

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church of the San Fernando Valley**  
**a Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**  
**16643 Vanowen Street; Van Nuys, California; 91406** [stmichaelvannuys.org](http://stmichaelvannuys.org)

His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of all North America [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org)

Archpriest Timothy Baclig, Pastor [frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:frtimothy@stmichaelvannuys.org)

Rev. Fr. Minas Sarchizian, Assisting Priest [fatherminas@gmail.com](mailto:fatherminas@gmail.com)

Rev. Deacon Andrew Monsue [armcopper@gmail.com](mailto:armcopper@gmail.com)

Subdeacon Richard Tamoush [Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com](mailto:Tamoush.Richard@gmail.com)

Subdeacon Magued Wassef [wassefm@msn.com](mailto:wassefm@msn.com)

Subdeacon Richard Ajalat, Pastoral Assistant [rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com](mailto:rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.com)

Parish Council Chair - Kris Thabit [ktthabit66@hotmail.com](mailto:ktthabit66@hotmail.com)

Council Vice-Chair - Connie Abdun-Nur Barilla [cmatthews46@yahoo.com](mailto:cmatthews46@yahoo.com)

Council Secretary - John Khouri [johngkhouri@gmail.com](mailto:johngkhouri@gmail.com)

Council Treasurer - Julie Bitar [jbitar027@gmail.com](mailto:jbitar027@gmail.com)

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Women of No. America (AOCWNA)

Chapter President - Charmaine Darmour [cdarmour@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cdarmour@sbcglobal.net)

Church Comptroller - Mary Ann Coury [maryanncoury@aol.com](mailto:maryanncoury@aol.com)

Choir Director - Art Danks [artdanks1@yahoo.com](mailto:artdanks1@yahoo.com)

Church School Director - Lila Coudsy [lcoudsy@aol.com](mailto:lcoudsy@aol.com)

Youth Director - Cooper Rowe [crowe31@gmail.com](mailto:crowe31@gmail.com)

Young Adult Director - Richard Ajalat [rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:rajalat@stmichaelvannuys.org)

Young Parents' Ministry - Brittney Ajalat [brittneylee704@gmail.com](mailto:brittneylee704@gmail.com)

Faithtree Resources Exec. Director - Michelle Moujaes [michelle@faithtree.org](mailto:michelle@faithtree.org)

Project Manager - Michael J. Malouf [michael@jacksonia.com](mailto:michael@jacksonia.com)

Stewardship Chair - Richard Tamoush [richard@AAAFLAG.COM](mailto:richard@AAAFLAG.COM)

Capital Funds Campaign Chair - Ron Zraick [ronaldzraick@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldzraick@gmail.com)

Property Management Chair - Eric Nelson [ericnelson2520@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ericnelson2520@sbcglobal.net)

Bookstore Manager - Bobbi Monsue [bobbi\\_monsue@att.net](mailto:bobbi_monsue@att.net)

Golf Classic Chair - Fred Milkie [milkief@aol.com](mailto:milkief@aol.com)

Webmaster - Dan Raju [dan.raju16@hotmail.com](mailto:dan.raju16@hotmail.com)

Coffee Hour Coordinator - Cindy Tamoush [famtam5@socal.rr.com](mailto:famtam5@socal.rr.com)

Head Usher - Ramez Hage [jeddo.ramez@gmail.com](mailto:jeddo.ramez@gmail.com)

# **The Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos**

Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020**

## **Apolytikion of the Annunciation (Tone 4)**

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the manifestation of the mystery from the ages; for the Son of God becometh the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaimeth grace. Wherefore, do we shout with him to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O full of grace! The Lord is with thee.

## **Apolytikion of the Archangel Gabriel (Tone 4)**

O ye foremost of the heavenly hosts we beseech thee, though we are unworthy, pray that we may be encompassed with a shadow of Thy unearthly glory, preserving us who kneel and cry endlessly: deliver us from oppression since ye are the prince of the Highest Power.

## **Kontakion of the Annunciation (Tone 8)**

With mystic apprehension of the divine commandment, the bodiless angel quickly appeared in the dwelling-place of Joseph and said to the unwed Virgin: Lo, He Who in His Descent did bow the Heavens is housed unchanged and whole in thee; as I behold Him in thy womb taking on the form of a servant, I marvel and I cry unto thee: Hail, O Bride without bridegroom!

