

**SERVICE OF TYPIKA ON SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020
TONE 6 / EOTHINON 10**

SUNDAY OF THE AFTER-FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

**COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
MARTYRS HERMIAS OF COMANA IN CAPPADOCIA AND THE MAGICIAN MARUS WHO BELIEVED THROUGH HIM**

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

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 God, 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.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

- The following Psalms and hymns may be chanted or plainly read.

PSALM 102: CHANTED IN TONE EIGHT

- + 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.

PSALM 145: CHANTED IN TONE TWO

- + *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
- + Praise the Lord, O my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life, I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.
- + Trust ye not in princes, in the sons of men, in whom there is no salvation.
- + His spirit shall go forth, and he shall return unto his earth. In that day all his thoughts shall perish.
- + Blessed is he of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, Who hath made heaven and the earth, the sea and all that is therein,
- + Who keepeth truth unto eternity, Who executeth judgement for the wronged, Who giveth food unto the hungry.
- + The Lord looseth the fettered; the Lord maketh wise the blind; the Lord setteth aright the fallen;
- + The Lord loveth the righteous; the Lord preserveth the proselytes.
- + He shall adopt for His own the orphan and widow, and the way of sinners shall He destroy.
- + The Lord shall be king unto eternity; thy God, O Zion, unto generation and generation.

“O ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON” IN TONE TWO

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

O Only-begotten Son and Word of God, Who art immortal and Who didst deign for our salvation to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man, and was crucified, O Christ our God, and didst trample death by Death, being yet one of the holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

THE BEATITUDES: CHANTED IN TONE EIGHT

- + In Thy kingdom, remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- + Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
- + Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
- + Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.
- + Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
- + Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
- + Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.

- + Blessed are they that are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- + Blessed are ye when men shall revile ye, and persecute ye, and say all manner of evil against ye falsely for My sake.
- + Rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven.
- + Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
- + Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.
- + Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Remember us, O Master, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.
- + Remember us, O Holy One, when thou comest into Thy kingdom.

SCRIPTURAL READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA

- *Both of the New Testament lessons are read without liturgical introduction or conclusion. The readers start with "The Reading from..." and proceeds.*

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (17:1-13)

At that time, Jesus lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Thy Son that the Son may glorify Thee, since Thou hast given Him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom Thou hast given Him. And this is eternal life, that they know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ Whom Thou hast sent. I glorified Thee on earth, having accomplished the work which Thou gavest Me to do; and now, Father, glorify Thou Me in Thy own presence with the glory which I had with Thee before the world was made. I have manifested Thy Name to the men whom Thou gavest Me out of the world; Thine they were, and Thou gavest them to Me, and they have kept Thy word. Now they know that everything that Thou hast given Me is from Thee; for I have given them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from Thee; and they have believed that Thou didst send Me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom Thou hast given Me, for they are Thine; all Mine are Thine, and Thine are Mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I

am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to Thee. Holy Father, keep them in Thy Name, which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Thy Name, which Thou have given Me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to Thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

TROPARIA BEFORE THE CREED (Plain Reading)

1st Reader: The heavenly choir singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

2nd Reader: *Come unto him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed.*
The heavenly choir singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

1st Reader: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*
The choir of holy angels and archangels, with all the powers of heaven, singeth Thy praises, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

2nd Reader: *Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten before all worlds: Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father by Whom all things were made. Who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. And on the third day rose again according to the Scriptures. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who procedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe in One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Leader: Forgive, remit, pardon, O God, our sins, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, in knowledge or in ignorance, committed by night or by day, in mind and in thought. Forgive us them all, for thou art good and lovest mankind.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

KONTAKION OF THE ASCENSION IN TONE SIX (CHANT) (CHORAL)

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.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*forty times*)

Leader: O Christ our God, Who art worshipped and glorified at all times at every hour both in heaven and on earth; Who art long-suffering and plenteous in mercy and compassion; Who lovest the just man and showest mercy upon the sinner; and Who callest all men to repentance through the promise of blessings to come; receive, O Lord, at this very hour our supplications, and direct our lives in the way of Thy commandments: sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set our minds aright, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; compass us about with Thy holy angels, that, guided and guarded by them, we may attain unto the unity of the Faith, and to the knowledge of Thine unapproachable glory; for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: 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.

Reader: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: We magnify thee.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

Reader: Blessed be the name of the Lord, henceforth and forevermore. (THRICE)

PSALM 33

Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His Name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out

of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

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

A HOMILY

Ascending with Christ into Heavenly, Not Earthly, Glory:

Homily for the Sunday after the Ascension and Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in the Orthodox Church

Fr. Philip LeMasters, pastor, St. Luke Antiochian Orthodox Church of Abilene, Texas

Leader: Forty days after His glorious resurrection, our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ ascended in glory into heaven and sat at the right hand of God the Father. He did so as One Who is fully divine and fully human, One Person with two natures. He ascended with His glorified, resurrected body which still bore the wounds of His crucifixion. The Ascension shows that through Him our humanity has come to participate by grace in the eternal life of the Holy Trinity. He has made us “partakers of the divine nature” who may share in His fulfillment of what it means to be a human person in God’s image and likeness.

