosed. * And so with all the world we cry out to you: * Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace. [SD]

Glory. Both now. **Repeat.**

Today creation all exults with greatest joy, * for the Archangel came and said to you, "Rejoice! * Blessed are you, all-blameless Maid, and undefiled and dignified." * And today the insolence * of the serpent is mortified. * The fetters of the curse once laid * on our forefather now are loosed. * And so with all the world we cry out to you: * Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace. [SD]

The Polyeleos.

Psalm 134 (135).

Psalm 135 (136).

Selected Psalm Verses

Selected Psalm Verses for the Annunciation of the Theotokos

To the King's Son. Alleluia.

1. O God, give Your judgments to the King, and Your righteousness to the King's Son. Alleluia. (71:1) [SAAS]
2. That He may judge Your people in righteousness and Your poor with judgment. Alleluia. (71:2) [SAAS]
3. Let the mountains raise up peace for Your people and the hills in righteousness. Alleluia. (71:3) [SAAS]
4. Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God. Alleluia. (95:2) [SAAS]
5. The Lord will give His word to those proclaiming the gospel with great power. Alleluia. (67:12) [SAAS]
6. He who is the King of hosts of the beloved. Alleluia. (67:13) [SAAS]
7. The Lord swore to David this truth, and He shall not reject it. Alleluia. (131:11) [SAAS]
8. I shall set upon your throne one from the fruit of your loins. Alleluia. (131:11) [SAAS]
9. And He shall come down like rain on the fleece, like raindrops falling on the earth. Alleluia. (71:6) [SAAS]
10. O Lord, bow down Your heavens and descend. Alleluia. (143:5) [SAAS]
11. He bowed heaven and descended. Alleluia. (17:10) [SAAS]

12. The Lord has chosen Zion; He chose her for His dwelling. Alleluia. (131:13) [SAAS]

13. The Most High sanctified His tabernacle. Alleluia. (45:5) [SAAS]

14. God established her forever. Alleluia. (47:9) [SAAS]

15. God will come openly. He is our God, and He shall not be silent. Alleluia. (49:3) [SAAS]

16. In His days, righteousness and abundance of peace shall flourish, until the moon is removed. Alleluia. (71:7) [SAAS]

17. All the kings of the earth shall worship Him. Alleluia. (71:11) [SAAS]

18. All the kings of the earth shall worship Him. Alleluia. (71:11) [SAAS]

19. For He rescued the poor from the hand of a strong man, and the needy, for whom there was no helper. Alleluia. (71:12) [SAAS]

20. Let His name be blessed unto the ages. Alleluia. (71:17) [SAAS]

21. Let His name be blessed unto the ages. Alleluia. (71:17) [SAAS]

22. Blessed is the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Alleluia. (71:18) [SAAS]

23. And blessed is the name of His glory forever and unto ages of ages. Alleluia. (71:19) [SAAS]

24. And all the earth shall be filled with His glory. Amen! Amen! Alleluia. (71:19) [SAAS]

Glory. **For the Trinity.**

Mode 1.

Come, let us bow in worship and extol,
* all together singing doxologies * to God

the Father and the Son * and the Holy Spirit faithfully, * crying out and saying: Save us, all-holy Trinity.

Both now. **Theotokion.**

Mode 1.

O Christ, your people now invoke the name * of Your holy Mother, O Good One, and pray:* By her entreaties for us, * will You give us Your tender love, * so that we may glorify * You, the hope of our souls, O Lord.

PRIEST

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma III.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4. Joseph marveled.

To the noble Maiden cried * heaven-sent Gabriel, "Rejoice! * For in your womb you shall conceive * the pre-eternal God, * Who by a word created the universe." * Therefore Mary said * in reply to him, * "I have not known man. * So how can I bear a son? * Who

has ever seen a seedless childbirth?" * And the Angel explained to the Virgin Theotokos, * "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, * and the power of the Highest will overshadow you." [SD]

Glory.

Mode 4. Joseph marveled.

To the pure and virgin Maid * the Angel Gabriel was sent. * He announced to her the grace * and inexpressible joy: * "You will conceive without seed and remain inviolate. * For pre-eternal God is the Son you will bear; * and He will save His people from their iniquities. * He who sent me here to call you blessed, * and to say to you, 'Rejoice,' so testifies. * O Virgin, you will give birth, and after childbirth * you will remain a Virgin." [SD]

Both now.