## **Kontakion of the Annunciation [and Great Lent] (Tone 8)**

To thee, the Champion Leader, do I offer thanks of victory, O Theotokos, thou who hast delivered me from terror; but as thou that hast that power invincible, O Theotokos, thou alone can set me free: from all forms of danger free me and deliver me, that I may cry unto thee: "Hail, O Bride without Bridegroom."

## **Festal Readings**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(The First Passage from the Book of Exodus 3:1-8)

Moses came to the mountain of God, even Horeb. And the Angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said: I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, the Lord called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said: What is it, Lord? And He said: Draw not nigh hither; put off thy sandals from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover 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 look upon God. And the Lord said unto Moses: I have surely seen the affliction of My people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrow; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land and lead them into a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey.

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

(The Second Passage from the Book of Proverbs 8:22-30)

The Lord made me the beginning of His ways for His works. Before time was, He established me, in the beginning, before He made the earth, and before He made the depths, before the fountains of the waters came forth, before the mountains were made, and before all the hills, He begat me. The Lord made lands and uninhabited places, and the uttermost inhabited parts under heaven. When He prepared the heaven, I was present with Him; and when He appointed His own throne upon the winds; when He strengthened the clouds above, and when He secured the fountains of the waters that are under heaven; when He gave the sea its bound that the waters should not go beyond His word, and He made strong the foundations of the earth, I was with Him, working in harmony with Him. I it was in whom He took delight, and daily I rejoiced in His presence continually.

## THE EPISTLE (for the Annunciation)

*Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God. Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.*

## **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (2:11-18)**

Brethren, He Who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim Thy Name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise Thee." And again, "I will put my trust in Him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that He is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

THE GOSPEL (for the Annunciation)

## **The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke (1:24-38)**

At that time, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah, conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the archangel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the archangel came to her and said, "Rejoice, O favored one, the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the archangel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou wilt conceive in thy womb and bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus. 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, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the archangel, "How shall this be, since I have known no man?" And the

archangel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon thee, and the power of the Most High will overshadow thee; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the archangel departed from her.

## **The Synaxarion – March 25<sup>th</sup>**

On March 25 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Annunciation to our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

### ***Verses***

*The Angel announced as Son to the Virgin,  
the Great Angel of the Father’s great counsel.*

*On the twenty-fifth the Angel spake of joy unto Mary.*

When the All-Holy Virgin completed the fourteenth year after her birth and was entering her fifteenth year, after having spent eleven years of living and serving in the Temple of Jerusalem, the priests informed her that, according to the Law, she could not remain in the Temple but was required to be betrothed and enter into marriage. Mary surprised the priests when she told them that she had dedicated her life to God and that she desired to remain a virgin until death. Then, Zacharias, the high priest and father of the Forerunner, under the inspiration of God, and in agreement with the other priests, betrothed the Virgin Mary to Joseph of Nazareth to preserve her virginity and to care for her. When the fullness of time had come, as prophesied by Daniel the Prophet, and when God was pleased to fulfill His promise to the banished Adam and to the Prophets, the great Archangel Gabriel appeared in the chamber of the All-Holy Virgin and, as some priestly writers wrote, precisely at that same moment when she held open the book of the Prophet Isaiah and was contemplating his great prophecy: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son! (7:13)” Gabriel appeared in all of his angelic brightness and saluted her: “Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with thee,” and the rest in order as it is written in the Gospel of Luke. With this angelic annunciation and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Virgin, leading

to the incarnation of our Lord, the salvation of mankind and restoration of all creation began.

*Through the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos and of all Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.*

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

[Note: We are currently in the period of the Great Fast.\*]

### Weekday Service

Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup> – Akathist / Madeyeh (Service of Intercessory Prayer, 6:30 p.m. via Live-streaming — FaceBook: [https://m.facebook.com/StMichaelAntiochianOrthodoxChurchVanNuys/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://m.facebook.com/StMichaelAntiochianOrthodoxChurchVanNuys/?modal=admin_todo_tour) via Zoom Webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/329542815>

### The Fifth Sunday of Lent

Commemorating Our Righteous Mother Mary of Egypt  
Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers service text: [antiochian.org](http://antiochian.org)  
Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.  
Via FaceBook and Zoom Webinar Live-streaming

\*For more information on fasting or questions, speak with Father Timothy.  
Fish, wine and oil are permitted on Palm Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> (Western Easter).  
The fast of Holy Week begins on Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> and  
Holy Pascha (Easter) is celebrated on Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19<sup>th</sup>.

## OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is being offered this evening and on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> in loving memory of Carrie Deeb Skaff (+25 March 2009) and Amelia Nader (+27 March, 2005) by Jeanice Rose Deeb, Edward Deeb, Jr. and family and Gina Deeb. Memory eternal.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

by Lew Malouf in thanksgiving for the successful surgery of Ernie Simon with prayers for his continued recovery and good health.

by Sharon Katerelos for the continued health of her daughter-in-law,  
Sheila Katerelos.

### **A Note Regarding Holy Communion**

Since we understand Communion to mean that we have all things in common, sharing an identical Faith, *only* those who are members of the Orthodox Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and recent Confession may participate in Holy Communion. (We invite all, however, to partake of the blessed bread which is distributed at the dismissal.) Please see the Pastor for inquiries on how to become a member.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Live-streaming Sunday Orthros and Liturgy**

Plan to view the services of Orthros and the Divine Liturgy on-line via FaceBook this Sunday, April 29th by logging on to: **[https://m.facebook.com/StMichaelAntiochianOrthodoxChurchVanNuys/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://m.facebook.com/StMichaelAntiochianOrthodoxChurchVanNuys/?modal=admin_todo_tour)**. You may also view our live-streaming telecast by Zoom Webinar by logging on to: **<https://zoom.us/j/720672603>**. Your church offering may be made on-line via our website "Donation" tab.

### **Zoom Meetings Scheduled**

Children's Message with Father Timothy — Friday, March 27 at 3:30 p.m. Log on to: **<https://zoom.us/j/290787526>**

Teens — Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 11:45 a.m. Log on to: **<https://zoom.us/j/507699244?pwd=R2FwWWRvVG9wcW9oSC9pY2Y3cFN1dz09>**

Young Adults — Sunday, March 29, 2020 at 2 p.m. Log on to: **<https://zoom.us/j/187591612>**

5th and 6th Graders — Monday, March 30, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. Log on to: **<https://zoom.us/j/603128304>**

### **Lenten Study: "Building a Worshipping Community"**

At each week during Great Lent, Father Timothy is preparing presentations on the topic: "Building a Worshipping Community." The first three talks in visual slides are available on our parish website homepage <[stmichaelvannuys.org](http://stmichaelvannuys.org)>: Part I - "Children in Church;" Part II - "Church Hymnography; Antiphonal Singing and Chanting;" Part III - "Iconography in the Church; Their Order and Placement." This coming week's presentation will focus upon: "The Iconostasis, Its Purpose and Function."

**Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.**

**Holy Bread Offering List**

Mar 29 - The Deeb family  
Apr 05 - Ron & Kathy Zraick  
Apr 12 - Palm Sunday  
Apr 16 - (Great and Holy Thursday Liturgy)  
Apr 18 - (Great and Holy Saturday Liturgies)  
Apr 19 - Holy Pascha

**Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar**

Mar 29 - CLOSED  
Apr 05 - CLOSED  
Apr 12 - CLOSED  
Paschal Breakfast (TBA)  
Church School Easter egg Hunt (TBA)

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; [pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org](mailto:pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org)) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; [famtam5@socal.rr.com](mailto:famtam5@socal.rr.com)) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.

**Upcoming Events (see the foyer bulletin board for more information)**

St. Michael Ladies Annunciation Tea - **Postponed to August 15**

Speaker: Mother Paraskeva of St. Barbara Monastery

Topic: "Sow to the Spirit: Preparing Now for the World to Come"

Antiochian Women's Annual Lenten Retreat - April 3-5, 2020 (**Cancelled**)  
at Camp St. Nicholas; speaker: Father Calinic Berger

Holy Friday Teen Vigil - Friday, April 17, 8:30 p.m. (To be confirmed)

The 57th "Sweetheart Ball" - Saturday, April 25th at the  
Universal Hilton Hotel (To be confirmed)

29th Annual St. Michael Annual Golf Classic - Monday, May 18  
(**Postponed to November 2, 2020**)

**Save the Date for our St. Michael Golf Classic**

Monday, November 2, 2020 is the new postponed date for our 29th Annual Golf Classic. The Committee includes: Emile Skaff (Golf Hole Sponsorships), Robert & DeAnne Abraham (Golf Ball Raffle), Sean & Robyn O'Dea (Gift Basket Raffles). Your contributions of gift cards for our raffles are appreciated. Golf Hole Sponsorships are \$250 (an additional \$50 will provide for your company logo). Your tax deductible check should be made out to: "St. Michael Church," earmarked: "golf hole. Credit card payment are also accepted.



