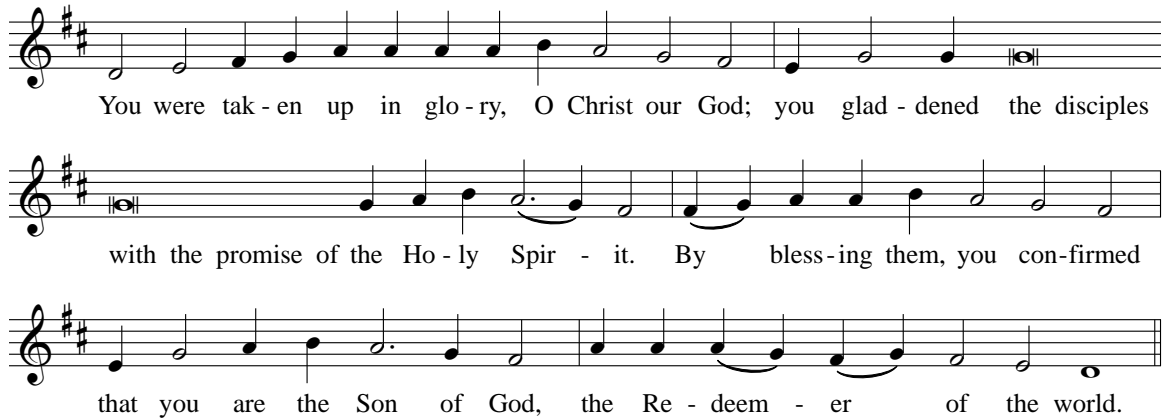


Matins Propers
Ascension of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

*All page references are to **The Order of Matins: Sundays and Feasts, 2006***

“The Lord is God”, Tone 4, p. 162.

Troparion of Ascension - Tone 4



You were tak - en up in glo - ry, O Christ our God; you glad - dened the disciples
with the promise of the Ho - ly Spir - it. By bless - ing them, you con - firmed
that you are the Son of God, the Re - deem - er of the world.

Cantor: Glory... *(All repeat the Troparion)*

Cantor: Now and ever... *(All repeat the Troparion)*

Sessional Hymn 1

Tone 1 troparion



You as - cen - ded in glo - ry, and the angels were astonished at this won - der;
the dis - ci - ples were a - mazed at your marvelous As - cen - sion; and the gates
o - pened be - fore You, O Lord. The Pow'rs of hea - ven were al - so overjoyed,

and they cried out: Glo - ry to your con - des - cen - sion, O Sav - ior!
 Glo - ry to your king - dom! Glo - ry to your As - cen - sion, O on - ly Lov - er of
 us all!

Cantor Glory...now and ever... *All repeat "You ascended in glory..."*

Sessional Hymn 2

Tone 4 podoben: Krasot'i divstva

The God who ex - ists be - fore all e - ter - ni - ty and who has mys - tically divinized the
 human na - ture which He as - sumed to - day goes up to hea - ven.
 The an - gels pro - ceed Him and show to the dis - ci - ples the Lord who as - cends
 in - to the clouds a - mid great glo - ry, and they then fall to the groud and say:
 Glo - ry to God who as - cends in - to hea - ven!

Cantor: Glory...now and ever... *All repeat "The God who exists before all eternity..."*

Polyeleos, p. 16

After the singing of the Polyeleos, the celebrant enthrones the Icon and the Exaltation is sung:

Exaltation

Refrain

We ex - tol you, O Christ the Giv - er of Life, and see - ing
you go up to hea - ven in your most pure bo - dy, we praise your ho - ly
As - cen - - - sion.

Cantor: All peoples, clap your hands;
cry to God with shouts of joy! *And the people sing the refrain*

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. *Refrain*

God ascends amid shouts of joy;
the Lord amid trumpet blasts. *Refrain*

O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors.
Let Him enter, the King of glory. *Refrain*

The Lord has set his throne in heaven
and his kingdom is ruling over all. *Refrain*

