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The Service of Vespers

on Sunday Evening

for Monday, March 25, 2019

Menaion - March 25

Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

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

VESPERS

PRIEST

Blessed is our God always, now and ever,
and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

READER

Come, let us worship and bow down
before God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down
before Christ God our King.

Come, let us worship and bow down
before Him, Christ our King and God.

Psalm 103 (104).

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my
God, You are magnified exceedingly; You
clothe Yourself with thanksgiving and
majesty, who cover Yourself with light as
with a garment, who stretch out the heavens
like a curtain; You are He who covers His
upper chambers with water, who makes the
clouds His means of approach, who walks
on the wings of the winds, who makes His
angels spirits and His ministers a flame of
fire. He established the earth on its stable
foundation; it shall not be moved unto ages of
ages. The deep like a garment is His covering;
the waters shall stand upon the mountains;
at Your rebuke they shall flee; at the sound
of Your thunder, they shall be afraid. The
mountains rise up, and the plains sink down
to the place You founded for them. You set
a boundary they shall not pass over; neither
shall they return to cover the earth. You are
He who sends springs into the valley; the

waters shall pass between the mountains;
they shall give drink to all the wild animals
of the field; the wild asses shall quench their
thirst; the birds of heaven shall dwell beside
them; they shall sing from the midst of the
rocks. You are He who waters the mountains
from His higher places; the earth shall be
satisfied with the fruit of Your works. You are
He who causes grass to grow for the cattle,
and the green plant for the service of man, to
bring forth bread from the earth; and wine
gladdens the heart of man, to brighten his face
with oil; and bread strengthens man's heart.
The trees of the plain shall be full of fruit,
the cedars of Lebanon, which You planted;
there the sparrows shall make their nests;
the house of the heron takes the lead among
them. The high mountains are for the deer; the
cliff is a refuge for the rabbits. He made the
moon for seasons; the sun knows its setting.
You established darkness, and it was night,
wherein all the wild animals of the forest
will prowl about; the young lions roar and
snatch their prey, and seek their food from
God. The sun arises, and they are gathered
together; and they shall be put to bed in their
dens. Man shall go out to his work and to his
labor until evening. O Lord, Your works shall
be magnified greatly; You made all things
in wisdom; the earth was filled with Your
creation. There is this great and spacious sea:
the creeping things are there without number;
the living things are there, both small and
great; there the ships pass through; there is
this dragon You formed to play therein. All
things wait upon You, that You may give
them food in due season. When You give
it to them, they shall gather it; when You

open Your hand, all things shall be filled with Your goodness. But when You turn Your face away, they shall be troubled; when You take away their breath, they shall die and return again to their dust. You shall send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let the glory of the Lord be forever; the Lord shall be glad in His works; He looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; He touches the mountains, and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord all my life; I will sing to my God as long as I exist; may my words be pleasing to Him, and I shall be glad in the Lord. May sinners cease from the earth, and the lawless, so as to be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knows its setting. You established darkness, and it was night.

O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom. [SAAS]

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

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to You, O God. (3)

Our hope, O Lord, glory to You.

While the Opening Psalm is being read the Priest, bareheaded and standing in front of the Holy Table, says quietly the following Prayers at the Lighting of the Lamps.

PRIEST (*inaudibly*)

1st Prayer

O Lord, compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and full of mercy, listen to our prayer and attend to the voice of our supplication. Make for us a sign for good. Guide us in your way, to walk in your truth. Make glad our hearts to fear your holy Name, because you are great and do wondrous things. You alone are God, and there is none like you, O Lord, among gods: powerful in mercy and loving in strength to help and to console and to save all who hope in your holy Name. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

2nd Prayer

Lord, do not rebuke us in your anger, nor chastise us in your wrath, but deal with us in accordance with your kindness, physician and healer of our souls. Guide us to the harbour of your will. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to the knowledge of your truth and grant that the rest of the present day and the whole time of our life may be peaceful and without sin, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all the Saints. [EL]

For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

3rd Prayer

Lord our God, remember us, sinners and your unprofitable servants, as we call upon your holy Name, and do not put us to shame from the expectation of your mercy, but graciously grant us, Lord, all the requests that are for salvation, and count us worthy to love and to fear you from our whole heart, and in all things to do your will. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

