

## **ORTHROS ON THE FORTIETH DAY AFTER PASCHA FEAST OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

*NOTE: The priest does not say "Glory to Thee, our God... O heavenly King..." until Pentecost.*

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance, granting to Thy people victory over all their enemies, and by the power of Thy Cross preserving Thy commonwealth.

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

Do Thou, Who of Thine own good will wast lifted up upon the Cross, O Christ our God, bestow Thy bounties upon the new Nation which is called by Thy Name; make glad in Thy might those who lawfully govern, that with them we may be led to victory over our adversaries, having in Thine aid a weapon of peace and a trophy invincible.

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

O fearsome champion, who cannot be put to confusion, despise not our petitions, O good and all-praised Theotokos; establish the way of the Orthodox; save those who have been called upon to govern us, leading us all to that victory which is from heaven, for thou art she who gavest birth to God and alone art blessed.

### **LITANY**

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

*The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" (*thrice*) to this and the remaining petitions until noted.*

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) and all our brotherhood in Christ.

For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Bless, father, in the name of the Lord.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men. (*thrice*)

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. (*twice*)

### PSALM 3

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

### PSALM 37

O Lord, rebuke me not in Thine anger, nor chasten me in Thy wrath. For Thine arrows are fastened in me, and Thou hast laid Thy hand heavily upon me. There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Thy wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins. For mine iniquities are risen higher than my head; as a heavy burden have they pressed heavily upon me. My bruises are become noisome and corrupt in the face of my folly. I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; all the day long I went with downcast face. For my loins are filled with mocking, and there is no healing in my flesh. I am afflicted and humbled exceedingly, I have roared from the groaning of my heart. O Lord, before Thee is all my desire, and my groaning is not hid from Thee. My heart is troubled, my strength hath failed me; and the light of mine eyes, even this is not with me. My friends and my neighbors drew nigh over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off. And they that sought after my soul used violence; and they that sought evils for me spake vain things, and craftinesses all the day long did they meditate. But as for me, like a deaf man I heard them not, and was as a speechless man that openeth not his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and that hath in his mouth no reproofs. For in Thee have I hoped, O Lord; Thou wilt hearken unto me, O Lord my God. For I said: Let never mine enemies rejoice over me; yea, when my feet were shaken, those men spake boastful words against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me. For I will declare mine iniquity, and I will take heed concerning my sin. But mine enemies live and are made stronger than I, and they that hated me unjustly are multiplied. They that render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, depart not from me. Be attentive unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

### PSALM 62

O God, my God, unto Thee I rise early at dawn. My soul hath thirsted for Thee; how often hath my flesh longed after Thee in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered. So in the sanctuary have I appeared before Thee to see Thy power and Thy glory. For Thy mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise Thee. So shall I bless Thee in my life, and in Thy name will I lift up my hands. As with marrow and fatness let my soul be filled, and with lips rejoicing shall my mouth praise Thee. If I remembered Thee on my bed, at the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me. But as for these, in vain have they sought after my soul; they shall go into the nethermost parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered unto the edge of the sword; portions for foxes shall they be. But the king shall be glad in God, everyone shall be praised that sweareth by Him; for the mouth of them is stopped that speak unjust things.

At the dawn I meditated on Thee. For Thou art become my helper; in the shelter of Thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath cleaved after Thee; Thy right hand hath been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

