

March 25 – Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

At Vespers

The Reading is from Genesis (28:10-17)

Jacob went forth from the well of the oath, and departed into Haran. And he came to a certain place and slept there, for the sun had gone down; and he took one of the stones of the place, and put it at his head, and lay down to sleep in that place, and dreamed, and behold, a ladder fixed on the earth, whose top reached to heaven, and the angels of God ascended and descended on it. And the Lord stood upon it, and said, "I am the God of thy father Abraham, and the God of Isaac; fear not, the land on which thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed. And thy seed shall be like the sand of the earth; and it shall spread abroad to the sea, and the south, and the north, and the east; and in thee and in thy seed shall all tribes of the earth be blessed. And behold, I am with thee to preserve thee continually in all the way wherein thou shalt go; and I will bring thee back to this land; for I will not desert thee, until I have done all that I have said to thee." And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and said, "The Lord is in this place, and I knew it not." And he was afraid, and said, "How fearful is this place! this is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Ezekiel (43:27-44:4)

Thus saith the Lord: it shall come to pass from the eighth day and onward, that the priests shall offer your wholeburnt offerings on the altar, and your peace offerings; and I will accept you, saith the Lord. Then He brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary that looketh eastward; and it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no one shall pass through it; for the Lord God of Israel shall enter by it, and it shall be shut. For the Prince, He shall sit in it, to eat bread before the Lord; He shall go in by the way of the porch of the gate, and shall go forth by the way of the same." And He brought me in by the way of the gate that faceth northward, in front of the house: and I looked, and, behold, the house was full of the glory of the Lord.

The Reading is from Proverbs (9:1-11)

Wisdom hath built a house for herself, and set up seven pillars. She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine in a bowl, and prepared her table. She hath sent forth her servants, calling with a loud proclamation to the feast, saying, "Whoso is foolish, let him turn aside to me:" and to those who want understanding she saith, "Come, eat of my bread, and drink wine which I have mingled for you." Leave folly, that ye may reign for ever; and seek wisdom, and improve understanding by knowledge. He who reproveth evil men shall get dishonour to himself; and he who rebuketh an ungodly man shall disgrace himself. Rebuke not evil men, lest they should hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give an opportunity to a wise man, and he will be wiser: instruct a just man, and he will receive more instruction. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding: for to know the law is the character of a sound mind. For in this way thou shalt live long, and years of thy life shall be added to thee.

Be it known that if the Annunciation fall on any of the Saturdays of the Fast:

We read first the readings of the day (see Vespers on Friday evening), and after them five readings of the feast:

1) Moses came to the Mount... 2) The Lord hath made me...

3) Jacob went forth... 4) Thus saith the Lord... 5) Wisdom hath built a house...

*Similarly, if Annunciation fall on a Sunday, the five readings are read as set forth above
(but there are no readings from the Triodion).*

*But if the feast fall on a weekday, the three readings are read at Vespers on the eve of the feast,
while the two are read at Liturgy on the feast itself.*

The Reading is from Exodus (3:1-8)

Moses came to the Mount of Horeb. And an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the bush, and he saw that the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will go near and see this great sight, why the bush is not consumed. And when the Lord saw that he drew nigh to see, the Lord called him out of the bush, saying, "Moses, Moses;" and he said, "What is it?" And He said, "Draw not nigh hither: loose thy sandals from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." And He said, "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob;" and Moses turned away his face, for he was afraid to gaze at God. And the Lord said to Moses, "I have surely seen the affliction of My people that is in Ægypt, and I have heard their cry caused by their task-masters; for I know their affliction. And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Ægyptians, and to bring them out of that land, and to bring them into a good and wide land, into a land flowing with milk and honey."

The Reading is from Proverbs (8:22-30)

Whe Lord hath made me the beginning of His ways for His works. He established me before time was in the beginning, before He made the earth: even before He made the depths; before the fountains of water came forth: before the mountains were settled, and all the hills, He begetteth me. The Lord made countries and deserts, and the highest inhabited parts under the heavens. When He prepared heaven, I was present with Him; and when He prepared His throne upon the winds: and when He strengthened the clouds above; and when He secured the fountains of the earth: and when He strengthened the foundations of the earth: I was by Him, suiting myself to Him, I was that in which He took delight; and daily I rejoiced in His presence continually.