Today we commemorate the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea. They rejected the teaching of Arius that Jesus Christ was not truly divine, but a kind of lesser god created by the Father at a certain point. The Council declared, as we confess to this day in the Nicene Creed, that our Savior is “the Son of God, the only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all worlds. Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made.” The Fathers of Nicaea saw clearly that the One Who brought us into the eternal life of God must Himself be eternal and divine. Only God could make human persons “partakers of the divine nature” by grace.

Had Christ been merely a creature or an especially impressive religious teacher or example, He would have remained captive to the corruptions of the world as we know it. He could have taught and inspired people, but would not have been able to conquer death or make a path for us to find the fulfillment of our humanity in the Holy Trinity. Those who water down the faith to the point of viewing the Savior as simply an excellent human being make it impossible to acknowledge Christ as the One Who has truly united humanity and divinity in Himself. We can learn a lot from great teachers and examples, but only the Son of God can make us participants in life eternal. Only He could say to the Father, “Glorify Me in Your own presence with the glory which I had with You before the world was made.”

The divine glory displayed in Christ’s ascension is entirely different from the power and fame that people find so appealing in our world of corruption. At some level, we all know how weak and insignificant we are in the larger scheme of things. That is why we so easily make false gods of just about anything that can distract us from recognizing the truth about ourselves, including the

inevitability of death. Putting our ultimate trust in nations, rulers, and riches—or our health, appearance, talents, and relationships—or any created thing leads inevitably to idolatry, for it is a form of worshiping a false god, regardless of whether we call it a religion. Doing so will also lead us to demonize our enemies, real and imagined, because it often makes us feel better about ourselves by comparison when we have someone else to condemn. That is surely one of the reasons that so many people in our culture have become slaves to anger and hatred toward those they view as their rivals or opponents in a zero-sum game for getting all the glory by being on the right side.

The glory of our ascended Lord is the complete opposite of such pathetic and perverse efforts to build ourselves up at the expense of others. Remember that He ascended only after descending, only after dying on the Cross, being buried in a tomb, and descending into Hades. He rose from the dead because He had humbled Himself to the point of accepting rejection, torture, and crucifixion as a blasphemer and a traitor. He was mocked as a failure and made a public example of what happened to people who dared to challenge the authority of Rome, even though His Kingdom is clearly not of this world. He completely repudiated earthly glory in order to make a way for us into the brilliant joy of heaven.

Christ endured all this, not simply as a religious teacher or virtuous person, but truly as the eternal Son of God Who spoke the universe into existence. Let that sink in for a moment, for the unfathomable humility of the Savior destroys our usual assumptions about what it means to be high and mighty. The divine glory revealed so powerfully at His ascension shines brilliantly in contrast to what passes for honor in a world that typically chooses to remain in the dark night of the tomb. If we dare to identify ourselves with Him, we must open the eyes of our souls to the light of His heavenly glory and refuse to wander in spiritual blindness. In order to celebrate the Ascension with integrity, we must ascend with Him into the eternal life of the Holy Trinity even as we live and breathe with our bodies in a world that remains very far from the fullness of His Kingdom.

By rising into heavenly glory as the God-Man, He has shared His gracious divine energies with us. He shows us what it means to be truly human in the divine image and likeness. In order to unite ourselves to Him, we must reorient our desires for fulfillment, meaning, and joy to the One Who overcame the worst the darkened world could do in order to make us participants in the eternal day of His heavenly reign. The contrast between the heights of heaven and the mundane realities of our lives is obviously very great. The point of division is not, however, that we are ordinary people with common problems who belong to a very small parish. It is, instead, that we have not united ourselves to Christ in holiness to the point that every dimension of our life in this world has become a brilliant icon of His salvation.

Of course, that is a very high goal which no one may claim to have fulfilled. God is infinitely holy and the journey to become perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect is truly eternal. No matter where we are on that path, we must all ask our ourselves quite seriously whether we are ascending with Him into greater holiness as we go through our daily lives, face whatever set of challenges we have, and respond to the constant barrage of temptations to put our trust elsewhere. It may be easy to attend services, sing in praise of the Ascension, and call ourselves Christians, but it is much more demanding to conform ourselves to Christ such that His radiant glory shines through us.

We should not dream of performing grand gestures of holiness, for that would likely lead us into prideful fantasies. Instead, we do well to focus on taking the small steps that we are capable of right now in relation to the people around us and the circumstances with which we are familiar. That means humbling ourselves to put the needs of others before our own preferences in our families, friendships, and workplaces, as well as in our parish.

Christ prayed to the Father that His followers “may be one, even as We are one.” We will never ascend in holiness if we think that we relate to God as isolated individuals with a religion that concerns only what we do when we are alone. The Church is one and we are members of Christ’s Body together. He ascended with His body and we will too by serving Him in the Church as we do what needs to be done for the flourishing of our small parish. We ascend into the heavenly Kingdom whenever we “lay aside all earthly cares” in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Nourished by His Body and Blood in the Eucharist, let us join ourselves to the great Self-offering of the Savior in our common life, for it is only in Him—our risen and ascended Lord—that we may enter into the heavenly glory for which He created us in His image and likeness. He has already ascended. Let us go up with Him together.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

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.

APOLYTIKION OF THE HOLY FATHERS IN TONE EIGHT

Thou, O Christ, art our God of exceeding praise Who didst establish our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon earth, and through them didst guide us unto the true Faith, O most merciful One, glory to Thee.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

People: Amen.

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