### PSALM 87

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

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication, for filled with evils is my soul, and my life unto Hades hath drawn nigh. I am counted with them that go down into the pit; I am become as a man without help, free among the dead, like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, whom Thou rememberest no more, and they are cut off from Thy hand. They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and in the shadow of death. Against me is Thine anger made strong, and all Thy billows hast Thou brought upon me. Thou hast removed my friends afar from me; they have made me an abomination unto themselves. I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; mine eyes are grown weak from poverty. I have cried unto Thee, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands unto Thee. Nay, for the dead wilt Thou work wonders? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks unto Thee? Nay, shall any in the grave tell of Thy mercy, and of Thy truth in that destruction? Nay, shall Thy wonders be known in that darkness, and Thy righteousness in that land that is forgotten? But as for me, unto Thee, O Lord, have I cried; and in the morning shall my prayer come before Thee. Wherefore, O Lord, dost Thou cast off my soul and turnest Thy face away from me? A poor man am I, and in troubles from my youth; yea, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress. Thy furies have passed upon me, and Thy terrors have sorely troubled me. They came round about me like water, all the day long they compassed me about together. Thou hast removed afar from me friend and neighbor, and mine acquaintances because of my misery.

O Lord God of my salvation, by day have I cried and by night before Thee. Let my prayer come before Thee, bow down Thine ear unto my supplication.

### PSALM 102

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He hath done for thee, Who is gracious unto all thine iniquities, Who healeth all thine infirmities, Who redeemeth thy life from corruption, Who crowneth thee with mercy and compassion, Who fulfilleth thy desire with good things; thy youth shall be renewed as the eagle's. The Lord performeth deeds of mercy, and executeth judgment for all them that are wronged. He hath made His ways known unto Moses, unto the sons of Israel the things that He hath willed. Compassionate and merciful is the Lord, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; not unto the end will He be angered; neither unto eternity will He be wroth. Not according to our iniquities hath He dealt with us, neither according to our sins hath He rewarded us. For according to the height of heaven from the earth, the Lord hath made His mercy to prevail over them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our iniquities from us. Like as a father hath compassion upon his sons, so hath the Lord had compassion upon them that fear Him; for He knoweth whereof we are made, He hath remembered that we are dust. As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth. For when the wind is passed over it, then it shall be gone, and no longer will it know the place thereof. But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even unto eternity, upon them that fear Him. And His righteousness is upon sons of sons, upon them that keep His testament and remember His commandments to do them. The Lord in heaven hath prepared His throne, and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, all ye His angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words. Bless the Lord, all ye His hosts, His ministers that do His will. Bless the Lord, all ye His works, in every place of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

In every place of His dominion, bless the Lord, O my soul.

### PSALM 142

O Lord, hear my prayer, give ear unto my supplication in Thy truth; hearken unto me in Thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with Thy servant, for in Thy sight shall no man living be justified. For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath humbled my life down to the earth. He hath sat me in darkness as those that have been long dead, and my spirit within me is become despondent; within me my heart is troubled. I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Thy works, I pondered on the creations of Thy hands. I stretched forth my hands unto Thee; my soul thirsteth after Thee like a waterless land. Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit hath fainted away. Turn not Thy face away from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Thy mercy in the morning; for in Thee have I put my hope. Cause me to know, O Lord, the way wherein I should walk; for unto Thee have I lifted up my soul. Rescue me from mine enemies, O Lord; unto Thee have I fled for refuge. Teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God. Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; for Thy name's sake, O Lord, shalt Thou quicken me. In Thy righteousness shalt Thou bring my soul out of affliction, and in Thy mercy shalt Thou utterly destroy mine enemies. And Thou shalt cut off all them that afflict my soul, for I am Thy servant.

Hearken unto me, O Lord, in Thy righteousness and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. (*twice*)

Thy good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

## THE GREAT LITANY

- Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
*The choir responds “Lord, have mercy” to each petition until noted.*
- For the peace from above and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
- For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- For this holy house and those who with faith, reverence and fear of God enter therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.,) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.
- For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.
- For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.
- For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.
- For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.
- Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.
- Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.
- Choir: To Thee, O Lord.
- Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- Choir: Amen.
- “GOD IS THE LORD” IN TONE FOUR**
- Choir: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.
- Verse 1.** O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Holy Name. (*Refrain*)
- Verse 2.** All nations compassed me about: but in the Name of the Lord will I destroy them. (*Refrain*)
- Verse 3.** This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. (*Refrain*)

## APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world. (*thrice*)

### THE LITTLE LITANY

Priest: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thine is the might, and Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

### KATHISMATA OF THE ASCENSION (Plain Reading)

As the angels, O Savior, wondered at Thy strange elevation, and the Disciples were amazed at Thy dread rising, Thou didst ascend in glory, being God, and the gates were lifted up for Thee. Wherefore, the heavenly powers were surprised, shouting, Glory to Thy condescension, O Savior; glory to Thy reign; glory to Thine Ascension, O Thou Who alone art the Lover of mankind.

