March 25th

The Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

Byzantine Mode 6
Special Melody: Having laid up all their hope

1) Com-ing to re-veal to thee that coun-sel which was de-

ter-mined from be-fore e-ter-ni-ty,

Ga-bri-el sal-ut-ed thee, cry-ing out: Re-joice,

ho-ly earth nev-er sown; bush un-burnt, re-joice thou;

O re-joice, thou lad-der raised on high,

which Ja-cob saw of old; re-joice, thou depth un-fath-omed and un-ex-plied;

re-joice, thou bridge which lead-est up

to the high-est Heav-en; re-joice, di-vine
ves - sel of the Man - na; re - joice, com - plete de - struc - tion of the curse; re - call of Ad - am to God, re - joice:

With thee is the Lord Most High.

2) To the Chief of Heav - en's hosts, the unde -filed Maid - en

answered: Thou dost seem to be a man;

how is it that thou dost speak things be - yond man's strength?

For thou hast said to me that God shall be with me

and shall make His dwell - ing in my womb.

Tell me, I pray of thee, how shall I be - come then the spa - cious land

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And dwelling place of holiness

For Him that doth ride on the Cherubim?

Do thou not be guile me deceitfully; for

Pleasure I know not, neither in wedlock have I been yoked.

How then shall I bear a child?

3) Wheresoever God doth will, there nature's order is

Conquered, spake he that is bodiless;

And that which exceedeth man then is brought to pass.

O thou all holy Maid, purer than all telling,
now believe these truthful words of mine.

She cried aloud to him: Be it unto me now as thou hast said,

and I shall bear the Fleshless One,

Who shall borrow flesh from me, so that He,

Who alone is able, might lead man back up
to his first estate and ancient dignity once again

by His union with our race.