

**March 25/ April 7: Annunciation of
Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

Divine Liturgy

PROKIMENON, TONE 4

Proclaim from day to day/ the good tidings of the salvation of our God.

Stichos: O sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord all the earth.

THE EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:11-18 (§306)

Brethren, He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to help them that are tempted.

ALLELUIA, TONE 1

He shall come down like rain upon a fleece, and like raindrops that fall upon the earth.

Stichos: His name shall be blessed unto the ages, before the sun doth his name continue.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:24-38 (§3)

In those days, Elisabeth, the wife of Zacharias, conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

INSTEAD OF IT IS TRULY MEET...

Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Canon of the Feast, Tone 4

Refrain: Proclaim, O earth, good tidings of great joy; ye heavens, praise the glory of God.

Irmos: Let no profane hand touch the living Ark of God,/ but let the lips of the faithful,/ chanting unceasingly the words of the angel to the Theotokos,/ with joy cry out:// Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

COMMUNION VERSE

The Lord hath elected Sion, He hath chosen her to be a habitation for Himself.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!