March 25: The Annunciation of the Most Pure Theotokos
Stichera on "Lord I have cried"
(also sung at Vespers, Friday Evening for the Saturday of the Akathist)

Znamenny Chant

1. Revealing to thee the eternal counsel,

Gabriel came and stood before thee, O Maid, and greeting thee, he said: Rejoice, thou earth that has not been sown;

rejoice, thou burning bush that remains unconsumed; rejoice,
thou un-search-a-ble depth; re-joice, thou bridge that leads to

heaven, and ladder raised on high that

Jacob saw; re-joice, thou divine jar of manna;

re-joice, thou deliverance from the curse;
rejoice, thou restoration of Adam:

the Lord is with thee.
2. 'Thou dost appear to me in the form of a man,'

said the unde-filed Maid to the chief of the heavenly hosts:

'how then dost thou speak to me of things that pass men's power?

For thou hast said that God shall be with me,
and shall take up His dwelling in my womb; and how

tell me shall I become the spacious habitation and the

holy place of Him that rides upon the cherubim?

Do not beguile me with deceit: for I have not known sensual pleasure,
I have not entered into wedlock.

How then shall I bear a child?
'When God so wishes,' said the bodiless angel,
a-loud, Let it be un-to me ac-cord-ing to thy word:

and I shall bear Him that is with-out flesh,

Who shall bor-row flesh from me, that through this ming-ling

He may lead man up unto His ancient glo-ry, for He a-lone

has pow-er so to do.'

English text adapted from "The Festal Menaion", translated by Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos Ware, ©1969, Faber and Faber, London.


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