4th Prayer

O Lord, who are praised by the holy Powers with never silent hymns and unceasing songs of glory, fill our mouth with your praise to give majesty to your holy Name, and give us a part and an inheritance with all who fear you in truth and who keep your commandments, at the prayers of the holy Mother of God and of all your Saints. [EL]

For to you belong all glory, honour and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

5th Prayer

Lord, Lord, who uphold the universe by your immaculate hand, who are long-suffering towards us all and who repent of evils, remember your acts of compassion and your mercy. Visit us in your loving kindness and grant that for the rest of the present day we may escape the manifold wiles of the evil one, and, by the grace of your All-holy Spirit, keep our life free from assault. [EL]

By the mercy and love for mankind of your Only-begotten Son, with whom you are blessed, together with your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

6th Prayer

O God, great and wonderful, who order the universe with inexpressible loving-kindness and rich providence; who have granted us also the blessings of this world and brought us near to the promised Kingdom through the blessings that have been bestowed on us already; who have made us turn aside from every evil during that part of the present day which is now over, grant us also to complete what remains without blame in the presence of your holy glory, as we sing your praise, who alone are our God, good and the Lover of mankind. [EL]

For you are our God and to you we give glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

7th Prayer

Great and most high God, who alone possess immortality, who dwell in unapproachable light, who fashioned all creation with wisdom, who made the separation between the light and the darkness and who placed the sun to have authority over the day and the moon and the stars to have authority over the night, who have counted us sinners worthy even at this present hour to come into your presence with confession and thanksgiving and to offer you our evening hymn of glory; do you, O Lord who love mankind, direct our prayer like incense

before you and accept it as a savour of sweet fragrance. Grant us that the present evening and the coming night may be peaceful, clothe us with weapons of light, deliver us from every night-time fear and from every deed that walks in darkness. And give us sleep, which you have bestowed on us for our rest in our weakness, freed from every fantasy of the devil. Yes, Master of all things, giver of blessings, may we also be filled with compunction on our beds and call to mind your Name in the night, and enlightened by meditation on your commandments may we rise with gladness of soul to give glory to your loving-kindness, as we bring to your compassion supplications and entreaties on behalf of our own sins and those of all your people. At the prayers of the holy Mother of God visit them with mercy. [EL]

For you, O God, are good and love mankind, and to you we give glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen. [EL]

When the Opening Psalm is completed the Priest, in front of the Holy Table, or the Deacon in his usual place outside the Holy Doors, says the Litany of Peace.

DEACON

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For (episcopal rank) (name), for the honorable presbyterate, for the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our country, for the president, and for all in public service, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For this city, and for every city and land, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For those who travel by land, sea, and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, 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 to You belong all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CHOIR

Mode pl. 2.

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. [SAAS]

Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, a door of enclosure about my lips.

Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.

With men who work lawlessness; and I will not join with their choice ones.

The righteous man shall correct me with mercy,
and he shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner
anoint my head.

For my prayer shall be intense in the presence of
their pleasures. Their judges are swallowed up by the
rock.

They shall hear my words, for they are pleasant.
As a clod of ground is dashed to pieces on the earth, so
their bones were scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes, O Lord, O Lord, are toward You; in
You I hope; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snares they set for me, and from
the stumbling blocks of those who work lawlessness.

Sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone,
until I escape.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, with my voice I
prayed to the Lord.

I shall pour out my supplication before Him; I
shall declare my affliction in His presence.

When my spirit fainted within me, then You knew
my paths.

For on the way I was going, they hid a trap for me.

I looked on my right, and saw there was no one
who knew me.

Refuge failed me, and there was no one who cared
for my soul.

I cried to You, O Lord; I said, "You are my hope,
my portion in the land of the living."

Attend to my supplication, for I was humbled
exceedingly.

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are
stronger than I.

Bring my soul out of prison to give thanks to Your
name, O Lord.

The righteous shall wait for me, until You reward
me.

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O
Lord, hear my voice.

