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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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#### 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)

#### **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."

#### 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. [5D]

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, protect us, O God, by Your grace. 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]

#### 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. Both now. 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." [5D]

#### **DEACON**

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and

(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 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**

## 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. [50]

Both now.

From the Holy Spirit do the streams of grace well forth; they irrigate everything created, so that life be engendered. [5D]

#### 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. [5D]

Both now.

At the intercession of the Theotokos, O Lord of mercy, blot out my many offences.

#### 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 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."

#### **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.)

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.

#### **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: [5D]

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 recreated. 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**

## Katavasias of Annunciation Ode i. 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.

#### Ode iii.

\* 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.

#### Ode iv.

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. [5D]

#### Ode v.

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.

#### Ode vi.

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.

#### Ode vii.

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."

#### Ode viii.

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.

#### **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.

## 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." [5D]

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.

#### **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.

#### 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.

#### 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!' " [5D]

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!' " [5D]

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." [5D]

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.

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! [5D]

## **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.

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]