

THE 26th DAY OF THE MONTH OF MARCH

SYNAXIS OF THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL

[The materials for Vespers, and those for Matins particular to the Feast, are to be found at the end of the service for the feast on the previous day.]

AT MATINS

At "God is the Lord ...", on certain days, according to the Typicon, there is chanted along with the Troparion of the Feast that of the Archangel, in Tone IV:

O supreme commander of the armies of heaven, * we ever entreat thee, unworthy though we are, * that by thy supplications thou mayest guard us with the shelter of the wings * of thine immaterial glory, * preserving us who fall down and earnestly cry aloud: * Deliver us from misfortunes, ** in that thou art the leader of the ranks of the powers on high.

The appointed Kathismata, and the Sedalia from the Triodion.

Psalm 50

Canon of the Theotokos, with 4 Troparia, including the Irmos; and that of the archangel, with 6 Troparia, the acrostic whereof is the alphabet, in Tone VI:

ODE I

Canon of the Theotokos

Irmos: When Israel walked on foot in the sea as on dry land, * on seeing their pursuer Pharaoh drowned, * they cried: * Let us sing to God * a song of victory.

Today Gabriel, the radiant leader of the heavenly ranks, hath been sent to the Virgin, crying out: "Rejoice, O immaculate Bride, for through thee is come the Creator and Lord of all!"

The Theotokos: "I wish to understand thy strange salutation," the Virgin said, "for the joy which thou hast uttered is a saying strange to mankind. Speak thou clearly, teaching me."

The Angel: "I shall speak most clearly, standing before thee with all reverence, O most pure one; and do thou incline thine ear, for the power of the Most High shall come upon thee, and thou shalt be inhabited by the all-accomplishing Spirit."

Canon of the Archangel, the composition of Joseph, in Tone IV:

Irmos: I shall open my mouth, * and the Spirit will inspire it, * and I shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and Mother: * I shall be seen radiantly keeping feast * and joyfully praising her wonders.

I beseech thee, O archangel of the Lord, as thou art divine and immaterial light through sharing immaterially in the uttermost Light: illumine my mind by thy supplications, that I may hymn thee.

In gladness let us form a divine choir today, honoring the first among the incorporeal intelligences, who hath announced the ineffable Joy Who, in His goodness, hath come into the world.

Having thee, O Gabriel, as an intercessor most great, a helper before God, a rampart and confirmation, we who love and praise thee are delivered from misfortunes and the evil of the serpent.

Theotokion: **W**hen Gabriel beheld thee, the pure and all-immaculate one, he cried out to thee with splendor: "Rejoice, O Sovereign Lady, thou salvation of mankind who knewest not wedlock, boast and pride of the angels!"

ODE III

Canon of the Theotokos

Irmos: **T**here is none as holy as Thee, * O Lord my God, * who hast exalted the horn of The faithful O good One, * and strengthened us upon the rock * of Thy confession.

The Theotokos: **"I** see now that thou speakest falsely, O angel, for how can a nature which is material, corruptible and earthly contain the Immaterial One Who is clothed in the light of incorruption?"

The Angel: **"S**ensibly hast thou accused me, O pure one, yet such is His good pleasure. But be thou convinced by the bush which, burning, was in no wise consumed by the fire, prefiguring thine ineffable birthgiving. "

The Theotokos: **"T**hou criest out to me words of life; yet the smoking mountain of old, which received God, persuadeth me that material nature is unable to receive the Immaterial One."

Canon of the Archangel

Irmos: **O** Theotokos, thou living and plentiful fount, * grant strength to those united in spiritual fellowship, * who sing hymns of praise to thee: * and in thy divine glory * grant unto them crowns of glory.

Thou wast seen to be a secondary luminary, O Gabriel, illumined immaterially by partaking of the most immaterial Light, as one truly immaterial, ever illumining the material mortals who hymn thee.

Having revealed to us the great mystery, thou wast deemed worthy of the greatest of fame, O greatest of the angels, whereby we who honor thee greatly have been caught up from the earth to the greatest of heights.

From heaven hast thou manifested thyself unto all who ever seek thee with love; and thou hast stilled the tempest of the passions and tribulations which beset us, O Gabriel, supreme commander.

Theotokion: **R**elating the mystery hidden from of old, O Maiden, Gabriel once cried out to thee: "Rejoice, O palace of God wherein, making His abode, he hath deified all mankind, in that He is compassionate!"