**Antiphon I.
Mode 4.**

Since my youth have many passions waged war against me. O my Savior, nonetheless help me and save me. (2) [SD]

You, the haters of Zion, be put to shame by the Lord, for like thatch in fire you will be completely dried up. (2) [SD]

Glory.

From the Holy Spirit every soul receives life, and through cleansing is lifted and brightened, in a hidden, sacred manner, by the trinal Monad. [SD]

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit do the streams of grace well forth; they irrigate everything created, so that life be engendered. [SD]

Prokeimenon. Psalm 95.

Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God. (2)

Verse: *Oh, sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord, all the earth.*

Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For you are holy, our God, who rest among the Saints, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

CHOIR

Amen.

Mode 2.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. (2) Let everything that breathes. praise the Lord. [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord our God that we may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise. Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

PRIEST

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

DEACON

Let us be attentive.

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

PRIEST *(from the gate)*

1:39-49, 56

In those days, Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her home. [RSV]

(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.)

READER

Psalm 50 (51).

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my lawlessness and cleanse me from my sin. For

I know my lawlessness, and my sin is always before me. Against You only have I sinned and done evil in Your sight; that You may be justified in Your words, and overcome when You are judged. For behold, I was conceived in transgressions, and in sins my mother bore me. Behold, You love truth; You showed me the unknown and secret things of Your wisdom. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be cleansed; You shall wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow. You shall make me hear joy and gladness; my bones that were humbled shall greatly rejoice. Turn Your face from my sins, and blot out all my transgressions. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with Your guiding Spirit. I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to You. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall greatly rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise. For if You desired sacrifice, I would give it; You will not be pleased with whole burnt offerings. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken and humbled heart God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built; then You will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with offerings and whole burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. [SAAS]

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Glory. **Mode 2.**

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. ^[SD]

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences. ^[SD]

Idiomelon. Mode 2.

Verse: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the abundance of Your compassion, blot out my transgression.* ^[SAAS]

Gabriel announces good tidings today to her who is full of grace: "Rejoice, O Maiden unmarried and unwed. Be not astonished by my strange appearance, nor be dismayed. For an Archangel am I. The serpent once beguiled Eve, but I am now announcing to you the joy. You shall remain inviolate, and yet shall bear the Lord, O Immaculate." ^[SD]

DEACON

O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Look upon your world with mercy and compassion. Raise the Orthodox Christians in glory, and send down upon us your rich mercies, through the intercessions of our most pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, whose Annunciation we celebrate; the power of the precious and life giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless Powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable and glorious prophet, and forerunner John the Baptist, the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy Apostles, our Fathers among the Saints, the great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom, Athanasios, Cyril, and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas, bishop

of Myra, Spyridon, bishop of Trimythous, Nektarios of Pentapolis, the wonder-workers; the holy, glorious great Martyrs George the Victorious, Demetrios the Myrobletes, Theodore the Teron, and Theodore the General, Menas the Wonderworker, the Hieromartyrs Haralambos and Eleftherios; the holy, glorious, and victorious martyrs; the glorious great Martyr and all-laudable Euphemia; the holy and glorious Martyrs Thecla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriake, Fotene, Marina, Paraskeve and Irene; of our holy God-bearing Fathers; (**local patron saint**); the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all your Saints. We beseech you, only merciful Lord, hear us sinners who pray to you and have mercy on us.

CHOIR

Lord, have mercy. (12)

PRIEST

Through the mercy, compassion, and love of mankind of your only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Ode i.

Canon of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

I open my mouth and pray the Spirit fill it, like David said, * to pour out a good word to the Queen and Mother of God.
* I will celebrate * her feast with joy and gladness * and sing to her merrily, lauding her Conceiving. (2) ^[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O Lady, let David your forefather sing to you as he strikes * the harp of the Spirit: "Listen, O Daughter, to the voice * that is filled with joy, of Gabriel the Angel. * For he is announcing joy ineffable to you." [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Rejoicing, I speak to you. Incline your ear and give heed to me, * as I am announcing the seedless conception of God. * For before the Lord, you found exceeding favor, * all-pure one, as no one else before you ever found. [SD]

Glory.

