

March 25,2013

**The Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady,
the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary
Great and Holy Monday**

GREAT VESPERS

Kathisma

“Blessed is the man...”is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 6

10. Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin,
and revealed the eternal plan to you.

He greeted you and announced:

Rejoice, O earth that has not been sown!

Rejoice, O burning bush that was not consumed!

Rejoice, O unsearchable depth!

Rejoice, O bridge which leads to heaven;

O high ladder which Jacob saw!

Rejoice, O vessel of divine manna!

Rejoice, O invocation of Adam!

The Lord is with you.

9. Gabriel stood in your presence, O holy Virgin,
and revealed the eternal plan to you.

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Rejoice, O bridge which leads to heaven;

O high ladder which Jacob saw!

Rejoice, O vessel of divine manna!

Rejoice, O invocation of Adam!

The Lord is with you.

8. The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts:

You appear to me as a mortal,

and your words go beyond human thought.

You have said that God is with me,

and that He shall take up abode in my womb.

Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the Infinite One,
the Lord Who rides on the Cherubim?

Do not mislead me with deceit,

for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock.

Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child?

7. The blameless Maiden said to the captain of the heavenly hosts:
You appear to me as a mortal,
and your words go beyond human thought.
You have said that God is with me,
and that He shall take up abode in my womb.
Tell me then, how am I to become a holy temple for the Infinite One,
the Lord Who rides on the Cherubim?
Do not mislead me with deceit,
for I have known no pleasure and have not approached wedlock.
Therefore, how shall I give birth to a child?

6. The archangel then said to her:
Whenever God wills, the order of nature is overcome,
and that which is beyond human power is accomplished.
Therefore, O most pure and everlasting One, believe my true words.
She then cried out, saying:
Let it now be done to according to your word,
and I will give birth to the One Who is without flesh.
He will take flesh from me,
so that by the union He may raise the human race to the original dignity,
for He alone is all-powerful.

5. The archangel then said to her:
Whenever God wills, the order of nature is overcome,
and that which is beyond human power is accomplished.
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so that by the union He may raise the human race to the original dignity,
for He alone is all-powerful.

In Tone 8

4. Rejoice and be glad, city of Zion!
Exult and be joyful, Church of God!
Your King is coming in righteousness.
He rides on a colt, the foal of an ass.
The children sing His praises:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are You of great mercy! Have mercy on us!

3. Rejoice and be glad, city of Zion!
Exult and be joyful, Church of God!
Your King is coming in righteousness.

He rides on a colt, the foal of an ass.
The children sing His praises:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are You of great mercy! Have mercy on us!

2. Today the Saviour comes to Jerusalem,
fulfilling the scriptures.
He is greeted with palms and a carpet of clothes.
All know it is He:
The Lord, Whom the cherubim praise.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are You of great mercy! Have mercy on us!

1. Gracious Lord, You ride upon the cherubim,
and are praised by the seraphim,
now You ride like David on the foal of an ass.
The children sing hymns worthy of God,
while the priests and scribes blaspheme against You.
By riding an untamed colt, You have prefigured the salvation of the gentiles,
those wild beasts, who will be brought from unbelief to faith!
Glory to You, merciful Christ.
Our King and the Lover of mankind!

Glory...

Rejoice and be glad, city of Zion!
Exult and be joyful, Church of God!
Your King is coming in righteousness.
He rides on a colt, the foal of an ass.
The children sing His praises:
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed are You of great mercy! Have mercy on us!

In Tone 6, Now...

The archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven
to bring to the Virgin glad tidings of her conception.
When he came to Nazareth,
he marvelled at the miracle and thought to himself:
How is it that He Whom the heavens cannot comprehend
is now being born of a virgin?
The One Who has heaven for a throne and earth for a footstool
is being enclosed within a virgin's womb.
He, upon whom the six-winged Seraphim and the many-eyed Cherubim cannot gaze,
wills to become incarnate of her by a single word.
The Word of God is at hand.
Then why do I stand by and not say to the Virgin:
Rejoice, O Full of Grace; the Lord is with you!