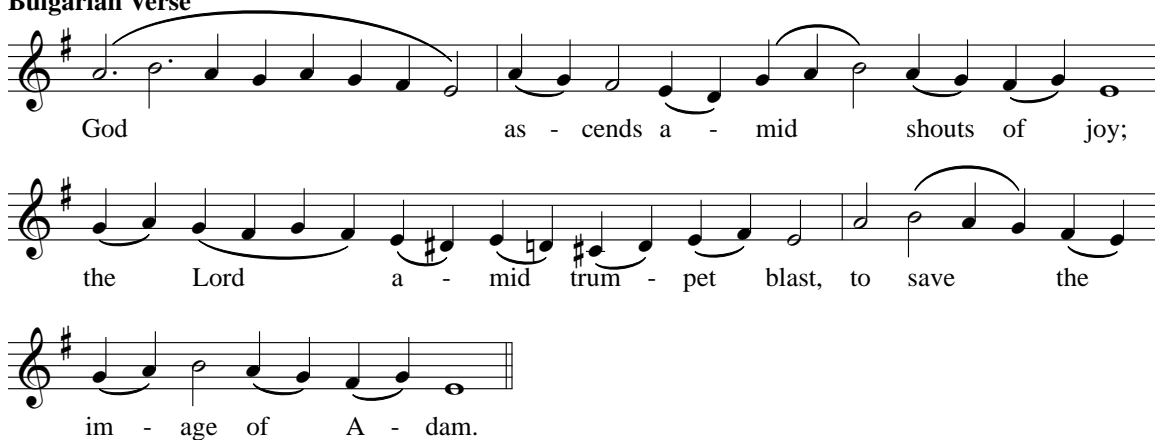
Be exalted above the heavens, O God,
and let your glory be over all the earth! *Refrain*

Glory...now and ever...

Three times, each with a reverence:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to you, O God!

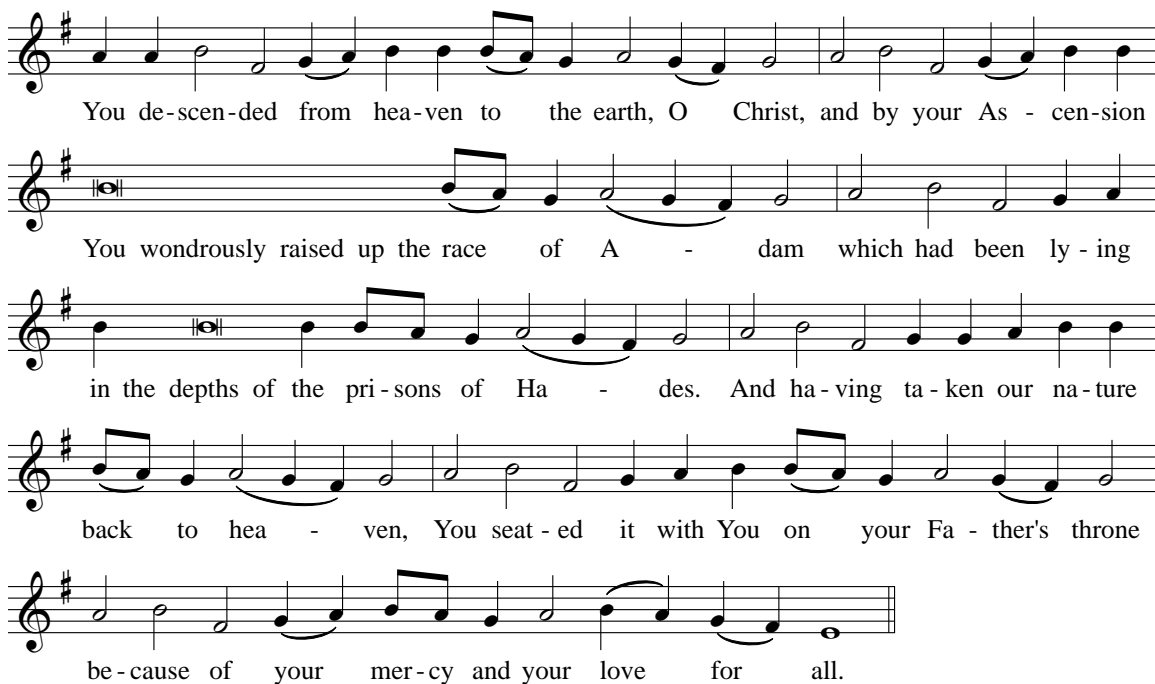
Bulgarian Verse



God as - cends a - mid shouts of joy;
the Lord a - mid trum - pet blast, to save the
im - age of A - dam.