O Angel, make known to me the full significance of your words. * How shall what you say occur? Clearly explain to me. * How shall I conceive and thus become the mother * of God my Creator, when I am a virgin still? [SD]

Both now.

It seems that you think I am possibly speaking deceitfully. * And seeing your cautiousness causes me to rejoice. * But be not afraid, O Lady; for when God wills, * then wonderful miracles easily come to pass. [SD]

Ode i. Katavasia. Mode 4.

I open my mouth and pray the Spirit fill it, like David said, * to pour out a good word to the Queen and Mother of God. * I will celebrate * her feast with joy and gladness * and sing to her merrily, lauding her Conceiving. [SD]

Ode iii.

Canon of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

Establish your servants who extol you, * O Mother of God, for they have formed * a spiritual choir for you * the living and abundant fount; * in your divine Conception now also give glorious crowns to them. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

From Judah the scepter has departed; the time has indeed therefore arrived, * when Christ, the expectation and hope of all the nations, should appear. * But you, explain to me how I, a virgin girl, shall give birth to him. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O Maiden, you seek an explanation of how you, a virgin, will conceive. * But this is inexplicable. Yet when He overshadows you * with His creative energy, the Holy Spirit will accomplish it. [SD]

Glory.

My ancestral mother was evicted of old from the Garden of delight, * when she accepted bad advice from the serpent. And therefore I * am cautious of your curious greeting, lest I make the same mistake. [SD]

Both now.

I who stand before the Lord in heaven was sent to reveal His will to you. * But why are you afraid of me, when I am here in awe of you? * And why are you in awe of me revering you, O immaculate? [SD]

Ode iii. Katavasia. Mode 4.

Establish your servants who extol you, * O Mother of God, for they have formed

* a spiritual choir for you * the living and abundant fount; * in your divine Conception now also give glorious crowns to them. [SD]

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For you are our God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Kathisma.

From Menaion ---

Mode pl. 4. The army of the Angels.

The Logos of the Father to earth has descended. * The Angel has appeared crying out to the Virgin, * "Rejoice, O blessed Maiden, who alone retain the seal of virginity, * while in your womb accepting the pre-eternal Logos and Lord, * so that as God He might thereby redeem the human race from error." [SD]

Ode iv.

Canon of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

He who sits in holy glory * on the throne of divinity, * Jesus our most high God, * on a swift and light cloud has come to us, * and by the might of His undefiled hand has saved * those who cry to Him: Glory to Your power, O Christ. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

I have heard the holy Prophet; he foresaw and proclaimed of old * that a sacred Virgin shall conceive and bring forth Emmanuel. * But what I earnestly long to know is how shall man's * mortal nature sustain the mingling with the Divinity. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Bride unwedded, Virgin Mary, you remember the burning bush: * while sustaining fire, it was not consumed, Maiden full of grace. * It thus prefigured your own amazing mystery: * after giving birth, you shall remain ever-virgin pure. [SD]

Glory.

You, O Gabriel, illumined by the light of almighty God, * since you are the herald of the truth, do tell me most truly how * I shall give birth in the flesh unto the bodiless Word, * with my purity remaining wholly inviolate. [SD]

Both now.

As a slave before his mistress, I respectfully wait on you. * Maiden, I am awestruck, and with fear and reverence I gaze on you, * on whom the Word of the Father

shall softly come down * like rain on a fleece,
as was His perfect good will to do. [SD]

Ode iv. Katavasia. Mode 4.

He who sits in holy glory * on the throne
of divinity, * Jesus our most high God, * on a
swift and light cloud has come to us, * and by
the might of His undefiled hand has saved *
those who cry to Him: Glory to Your power, O
Christ. [SD]

From Menaion - - -

Ode v.

Canon of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

Amazed was the universe by your divine
magnificence. * You who were perpetually
virgin * carried the heavenly God of all in
your womb * and gave birth to the eternal Son,
* who awards salvation to all who sing hymns
of praise to you. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Unable am I to grasp the total meaning of
your words. * For while often miracles have
happened, * wrought by divine power, which
were symbols and types * in the Law and in
the sacred Books, * never has a virgin borne
without agency of a male. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

You marvel, all-blameless one. Your
miracle is strange indeed. * As the King of all
becomes incarnate, * you will receive Him
into your virginal womb. * The types and
the symbols of the Law, * and the words and
riddles of the Prophets prefigure you. [SD]

Glory.