Rejoice, O pure Virgin and Maiden Bride!
Rejoice, O Mother of the Life!
Blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Readings

Genesis 28:10-17
Ezekiel 43:27-44:4
Proverbs 9:1-11

Lytia

In Tone 1

In the sixth month, the leader of the heavenly armies
was sent to you, O holy Virgin,
to announce the word of salvation to you and say:
Rejoice, O Woman Full of Grace; the Lord is with you!
You shall give birth to the Son Who was begotten of the Father before all ages.
He is the One Who will save His people from their sins.

In the sixth month, the archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven
to Nazareth, a village of Galilee,
to bring the good news of joy to the Virgin.
Drawing near to her, he cried out, saying:
Rejoice, O Woman Full of Grace; the Lord is with you!
Rejoice, O vessel of the infinite nature,
for your womb contains the One Whom even the heavens could not contain.
Rejoice, O holy Virgin, through whom Adam is called back to Paradise,
Eve is freed from bondage, and the world filled with joy;
for in you the human race now rejoices.

The archangel Gabriel was sent by God from heaven
to the spotless Virgin in Nazareth of Galilee
to joyfully announce her marvellous conception.
The bodiless servant was sent to the living City and the spiritual Door
to reveal the coming of the Master and His descent among us.
The heavenly soldier was sent to the living Palace of Glory
to prepare a dwelling place for her eternal Creator.
Drawing near to her, he cried out, saying:
Rejoice, O throne of fire which surpasses the chariot of the Lord in glory.
Rejoice, O heavenly seat of our King.
Rejoice, O precious chalice and uncut mountain,
for the fullness of the divinity comes to dwell in you
through the good will of the Father and the operation of the most Holy Spirit.
Rejoice, O Woman Full of grace; the Lord is with you!

In Tone 2, Glory... Now...

Today Gabriel announces the good news to the Woman Full of Grace:
Rejoice, O Virgin who has not known wedlock;
do not fear the strangeness of my appearance,
for I am an archangel.
Formerly, the serpent was the cause of grief to Eve,
but now it is great joy that I announce:
You shall remain a virgin, and yet you shall give birth to the Lord.

Aposticha

In Tone 2

Come, faithful,
let us pass from one holy feast to another!
Let us hasten from the palms and branches
to the solemn celebration of Christ's saving passion!
We shall see Him voluntarily suffer for our sake!
Let us offer Him a fitting hymn of thanksgiving:
Fountain of tender mercy and haven of salvation,
O Lord, glory to You!

In Tone 3

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvellous things!

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God!
He is the judge of the heart's intentions and thoughts.
Let no one treat His boundless love with presumption,
but let us approach Christ in meekness and fear,
that we may receive mercy,
and find grace to help us in our time of need.

In Tone 7

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God!

Evil and adulterous generation,
why have you treated your Lord so faithlessly?
How can you cling to the Old Testament,
and not become heirs of its promises?
How can you glory in the Father, but reject the Son?
Why have you rejected the prophet's words which proclaim Him?
Your own children sang to your shame today:
Hosanna to the son of David!
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!

In Tone 2, Glory...

Come, faithful,
let us pass from one holy feast to another!
Let us hasten from the palms and branches
to the solemn celebration of Christ's saving passion!
We shall see Him voluntarily suffer for our sake!
Let us offer Him a fitting hymn of thanksgiving:
Fountain of tender mercy and haven of salvation,
O Lord, glory to You!

In Tone 4, Now...

Today there come glad tidings of joy: it is the feast of the Virgin.
Things below are joined to things above.
Adam is renewed, Eve set free from her ancient sorrow;
and the Tabernacle of the human nature which the Lord took upon Himself,
making divine the substance He assumed, is consecrated as a Temple of God!
O mystery! The manner of emptying is unknown,
the fashion of His conceiving is ineffable.
An angel ministers at the wonder; a virgin womb receives the Son.
The Holy Spirit is sent down; the Father on high gives His consent;
and so the covenant is brought to pass by common counsel.
In Him and through Him are we saved,
and together with Gabriel let us cry aloud to the Virgin:
"Rejoice, you who are full of grace: the Lord is with you.
From you has Christ our God and our Salvation taken human nature,
rising it up to Himself.
Pray to Him that our souls may be saved."

Troparion

In Tone 4

Today is the crown of our salvation,* and the unfolding of the eternal mystery;* the Son of God becomes the Virgin's Son,* and Gabriel brings the tidings of grace.* With him let us also cry to the Mother of God:* Rejoice, Full of grace! The Lord is with you! *Thrice*