

May 9

Ascension of our Lord

(1st Class)

GREAT VESPERS

From Ascension to Pentecost, the Hours begin: Blessed is our God..., Glory to You.... Holy God.... The Heavenly King... is omitted until Pentecost. Christ is risen... is no longer sung.

There is no reading from the Psalter.

Stichera for Ascension (Tone 6)

10. The Lord ascended into Heaven so that He could send the Comforter into this world. The heavens prepared His throne, and the Angels marveled at the sight of a human being more glorious than themselves. Today the Father receives again into His bosom the One who was in Him from all eternity, and the Holy Spirit gives a command to all the Angels: "Lift up your gates, O you Princes." O you nations of the earth, clap your hands, for Christ has gone up to the place where He had been from all eternity!
9. The Lord ascended... *(Repeat)*
8. O Lord, the Cherubim were amazed at Your Ascension: they were dazzled as they beheld You, O God, rising upon the clouds higher than they could rise. We sing a hymn of praise to You: "Glory to You for Your tender mercy!"
7. O Lord, the Cherubim... *(Repeat)*
6. O Christ, splendor and glory of the Father, when we behold Your Ascension on the Holy Mountain, we sing a hymn of praise to the beauty of Your countenance: we bow down to Your Passion, venerate Your Resurrection and glorify Your noble Ascension. Have mercy on us!
5. O Christ, splendor and glory... *(Repeat)*

4. O Lord, life-giving Christ, when the Apostles saw You ascending upon the clouds, a great sadness filled them: they shed burning tears and exclaimed: "O our Master, do not leave us as orphans: we are Your servants whom You loved so tenderly. Since You are most merciful, send down to us Your All-Holy Spirit to enlighten our souls according to Your promise."
3. O Lord, life-giving Christ... *(Repeat)*
2. After fulfilling the mystery of the plan of redemption, O Lord, You took Your Apostles and went up with them to the Mount of Olives, and there You passed beyond the firmament of heaven. O You who humbled Yourself to become a man like us, and went up to the place from which, as God, You never had been separated: send down Your All-Holy Spirit to enlighten our souls!
1. After fulfilling the mystery... *(Repeat)*
- v. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon

Sweet Jesus, while You lived on earth, You were God, inseparable from the Father, and yet a real Man. Ascending in glory today from the Mount of Olives, through Your great love, You lifted up our fallen nature and placed it on God the Father's throne. Wherefore, the hosts of bodiless heavenly beings were amazed and dazzled: silently fearful, they glorified Your great love for mankind. Together with them, we who live on earth glorify Your coming down to us and Your rising away from us, and implore You, saying, "Through Your Ascension, You have filled Your Apostles and Your Mother with a joy that surpasses every other joy. Through their intercession, make us worthy of the joy of Your elect, for You are infinitely merciful!"

Entrance with the Censer. "O Joyful Light..." Prokimenon of Wednesday evening.

READINGS

1.) *Isaiah 2:2-3*

For in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD shall be glorious, and the house of God shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall come to it. And many nations shall go and say, "Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD out of Jerusalem."

2.) *Isaiah 62:10-63:1-3, 7-9*

Go through my gates and make a way for my people; and cast the stones out of the way; lift up a standard for the Gentiles. For behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth, say you to the daughter of Sion, Behold, your Savior has come to you, his reward is with him, and his work is before him. And they shall call them, the holy people, the redeemed of the LORD: and you shall be called a city sought out, and not forsaken.

Who is this that is come from Edom, with red garments from Bozrah? This that is fair in his apparel, with mighty strength? I speak of righteousness and saving judgment. Why are your garments red, and your raiment as if fresh from a trodden winepress? I am full of trodden grapes, and of the nations there is not a man with me; and I trampled them in my fury, and dashed them to pieces as earth, and brought down their blood to the earth.

I remembered the mercy of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, in all things He has recompensed us. The LORD is a good judge to the house of Israel; He deals with us according to His mercy, and according to the abundance of

his righteousness. And He said, Surely they are my people? The children surely will not be rebellious: and He became to them deliverance out of their affliction: not an ambassador, nor a messenger, but He Himself saved them and spared them: He Himself redeemed them, and took them up, and lifted them up all the days of old.

3.) *Zechariah 14:4, 8-11*

And his feet shall stand in that day on the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave asunder, half of it toward the east and the west, a very great division; and half of the mountain shall lean to the north, and half of it to the south. And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem; half of it toward the former sea, and half of it toward the latter sea: and so shall it be in summer and in spring. And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one, compassing all the earth, and the wilderness from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem. And Rama shall remain in its place. From the gate of Benjamin to the place of the first gate, to the gate of the corners, and to the tower of Aanameel, as far as king's winepress they shall dwell in the city: and there shall be no more any curse, and Jerusalem shall dwell securely.

