

Menaion - March 25

Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

LITURGY

Unless otherwise indicated, the texts of the prayers and hymns of the Divine Liturgy are from: The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (© 2016), used with permission from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. This text was produced by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and approved by the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Antiphon I. Mode 2. Psalms 71, 95, 131.

Verse 1: O God, give Your judgments to the King, and Your righteousness to the King's Son.

[SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Verse 2: Let the mountains raise up peace for Your people and the hills in righteousness. [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Verse 3: Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God. [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Verse 4: The Lord swore to David this truth, and He shall not reject it, "I shall set upon your throne one from the fruit of your loins." [SAAS]

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Glory. Both now.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us. [GOA]

Antiphon II. Mode 2. Psalms 71, 45, 49.

Verse 1: And He shall come down like rain on the fleece, like raindrops falling on the earth.

[SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were incarnate for us. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Verse 2: The Most High sanctified His tabernacle. [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were incarnate for us. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Verse 3: God will come openly. He is our God, and He shall not be silent. [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were incarnate for us. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Verse 4: In His days, righteousness and abundance of peace shall flourish. [SAAS]

Save us, O Son of God, who were incarnate for us. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. [HC]

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. [HC]

Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: Save us. [GOA]

Antiphon III. Mode 4. Psalm 71.

Verse 1: *Let His name be blessed unto the ages.* [SAAS]

Verse 2: *Blessed is the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.* [SAAS]

Verse 3: *And blessed is the name of His glory forever and unto ages of ages.* [SAAS]

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." [SD]

An optional alternative to the Antiphons are the Typika (Psalms 102 and 145), and the Beatitudes with the appointed troparia, which are provided here.

Psalm 102.

Psalm 145.

The Beatitudes.

Mode 4.

In Your kingdom. Remember us, O Lord, when You come in Your kingdom. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven [RSV]

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. [RSV]

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. [RSV]

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. [RSV]

Canon of the Feast.

Ode iii. Mode 4. Establish your servants.

From Menaion - - -

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. [RSV]

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]

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. [RSV]

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]

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. [RSV]

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]

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [RSV]

Theotokion.

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]

Canon of the Feast.

From Menaion - - -

Ode vi. Mode 4. Prefiguring in the whale.

Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely [for my sake]. [RSV]

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]

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. [RSV]

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]

Entrance Hymn. Mode 2.

Proclaim from day to day the salvation of our God. Save us, O Son of God, who were incarnate for us. We sing to You, Alleluia. [GOA]

**Hymns After the Small Entrance.
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]

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]

THE TRISAGION HYMN

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

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.

The Epistle

For the Feast.

Prokeimenon. Mode 3. Ode ix.

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. [RSV]

Verse: *For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.* [RSV]

The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews.

2:11-18

Brethren, he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted. [RSV]

Alleluia. Mode 2. Psalm 71.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 1: *And He shall come down like rain on the fleece, like raindrops falling on the earth.*

[SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Verse 2: *Let His name be blessed unto the ages.* [SAAS]

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Gospel

For the Feast.

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

1:24-38

In those days, Elizabeth the wife of Zacharias conceived and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord had done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her,

"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, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. [RSV]

Hymn to the Theotokos.

Ode ix. Heirmos.

Mode 4.

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

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]

Communion Hymn. Psalm 131.

The Lord has chosen Zion; He chose her for His dwelling. Alleluia. [SAAS]

Selected Psalm Verses for the Annunciation of the Theotokos

1. O God, give Your judgments to the King, and Your righteousness to the King's Son. (71:1) [SAAS]
2. That He may judge Your people in righteousness and Your poor with judgment. (71:2) [SAAS]

3. Let the mountains raise up peace for
Your people and the hills in righteousness.

(71:3) [SAAS]

4. Proclaim from day to day the salvation
of our God. (95:2) [SAAS]

5. The Lord will give His word to those
proclaiming the gospel with great power.

(67:12) [SAAS]

6. He who is the King of hosts of the
beloved. (67:13) [SAAS]

7. The Lord swore to David this truth, and
He shall not reject it. (131:11) [SAAS]

8. I shall set upon your throne one from
the fruit of your loins. (131:11) [SAAS]

9. And He shall come down like rain on
the fleece, like raindrops falling on the earth.

(71:6) [SAAS]

10. O Lord, bow down Your heavens and
descend. (143:5) [SAAS]

11. He bowed heaven and descended.

(17:10) [SAAS]

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

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

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

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

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

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

18. All the kings of the earth shall worship
Him. (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. (71:12) [SAAS]

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

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

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

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

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

Hymn after Holy Communion. Mode 2.

We have seen the true light; we have
received the heavenly Spirit; we have found
the true faith, worshiping the undivided
Trinity, for the Trinity has saved us. [GOA]

THE DISMISSAL

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.

Fasting Rule

*Fish: fish, oil and wine are allowed. Refrain from meat,
dairy and eggs.*

It is a major feast.