The Lord is invisible to all and
uncontainable. * He is, with the Father and
the Spirit, * without beginning. So, I do not

understand: * How can I conceive the Word
of God? * How can the Creator dwell in my
womb, which He made himself? [SD]

Both now.

To David your Forefather the Lord once
swore an oath in truth, * to set upon the throne
of his kingdom * one from the fruit of his
loins forevermore. * And you, Jacob's beauty,
which He loved, * He has chosen over all as
His animate dwelling place. [SD]

Ode v. Katavasia. Mode 4.

Amazed was the universe by your divine
magnificence. * You who were perpetually
virgin * carried the heavenly God of all in
your womb * and gave birth to the eternal Son,
* who awards salvation to all who sing hymns
of praise to you. [SD]

From Menaion - - -

Ode vi.

Canon of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

Prefiguring * in the whale the divine
three-day burial, * Prophet Jonah cried
aloud, * in affliction beseeching God: * From
corruption save me, * O Lord Jesus the King of
angelic hosts. (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

O Gabriel, I believe and accept your most
joyful words * and I am completely filled
with divine joy and happiness. * For you are a
herald of joy, announcing a joy that will never
end. [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

The godly joy has been given to you, O
Mother of God. * All creation cries rejoice to
you who are the Bride of God. * O pure one,

for only you were preordained Mother of the Son of God. [SD]

Glory.

Let mother Eve's condemnation, through me, be rescinded now, * and through me let what she owed to Adam be returned today. * Let her ancient debt be more than fully repaid through my childbirth, [SD]

Both now.

God made a vow to your forefather Abraham, promising * that the nations would be blessed in his descendant, O Maiden pure; * and today the promise is through you now beginning to come to pass. [SD]

Ode vi. Katavasia. Mode 4.

Prefiguring * in the whale the divine three-day burial, * Prophet Jonah cried aloud, * in affliction beseeching God: * From corruption save me, * O Lord Jesus the King of angelic hosts. [SD]

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You are the King of peace and the savior of our souls, and to You we give glory,

to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

The Kontakion is sung. Then the priest, wearing stole and phelonion, stands before the icon of the Theotokos and intones the Oikos.

CHOIR

Kontakion.

Mode pl. 4. Automelon.

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you
Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude,
Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos.
Inasmuch as you have power unassailable,
From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you
I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

[SD]

PRIEST

Oikos.

An Angel of supreme rank was sent down from heaven to say to the Theotokos, Rejoice. And perceiving You take bodily form at the sound of his bodiless voice, O Lord, he was astounded and he stood shouting to her such salutations: [SD]

Rejoice, through whom is the joy to shine forth. Rejoice, through whom is the curse to vanish.

Rejoice, restoration of Adam the fallen one. Rejoice, liberation of Eve from tears.

Rejoice, height to which the thoughts of men are hardly able to ascend. Rejoice, depth which for the Angels' eyes is very hard to apprehend.

Rejoice, for you are a throne for the King.
Rejoice, for you hold the One who holds everything.

Rejoice, the star causing the Sun's manifestation. Rejoice, the womb of the divine incarnation.

Rejoice, through whom is creation re-created. Rejoice, by whom is the Creator procreated.

Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

READER

Synaxarion.

From the Menaion.

On March 25 is the Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

To God be glory and dominion forever.
Amen.

CHOIR

From Menaion - - -

Ode vii.

Canon of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

Godly-minded three * did not adore created things in the Creator's stead; * rather, disdaining the threat * of fire, they trampled it, and joyfully they sang: * "O supremely praised * and most exalted Lord and God * of the fathers, You are blessed." (2) [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

You declare to me * the bright good tidings that the Light the immaterial * shall for great mercy unite * with physical matter. And divine announcements now * you cry out to me, * saying, "O blessed is the fruit * of your womb, O purest Maiden." [SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Virgin Maid, rejoice. * Rejoice, O Mistress wholly pure. Rejoice, container of God. * Rejoice, O lampstand of Light, * Adam's restoration and deliverance of Eve. * Holy mountain, rejoice, * chamber of immortality, * and resplendent holy temple. [SD]

Glory.