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

The eternal Word before all the ages, Who took a human nature and deified it in a mystical way, today doth rise ascending. Wherefore, the angels came forth to show Him to the Disciples going to heaven in great glory. And they worshipped Him, saying, Glory to the ascending God.

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

Thou didst descend from the heavens, O Christ, towards the earthly ones; and with Thee, being God, didst raise the likeness of Adam, cast into the vaults of Hades, lifting it with Thine Ascension to the heavens and making it equal in rank to Thy Father's throne; for Thou art merciful and the Lover of mankind.

### THE POLYELEOS IN TONE ONE (ABRIDGED)

\*\*End each numbered verse with "Alleluia."\*\*\*

1. O ye servants praise the Lord.
2. Praise ye the Name of the Lord, O ye servants of the Lord.
3. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God.
4. Praise ye the Lord, for the Lord is good. Chant unto His Name, for it is good.
5. For the Lord hath chosen Jacob unto Himself, Israel for His own possession.
6. For I know that the Lord is great and that our Lord is above all gods.
7. All that the Lord hath willed He hath done, in Heaven and on the earth, in the seas and in all the abysses.
8. Bringing clouds up from the uttermost parts of the earth, lightnings for the rain hath He made.
9. He bringeth winds out of His treasures; He smote the first-born of Egypt, from man unto beast.
10. He sent forth many signs and marvels in the midst of thee, O Egypt, on Pharaoh and on all his servants.

11. He smote many nations and slew many kings.
  12. For the Lord will judge His people, and because of His servants shall He be comforted.
  13. Ye that fear the Lord, bless ye the Lord. Blessed is the Lord out of Sion, Who dwelleth in Jerusalem.
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
  - + Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia: glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)
  - + O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee.

### THE LITTLE LITANY

- Priest: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most-blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints: let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.
- Choir: To Thee, O Lord.
- Priest: For blessed is Thy Name, and glorified is Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.
- Choir: Amen.

### FESTAL ANABATHMOI IN TONE FOUR

- + From my youth up many passions have warred against me. But do Thou help and save me, O my Savior. (*twice*)
- + Ye who hate Zion shall be put to confusion of the Lord; like grass in the fire shall ye be withered up. (*twice*)
- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit is every soul quickened and exalted in purity, and made resplendent by the Triune Unity in mystic holiness.
- + *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*
- + Through the Holy Spirit the channels and streams of grace overflow showering all creation with invigorating Life.

### PROKEIMENON FOR THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR

God hath ascended in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of the trumpet. (*twice*)

*Stichos:* Clap your hands, all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing.

God hath ascended in jubilation, the Lord with the voice of the trumpet.

### LET EVERYTHING THAT HATH BREATH

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: For Holy art Thou, O our God, Who restest in the Holy Place, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. (*twice*)

*Praise ye God in His saints; praise Him in the firm foundation of His power.*

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

#### THE FESTAL ORTHROS GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us beseech the Lord our God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark (16:9-20).

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

#### \*\*TO BE READ FROM THE BEAUTIFUL GATE\*\*

Priest: Now when Christ rose early on the first day of the week, Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this He appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and He upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw Him after He had risen. And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after He had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee. (No veneration of the gospel book.)

Reader: In that we have beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy holy resurrection we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ’s holy resurrection. For lo, through the cross is joy come into all the

world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His resurrection, for in that He endured the cross for us, He hath destroyed death by death.

### PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy Great Mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Thy good pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built up. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

### FESTAL TROPARIA AFTER PSALM 50 IN TONE TWO

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

Through the intercessions of the Apostles, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

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

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Thou Who art merciful, blot out all the multitude of our transgressions.

(TONE SIX—FOR THE FEAST) *Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.*

Today the powers above, beholding our nature in the heavens, were perplexed, being surprised at the manner of its strange Ascension, and said to one another, Who is this that cometh? And when they saw that it was their own Master, they were commanded to lift the heavenly gates. Wherefore, with them we ceaselessly praise Thee, O Thou Who didst come thence in the flesh, as Thou art the Judge of all, and Almighty God.

### THE INTERCESSION<sup>1</sup>

Deacon: O God, save Thy people, and bless Thine inheritance. Visit Thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us Thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-immaculate Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the

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<sup>1</sup> Saints of particular local veneration may be included among the Saints of their same classification at the discretion of the pastor.

might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless Powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious prophet, forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, all-laudable apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the holy apostles; of our fathers among the saints, great hierarchs and ecumenical teachers, Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom; Athanasius, Cyril and John the Merciful, patriarchs of Alexandria; Nicholas of Myra, Spyridon of Trimythous and Nektarios of Pentapolis, the Wonderworkers; of our fathers among the saints Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Raphael, bishop of Brooklyn; of the holy, glorious, great-martyrs, George the Trophy-bearer, Demetrios the Myrrh-streamer, Theodore the Soldier, Theodore the General, and Menas the Wonderworker; of the hieromartyrs Ignatius the God-bearer of Antioch, Charalampus and Eleutherios; of the holy, glorious great women martyrs, Thekla, Barbara, Anastasia, Katherine, Kyriaki, Photeini, Marina, Paraskeva and Irene; of the holy, glorious, right-victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers who shone in the ascetic life, especially Paisios of Athos; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community;* of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints: we beseech Thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken unto the petitions of us sinners who make our supplications unto Thee, and have mercy upon us.

Choir:      Lord, have mercy. (*twelve times*)

Priest:     Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of Thine Only-begotten Son, with Whom Thou art blessed, together with Thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir:     Amen.

#### **KONTAKION AND OIKOS FOR THE ASCENSION (Plain Reading)**

When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation for our sakes, uniting the terrestrials with the celestials, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, inseparable in space, but constant without separation, and crying unto Thy beloved, I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

Leaving the things of earth upon the earth, and surrendering to the earth things of ashes, come, let us come to our senses and raise our eyes and thoughts on high; let us, O mortals, turn our gaze together with the senses up unto the heavenly gates. Let us consider ourselves present at the Mount of Olives, and gaze intently at the Redeemer Who is riding upon a cloud; for the Lord hath hastened up from there into the heavens. And there the bountiful Giver of gifts distributed gifts unto His Apostles, calling to them as a Father, and strengthening them; He guided them like sons and said unto them: I am not separated from you; I am with you, and no one shall be against you.

#### **THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)**

On this day, the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

#### ***Verses***

Thou didst sit at the right hand of the Father, O Word,  
Granting Thine initiates a faith far more steadfast.

After His Resurrection, Jesus remained on earth for forty days, appearing to His Disciples in various places. He ate, drank and conversed with them, verifying and assuring His Resurrection. On the fortieth day after Pascha, Jesus appeared to His Disciples in Jerusalem. He gave them His last commandment, to go forth and preach in His Name to all the nations. At the same time, He

told them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait until they were clothed with the power from on high by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them. Having said this, Jesus led His Disciples to the Mount of Olives. Then He lifted up His hands and blessed them. And as He was speaking to them with words of fatherly blessing, Jesus departed from them and ascended into Heaven, being received by a shining cloud, indicating His divine majesty. He gradually disappeared from the sight of the Disciples as they gazed at Him. And as they stood thus, two angels in brilliant white robes appeared to them in the form of men and said to them: Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven. In these words is fulfilled and defined the doctrine concerning the Son of God and His Word, in the Confession of Faith. After our Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled all His great dispensation for us, He ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God the Father. His Disciples returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, rejoicing in the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Thou Who didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

#### **THE KATAVASIAE OF THE ASCENSION CANONS IN TONE FOUR**

**Ode 1.** He once slow of tongue, in divine darkness covered, spake the Law inscribed of God freely and clearly; for shaking off all defilement from his mind's eye, he beholdeth Him Who Is, learning the Spirit's knowledge and myst'ry, and gave praise in songs divine.

