**MARCH 25**

**The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

**At "Lord I Call..." Tone 6**

**Tone 6** *(from the Menaion, for the Feast) (Having placed all hope)*

Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel,

Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maiden,

and greeting thee, he said:

“Rejoice, earth that has not been sown!

Rejoice, burning bush that remains unconsumed!

Rejoice, unsearchable depth!

Rejoice, bridge that leads to Heaven!

Rejoice, ladder raised on high that Jacob saw!

Rejoice, divine jar of manna!

Rejoice, deliverance from the curse!

Rejoice, restoration of Adam;//

the Lord is with thee!”

“Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man,”

said the undefiled Maid to the chief of the Heavenly Hosts.

“How then dost thou speak to me of things that pass man’s power?

Thou hast said that God shall be with me

and shall take up His dwelling in my womb.

How shall I become the spacious habitation

and the holy place of Him Who rides upon the Cherubim?

Do not deceive me with trickery;

for I have not known pleasure,

I have not entered into wedlock.//

How then shall I bear a Child?”

Then the bodiless Angel replied:

“When God so wills, the order of nature is overcome,

and what is beyond man comes to pass.

Believe that my sayings are true,

O all-holy and immaculate Lady!”

And she cried aloud:

“Let it be to me according to thy word,

and I shall bear Him Who is without flesh!

He shall borrow flesh from me,

that through this union of natures

He may lead man up to his ancient glory,//

for He alone has power so to do.”