**SUNDAY, MAY 31 TONE 6**

**7th Sunday of Pascha**

**Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council**

**Afterfeast of Ascension**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 6**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

*v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

**Tone 6** *(for the Resurrection)*

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,

since Thou art free among the dead,

Thou didst ascend the Cross

raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death.//

Drawing life from Thy light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Today Christ tramples on death,

for He is risen as He said!

Let us all sing this song,

for He has granted joy to the world:

O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//

O Savior Almighty, have mercy on us!

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation?

In heaven Thou dwellest!

In hell Thou didst trample on death!

In the depths of the sea?

Even there is Thy hand, O Master!

To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray://

O Thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

*v. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

**Tone 6** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Ascension)*

The Lord has ascended into heaven

that He might send the Comforter into the world.

The heavens prepared His throne, and the clouds His mount.

Angels marvel to see a Man high above them.

The Father receives Him Whom He holds, co-eternal, in His bosom.

The Holy Spirit commands all His Angels:

“Lift up your gates, ye princes!”!

All ye nations, clap your hands://

for Christ has gone up to where He was before!”

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

The Cherubim were amazed at Thine Ascension, O Lord,

beholding Thee, the God Who dost sit enthroned upon them,

ascending upon the clouds;

and we glorify Thee, for Thy mercy is good.//

Glory to Thee!

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

Beholding Thine Ascension on the holy mountain,

O Christ, Thou brightness of the Father’s glory,

we hymn the radiant appearance of Thy countenance;

we worship Thy sufferings,

we honor Thy Resurrection,

as we glorify Thy glorious Ascension.//

Have mercy on us!

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 6** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Fathers)*

Thou wast begotten from the Father before the Morning Star,

but Arius taught wrongfully that Thou wast created:

in his ignorance he designated Thee as a creature,

yet the Fathers of the Council proclaimed Thee as Son of God,//

co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

O Savior, who has torn Thy garment?

Who has challenged the unity of the triune Godhead?

It is Arius, for he denied that Thou art equal to the Father.

Those who follow him do not believe that God took flesh for our sake,

but the Fathers of the Council proclaimed Thee as Son of God,//

co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Arius fell into the abyss of sin,

pretending blindness that he might not see the Light.

By his purpose he became the image of Judas.

But the Council at Nicea proclaimed Thee as Son of God,//

co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

The foolish Arius blasphemed the All-holy Trinity,

dividing the Persons into three different unequal substances,

but the God-bearing Fathers denounced his confusion:

they assembled with the zeal of Elijah,

destroying error with the sword of the Spirit,//

as they were directed by the inspiration of God.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 6** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Fathers)*

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,

the God-bearing Fathers,

who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,

praising the changeless Trinity!

They laid low the errors of Arius

and upheld the Orthodox Faith.//

They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?

Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?

The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,

but from thee He was ineffably incarnate.

God by nature, yet Man for our sake,

not two persons, but one known in two natures.

Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//

to have mercy on our souls!

**Old Testament Readings**

**Genesis 14:14-20**

**Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17**

**Deuteronomy 10:14-21**

**Litya**

*(If the rector desires the Litya, these stichera are sung)*

**Tone 1** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Ascension)*

Having ascended to heaven whence Thou hadst descended,

leave us not as orphans, O Lord!

May Thy Holy Spirit come, bringing peace to the world;

show the sons of men the works of Thy power,//

O Lord Who lovest mankind!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 3** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Fathers)*

The holy Fathers are the renowned keepers

of the Apostles’ tradition;

They rightly taught that the Trinity was undivided,

and their assembly dethroned Arius and those with him:

the Macedonians who rejected the authority of the Church were convicted;

Nestórius, Eutýchius, Dióscorus, Sabéllius, and Severus were judged.

O Lord, deliver us from their error, we pray,//

and preserve our lives in peace!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 6** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Ascension)*

Lord, when Thou hadst fulfilled the mystery of Thy dispensation,

Thou didst take Thy Disciples with Thee

up onto the Mount of Olives;

and behold! Thou didst pass through the firmament of heaven.

For my sake Thou didst become poor like me,

and didst return to the place from which Thou wast never parted:

send forth Thine all-holy Holy Spirit to illumine our souls!

**Aposticha**

**Tone 6**  *(for the Resurrection)*

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,

the Angels in heaven sing!

Enable us on earth//

to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

Destroying the gates of hell,

breaking the chains of death,

Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God!//

O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

*v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.*

Desiring to return us to Paradise,

Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.

The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,

“Woe to us, O Savior!

How dost Thou deign to descend to death?

What place can hold Thy life bearing body?

Come to us as Thou didst promise!

Take away our wailing and tears!”

Then the Angel appeared to them:

“Stop your lamentations!

Go, proclaim to the Apostles:

‘The Lord is risen,//

granting us purification and great mercy!’”

*v. Holiness befitteth Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

Having been crucified as Thou didst will,

by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ,

rising on the third day as God in glory,//

granting the world unending life and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

**Tone 4** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Fathers)*

Today we celebrate the annual memory

of the God-bearing Fathers who assembled in Nicea.

They laid low the godless doctrines of Arius,

driving him from the unity of the Catholic Church,

and teaching us how to confess the consubstantial and co-eternal Son of God.

They expressed this clearly in the Symbol of Faith,

and we follow their divine doctrines,

believing in and serving the Son with the Father and the all-Holy Spirit,//

the consubstantial Trinity and one Divinity.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Ascension)*

Fulfilling, O Lord, in Thy goodness,

the mystery hidden from ages and generations,

Thou didst come with Thy Disciples to the Mount of Olives,

together with the Mother who bore Thee, the Maker and Creator of all;

for it was fitting that she who as a mother had been grieved

beyond all at Thy Passion,

should also be filled with exceeding joy at the glory of Thy flesh.

In this joy we also partake

at Thine Ascension into heaven, O Master,//

and we glorify Thy great mercy that has come upon us.

***(at Great Vespers)***

**Tone 6** **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;

the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,

seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//

glory to Thee.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

**Tone 8** **Troparion** *(Fathers)*

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,

Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Ascension)*

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,

granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured

that Thou art the Son of God,//

the Redeemer of the world!

***(at Vigil)***

**Tone 8** **Troparion** *(Fathers)*

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,

Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee! *(twice)*

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Ascension)*

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,

granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured

that Thou art the Son of God,//

the Redeemer of the world! *(once)*

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

**Tone 6** **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;

the guards became as dead men.

Mary stood by Thy grave,

seeking Thy most pure body.

Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.

Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.

O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead,//

glory to Thee.

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Ascension)*

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,

granting joy to Thy Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Through the blessing, they were assured

that Thou art the Son of God,//

the Redeemer of the world!

**Tone 8** **Troparion** *(Fathers)*

Thou art most glorious, O Christ our God,

Who hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.

Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith.//

O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

**Tone 8 Kontakion** *(Fathers)*

The Apostles’ preaching and the Fathers’ doctrines have established one

Faith for the Church.

Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology,//

It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

**Tone 6 Kontakion** *(Ascension)*

When Thou hadst fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,

and united earth to heaven,

Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,

not being parted from those who love Thee,

but remaining with them and crying://

“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Three Children)*

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is

Thy name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

*v: For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us! (v. 4)*

**Epistle**

Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

**Tone 1**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. (Ps 49/50:1)*

*v: Gather to Me My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice! (Ps 49/50:5)*

**Gospel**

John 17:1-13

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who hath ascended from earth to heaven!

We magnify thee, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps 32/33:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.