The coming on me * of the All-holy Spirit now has purified my soul; * my body it sanctified. * It made me a living shrine, a Tent adorned by God, * the pure Mother of God, * a Temple that is capable * of containing the Creator. [SD]

Both now.

As a burning torch * emitting light I see you, and a chamber built by God. * And as the gold-covered ark * receive now, O Bride of God, the Giver of the Law, * Who was thus well pleased * through you to grant deliverance * to corrupted human nature. [SD]

Ode vii. Katavasia. Mode 4.

Godly-minded three * did not adore created things in the Creator's stead; * rather, disdaining the threat * of fire, they trampled it, and joyfully they sang: * "O supremely praised * and most exalted Lord and God * of the fathers, You are blessed." [SD]

From Menaion - - -

Ode viii.

Canon of the Feast.

Heirmos. Mode 4.

Hearken, O Damsel, let Gabriel say. * Incline your ear, O Virgin pure, * and hear the counsel of the Most High, ancient and true; * and make ready for your own reception of God. * For through you the Uncontainable

associates with mortal men. * And I am therefore rejoicing and shouting: * O all you works of the Lord, * praise and bless the Lord.

[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Answered the Virgin, "Every mortal mind * is overwhelmed which seeks to grasp * the wondrous tidings that you now announce to me. * I delight in your words, yet am also perplexed, * fearing lest as Eve through trickery you send me far away from God. * But even so am I already shouting: * O all you works of the Lord, praise and bless the Lord."

[SD]

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Gabriel uttered responding, "Behold, * the problem has been solved for you * who rightly called it a thing hard to demonstrate. * Persuaded, therefore, by the word of your own lips, * no more doubt it as factitious, but believe it to be factual. * For I myself am rejoicing and shouting: * O all you works of the Lord, praise and bless the Lord."

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

"There is for mortals a God-given law," * replied the blameless one again, * "that gametic union must precede a child's birth. * But the pleasure of a mate I know not at all. * So, how do you say that I shall bear? I fear lest now you speak with deceit. * But, notwithstanding, behold I am shouting: * O all you works of the Lord, praise and bless the Lord."

Glory.

"O chaste one," the Angel cried out once again, * "the maxim you declare to me * is the convention for childbirth of mortal men. * But

I announce unto you that the very God, * past conception and intelligence, as He knows, shall take flesh from you. * And I am therefore rejoicing and shouting: * O all you works of the Lord, praise and bless the Lord."

Both now.

The Virgin assented, "To me you appear * to be a herald of the truth. * For you came as an Angel of universal joy. * Since, then, by the Spirit my soul is purified, * be it unto me according to your utterance, and God dwell in me. * For unto Him now with you am I shouting: * O all you works of the Lord, praise and bless the Lord."

Ode viii. Katavasia. Mode 4.

We praise and we bless and we worship the Lord.

Hearken, O Damsel, let Gabriel say. * Incline your ear, O Virgin pure, * and hear the counsel of the Most High, ancient and true; * and make ready for your own reception of God. * For through you the Uncontainable associates with mortal men. * And I am therefore rejoicing and shouting: * O all you works of the Lord, * praise and bless the Lord.

[SD]

DEACON

Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of the light.

CHOIR

From Menaion - - -

Ode ix.

Mode 4. Heirmos.

O earth, announce the good tidings of great joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God.

Now let no uninitiated hand * approach the living Ark of God to touch it. * Rather

let believers' lips sing out in exultation *
the Angel's salutation unceasingly * to the
Theotokos and cry out: * Rejoice, Maiden full
of grace! The Lord is with you. [SD]

Troparia.

*O earth, announce the good tidings of great
joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God.*

O pure Maid, you eluded nature's laws, *
conceiving God in ways past understanding.
* You evaded things proper to mothers in
childbirth, * even if by nature you were
prone to change. * Therefore you are worthily
hearing: * "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace; the
Lord is with you." [SD]

*O earth, announce the good tidings of great
joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God.*

How can you, O pure Virgin, nurse with
milk? * No human tongue is able to explain
it. * For you are displaying something alien
to nature, * transcending the order of lawful
childbirth. * Therefore you are worthily
hearing: * "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace; the
Lord is with you." [SD]

*O earth, announce the good tidings of great
joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God.*

It is mystically spoken of you * in Sacred
Writ, O Mother of the Most High. * For of old
when Jacob saw the ladder that prefigured
you, * he said, "This is none other than the
base of God." * Therefore you are worthily
hearing: * "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace; the
Lord is with you." [SD]

Glory.

