

Evangelismos Tis Theotokou

Annunciation of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

“Today is revealed the eternal mystery!

The Son of God becomes the Son of Man!

By accepting the lowest, he grants me to the highest!

Of old, Adam failed to become a god, as he wished,

But now God becomes man that He may make Adam god!” (Praises of the Feast)

Gospel Reading (Luke 1: 26-39)

English Standard Version

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed [1] to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” [2] 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” [3]

35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born [4] will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant [5] of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Annunciation of the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (March 25) commemorates the proclamation by the archangel Gabriel that the virgin Mary would conceive the Son of God, hence commencing “our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery”. As John Breck (2003) eloquently describes it is through the Theotokos’ willingness to bear the Son of God that “Christ is both Lord and Saviour; and you and I share nothing less than “the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27; 3:4).”

Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

Today is the fountainhead of our salvation and the manifestation of the mystery which was from eternity. The Son of God becometh the Virgin's Son, and Gabriel announceth the good tidings of grace; for this cause, let us cry to the Mother of God with him: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

Sources:

Breck, John (2003). *God With Us: Critical Issues in Christian Life and Faith*

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

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