Sessional Hymn

Tone 5



You de-scen-ded from hea-ven to the earth, O Christ, and by your As - cen-sion
You wondrously raised up the race of A - dam which had been ly - ing
in the depths of the pri-sons of Ha - des. And ha - ving ta - ken our na - ture
back to hea - ven, You seat - ed it with You on your Fa - ther's throne
be - cause of your mer - cy and your love for all.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever... *All repeat "You descended from heaven to the earth..."*

The Festal Gradual Hymn (“Ever since the days of my youth”) is sung, p. 312.

Prokeimenon - Tone 4 (Psalm 46:6.2)

God as-cends a - mid shouts of joy; the Lord a - mid
trum - pet blast.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the text "God as-cends a - mid shouts of joy; the Lord a - mid". The second staff continues with "trum - pet blast." and ends with a double bar line.

Verse: All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with cries of gladness!

The service continues with the Preparation for the Gospel on page 24.

“Let everything that lives...” in Tone 4, p. 171.

Gospel: Mark 16: 9 - 20.

The Hymn of the Resurrection is sung once, then Psalm 50 (p. 28) and the following stichera:

Cantor: (Tone 6) Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 6 samohlasen

Through the pray'rs of the ho-ly a - pos - tles, O Mer - ci - ful One, cleanse us
of our man - y sins.


The image shows two staves of musical notation in D major (two sharps). The first staff contains the melody for the text "Through the pray'rs of the ho-ly a - pos - tles, O Mer - ci - ful One, cleanse us". The second staff continues with "of our man - y sins." and ends with a double bar line.

Cantor: Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Through the pray'rs of the The - o - to - kos, O Mer - ci - ful One, cleanse us
of our man - y sins.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in D major (two sharps). The first staff contains the melody for the text "Through the pray'rs of the The - o - to - kos, O Mer - ci - ful One, cleanse us". The second staff continues with "of our man - y sins." and ends with a double bar line.

Cantor: Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offense.

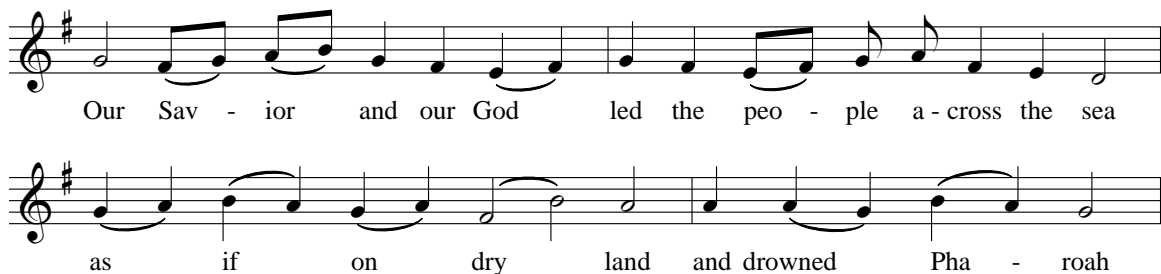


To-day, the Po - wers on high see our na - ture in hea - ven, and they marvel at this
won-drous As - cen - sion, and they say to one a - no - ther: Who is this
who has just arrived in hea - ven? But when they recog-nize their own Lord,
they or - der the gates of hea - ven to be o - pened. With them let us praise
un-ceas-ing - ly the One who shall come again from hea - ven in our flesh
as the judge of the u-ni - verse and the al - migh - ty God.

Canon

Ode 1
Irmos

Tone 5 samopodoben



Our Sav - ior and our God led the peo - ple a - cross the sea
as if on dry land and drowned Pha - roah

and his whole ar - my. To him a - lone will we sing,
 for he is cov - ered with glo - - - ry.

Refrain

Glo - ry to your ho - ly A - scen - sion, O Lord!

All you peoples, let us praise Christ, * who is gloriously raised upon the wings of the Cherubim, * to seat us with Him at the right of the Father. * Let us sing our hymn of victory, * for He is covered with glory.

Seeing Christ, the mediator between God and mortals, * now raised on high in his flesh, * the choir of angels was seized with fear * and with one voice began to sing a hymn of victory.

God, who appeared on Mount Sinai * and gave the Law to Moses the prophet, * is now raised up bodily from the Mount of Olives. * Let us praise Him all together, * for He is covered with glory.

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er
 and for - ev - er. A - men.

O pure Virgin and Mother of God, * intercede constantly before God who took flesh in your womb * without leaving the bosom of the Father in heaven, * that He may save from all danger * those whom He created with his own hands.