*O earth, announce the good tidings of great
joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God.*

The bush and the fire revealed * to
hierophantic Moses a strange portent. *
Seeking its fulfillment in the course of time,
he uttered, * "I shall see it fully in a Damsel
pure, * to whom as Theotokos be it spoken: *
Rejoice, Maiden full of grace; the Lord is with
you." [SD]

Both now.

*O earth, announce the good tidings of great
joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God.*

You are called, by Daniel, spiritual
Mountain; * and the Mother of God, by Isaiah.
* Gideon perceives you as a Fleece. And by
David * you are called Holy Place, and Gate
by Ezekiel. * Gabriel addresses you, saying: *
"Rejoice, Maiden full of grace; the Lord is with
you." [SD]

Ode ix. Katavasia. Mode 4.

*O earth, announce the good tidings of great
joy; You heavens, praise the glory of God.*

Now let no uninitiated hand * approach
the living Ark of God to touch it. * Rather
let believers' lips sing out in exultation *
the Angel's salutation unceasingly * to the
Theotokos and cry out: * Rejoice, Maiden full
of grace! The Lord is with you. [SD]

DEACON

Again and again, in peace, let us pray to
the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and
protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For all the powers of heaven praise You and give You glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

From Menaion ---

CHOIR

Exaposteilaria.

Mode 2. *On the mountain.*

The chief Commander of the hosts * of the Angels was sent down * by God, the Ruler over all, * to a pure virgin Maiden; * and he announced the good tidings * of the strange secret wonder, * namely that God will be from her * procreated as man, without human seed, * to refashion all of our human nature. * Announce the good tidings, peoples all, * that the world is refashioned. [SD]

Another.

Mode 2. *On the mountain.*

Rejoice, redemption from the curse * on Adam, Theotokos. * Noble Mother of God, rejoice. * Rejoice, living unburnt bush. * Rejoice, O lamp stand; throne, rejoice. * Rejoice, O gate and ladder. * Rejoice, all-holy vehicle. * Rejoice, temple; O cloud, swift and light, rejoice. * Golden jar of manna, rejoice, O mountain. * Rejoice, the table and the tent. * Rejoice, Eve's absolution. [SD]

Lauds. Mode 1.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. It is fitting to sing a hymn to You, O God. [SAAS]

Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens. Let them praise the Lord's name.

For He spoke, and they were made; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever and unto ages of ages; He set forth His ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, you dragons and all the deeps.

Fire and hail, snow and ice, stormy wind, which perform His word.

Mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees and all cedars.

Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds.

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth.

Young men and maidens, elders with younger, let them praise the Lord's name, for His name alone is exalted.

His thanksgiving is in earth and heaven. And He shall exalt the horn of His people.

A hymn for all His saints, for the children of Israel, a people who draw near to Him.

Sing to the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of His holy ones.

Let Israel be glad in Him who made him, and let the children of Zion greatly rejoice in their King.

Let them praise His name with dance; with tambourine and harp let them sing to Him.

For the Lord is pleased with His people, and He shall exalt the gentle with salvation.

The holy ones shall boast in glory, and they shall greatly rejoice on their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand.

To deal retribution to the nations, reproving among the peoples.

To shackle their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron.

To fulfill among them the written judgment: this glory have all His holy ones.

Praise God in His saints; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1. For the celestial orders.

Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness. [SAAS]

Gabriel flew down from heaven * and came to Nazareth; * and to the Virgin Mary * he appeared and he cried out, * "Rejoice, O blessed woman, for you will conceive * a Son, more ancient than Adam is. * He has created the ages, and He redeems * those who cry to you, O pure one, 'Rejoice!' " [SD]

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet; praise Him with the harp and lyre. [SAAS]

Gabriel flew down from heaven * and came to Nazareth; * and to the Virgin Mary * he appeared and he cried out, * "Rejoice, O blessed woman, for you will conceive * a Son, more ancient than Adam is. * He has created the ages, and He redeems * those who cry to you, O pure one, 'Rejoice!' " [SD]

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute. [SAAS]

Bringing good tidings from heaven, * Gabriel cried out, "Rejoice," * unto the Virgin, saying, * "You shall conceive and will carry * Him, who is containable in your womb, * and whom the whole world cannot contain. * You shall be seen as the Mother of Him who rose * from the Father before the morning star." [SD]

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; praise Him with triumphant cymbals; let everything that breathes praise the Lord. [SAAS]

In His exceeding compassion, * viewing with mercy our fall, * the co-eternal Logos * of the beginningless Father * came down and appeared to the things below, * never leaving the things on high. * Having assumed Adam's poverty to Himself * He has taken on the other's form. [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 2.

The age-old mystery is revealed today, and the Son of God becomes the Son of man, so that by partaking of what is lower He may impart to me what is superior. Of old, Adam was deceived; and he did not become God, though this was his desire. But now, God becomes man, to make Adam god. Let creation sing for joy, and let nature be exultant. For the Archangel is standing with awe before the Virgin and is delivering the salutation, "Rejoice," the reverse of the pain and sorrow. O our God, who in Your tender mercy became man, glory to You! [SD]

Great Doxology

Glory be to You who showed the light.
Glory in the highest to God. His peace is on
earth, His good pleasure in mankind. [SD]

We praise You, we bless You, we worship
You, we glorify You, we give thanks to You
for Your great glory.

Lord King, heavenly God, Father, Ruler
over all; Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
and You, O Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the
Father, who take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us, You who take away the sins
of the world.

Accept our supplication, You who sit at
the right hand of the Father, and have mercy
on us.

For You alone are holy, You alone are
Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the
Father. Amen.

Every day I will bless You, and Your name
will I praise to eternity, and to the ages of
ages.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, this day, that we be
kept without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our
fathers, and praised and glorified is Your
name to the ages. Amen.

Let Your mercy be on us, O Lord, as we
have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your
statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your
statutes.

Blessed are You, O Lord. Teach me Your
statutes.

Lord, You have been our refuge from
generation to generation. I said: Lord, have
mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned
against You.

Lord, I have fled to You. Teach me to do
Your will, for You are my God.

For with You is the fountain of life; in
Your light we shall see light.

Continue Your mercy to those who know
You.

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

Glory to the Father and the Son and the
Holy Spirit.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages.
Amen.

Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal,
have mercy on us.

Apolytikion.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

Today is the summary of our salvation,
and the revelation of the age-old mystery.
For the Son of God becomes the Son of the
Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news
of grace. Therefore, let us join him, and cry
aloud to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, Maiden full
of grace! The Lord is with you." [SD]

DEACON

Have mercy on us, O God, according to
Your great mercy, we pray You, hear us and
have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, the hieromonks, the hierodeacons, the monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, forgiveness, and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious Orthodox Christians residing and visiting in this city: the parishioners, the members of the parish council, the stewards, and benefactors of this holy church.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and for all our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep before us, who here have been piously laid to their rest, as well as the Orthodox everywhere.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing, and for the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we offer up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

(Lord, have mercy.)

That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For that which is good and beneficial for our souls, and for peace for the world, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask the Lord.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

And let us ask for a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good defense before the awesome judgment seat of Christ.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

Commemorating our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

For You are the God of mercy and compassion and love for mankind, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Holy Lord, dwelling on high and beholding things below and, with your eye that observes all, keeping watch over the whole creation, to you we have bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we beseech you, O Holy of Holies: Stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling and bless us all. And, as you are good and love humankind, pardon us if we have sinned in anything, voluntarily or involuntarily, granting us your blessings both of this world and of the world above.

For Yours it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to ages of ages.

(Amen.)

DEACON

Wisdom.

(Father, bless!)

PRIEST

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.
(Amen.)

Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with the Holy Church and this city forever.

READER

Amen.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3) Father, bless!

PRIEST

May He who for us men and for our salvation condescended to become incarnate of the the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, whose Annunciation we celebrate; the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, **(local patron saint)**; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers,
Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us
[and save us].

(Amen.)