## Food for the Hungry People Drive

You may have received the Food for the Hungry People mailing from Robin Nicholas. Your contribution may be made through our parish by writing your check to "St. Michael Church", earmarked: "FFHP" and our parish collection will be sent in at the end of Great Lent. Thank you for your support of our annual Lenten charity campaign.

## Collection for Seminarian Scholarships

Your special offering for our Archdiocese Seminarian scholarships are being received in response to Metropolitan JOSEPH's appeal on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Sunday, March 8, 2020. Please be sure that your check is earmarked "Seminarians." Thank you.

## 2020 Bible Bowl and Oratorical Presentations

Information for this year's Bible Bowl and Oratorical Presentations are provided on our Church School bulletin board outside of the Church School Office and copies that include rules and regulations are available in the office or by contacting Lila Coudsy at: [lcoudsy@aol.com](mailto:lcoudsy@aol.com)

## LITURGICAL CALENDAR

*NOTE: Confessions will be heard before and/or after the services, **or** by appointment during the week. It would be most appropriate for confessions to be completed by Holy Wednesday (April 15<sup>th</sup>) just prior to the Sacrament of Holy Unction and the Holy Thursday morning Liturgy.*

THE SERVICES OF GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday Evening – April 12<sup>th</sup>

**Bridegroom Orthros and Procession, 6:30 p.m.**

Great and Holy Monday – April 13<sup>th</sup>

**Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.**

Great and Holy Tuesday – April 14<sup>th</sup>

**Bridegroom Orthros and Confessions, 6:30 p.m.**

Great and Holy Wednesday – April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Confessions**

**The Sacrament of Holy Unction, 6:30 p.m.**

Great and Holy Thursday – April 16<sup>th</sup>

**Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil, 10 a.m.**

**Orthros of the Twelve Passion Gospels, 6:30 p.m.**

Great and Holy Friday – April 17<sup>th</sup>

**Great Vespers of the Descent from the Cross, 3 p.m.**

**Orthros of the Lamentations and Procession, 6:30 p.m.**

Great and Holy Saturday – April 18<sup>h</sup>

**Service of the Preparing of the Holy Gifts (*Proskomedija*), 8:30 a.m.**

**Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, 9 a.m.**

## **SERVICES OF THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION – HOLY PASCHA**

**The “Rush Procession” Orthros, 11:30 p.m.**

**The Divine Liturgy and “Agape Breakfast”**

Holy Pascha – April 19<sup>th</sup>

**The Paschal Vespers of Love (*Agape*), 11 a.m.**

### **Attention Parents:**

Learn the meaning of our offerings and prayers at the Liturgy: Father Timothy will be teaching the children (and any adult interested in having an “up-close” lesson) about the preparation of the Holy Bread offering just before the Lazarus Saturday Liturgy on Saturday, April 11, 2020, beginning at 10 a.m. by live-streaming on FaceBook, Zoom Webinar and YouTube. The prayers for the preparation of the offering at the “table of the offering,” called the *Prothesis* [pro-THEE-sus] table, will take place just prior to the beginning of the Divine Liturgy for all to see, with explanations of the prayers and actions by the priest. It will be a beautiful way to begin Holy Week as we celebrate Christ’s entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem.

## Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel

### طروبارية القيامة على اللحن الأول

إِنَّ الْحَجَرَ لَمَّا خُتِمَ مِنَ الْيَهُودِ، وَجَسَدَكَ الطَّاهِرَ حُفِظَ مِنَ الْجَنْدِ، قُمْتَ فِي الْيَوْمِ الثَّلَاثِ أَيْهَا  
الْمَخْلُصُ، مَانِحاً الْعَالَمَ الْحَيَاةَ. فَلذَلِكَ قَوَاتِ السَّمَاوَاتِ هَتَفُوا إِلَيْكَ يَا وَاهَبَ الْحَيَاةَ: الْمَجْدُ  
لِقِيَامَتِكَ أَيْهَا الْمَسِيحُ، الْمَجْدُ لِمَلِكِكَ، الْمَجْدُ لِتَدْبِيرِكَ يَا مُحَبَّ الْبَشَرِ وَحَدِّكَ

### طروبارية البشارة على اللحن الرابع

الْيَوْمَ إِكْلِيلُ خَلَاصِنَا وَظُهُورُ السِّرِّ الَّذِي مِنْذُ الدَّهْوَرِ، لِأَنَّ ابْنَ اللَّهِ يَصِيرُ ابْنَ الْبَتُولِ  
وَجِبْرَائِيلُ بِالنِّعْمَةِ يُبَشِّرُ. لِذَلِكَ فَلْنَهْتَفْ مَعَهُ: إِفْرَحِي يَا مَمْتَلَنَةً نِعْمَةً الرَّبِّ مَعَكَ.

### قنداق آحاد الصوم على اللحن الثامن

إِنِّي أَنَا عَبْدُكَ يَا وَالِدَةَ الْإِلَهِ، أَكْتُبُ لَكَ رَايَاتِ الْغَلْبَةِ يَا جَنْدِيَّةَ مَحَامِيَّةَ، وَأَقْدِمُ لَكَ الشُّكْرَ  
كَمُنْفَذَةٍ مِنَ الشَّدَائِدِ. لَكِنْ بِمَا أَنَّ لَكَ الْعِزَّةَ الَّتِي لَا تَحَارِبُ، أَعْتَقِنِي مِنْ صُنُوفِ الشَّدَائِدِ،  
حَتَّى أَصْرَخَ إِلَيْكَ: إِفْرَحِي يَا عُرُوسًا لَا عُرُوسَ لَهَا

## الرسالة

أخبروا من يومٍ إلى يومٍ ببشارةٍ خلاصٍ إلينا، رتلوا للربِّ ترتيلاً جديدةً،  
هللوا للربِّ يا جميع أهل الأرض

فصلٌ من رسالة القديس بولس الرسول إلى العبرانيين

يَا إِخْوَةَ، إِنَّ الَّذِي يُقَدَّسُ وَالَّذِينَ تَقَدَّسُوا لَهُمْ أَصْلٌ وَاحِدٌ، فَلَا يَسْتَحِي أَنْ يَدْعُوَهُمْ إِخْوَةً،  
فَيَقُولُ: «سَأُبَشِّرُ بِاسْمِكَ إِخْوَتِي وَأَسَبِّحُكَ فِي الْجَمَاعَةِ». وَيَقُولُ أَيْضًا: «عَلَى اللَّهِ  
اتِّكَالِي»، وَأَيْضًا: «هَا أَنَا مَعَ الْأَبْنَاءِ الَّذِينَ وَهَبَهُمُ اللَّهُ لِي». وَلَمَّا كَانَ الْأَبْنَاءُ شُرَكَاءَ فِي  
اللَّحْمِ وَالْدَّمِ، شَارِكُهُمْ يَسُوعُ كَذَلِكَ فِي طَبِيعَتِهِمْ هَذِهِ لِيَقْضِيَ بِمَوْتِهِ عَلَى الَّذِي فِي يَدِهِ  
سُلْطَانُ الْمَوْتِ، أَيِ إِبْلِيسَ، وَيُحَرِّرَ الَّذِينَ كَانُوا طَوَالَ حَيَاتِهِمْ فِي الْعُبُودِيَّةِ خَوْفًا مِنْ

الموت. جاء لا يُسَاعِدَ الْمَلَائِكَةَ، بَلْ لِيُسَاعِدَ نَسْلَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ. فَكَانَ عَلَيْهِ أَنْ يُشَابِهَ إِخْوَتَهُ فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ، حَتَّى يَكُونَ رَئِيسَ كَهَنَةٍ، رَحِيمًا أَمِينًا فِي خِدْمَةِ اللَّهِ، فَيُكْفِرَ عَن خَطَايَا الشَّعْبِ، لِأَنَّهُ هُوَ نَفْسُهُ تَأَلَّمَ بِالتَّجْرِبَةِ، فَأَمَكْنَهُ أَنْ يُعِينَ الْمُجْرَبِينَ.