Sedalion, in Tone IV: Spec. Mel.: "Having been lifted up ...":

To thee alone, O glorious Gabriel who hast the primacy among the incorporeal ministers of God, was entrusted the awesome mystery which was appointed before time began: the ineffable birthgiving of the holy Virgin. And thou didst proclaim to her: "Rejoice, O thou who art full of joy!" Wherefore with gladness we, the faithful, ever call thee blessed, as is fitting.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., the foregoing is repeated.

ODE IV

Canon of the Theotokos

Irmos: Christ is my power, * my God and my Lord, * the holy Church divinely singeth, * crying with a pure mind, * keeping festival in the Lord.

The Angel: "Thy womb is become the chariot of the Sun, O most pure one; and for mortals hast thou given birth to the never-waning Light," Gabriel proclaimed to the Virgin with all joy.

The Theotokos: "Depart from my doors, and speak not words whose fulfillment thou canst in nowise demonstrate, O supreme commander! Why dost thou trouble my mind and soul, saying these things to me?"

The Angel: "The trumpets of the prophets were deemed worthy to perceive the depth of the mystery from afar, O all-immaculate one. I am the minister thereof, and I stand at thy doors."

Canon of the Archangel

Irmos: Perceiving the profound counsel of God, * that from the Virgin, * Thee the Most High will assume flesh, * the Prophet Habbakuk cried aloud: * Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Of old, O right wondrous Gabriel, thou didst stand, illumining the Prophet Daniel with divine communion, through the Spirit expounding the manifestation of incomprehensible things.

With lips of clay we joyfully praise thee who art fiery by nature. By thy divine mediations, O Gabriel, rescue us from the ever-burning fire.

Arrayed in divine vesture brighter than the sun in unapproachable glory, O supreme commander of the servants of God, thou standest in gladness before the King of heaven.

Theotokion: Understanding thee to be wholly purified by the Spirit, O all-immaculate one, Gabriel openly crieth out to thee: Rejoice, O deliverance from the curse and restoration of the ancestors of mankind!

ODE V

Canon of the Theotokos

Irmos: Illumine with Thy divine light, I pray, O Good One, * the souls of those who with love rise early to pray to Thee, * that they may know Thee, O Word of God, * as the true God, * Who recalleth us from the darkness of sin.

The Theotokos: "I behold thee radiant with angelic splendor, O angel," said the most immaculate one, "yet I am reluctant to believe without hesitation, not knowing first every particular."

The Angel: "The Creator, seeing human nature corrupted, hath been well-pleased to make His abode within thee, O pure one, revealing now in awesome manner the mystery which hath been hidden from before time began."

The Theotokos: "I have been betrothed unto Joseph, but hitherto have not united with him, O archangel. Therefore, not having known a man, how can I give birth? The words thou speakest unto me are contrary to nature."

Canon of the Archangel

Irmos: All creation stands in awe of thy divine glory; * for thou, O Virgin who hast not known wedlock, * didst contain within thy womb Him Who is the God of all; * and giving birth to the timeless Son, * thou grantest peace unto all who hymn thee.

Made luminous through communing with the primal Mind, thou wast revealed to be a secondary luminary crying out with the countless ranks of angels: Holy is God the Creator of all, the co-beginningless Son, and the Spirit Who is co-enthroned with them.

Thine aspect is fiery, thy beauty most wondrous, striking every thought with awe, O Gabriel most great. Great is thy glory, O leader of the divine incorporeal ones, adornment of all who hymn thee with faith.

Of old, when the godly Zachariah beheld thee as he stood during the time of censuring, he was struck mute; for he did not believe the dread announcement which thou didst proclaim, O Gabriel, thou supreme commander.

Theotokion: As a temple of sanctity, O all-immaculate one, at the cry of the Archangel Gabriel thou didst give birth to the all-holy God Who resteth in His saints, Who sanctifieth all and rescueth us from evils.

ODE VI

Canon of the Theotokos

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life surging with the flood of temptations, * I run to Thy calm haven, and cry to Thee: * Raise up my life from corruption, * O Most Merciful One.

The Angel: "Jesus, the Creator of being, doth not hold beings in slavery to laws, O Maiden. May the rod of Aaron, which grew without water, and hath prefigured that thou wilt give birth without knowing a man, convince thee."

The Theotokos: "Contemplating these thine awesome and honorable words, I marvel; and desiring to believe, I ponder the greatness of their eminence and am wholly dismayed, O supreme commander."

The Angel: "Wilt thou not submit to my words? Thee, O pure one, did Daniel foresee as the mountain from whence, without human hands, would be cut the Stone which will most mightily break down the temples of the idols."

