

**Fifth Saturday of Lent: Saturday of the Akathist Hymn; Fore-feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God; Our Venerable Father Zachary; Our Holy Father Artemon Bishop of Seleucia in Pisidia - March 24.**

*Text from "[The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship](#)"; Pg. 633*

**Troparion (Tone 8):** When the bodiless angel learned the secret command\* he hastened and stood before the house of Joseph\* and said to her who had not known wedlock,\* "The One who has bowed the heavens by His condescension\* is wholly contained in you without change.\* In your womb I see Him taking the form of a slave.\* Therefore I cry to you in fearful awe: \* Rejoice, O Bride and Virgin."

**Troparion (Tone 4):** Today is the prelude of joy for the universe.\* Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation:\* "Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin; \* he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder:\* 'Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!'"

**+Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Kontakion (Tone 8):** You are the beginning of salvation\* for all of us on earth, O Virgin Mother of God.\* For the great Archangel Gabriel, God's minister,\* was sent from heaven to stand before you to bring you joy.\* Therefore, we all cry to you:\* "Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!"

***Now and for ever and ever. Amen.***

**Kontakion (Tone 8):** To you, O Mother of God,\* the invincible leader,\* we, your servants, ascribe these victory hymns\* in thanksgiving for our deliverance from evil.\* With your invincible power free us from all dangers\* that we may cry out to you:\* "Hail, O Bride, and pure Virgin!"

**Prokimenon (Tone 3):** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour (Lk 1:46-47).

**verse:** Because He has regarded the humility of His handmaid; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall called me blessed (Lk 1:48).

**Epistle (Hebrews 9:24-28):** *Brethren*, Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgement, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal

with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

**Epistle (Hebrews 9:1-7) (Theotokos):** *Brethren*, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was constructed, the first one, in which were the lampstand, the table, and the bread of the Presence; this is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain was a tent called the Holy of Holies. In it stood the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which there were a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy-seat. Of these things we cannot speak now in detail. Such preparations having been made, the priests go continually into the first tent to carry out their ritual duties; but only the high priest goes into the second, and he but once a year, and not without taking the blood that he offers for himself and for the sins committed unintentionally by the people.

**Alleluia (Tone 8):**

*verse:* Rise up, Lord, to the place of Your rest, You and the ark of Your holiness (Ps 131:8).

*verse:* O Lord, remember David and all his meekness (Ps 131:1).

**Gospel (Mk 8:27-31):** *At that time Jesus* went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

**Gospel (Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28) (Theotokos):** *At that time Jesus* entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!' But he said, 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!'

**Communion Verse:** I will take the chalice of salvation;\* and I will call upon the name of the Lord (Ps 115:4). Alleluia! (3x).