



March 19, 2017 – Lent 3(A): The Feast of the Annunciation

This coming Saturday, March 25th, marks the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation. This feast, dated nine months before the celebration of Christmas Day, commemorates the visitation of the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel. During the visit, recounted in the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, the angel greets Mary and announces that she will be the mother of Jesus. Mary assents in faith to God's invitation.



Fra Angelico, "Annunciation" from the Diocesan Museum of Cortana, 1433.

Note Adam and Eve being expelled from Eden, symbolizing the Fall and Redemption of humanity in one image.



March 19, 2017 – Lent 2(A): The Feast of the Annunciation

This coming Saturday, March 25th, marks the celebration of the Feast of the Annunciation. This feast, dated nine months before the celebration of Christmas Day, commemorates the visitation of the Virgin Mary by the angel Gabriel. During the visit, recounted in the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, the angel greets Mary and announces that she will be the mother of Jesus. Mary assents in faith to God's invitation.



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“In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:26-38, New Revised Standard Version)

Collect for the Annunciation

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 240)

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