**Ode 3.** Nothing brake the bonds of a womb pining childless and the unrestrained despite of her with children except the Prophetess Hannah's prayer in old time, when she brought a contrite heart and broken spirit, unto the God of all knowledge, the Mighty Lord.

**Ode 4.** Thou, O King of Kings, art the Word Who alone came from the uncaused Father as Only from Only; as Benefactor, unfailingly Thou sentest to Thine Apostles Thine equipotent Spirit, as they sing: Glory, O Lord, to Thy sovereignty.

**Ode 5.** Come receive the fire-breathing dew of the Spirit, as the ransom cleansing from faults and offences, O all ye that are the Church's light-formed children; for now is the law come forth from holy Sion: Tongues formed of beacon-fire, even the Spirit's grace.

**Ode 6.** Thou, the Master, shonest to us from the Virgin, as conciliation with God and salvation, that Thou, O Christ, mightest pluck, like Prophet Jonas from the sea-beast's briny breast, Adam the fallen out of corruption, together with all his race.

**Ode 7.** With concordant strain noised the instruments, bidding worship the inanimate gold-crafted image; but the Comforter's light-bearing grace doth move us rev'rently to cry: O One God in Three Persons, equal in strength and beginningless, blest art Thou.

*We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.*

**Ode 8.** That three-splendored type of the One Sovereign Godhead setteth loose the bonds, and that flame it bedeweth; Wherefore, the Children extol, and all creation fashioned by His workmanship blesseth the only Savior and Maker of all as Benefactor.

Deacon:      The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honor and magnify in song.

#### **THE NINTH ODE OF THE FIRST ASCENSION CANON IN TONE FIVE**

Thou who art God's Mother transcending mind and word, who ineffably in time gavest birth unto the Timeless One, thee do we the faithful magnify in one accord.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

Seeing Thee, the Redeemer of the world, O Christ God, divinely exalted, the Apostles in fear and awe skipped for joy, magnifying Thee exceedingly.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

When the angels saw Thy deified flesh in the heights, then, O Christ, did they nod one to another with one accord: This that cometh is verily our God and Lord.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

Seeing Thee, O Christ our God, lifted up in the clouds, then the orders of angels incorporeal cried aloud: For the great King of Glory, lift ye up the gates.

*Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.*

Thee, that wentest down unto the extreme of the earth, and didst save fallen man and in Thy holy Ascent on high didst exalt him: O Lord, Thee do we magnify.

*Most-holy Theotokos, save us.*

Rejoice, O Theotokos, Mother of Christ our true God; Him that thou hadst conceived, thou this day sawest ascend from earth and with angels didst magnify Him mightily.

#### THE NINTH ODE OF THE SECOND ASCENSION CANON IN TONE FOUR

*Beholding the ascent of the Master, the Angel hosts were sore amazed, how He was taken up with glory from earth unto the Heavens.*

O exceeding gifts that pass understanding! What a fearful mystery! For the Sovereign Lord of all, arising from the earth to celestial realms, hath sent the Holy Spirit to His own disciples below, that the Spirit might illuminate their mind and with grace make them blaze like a fiery flame.

*Beholding the ascent of the Master, the Angel hosts were sore amazed, how He was taken up with glory from earth unto the Heavens.*

To His followers, the Lord said: Now tarry ye here in Jerusalem and I shall send unto you another Comforter, Who is one in throne both with My Father, and of equal honor unto Me, Whom ye look on riding on a cloud of light being taken on high in divine ascent.

