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**Sunday, March 26, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Great Lent - Tone 8**

St. John Climacus (of The Ladder)  
Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Troparion:

Thou didst descend from on high, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept the three-day burial to free us from our sufferings! O Lord, our Life and Resurrection: glory to Thee!

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with You!

Gabriel, commander of the heavenly hosts, we who are unworthy beseech you, by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory, and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry to you: "Deliver us from all harm, for you are the commander of the powers on high!"

Kontakion:

By rising from the tomb, Thou didst raise the dead and resurrect Adam. Eve exults in Thy Resurrection, and the world celebrates Thy Rising from the dead, O greatly Merciful One!

Supreme commander Gabriel, you are the glorious intercessor and servant before the all-radiant, worthy, all-powerful, infinite and awesome Trinity. Ever pray now that we may be delivered from all tribulations and torments, so that we may cry out to you: "Rejoice, protection of your servants!"

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The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence, to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, O our Father and Teacher John.

O Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts! We, your servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos! As you possess invincible might, set us free from every calamity so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Prokeimenon:

Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!  
(Vs.) In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel!

Tone 4 (Feast):

From day to day proclaim the salvation of our God..

Epistle:

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. (Heb. 6:13-20)

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since He had no one greater by whom to swear, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of His purpose, He interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchiz'edek.

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. (Heb 2:11-18)

Alleluia Verses:

Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

(Vs.) Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

Tone 1 (Feast):

He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth.

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Mark. (Chapter 9:17-31)

At that time one of the crowd came to Jesus and bowed to Him saying: "Master, I have brought to you my son, who has a dumb spirit; and whenever it seizes him it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth; and he is wasting away. And I told your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." And He, answering him, said, "O unbelieving generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him to me." And they brought him to Him; and the spirit, when it saw Jesus, immediately threw the boy into convulsions, and he fell down on the ground and rolled about foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long is it since this has come upon him?" And he said, "From his infancy. Oftentimes it has thrown him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." But Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to the man of faith." At once the father of the boy cried out and said with tears, "I do believe; help my unbelief." Now when Jesus saw that a crowd was rapidly gathering, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, go out of him and enter him no more." And crying out and violently convulsing him, it went out of him, and he became like one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand, and raised him and he stood up. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And He said to them, "This kind can be cast out in no way except by prayer and fasting." And leaving that place, they were passing through Galilee, and He did not wish anyone to know it. For He was teaching His disciples, and saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and having been killed, He will rise again on the third day."

In those days Elizabeth, the wife of Zechariah conceived and she secluded herself for five months, saying, "Thus has the Lord dealt with me in the days when he deigned to take away my reproach among men." Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And when the angel had come to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." When she had heard him she was troubled at his word, and kept pondering what manner of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found grace with God. Behold, you shall conceive in your womb and shall bring forth a son; and you shall call His name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of David His father, and He shall be king over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How shall this happen, since I do not know man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit shall come upon you and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you; and therefore the Holy One to be born shall be called the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth your cousin also has conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month; for nothing shall be impossible with God." But Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel left her. (Luke 1:24-38)