

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

FIRST ANTIPHON

O clap your hands all you peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy. (Ps. 46:1)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

For the Lord, the Most High is terrible; a great God over all the earth. (Ps. 46:2)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. (Ps. 46:3)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!

SECOND ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. (Ps. 47:1a)

Refrain: O Son of God, Who ascended in glory from us into the heavens, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Mount Zion in the far north is the city of the Great King. (Ps. 47:2)

Refrain: O Son of God, Who ascended in glory from us into the heavens, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Within her citadels God is known when He defends her. (Ps. 47:3)

Refrain: O Son of God, Who ascended in glory from us into the heavens, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

For lo, the kings assembled; they came on together. (Ps. 47:4)

Refrain: O Son of God, Who ascended in glory from us into the heavens, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. "Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God..."

THIRD ANTIPHON

Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world! (Ps. 48:1)

Tone 4 You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, / granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing, they were assured / that You are the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

The earth-born and the sons of men, rich and poor together. (Ps. 48:2)

Tone 4 You ascended in glory, O Christ our God...

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding. (Ps. 48:3)

Tone 4 You ascended in glory, O Christ our God...

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody. (Ps. 48:4)

Tone 4 You ascended in glory, O Christ our God...

ENTRANCE VERSE

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!

Priest: God has ascended in shouting; the Lord in the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5)
O Son of God, Who ascended in glory from us into the heavens, save us who sing
to You: Alleluia!

TROPARION

Tone 4 You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that You are the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION

Tone 6 Fulfilling the divine plan for us,
Uniting those on earth with those in heaven,
You were taken up in glory, Christ our God,
In no way separated, but remaining undivided
And crying out to those who love you:
"I am with you and no one is against you."

The prokeimenon in the seventh tone: Be lifted up, O God, above the heavens; / and Your glory be over all the earth! (Ps. 56:14)

V. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing and make melody. (Ps. 56:10)

The reading from the Acts of the holy Apostles. (1:1-12)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the

Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

Tone 2 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. God has ascended in shouting; the Lord in the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5)

V. O clap your hands all you peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy. (Ps. 46:1)

The reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (24:36-53)

At that time, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence. Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

Instead of "It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos...", we sing:

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!
We magnify you, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

COMMUNION HYMN

God has ascended in shouting; the Lord in the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Instead of "We have seen the True Light...", we sing the Troparion:

Tone 4 You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that You are the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!