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my
supplication.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2. *When the saints deposited.*

*If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O
Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness
with You.* [SAAS]

Gabriel appeared to you, * O virgin
Damsel, revealing * the pre-eternal plan of
God. * And as he saluted you, * he called
out and said, * "O unsowed earth, rejoice; *
unconsumed bush, rejoice. * O rejoice, depth
hard to apprehend. * Rejoice, O sacred bridge
* that conveys to heaven. I say, rejoice, * O
ladder that is lifted up * and was seen by
Jacob the patriarch. * Rejoice, O divine jar * of
manna, and the lifting of the curse. * Rejoice,
Adam's recovery. * Rejoice, for the Lord is
with you." [SD]

*Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You;
my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in
the Lord.* [SAAS]

Gabriel appeared to you, * O virgin
Damsel, revealing * the pre-eternal plan of
God. * And as he saluted you, * he called
out and said, * "O unsowed earth, rejoice; *
unconsumed bush, rejoice. * O rejoice, depth
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* that conveys to heaven. I say, rejoice, * O
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Jacob the patriarch. * Rejoice, O divine jar * of
manna, and the lifting of the curse. * Rejoice,
Adam's recovery. * Rejoice, for the Lord is
with you." [SD]

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord. [SAAS]

Unto the angelic Chief * says the inviolate Damsel, * "You appear to be a man. * But how is it that you speak * superhuman words? * For you say unto me * that with me God will be, * and will make His dwelling in my womb. * But how shall I become * a most spacious confine, explain to me. * How shall I be a holy place * of the One who rides on the Cherubim? * Please do not beguile me. * Do not deceive me. For I have not known * sensual pleasure nor intercourse. * How, then, shall I bear a child?" [SD]

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions. [SAAS]

Unto the angelic Chief * says the inviolate Damsel, * "You appear to be a man. * But how is it that you speak * superhuman words? * For you say unto me * that with me God will be, * and will make His dwelling in my womb. * But how shall I become * a most spacious confine, explain to me. * How shall I be a holy place * of the One who rides on the Cherubim? * Please do not beguile me. * Do not deceive me. For I have not known * sensual pleasure nor intercourse. * How, then, shall I bear a child?" [SD]

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples. [SAAS]

"When God wills it, nature's laws * are overridden, O Damsel," * said the incorporeal, * "and the superhuman deeds * then are brought to pass. * Therefore, trust that indeed * true are these words of mine, * O all-holy

and most blameless one." * She then cried out in turn, * "According to your word be it unto me; * and I shall bear the One who is * bodiless but borrowing flesh from me, * so that by His mingling * with man He might restore him to the height * of his primordial dignity, * as the only One who can." [SD]

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever. [SAAS]

"When God wills it, nature's laws * are overridden, O Damsel," * said the incorporeal, * "and the superhuman deeds * then are brought to pass. * Therefore, trust that indeed * true are these words of mine, * O all-holy and most blameless one." * She then cried out in turn, * "According to your word be it unto me; * and I shall bear the One who is * bodiless but borrowing flesh from me, * so that by His mingling * with man He might restore him to the height * of his primordial dignity, * as the only One who can." [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

Mode pl. 2.

From the heavens, the Archangel Gabriel was sent down to announce the conception to the Virgin. When he arrived in Nazareth, he pondered on the wonder in astonishment: "He who is in the highest is incomprehensible. So, how can He be born of a Virgin? Heaven is His throne and earth is His footstool. So, how can He be contained in the womb of a woman? He on whom the six-winged Seraphim and many-eyed Cherubim are unable to gaze is well pleased to become incarnate of her by word alone. It is the Word of God who is present here. So, why am I standing here and not saying to the Maiden,

'Rejoice, you who are full of grace; the Lord is with you. Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Rejoice, O unwedded Bride! Rejoice, O Mother of Life! Blessed is the fruit of your womb.'" [SD]

DEACON *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Prayer of the Entrance

At evening, at morning and at midday we praise, bless and give thanks, and we pray to you, Master of all things, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer before you like incense, and do not incline our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all that hunt down our souls. For our eyes look to you, O Lord, our Lord, and we have hoped in you.

DEACON

Wisdom. Arise.