LETE (*Tone 1*)

O Lord, as You go up to heaven from where You came down, do not leave us as orphans. Let Your Spirit come upon us, bringing peace to the world. Manifest Your mighty works to all mankind, O Lord!

O Christ, You have gone up to Your eternal Father, whose ineffable bosom You had never left. The heavenly powers did not receive an addition to their praises of the ThriceHoly Hymn, for even after the Incarnation, they acknowledged You, O Lord, as the Only-begotten Son of the Father. In the abundance of Your love, O Lord, have mercy on us.

O Lord, Your Angels spoke to Your Apostles: "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up at the skies? This Christ God who has been taken from you will return, just as you saw Him go up into the heavens. Serve Him in holiness and justice!"

(Tone 4)

O Christ, when You came to the Mount of Olives to accomplish the good will of the Father, the Angels were astonished in heaven while the demons trembled in the underworld. The Apostles were filled with reverence and joy, as You spoke in their midst. A cloud stood before you prepared as a throne; heaven opened its gates, radiant in beauty; the earth uncovered its depths to show both Adam's fall and his raising up toward You. As an invisible power lifted You up towards the sun, You blessed them aloud with Your hands extended; the cloud carried You up into heaven which opened to receive You. This is the great and glorious deed, O Lord, which You carried out for the salvation of our souls.

Human nature, fallen through Adam, went down into the depths of the earth. O Lord, You renewed it in Yourself; today You have lifted it up above the heavenly powers and principalities. Since You loved it, You seated it near Yourself. In compassion, You united it to Yourself, and suffered with it in that union; by Your Passion, O Impassible God, You glorified it. But the bodiless Powers asked one another, "Who is this man robed in majesty? He is not man alone. He is the God-Man, for He possesses the appearance of both!" Some of the Angels, in splendid robes, flew around the Apostles, saying, "Men of Galilee, just as Jesus the God-Man has been taken from you, He will return in His humanity and divinity to judge the living and the dead, granting the faithful the remission of sins and great mercy!"

When You were lifted up into glory in the sight of Your Apostles, O Christ our God, the clouds carried You up with Your body. The gates of heaven opened, the choirs of Angels rejoiced with great joy, the heavenly Powers cried out and said, "Lift up your gates, O portals, and the King of Glory shall enter in!" But the disciples, filled with fear, said, "Do not leave us, O Good Shepherd; but send down upon us Your All-Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen our souls!"

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord most merciful, after fulfilling the mystery hidden from all eternity, You, the Creator and Maker of All, went up to the Mount of Olives with Your disciples and Your Mother. The one who, at the sight of Your Passion, had suffered more than anyone else in her motherly heart, had more than anyone else the right to share the joy that fills us as we witness Your ascending into heaven. We glorify Your infinite mercy overflowing upon us.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 2*)

1. O our God, You were born in a manner of Your own choosing. You appeared and suffered in the flesh as You willed. You crushed death through Your Resurrection and ascended into glory; and You sent down the divine Spirit upon us. Wherefore we sing a hymn of praise to Your divinity and glorify it.

All: All you nations, clap your hands; sing a joyful hymn to the Lord.

2. O Christ, when the Powers of Heaven beheld Your Ascension from the Mount of Olives, they wondered and exclaimed: "Who is He?" And they heard the reply, "He is the Mighty Conqueror! He is the Mighty One in battles! He is indeed the King of Glory!" - "And why are His clothes crimson?" - "Because He comes from Bosrah, which means the human body!" As for You, O Christ,

since You are God, You are enthroned at the right hand of God the Father, and You send down to us the Holy Spirit that He may enlighten and save our souls.

All: God ascended amid shouts of joy; the Lord amid trumpet blasts.

3. O Christ, You ascended in glory on the Mount of Olives in the presence of Your disciples. O You who penetrate all things with Your divinity, You were enthroned at the right hand of the Father and sent down upon Your disciples the Holy Spirit who enlightens, strengthens and saves our souls.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Digmatikon (Tone 6)

God ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid trumpet blasts, in order to save the fallen Adam and to send the Spirit, the Counselor, to sanctify our souls.

TROPARION OF THE ASCENSION (*Tone 4*) [3 times]

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through Your blessing, they were confirmed in their belief that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!

نشيد عيد الصعود (باللحن الرابع) [ثلاثاً]
صعدت بمجدٍ أيها المسيح إلهنا. وفرحت تلاميذك بموعِدِ الروح القدس. وتببتهم
بالبركة. لأنك أنت ابنُ الله المنقذُ العالم.

APOLYSIS

May He who ascended in glory to Heaven and is enthroned at the right hand of the Father, Christ our true God, ...