Katavasia - second canon of Pentecost

Tone 4 samopodoben

En - - veloped by the di - vine cloud, the man of
un - sure speech taught the Law writ - ten
by God; wip - ing the dust from
his eyes, he saw the One - - - Who - Is,
and was in - i - ti - at - ed in - to the knowl - edge of the Spir - it.
Let us praise him with in - - spired songs.

Ode 3
Irmos

By the power of your Cross, O Christ, strength - en my mind
so that I may sing and glo - ri - fy your sav - ing
As - - - cen - - - sion.

Refrain



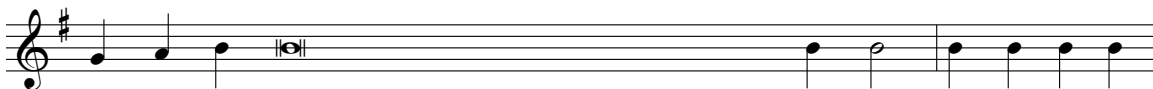
Glo - ry to your ho - ly A - scen-sion, O Lord!

O Christ the Giver of life, * You have ascended to your Father in heaven; * and You have raised our nature with You * because of your ineffable goodness, O Lover of Mankind.

Seeing the nature of mortals raised up with You, O Savior, * the hosts of angels were astonished; * and they unceasingly sing your praises in heaven.

The choirs of angels were seized with amazement, O Christ, * when they saw You bodily raised up to heaven in glory; * and they praised your divine Ascension.

O Christ, You raised up human nature* which had been subjected to the corruption of the grave, * and You exalted it by your Ascension into heaven * where You glorify us with You.



Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er



and for - ev - er. A - men.

O pure Virgin, intercede unceasingly * before the One who was born of your womb * for the deliverance from all error * of those who praise you as the Mother of God.

Katavasia



The shack - les of a bar - - - ren womb and the



un - bri - dled pride that filled a moth - er were

shat-tered by the pray'r of the proph-et - ess of old, An - - - na,
 who bore a con - trite and hum - - - bled heart be - fore
 the Su - preme and al - - - mighty - - - y God.

Sessional Hymn

Tone 8

Ri - ding u - pon the heav'n - ly clouds, af - ter hav - ing brought peace to your
 peo - ple on earth, you have been tak - en up to sit on the di - vine throne
 since you are con - sub - stan - tial with the Fa - ther and the Spi - rit. You have
 ap - peared in the flesh with - out change, and you a - wait the ful - fill - ment of all
 things, when you shall re - turn to the earth to judge the whole world. O just
 Judge, spare our souls and grant for - give - ness of sins to your



Cantor Glory...now and ever... *All repeat "Riding upon the heavenly clouds..."*

Ode 4

Irmos

I have heard the fame of the might of your Cross, that, through it, Par - a - dise was
o - pened, and I cried out: Glo - - ry to your
pow - er, O Lord!

Refrain

Glo - ry to your ho - ly A - scen - sion, O Lord!

O King of angels, You ascend in glory * to send us the Paraclete from the Father; * therefore, we cry out to You: * Glory to your Ascension, O Christ!

When the Savior was bodily raised up to his Father, * the angels were seized with wonder and began to sing: * Glory to your Ascension, O Christ!

The heavenly Powers cried out one to another: * Lift up the gates for Christ our Lord; * He is the King whom we praise with one heart * together with the Father and the Spirit.

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er
and for - ev - er. A - men.

The Virgin gave birth without pain, * but she is both Mother and Virgin at the same time. * We sing to her with great joy: * Rejoice, O Mother of God!

Katavasia

O King of Kings and on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
O Word pro - ceed - ing from the Fa - ther with - out
be - gin - ning, You sent your Spir - it
of truth up - on your a - pos - tles who sing:
Glo - - - - - ry to your pow - - - - er,
O Lord!

Ode 5

Irmos

Wak-ing at dawn, we cry out to you, O Lord, save us, for you are
tru-ly our God, and we know none oth-er be--side you.

Refrain

Glo-ry to your ho-ly A-scen-sion, O Lord!

Having filled the whole world with joy, * O God of goodness and mercy, * You have ascended in your flesh * to join the Powers on high.

