Vespers with Divine Liturgy, Evening of March 25, 2021
Thursday in the Sixth Week of the Great Fast
ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

(If the Annunciation falls on a Lenten weekday, the Divine Liturgy of Our Holy Father John Chrysostom is celebrated with Vespers on March 25, in the evening.)

Supplement for The Divine Liturgies of our Holy Fathers John Chrysostom and Basil the Great, 2006. Music for the cantor verses can be found in a separate handout.

The service begins on page 104 in the Divine Liturgies book.

The Lamp-Lighting Psalms

Psalm 140 - Tone 8 samohlasen

Then the recited verses are chanted by the cantor and faithful. The faithful may SIT when the incensation of the church is complete.
O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
   and set a seal on the door of my lips.
Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
   nor make excuses for sins I commit.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
   If a just man strikes or reproves me it is kindness
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
   Let my prayer be ever against their malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
   then they understood that my words were kind.
As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
   so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
   in you I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
   keep me from the snares of those who do evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
   while I pursue my way unharmed.

Psalm 141

With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
   with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him;
   I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints within me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
   On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
Look on my right and see:
   there is no one who takes my part.

I have no means of escape,
   not one who cares for my soul.
I cry to you, O Lord.
   I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of the living."
Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of distress.
Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger than I.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Bring my soul out of this prison,
(on 10) and then I shall praise your name.

Stichera for Thursday in the Sixth Week of the Great Fast - Tone 8 samohlasen

Cantor: (on 9) Around me the just will assemble
(on 9) because of your goodness to me. (All repeat: "Deliver me from the greed...")
Two of the holy apostles, O Christ, recognizing You as one of the Holy Trinity, are sent by You on this day to fulfill the Scriptures; they go in search of a young donkey. On it, You shall sit humbly, O God of tenderness. You desire to prepare a throne in the highest for those who love You; and You grant to the foolish, who are bent beneath the yoke of their passions, the courage to cry to You: Hosanna! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. Receive your King, O Zion! He already stands before your gates full of meekness, to raise up Lazarus and to destroy the kingdom of death.
And you, the choir of holy monks assembled by God, go to meet Christ with your palms and sing to Him: Blessed is He who comes to save the human race by his Passion on the Cross and to grant eternal life to our souls.

Cantor: (Tone 8) If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness; for this we revere you.

You are borne upon the Seraphim in the heavens, O Christ, as the God and Creator of all. On earth You are seated on a donkey. Bethany rejoices to welcome You as a Savior. Jerusalem exults to receive You as the expected Messiah. Death is slain as it sees Lazarus escaping its grasp. And we, carrying our palms go out to meet You in joy and praise the majesty of your goodness, O Lord.
In the sixth month the Archangel was sent to a pure Virgin.

He greeted her: Rejoice! He announced that the Redeemer would come forth from her. She received his greeting with faith and conceived you, the God from before all ages, for it was your inexpressible good pleasure to become man for the salvation of our souls.

The Theotokos heard a voice she did not know. The Archangel spoke to her the words of good news. She received the greeting with faith and conceived

Cantor: (Tone 4) My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

Stichera of the Annunciation - Tone 4 samohlasen
you, the God from before all ages. Therefore, we also rejoice and cry out to you, O unapproachable God who were incarnate of her:

Grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Be hold our restoration is now revealed. God beyond words is united with humanity. The error is erased by the Archangel's voice, for the virgin receives the joy. What is earthly has become heaven;

the world is freed from the ancient curse. Let creation rejoice and give voice to hymns: O Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, glory to you!
The arch-angel Gabriel, the spirit who sees God face to face, gazes up on the brilliant, saving, and gleaming Light. He sings heav enly and awesome hymns with the ranks on high. He implores God to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

The great mystery, previously unknown to the angels and hidden from eternity, is made known to you alone, O Gabriel. When you came to Nazareth, you told it to the pure One. Together with her, implore God to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, 
Psalm 116
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

Stichera of the Archangel Gabriel - Tone 1 podoben: Prechvalnii mučenicy

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; 
(on 1) he is faithful forever.
You make your angels spirits and your ministers a flaming fire.

O prince of angels, all-perfect Gabriel, you are filled with the divine brightness. You fulfill the wishes and commands of the Almighty.

Save those who lovingly venerate you. Always ask God to grant peace and great mercy to our souls.

The faithful STAND,

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory... Now and ever...

Doxastikon - Tone 6 samohlasen

The Archangel Gabriel was sent from heaven to the Virgin to announce the good news of her conception. Coming to Nazareth he was amazed as he reflected on the mystery:
How can the One Who Is incomprehen-sible in the high-est be born of a
vir-gin? Heav-en is his throne, the earth is his foot-stool, and in a
wom-an’s womb he is con-tained. The six-winged seraphim and the many eyed
cherubim cannot look up-on him; yet, with a single word, he has been pleased to
take on flesh. He re-mains the Word of God. Why do I stand still and
not say to the Maid-en: Re-joice, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you;
Re-joice, pure Vir-gin; re-joice, Un-wed-ded Bride; re-joice, Moth-er of Life;
bless-ed is the fruit of your womb.
Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The clergy and servers enter the sanctuary as "O Joyful Light" is sung. The sanctuary and the faithful are incensed.

O Joyful Light of the holy glory of the Father Immortal,
the heavenly, holy, blessed One, O Jesus Christ:
Now that we have reached the setting of the sun, and see the evening light, we sing to God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to you, O Son of God, the Giver of Life. Therefore, the universe sings your glory.
Old Testament Readings from the Triodion

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Celebrant: Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon I - Tone 6 (Psalm 119: 1, 2)

To the Lord in the hour of my distress I call, and he answers me.

Verse: O Lord, save my soul from lying lips, * from the tongue of the deceitful.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A Reading from Genesis

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

The faithful SIT while the lector chants the reading.


Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Prokeimenon II - Tone 6 (Psalm 120:7, 1)

My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth, the Lord who made heaven and earth.

Verse: I lift up my eyes to the mountains, * from where shall come my help.
Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!


Old Testament Readings for the Annunciation

Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from Exodus.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!


Deacon: Wisdom!

Lector: A reading from Proverbs.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Lector: [Proverbs 8:22-31] (Epistle Book, p. 312)

Celebrant: Peace ☠ be to you, reader.

The service continues with the Small Litany (page 122) followed by the Trisagion ("Holy God") of the Divine Liturgy, on pages 27-30.

Propers for the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom are on the following pages of this booklet.
Prokeimenon of the Annunciation - Tone 4 (Psalm 95:2,1):

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

Alleluia of the Annunciation - Tone 1 (Psalm 71:6,17):

Verse: He will descend like rain on the meadows, * like raindrops on the earth.
Verse: May his name be blessed forever, * more enduring than the sun.

Instead of “It is truly proper . . .”

Magnification:

Irmos: Tone 6 Irmos, simple setting

Let no uninitiated hand touch the living Ark of God;
but let faithful lips, singing without ceasing the words of the angel to the The-o-to-kos, cry aloud in great joy: Rejoice,

O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.

Or

Irmos:

Let no uninitiated hand touch the living Ark of God; but let faithful lips, singing without ceasing the words of the angel to the The-o-to-kos, cry aloud in great joy: Rejoice,

O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.
Communion Hymn (Psalm 131:13):

The Lord has chosen Zion; he prefers her for his dwelling.

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!