Canon of the Archangel

Irmos: As we celebrate this sacred and solemn feast of the Theotokos, * let us come, clapping our hands, * O people of the Lord, * and glorify God who was born of her.

The nations of the earth are unable to honor thee, the radiant and heavenly intelligence who art most splendidly and ineffably illumined with divine effulgence which surpasseth understanding.

By thy radiant entreaties to the Theotokos rescue those who hymn thee from the darkness of the passions, O supreme commander of the fiery servants of God, thou ray far brighter than the sun.

By thy supplications to the Creator of all, O archangel, confound the counsels of the Pagans, make firm the Orthodox Faith, and bring an end to schisms within the Church.

Theotokion: Thou wast obedient to the divine words of Gabriel, O pure one, and didst give birth in the flesh unto the beginningless Word Who hath delivered the world from folly.

Kontakion, in Tone VIII:

O supreme commander, thou glorious intercessor and servant * of the most radiant, adored, all-accomplishing, infinite and awesome Trinity: * do thou now unceasingly pray that we be delivered from all tribulations and torments, * that we may cry out to thee: ** Rejoice, O protection of thy servants!

ODE VII

Irmos: An Angel made the furnace sprinkle dew on the holy Children. * But the command of God consumed the Chaldeans * and prevailed upon the tyrant to cry: * O God of our fathers, Blessed art Thou.

The Angel: "I shall recount to thee. Understand, O all-immaculate one: How did the tent of Abraham once receive and contain God, O most pure one? Wherefore, be not doubtful now, but accept my salutation lovingly, in that thou art the joy of mankind."

The Theotokos: "The magnitude of this matter troubleth me; but since it is the good pleasure of the Supremely good One to make His abode within me in a manner past understanding, behold! I am preserved for Him as a temple pure in soul and body."

Canon of the Archangel

Irmos: The holy children bravely trampled upon the threatening fire, * refusing to worship created things in place of the Creator, * and they sang in joy: * 'Blessed art Thou and praised above all, * O Lord God of our Fathers.'

Once, in the midst of the temple, thou didst announce the birth of John to Zachariah, who stood chanting before God the Redeemer: O all-hymned Lord and God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

The most glorious magnificence of thy temple most radiantly illumineth the souls of the faithful, a Gabriel, and compelleth them to cry aloud: O all-hymned Lord and God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Illumined by mystically partaking of the primal Light, O supreme commander, thou hast been truly seen to be a secondary luminary, ever enlightening those who chant: O all-hymned Lord and God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion: Gabriel the supreme commander was sent to announce joy unto thee, O pure Virgin Mother, because of whom grief hath ceased, the curse hath truly withered away, and blessing hath blossomed forth for the faithful throughout all ages.

ODE VIII

Canon of the Theotokos

Irmos: Thou didst make flame sprinkle the Saints with dew, * and didst burn the sacrifice of a righteous man with water. * For Thou alone, O Christ, dost do all as Thou willest, * and Thee do we exalt throughout all ages.

At the cry of the angel thou didst conceive the Light. Wherefore, to thee do we all cry out: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, thou portal of the Light, vision hard to see, throne of the Most High!

Rejoice, perfection of the exalted mystery! Rejoice, manifestation of things hard to comprehend! Rejoice, unification of mortals to God! Rejoice, O Virgin, thou restoration of the fallen!

Rejoice, O mother of the Master, the Bestower of light! Rejoice, O haven for the storm-tossed! Rejoice, O all-immaculate one, true and fruitful vine! Rejoice, thou who hast put forth the Grapes of immortality!

Canon of the Archangel

Irmos: The Offspring of the Theotokos * saved the holy children in the furnace. * He who was then prefigured hath since been born on earth, * and he gathers all creation to sing: * O all ye works of the Lord, praise ye the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

In gladness the sacred people hymn thee with sacred voices; for thou dost announce to the Virgin, who is one of us, the all-accomplishing Word Who becometh incarnate as we are, in a manner beyond understanding and all telling. Wherefore, we honor thee throughout all ages.

Uniting thyself immaterially to the great and primal Mind, O archangel, with thy fiery mouth thou dost chant the awesome hymns which all the choirs of the angels sing: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages.

Manifestly adorned with divine glories, thou dost pass over those of heaven and of earth, accomplishing the divine desires of Christ the God of all, O Gabriel, leader of the angels and adornment of those who ever praise thee with faith.

The Word, desiring to mingle with mankind in a fleshly hypostasis, had thee go before Him and prepare a sacred palace, O sacred Gabriel, singing: Hymn the Lord and supremely exalt Him throughout all ages!