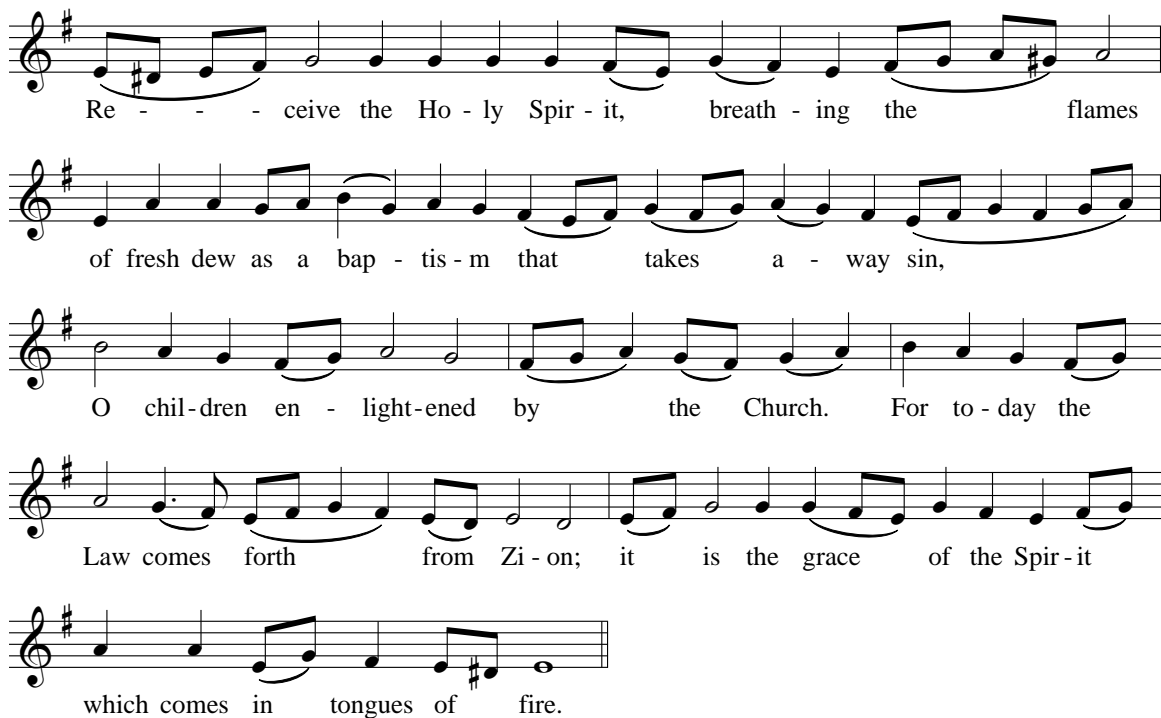
Seeing You raised to the heights, * the heavenly Powers were seized with fear, * and they said to one another: * Lift up the gates for the King!

Seeing the Savior exalted from earth to heaven, * the apostles were struck with fear and cried out: * Glory to You, O Lord and our King!

Glo-ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir-it, now and ev-er
and for-ev-er. A-men.

We praise you, O holy Mother of God, * a virgin even after giving birth; * for the sake of the world you truly gave birth * to the Word of God in the flesh.

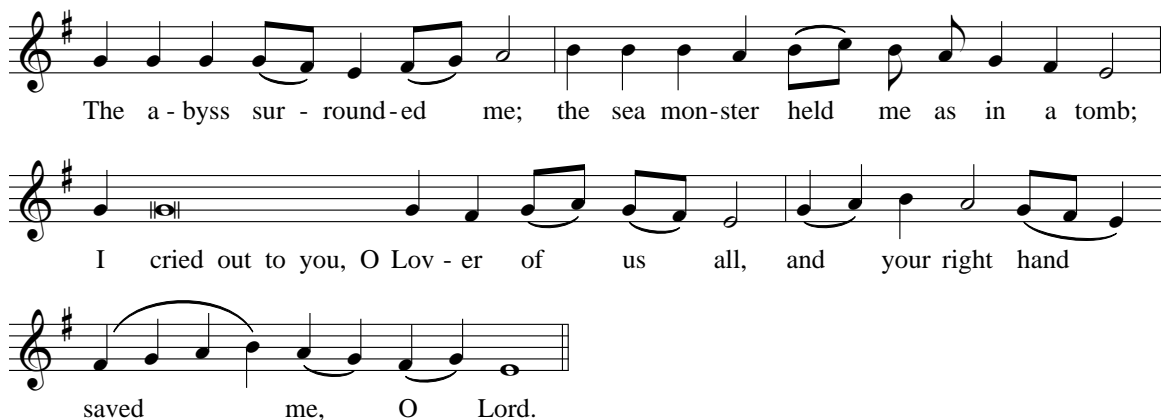
Katavasia



Re - - - ceive the Ho - ly Spir - it, breath - ing the flames
of fresh dew as a bap - tis - m that takes a - way sin,
O chil - dren en - light - ened by the Church. For to - day the
Law comes forth from Zi - on; it is the grace of the Spir - it
which comes in tongues of fire.

