**JUNE 10**

**The Ascension of Our Lord**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 6[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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** *Idiomela (from the Pentecostarion)*

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, you princes!

All you nations, clap your hands://

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

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

(Repeat: “The Lord has ascended to heaven…”)

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

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

(Repeat: “The Cherubim were amazed…”)

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

Beholding Thine Ascension on the holy mountain,

O Christ, the 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. (5) *For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

(Repeat: “Beholding Thine Ascension…”)

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

Lord, when Thine Apostles saw Thee carried up on the clouds,

they were filled with despondency, O Christ the Giver of life:

with wailing and tears they lamented and said:

“Master, do not leave as orphans

us Thy servants whom through pity Thou hast loved in Thy compassion;

but, as Thou didst promise, send us Thine all-holy Spirit//

to enlighten our souls!”

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

(Repeat “Lord, when Thine Apostles…”)

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

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!

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

(Repeat “Lord, when Thou hadst fulfilled…”)

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

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Not parted from the Father’s bosom, O sweetest Jesus,

and having lived among those on earth as man,

today Thou hast been taken up in glory from the Mount of Olives,

and in Thy compassion exalting our fallen nature,

Thou hast seated it with the Father.

Therefore the heavenly ranks of the Bodiless Powers were amazed at the wonder,

and beside themselves with fear;

and seized with trembling, they magnified Thy love for mankind.

With them, we on earth also give glory

for Thy condescension to us

and Thine Ascension from us;

and we supplicate Thee, saying:

“At Thine Ascension Thou didst fill with boundless joy

the Disciples and the Theotokos who bore Thee;

by their prayers make us also worthy of the joy of Thine elect //

through Thy great mercy!”

**Old Testament Readings**

**Isaiah 2:2-3**

**Composite 21** *(Isaiah 62:10-63:1-3, 7-9)*

**Composite 22** *(Zachariah 14:1, 4, 8-11)*

**Litya**

**Tone 1** *Idiomela (from the Pentecostarion)*

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!

Thou didst ascend, O Christ, to Thy Father,

Who is without beginning,

though Thou wast never parted from His uncircumscribed bosom,

and the heavenly Powers accepted no addition to the thrice-holy hymn of praise,

but recognized Thee, O Lord, as one Son, only-begotten of the Father

even after becoming man.//

In the abundance of Thy compassion, have mercy on us!

Thine Angels, O Lord, said to the Apostles:

“You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven?

This is Christ God Who has been taken from you into heaven.

He it is Who shall come again

in like manner as you have seen Him going up to heaven://

worship Him in holiness and righteousness!”

**Tone 4**

When Thou didst come, O Christ, to the Mount of Olives

to accomplish the good pleasure of the Father,

the Angels of heaven were amazed,

and the demonic powers were seized with fear;

the Disciples stood by trembling with joy as Thou didst speak to them;

and aloft, a waiting cloud was prepared as a throne;

heaven flung wide its gates and appeared in its beauty,

and the earth reveals its hidden vaults,

so that Adam’s descent was made known, and his ascent again.

But Thy footsteps were raised up, as if by a hand,

while Thy mouth was heard pronouncing a great blessing;

a cloud received Thee, and heaven welcomed Thee in.

This great and marvelous work didst Thou perform, O Lord,//

for the salvation of our souls.

The nature of Adam,

which had descended to the nethermost parts of the earth,

Thou didst renew in Thyself, O God,

and today Thou didst take it up above every Principality and Power,

for loving it, Thou didst seat it with Thyself;

and having compassion on it, Thou didst unite it with Thyself;

and united with it, Thou didst suffer with it;

and Thou Who art passionless hast glorified it with Thyself.

But the Bodiless Powers were asking:

“Who is this Man of beauty?

Not man only, but both God and man,

the two natures together made manifest.”

And so exultant Angels, flying about the Disciples in shining robes,

cried out: “O Men of Galilee,

He Who is gone from you,

this Jesus, both Man and God,

will come again as God and Man, the Judge of living and the dead,//

granting the faithful forgiveness of sins and His great mercy!”

When Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,

while the Disciples looked on,

the clouds received Thee with Thy flesh;

the gates of heaven were lifted up;

the choirs of Angels rejoiced with gladness;

the higher Powers cried out, saying:

“Lift up your gates, you princes,

and the King of Glory will come in!”

But the Disciples said in amazement:

“Do not part from us, O good Shepherd,

but send us Thine all-holy Spirit,//

to guide and illumine and sanctify our souls!”

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

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

**Tone 4** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

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.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *Idiomela (from the Pentecostarion)*

Thou wast born, as Thou Thyself didst will,

and didst appear as Thou Thyself didst desire;

Thou didst suffer in the flesh, O our God,

and didst rise from the dead, having trampled on death.

Thou wast taken up in glory, filling all things,

and Thou didst send us the Divine Spirit,//

that we may praise and glorify Thy Godhead.

V. *O clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

*(Ps. 46:1)*

As Thou wast taken up, O Christ, from the Mount of Olives,

the Powers saw it and cried to one another: “Who is this?”

And they were told: “This is He Who is Strong and Mighty,

this is He Who is mighty in war,

this is truly the King of Glory.”

“And why are His garments crimson?”

“He has come from Bosor, that is, from the flesh.”

But as God Thou didst sit down at the right hand of Majesty

and hast sent us the Holy Spirit//

to guide and save our souls.

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

Thou didst ascend in glory from the Mount of Olives, O Christ our God,

in the presence of Thy Disciples,

and didst sit down at the right hand of the Father,

Thou Who in Thy Godhead dost fill the universe;

and Thou didst send unto them the Holy Spirit,//

Who enlightens and strengthens and sanctifies our souls.

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

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

**Tone 6** *(from the Pentecostarion)*

God has gone up with a shout;

the Lord with the sound of a trumpet,

to raise up Adam’s fallen image,

and send the Comforter Spirit,//

to sanctify our souls.

**Tone 4** **Troparion**

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!

*(sung once at Great Vespers, thrice at Vigil)*

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

**The 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 Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

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

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

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

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

**The 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, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

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

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

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

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… “)*

**The Third Antiphon**

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

**Tone 4** **Troparion**

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.

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

*Troparion of the Feast*

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

*Troparion of the Feast*

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

*Troparion of the Feast*

**Entrance Verse**

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

**Tone 4** **Troparion**

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 6 Kontakion**

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!”

***(The Trisagion is sung.)***

**Tone 7 Prokeimenon**

Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; / and Thy 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)*

**Epistle**

1. Acts 1:1-12

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with 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)*

**Gospel**

(114) Luke 24:36-53

***(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**

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

***(Instead of “We have seen the True Light…,” we sing the Troparion of***

***Ascension.)***

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.

1. Music for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at <www.oca.org>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)