## الإنجيل

### فصل من بشارة القديس لوقا الإنجيلي

في ذلك الزمان حَبِلَتْ امْرَأَتُهُ أَلْيَصَابَاتُ، فَأَخَفَتْ أَمْرَهَا خَمْسَةَ أَشْهُرٍ. وَكَانَتْ تَقُولُ: «هَذَا مَا أَعْطَانِي الرَّبُّ يَوْمَ نَظَرِ إِلَيَّ لِيُزِيلَ عَنِّي الْعَارَ مِنْ بَيْنِ النَّاسِ». حِينَ كَانَتْ أَلْيَصَابَاتُ فِي شَهْرِهَا السَّادِسِ، أَرْسَلَ اللَّهُ الْمَلَكَ جِبْرَائِيلَ إِلَى بَلَدَةٍ فِي الْجَلِيلِ اسْمُهَا النَّاصِرَةُ، إِلَى عَذْرَاءَ اسْمُهَا مَرْيَمُ، كَانَتْ مَخْطُوبَةً لِرَجُلٍ مِنْ بَيْتِ دَاوُدَ اسْمُهُ يَوْسُفُ. فَدَخَلَ إِلَيْهَا الْمَلَكَ وَقَالَ لَهَا: «السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكَ، أَيَّتَهَا الْمَمْتَلَنَةُ نِعْمَةً. الرَّبُّ مَعَكَ». فَاضْطَرَبَتْ مَرْيَمُ لِكَلَامِ الْمَلَكَ وَقَالَتْ فِي نَفْسِهَا: «مَا مَعْنَى هَذِهِ التَّحِيَّةِ؟» فَقَالَ لَهَا الْمَلَكَ: «لَا تَخَافِي يَا مَرْيَمُ، نَلِيتِ حُظْوَةَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ: فَسَتَحْبَلِينَ وَتَلِدِينَ ابْنًا تُسَمِّيَنَّهُ يَسُوعَ. فَيَكُونُ عَظِيمًا وَابْنُ اللَّهِ الْعَلِيِّ يُدْعَى، وَيُعْطِيهِ الرَّبُّ الْإِلَهَ عَرْشَ أَبِيهِ دَاوُدَ، وَيَمْلِكُ عَلَى بَيْتِ يَعْقُوبَ إِلَى الْأَبَدِ، وَلَا يَكُونُ لِمُلْكِهِ نِهَآيَةٌ!» فَقَالَتْ مَرْيَمُ لِلْمَلَكَ: «كَيْفَ يَكُونُ هَذَا وَأَنَا عَذْرَاءٌ لَا أَعْرِفُ رَجُلًا؟» فَأَجَابَهَا الْمَلَكَ: «الرُّوحُ الْقُدُسُ يَحِلُّ عَلَيْكَ، وَقُدْرَةُ الْعَلِيِّ تُظَلِّكُ، لِذَلِكَ فَالْقُدُّوسُ الَّذِي يُولِّدُ مِنْكَ يُدْعَى ابْنُ اللَّهِ. هَا قَرِيبَتُكَ أَلْيَصَابَاتُ حُبَلِي بَابِنَ فِي شَيْخُوخَتِهَا، وَهَذَا هُوَ شَهْرُهَا السَّادِسُ، وَهِيَ الَّتِي دَعَاها النَّاسُ عَاقِرًا. فَمَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ غَيْرِ مُمَكَّنٍ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ». فَقَالَتْ مَرْيَمُ: «أَنَا خَادِمَةٌ الرَّبِّ: فَلْيَكُنْ لِي كَمَا تَقُولُ». وَمَضَى مِنْ عِنْدِهَا الْمَلَكَ.

### ملاحظة بخصوص تناول القربان المقدس

إن مفهومنا لتناول القربان يعني عمومية المشاركة فيه لذوى العقيدة الواحدة، إلا إن المشاركة في سر القربان المقدس هنا تقتصر فقط على أعضاء الكنائس الأرثوذكسية والذين يحضرون أنفسهم بالصلاة والصوم والاعتراف منذ فترة قريبة (وعلى كل حال، فإننا ندعو الجميع للمشاركة في الخبز المقدس الذي يوزع عند إنتهاء مراسيم القداس). رجاء مراجعة الكاهن. إذا رغبت أن تصبح عضواً في الكنيسة الأرثوذكسية.