Ode 6

Irmos



The a - byss sur - round - ed me; the sea mon - ster held me as in a tomb;
I cried out to you, O Lov - er of us all, and your right hand
saved me, O Lord.

Refrain

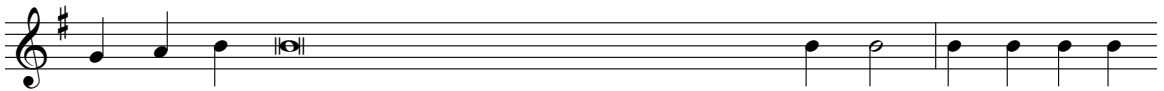


Glo - ry to your ho - ly A - scen-sion, O Lord!

The apostles exalt with joy on this day * as they see their Creator go up into the clouds; * and in the hope of the Spirit, whom they await, * they cry out in fear: * Glory to your divine Ascension!

O Lord, your angels came to your disciples and said: * You have seen Christ taken up in the flesh; * in the same way He shall come to judge the whole world.

Seeing You ascend in your body, O Lord, * the Powers of heaven cried out joyfully: * Great is your mercy, O Lord!



Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er



and for - ev - er. A - men.

It is proper to glorify you, * O bush that burns without being consumed, * O mountain, O living ladder and gate to heaven, * O Virgin Mary, the glory of Christians.

Katavasia



O Christ, our re - demp - tion and our sal - va - tion,



you have come forth in splen - dor from the Vir - gin to res - cue us



from the pit of the tomb; as Jo - nah was saved from the sea mon - ster,

the en - tire hu-man race was saved af - ter the fall of
A - - - - dam.

Kontakion

Tone 6

When you had fulfilled the plan of sal - va - tion for us and u - nit - ed the earthly
with the heav - en - ly, you were tak - en up in glo-ry, O Christ our God.
Nev - er part - ing from us but re-main - ing con - stant - ly, you pro-claim to those
who love you: I am with you and no one can be a - gainst you.

Ikos

Leaving earthly cares to the earth and that which is waste and refuse to the dust, come, let us arise from sleep and with our eyes and hearts let us go towards higher things. Let us also lift up our thoughts and our attention from the earth to the gates of heaven, as if we were on the Mount of Olives, where we fix our eyes on the Redeemer as He is carried away to heaven. For it is there that the Lord departs for heaven; it is there also that He distributes his great gifts to the apostles, giving them strength and comforting them as a Father, guiding them as sons and saying to them: I am not separating myself from you; I shall always be with you, and no one shall ever have power over you.

Ode 7

Irmos



O you who saved the youths who sang to you in the fur - nace,



bless-ed are you, O God of our fa - - - thers.

Refrain



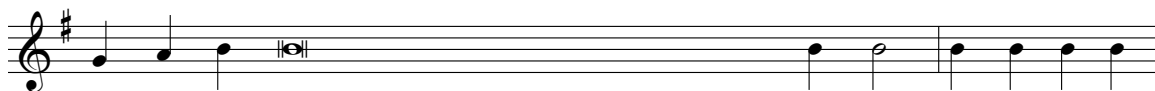
Glo - ry to your ho - ly A - scen-sion, O Lord!

You went up in a cloud of brightness after having saved the whole world; * blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers.

Having taken fallen human nature as a lost sheep upon your shoulders, * You led it to your Father, O Lord, by your divine Ascension.

Clothed in our flesh, You went up to your Father who is also incorporeal; * blessed are You, O Lord and God of our fathers.

You have again raised our human nature * which had been put to death by sin, O God our Savior, * to present it to your Father in heaven.