CLERGY AND PEOPLE

Mode 2.

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; * and therefore the world glorifies You. [SD]

DEACON

The evening Prokeimenon.

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Mode pl. 4.

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord. (2) [SAAS]

Verse: *Who stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.*

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord.

The Readings

From Menaion - - -

READER

The reading is from the book of Genesis.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

28:10-17

Now Jacob went out from the Well of Oath and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. then he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. So behold, the Lord stood above it and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. Do not fear, the land on which you lie I will give to you and your seed. Also, your seed shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." So he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none

other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." [SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

43:27-44:4

Thus says the Lord: "When they have completed these days, then from the eighth day onward the priests shall offer upon the altar your burnt offerings and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, says the Lord God." Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces east; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall remain shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it; for the Lord, the God of Israel, shall enter by it; therefore it shall remain shut. Only the prince shall sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gate, and shall go out by the same way." Then he brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; and I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord. [SAAS]

READER

The reading is from the Proverbs of Solomon.

DEACON

Wisdom. Let us be attentive.

READER

9:1-11

Wisdom has built her house, she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also

set her table. She has sent out her servants to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who is without sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, that you may reign forever; seek wisdom, and live; and improve understanding by knowledge. He who corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding. For to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life." [SAAS]

DEACON

Let us all say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us all say.

(Lord, have mercy.)

Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray You, hear us and have mercy.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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.)

READER

O Lord, keep us this evening without
sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our
fathers, and praised and glorified is your
name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your
mercy be upon us for we have set our hope
in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me
your commandments. Blessed are you,
Master, grant me understanding of your
commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One,
enlighten me with your commandments.
Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise
the works of your hands. To you is due praise,
to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the
Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now
and forever and to the ages of ages. [HC]

(Amen.)

DEACON

Let us complete our evening 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 evening 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, 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.)

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)*

Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful Judge who love mankind, your servants have bowed their heads and inclined their necks, not waiting for any human help, but awaiting your mercy

and looking for your salvation. Guard them at every moment, during both the present evening and the approaching night, from every foe, from every hostile operation of the devil and from vain thoughts and evil desires.

PRIEST

May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Procession and Litany.

CHOIR

Idiomelon 1.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 1.

In the sixth month, the chief Commander of the Angels was sent to you the pure Virgin, to disclose to you the tidings of salvation, and also to salute you: "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace, the Lord is with you. You shall bear a Son who was begotten of the Father before all ages. And He shall save His people from their transgressions." [SD]

Idiomelon 2.

Mode 1.

In the sixth month, the Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to bring to the Damsel good tidings of joy. And when he drew near to her, he shouted saying, "Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace; the Lord is with you. Rejoice, O vessel of the uncontainable Nature. For the One whom the heavens could not contain has your womb now contained, O blessed one. Rejoice, O noble Virgin, Adam's restoration and deliverance of Eve, and the joy of the world, and the exultation of our race." [SD]

Idiomelon 3.

Mode 1.

The Angel Gabriel was sent from heaven by God to the undefiled Virgin in Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to annunciate to her the good tidings of the strangely effected conception. A bodiless servant was sent to the animate city and intelligible gate, to inform her of the Master's condescension and coming. A heavenly soldier was sent to the animate palace of glory, to prepare for the Creator an everlasting dwelling. And coming to her he cried aloud, "Rejoice, O fiery throne, Maiden by far more glorious than the living creatures with four faces. Rejoice, heavenly royal seat. Rejoice, unquarried mountain and exquisite vessel. For in you has dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, by the good pleasure of the eternal Father, and by the joint action of the Holy Spirit. Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace; the Lord is with you." [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion ---

Idiomelon. Mode 2.

Gabriel annunciates 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

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 mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission of the sins of all pious and Orthodox Christians living and visiting in this city, the parishioners, the members of the Parish Council and every Ministry of this Parish, and the donors and benefactors of this holy church, and the servants of God [names] who celebrate this holy feast.

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

Again we pray for the protection of this holy church, this city and every city and land, from wrath, famine, pestilence, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasions, civil strife, and accidental death. That our good and loving God may be merciful, gracious and favorable to us by turning and keeping from us all wrath and sickness, and deliver us from His just rebuke, and have mercy on us.