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

The magnificence is notably lifted high above the heavens now of Him in the flesh made poor; and so our fallen nature is magnified and honored with the session with the Father on His throne. Let us keep feast, and with one accord cry out, gladly clapping our hands in exceeding joy.

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

Light that shone from Light hath dawned as the sun from thee, O thou all-blameless Maid; all the gross obscurity of atheism hath He dispersed in day and He hath guided with His light those sleeping in the night. Hence, O Virgin, as is due, we call thee blest, ever singing thy praise to eternity.

#### KATAVASIA OF THE NINTH ODE OF ASCENSION CANONS IN TONE FOUR

Rejoice, O holy Queen, boast of virgins and mothers; for no sweet and eloquent mouth hath the power, even with all skill of speech, to praise thee rightly; every mind is dazed with awe, pond'ring thy childbirth. Wherefore we glorify thee with a single voice.

### THE LITTLE LITANY

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do they ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

### THE EXAPOSTEILARION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE TWO

(\*\**The original melody*\*\*)

While Thy disciples looked on Thee, Thou ascendedst, \* O Christ, unto the Father to sit beside Him. \* Angels hastened, running on before, and cried: \* Lift ye the gates up, lift them up; \* for the Lord King hath ascended \* unto His bright primal glory. (*thrice*)

### AINOI (PRAISES) IN TONE ONE

Choir: Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

Choir: Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due our song.

#### For the Ascension in Tone One (\*\**Thou art the joy*\*\*)

**Verse 1.** *Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness.*

Let us on earth now keep festival like the Angels' host, \* and let us cry out their hymn unto God, Who is seated \* on the Throne of Majesty: Holy art Thou \* God the Father in Heaven's heights; \* Holy art Thou, co-eternal and timeless Word; \* and All-holy Spirit, Holy art Thou.

**Verse 2.** *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet. Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.*

Let us on earth now keep festival like the Angels' host ... (repeat above)

**Verse 3.** *Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.* The Angels' princes, perceiving Thy strange ascent on high, \* were sore perplexed, O Savior, saying one to another: \* What a sight is this? For now He that is seen \* is a man in His outward form; \* and yet as God, with a body, He doth ascend \* far above the heavens and beyond.

**Verse 4.** *Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.*

Those men of Galilee saw Thee ascending bodily \* from off the Mount of Olives, and, O Word, they heard Angels \* crying to them: Why do ye stand thus and gaze? \* For this Jesus shall come again \* in this same body in like manner as ye now \* have beheld Him go on high today.

## THE DOXASTICON OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE TWO

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

Thou wast born as Thou didst will, O our God; Thou didst appear of Thine own choice, and suffer in the flesh. Thou didst rise from the dead, and hast trodden down death, ascending in glory, O Thou Who fulfillest all, and didst send us the divine Spirit, that we may praise and glorify Thy Godhead.

## THE GREAT DOXOLOGY IN TONE TWO

- + Glory to Thee, Who hast shown us the Light; Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will among men.
- + We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee; we give thanks unto Thee for Thy great glory.
- + O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit.
- + O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, Who takest away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; O Thou Who takest away the sins of the world.
- + Receive our prayer, O Thou Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, and have mercy on us.
- + For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.
- + Every day will I bless Thee, and I will praise Thy Name forever; yea, forever and ever.
- + Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified be Thy Name forever. Amen.
- + Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we do put our hope in Thee.
- + Blessed art Thou, O Lord: teach me Thy statutes. (*thrice*)
- + Lord, Thou hast been our refuge in all generations. I said: Be merciful unto me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.
- + Lord, I have fled unto Thee: teach me to do Thy will, for Thou art my God.
- + For with Thee is the fountain of life: in Thy light shall we see light.
- + O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. (*thrice*)
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.
- + Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

## APOLYTIKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE FOUR (CHANT) (CHORAL)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy Disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit, making them confident through the blessing that Thou art the Son of God, and Deliverer of the world.

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