

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

S
A

1. Re-veal - ing to ___ thee the pre - e - ter - nal coun - - - sel,

T
B

Ga - bri - el came and stood be - fore ___ thee, O ___ Maid, and greet - ing

thee, ___ he said: Re - joi - ce, thou ___ earth that has not ___ been ___ sown;

re - joi - ce, thou burn - ing bush that re - mains un - con - - sumed; re - joi - ce,

thou un-search - a - ble depth; — re - joice, thou — bridge that leads to

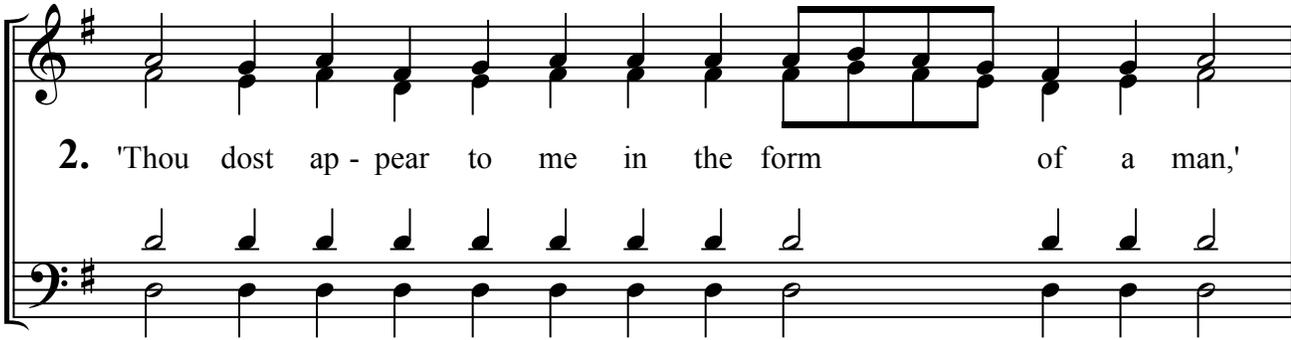
hea - - - ven, and — lad - - - der raised — on high that

Ja - cob saw; re-joyce, thou di - vine — jar of — man - na;

re - joice, thou de - liv - er - ance from — the — — — — — curse;

re - joice, thou res - tor - a - tion of A - - - dam:

the Lord _____ is with_ thee.



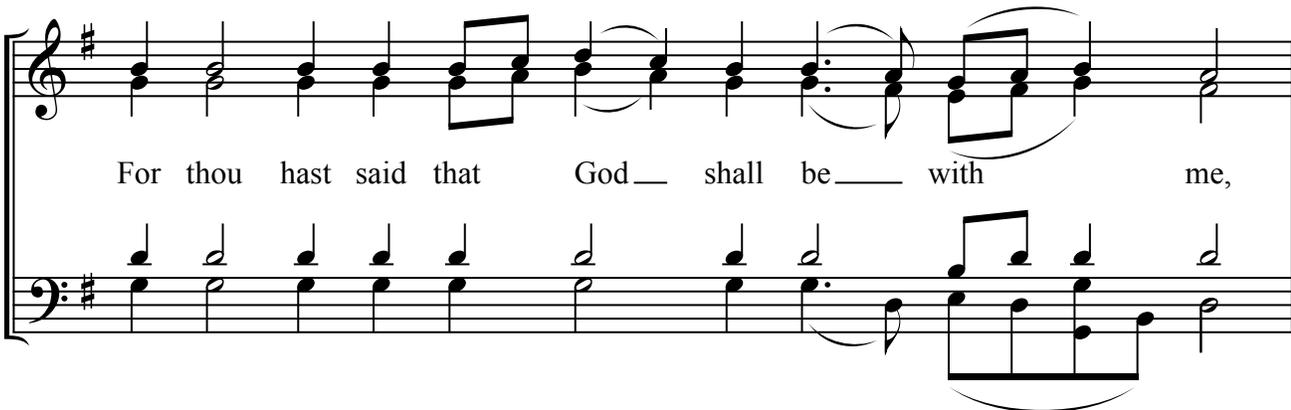
2. 'Thou dost ap - pear to me in the form of a man,'



said the un - de - filed Maid to the chief of the hea - ven - ly 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 dwell-ing in my womb; and how

tell me shall I be-come the spa-cious hab - i - ta - tion and the

ho - ly place of Him that rides upon the che - ru - bim?

Do not be-guile me with de-ceit: for I have not known sensual plea-sure,

Stichera of the Theotokos

"Revealing to thee the pre-eternal counsel..."

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I have not en - tered in - to wed - lock. —

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The melody is written in a style characteristic of Byzantine chant, using a series of notes with stems and some accidentals. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

How then shall I bear a child?'

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in the same key signature and clefs as the first system. The melody continues with similar notation. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The system ends with a double bar line.

3. 'When God so _____ wish - es,' said the bod - i - less an - - - gel,

'the or - der of nature is o - ver - come, and what is be - yond

man comes to pass. — Be - lieve that my say - ings are _____ true,

O all - ho - ly Lady utterly with - out _____ spot.' And she cried _____

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.

Music from the Slavonic: "Tserkovno-Pevsheskiy
Sbornik", St. Petersburg, 1911.

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