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

Again we pray that the Lord our God may hear the prayer of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

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

PRIEST

Hear us, O God our Savior, the hope of all those who live everywhere on earth and those

far out at sea or in the air. Be gracious toward our sins, Master, and have mercy on us.

For you are a merciful and loving 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.)

Peace be with all.

(And with your spirit.)

DEACON

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

(To You, O Lord.)

PRIEST

Most merciful Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, 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.

Accept our prayer; grant us forgiveness of our transgressions; protect us under the shelter of your wings; drive away from us every enemy and adversary; grant peace to our life; Lord have mercy on us and on your world; and save our souls as a good and loving God.

PRIEST or: CHOIR

Hymn to the Theotokos.

O Virgin Theotokos, rejoice, Mary full of grace. The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb; for you have borne the Savior of our souls **[SD]**

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

Blessing of the Loaves.

Lord, Jesus Christ. our God, You blessed the five loaves in the wilderness and from them five thousand men were filled. Bless now these loaves, the wheat, the wine and oil and multiply them in this holy church, this city, in the homes of those who celebrate today, and in Your whole world. And sanctify Your faithful servants who partake of them.

For You are He who blesses and sanctifies all things, Christ our God, and to You we offer up glory together with Your eternal Father and Your holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

CLERGY

Rich men turned poor and went hungry;
but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any
good thing. [SAAS]

CHOIR

Rich men turned poor and went hungry;
but those who seek the Lord shall not lack any
good thing. (2) [SAAS]

From Menaion - - -

CHOIR

Aposticha of the Feast.

Idiomelon 1. Mode 4.

In the sixth month, the Archangel was
sent to the Virgin pure. He said to her to
rejoice, and he announced that the Redeemer
would be born from her. When she accepted
the salutation with faith, she conceived You,
the pre-eternal God, Who were well pleased
ineffably to become man to save our souls. [SD]

Idiomelon 2. Mode 4.

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

The Theotokos heard a tongue she knew
not. For the Archangel spoke to her the words
of the Annunciation. When she accepted the
salutation with faith, she conceived You, the
pre-eternal God. We also greatly rejoice, and
we say to You: O God, Who without changing
became incarnate of her, grant peace to the
world, and great mercy to our souls. [SD]

Idiomelon 3. Mode 4.

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

Behold, the restoration has now been
revealed to us. God unites himself to man in
a manner transcending reason, at the voice of
the Archangel. Delusion is greatly diminished.

The Virgin is accepting the joy. Things earthly
have become heaven. The world has been
released from the ancient curse. Let creation
greatly rejoice and sing praises. "O Lord, our
Creator and Redeemer, glory to You!" [SD]

Glory. Both now.

From Menaion - - -

Mode 4.

Today are glad announcements of joy
proclaimed. This is the virgins' festival. The
things below are joined to the things on
high. Adam is made new again, while Eve is
liberated from her former pain and sorrow.
And the tabernacle of our human nature,
with the deification of the substance that
was assumed, has been designated as the
temple of God. Oh, the mystery! The manner
of the emptying is unknowable, the manner
of conception ineffable. An Angel administers
the miracle; the virgin womb welcomes the
Son into itself. The Holy Spirit is sent down;
above the Father gives His consent, and
the transaction is effected according to the
common wish. So, therein and thereby being
saved, let us therefore cry aloud to the Virgin
with Gabriel: "Rejoice, O Maiden full of grace,
for with you is the Lord, our salvation, Christ
our God who from you did assume our own
nature, which He thereby led back to himself.
To Him pray fervently, entreating Him to save
our souls." [SD]

PRIEST

Song of Simeon.

Lord, now You are letting Your servant
depart 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 to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. [NKJV]

PEOPLE

Trisagion Prayers.

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.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

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

PRIEST

For Thine 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

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]

DEACON

Let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

PRIEST

May the blessing and the mercy of the Lord come upon you by His divine grace and love for mankind, 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.

Optional:

PRIEST

Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

READER

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.

PRIEST

Glory to You, O Christ God, our hope.
Glory to You.

READER

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.)