Theotokion: Let us hymn the blessed Virgin as the beautiful throne of the King, as the one exalted above all created beings, as the one who gaveth being to Him Who is above being, Who hath deified mankind by the higher unification of her ineffable and awesome birthgiving.

ODE IX

Canon of the Theotokos

Irmos: It is impossible for mankind to see God * upon Whom the orders of Angels dare not gaze; * but through thee, O all-pure one, * did the Word Incarnate become a man * and with the Heavenly Hosts * Him we magnify and thee we call blessed.

Rejoice, O honored and most blessed one, thou cause of joy and furrow of goodly growth who bearest the Nourisher of all! Rejoice, O most pure one, wellspring of living water, thou jar and garden of God! Rejoice, O all-immaculate one!

Rejoice, O cleansing of souls and bodies, through whom better things flow forth upon mankind, thou cause of the deification of all! Rejoice, O light cloud who bearest the Sun Who illumineth the world with radiant effulgence!

We cry out to thee a hymn of joy: Rejoice, O pure one, boast of the martyrs and the apostles, most glorious utterance of the prophets! Rejoice, thou adornment of hierarchs and the venerable, for whose sake the inhabitants of heaven rejoice with those of earth!

Canon of the Archangel

Irmos: Let every mortal born on earth, * radiant with light, in spirit leap for joy; * and let the host of the angelic powers * celebrate and honor the holy feast of the Mother of God, * and let them cry: Rejoice! * Pure and blessed Ever-Virgin, * who hast given birth to God.

Illumined with effulgence past understanding and deified in a sacred manner, thou standest in awe before the throne of grace, ministering thereunto, and, seen as light, thou dost illumine those who honor thee with faith, O sacred Gabriel, thou supreme commander.

Thou art seen to be like the sky, adorned with divine radiances as with stars, and as a commander thou holdest a most radiant scepter in thy hands; and dost pass over the whole earth, ever doing the will of the Master and rescuing the faithful from evils.

Still thou the cruel tempests of the barbarians which ever assail thy servants; cause schisms to cease within the Church; and grant deliverance from transgressions to those who hymn thee and victories to our civil authorities through thine intercession, O Gabriel.

O all-comely and most glorious twain, Michael and Gabriel: standing before the throne of divine glory, ask on behalf of all for forgiveness of sins and release from evils, in that ye are intercessors and emulate the goodness of the Master.

Theotokion: **B**y thy birthgiving thou hast shone forth the Light of effulgence and illumined the whole world, and destroying the prince of darkness, O all-pure Theotokos, thou boast of the angels and salvation of all mortals who praise thee with unceasing voices.

On certain days, according to the prescriptions of the Typicon,
the Exapostilarion of the archangel is chanted:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast enlightened us ...":

O supreme commander of God, who hast arrayed thyself in the shelter of thy wings: protect me who have recourse unto thee; at my departure from this life, deliver me from the bitter tormentors, and save me by thine entreaties.

On the Praises, 4 Stichera, in Tone IV:

Spec. Mel.: "Thou hast given a sign ...":

The pre-eternal Mind * made thee, O Gabriel, a secondary luminary * through divine fellowship, * illumining the whole universe * and revealing unto us * the great and truly divine mystery from of old * of Him Who is incarnate in the Virgin's womb, * and Who, though incorporeal, ** became a man to save mankind. (Twice)

Standing before the throne of the three-sunned Godhead, * richly shining forth * with the divine effulgence unceasingly emitted thereby, * O Gabriel, supreme commander, * from the darkness of the passions deliver those on earth * who join chorus joyfully * and praise thee; * and illumine them with enlightenment, ** O thou who dost pray for our souls.

Bring low the arrogance of the Moslems * who so often assail thy flock; * bring an end to the schisms of the Church; * still the tempest of countless temptations; * deliver from tribulations and evil circumstances * those who honor thee with love * and have recourse to thy protection, * O Gabriel, supreme commander, ** who dost pray for our souls.

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., in Tone II:

Today Gabriel announceth to her who is full of grace: "Rejoice, O mother who knewest not wedlock! Be not amazed by my strange appearance, neither be afraid; for I am an archangel! The serpent once deceived Eve; but now I announce joy unto thee: thou wilt remain incorrupt and wilt give birth to the Lord, O most holy one!

On the Aposticha, the Automelon of the Triodion, twice; the Martyricon;

Glory ..., Now & ever ..., Theotokion.