

# March 24

## A. Forefeast of the Annunciation of the All-holy Theotokos

From the church hymns for this day: "The mystery, predetermined from all eternity before time began, begins to be manifest". "O Divine Fleece, prepare yourself, O undefiled Virgin: for God will come down upon you like rain to dry up the streams of transgression", "The Lord, Who ever lives in the heavens, wishes to make His abode in your pure womb," "The fire of the Godhead will neither consume nor completely frighten your womb, O Maiden; for the bush of old which burned yet in no wise was consumed prefigured you, O All-pure One"; "Rejoice, O Virgin: for from you was the noetic stone cut and shall demolish the soulless temples of demons"; "Of old Habakkuk foretold you to be a mountain overshadowed with virtues: from which our God wishes to manifest Himself", "taking away our transgressions". "O Earth, so sadly overgrown with the thorns of passions, leap for joy, exult: for behold the immortal Farmer now comes, removing the curse from you"; "Therefore, we rejoicing cry out"; "O God, who was immutably incarnate, grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls".

### *Troparion, tone 4*

**Today the first fruits of universal joy,  
Command us to chant the hymns of the Forefeast:  
For behold Gabriel comes,  
Bearing an announcement to the Virgin,  
And he cries out to her:  
Rejoice, O Lady full of grace, the Lord is with you.**

### *Kontakion, tone 8*

**You are the beginning of our salvation for all the earth, O Virgin Theotokos:  
For God sent his servitor, the great first order of angels, Gabriel,  
From heaven to stand before you,  
Bringing joy to you who are rejoicing:  
Therefore all call out to you:  
Rejoice O Bride unwedded.**

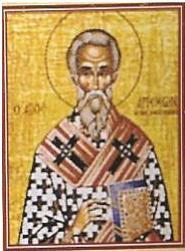
**Note the chapter in the Ustav [Typikon] and Menaion if the Forefeast falls: 1) on the 3rd Saturday, 4th Sunday of Great Lent; 2) on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross; 3) on Monday of the 4th, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6th Week; 4) on Wednesday of Veneration of the Cross week; 5) on Thursday of 4th week; 6) on Wednesday of the 5th week; 7) 4th or 5th Sunday; 8) Saturday of the 5th week.**

**If Forefeast falls on Tuesday of the 5th week of Great Lent, then the service of the Forefeast is sung on Monday; if on Thursday, then the service is sung on Wednesday (from Vespers on Tuesday, ending with Matins of**

**Wednesday); if on Lazarus Saturday, then the service is sung on Thursday of the same week.**

*Our Ven. Father Zachary [Zachariah], the Hermit Monk* was glorified for his hospitality and receptiveness and for this he was called the "Transparent One". The commemoration of Ven. Zachary is mentioned in the Monthly Menaion, but no services are appointed for this venerable one.

*Ven. Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia, Pisidia*



He was a disciple of Apostle Paul, who installed him as bishop of Seleucia. Having very well ruled his flock, he died in peace at a very old age. On this date in the Monthly Menaion two commemorations are appointed: "Our Holy Father **Artemius**, Bishop of Thessalonica"; in the Synodal Menologions of 1868 and 1891 two commemorations are appointed: Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia, and Artemius, Bishop of Salonika. "Mesiatseslov Vostoka [Eastern Menaion]" asserts that Artemon of Seleucia is the same person as Artemon of Salonika and that the Slavonic Typikons [Ustavi] of the 14th century either Artemon or Artemius of Salonika or Seleucia is the same name (originally: Seleoukinian from what is obvious Salonika). Services for St. Artemius are not specified in the Monthly Menaion.

**For Ven. James [Jacob] Confessor**, see March 21.

*Hieromartyr Parthenius, Patriarch of Constantinople*

Born on the Island of Mitylene, he was Bishop of Chios and later elected Patriarch. According to a false accusation that he changed his citizenship and refused to accept Islam, the Turks after torture hanged him in Parmakan in 1657.

*The Travail of Stephen and Peter*

Mohammedans from Kazan and having converted to Christianity, they underwent much suffering for Christ from their former co-religionists and, finally, were killed by them in 1552.

*S. V. Bulgakov, Handbook for Church Servers, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900), pp. 0118-0119.  
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