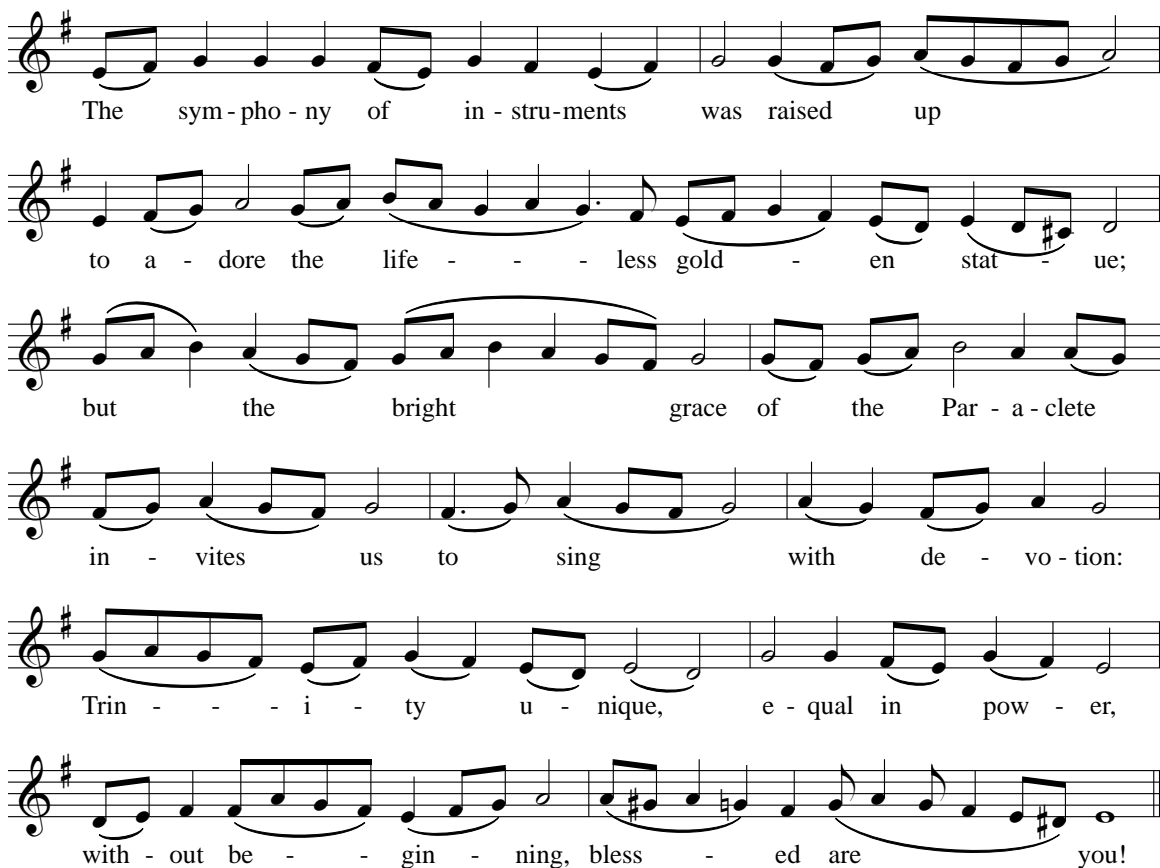
Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er



and for - ev - er. A - men.

You placed the immaculate Virgin in this world, * and You made her the Mother of God; * blessed are You, O Lord, God of our fathers.

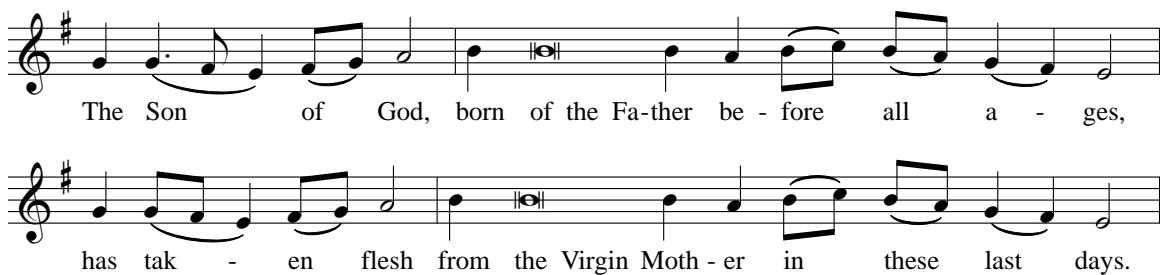
Katavasia



The sym-phony of in-struments was raised up
to a-dore the life- - - less gold - en stat-ue;
but the bright grace of the Par-a-clete
in-vites us to sing with de-vo-tion:
Trin- - - i - ty u-nique, e-qual in pow-er,
with-out be- - - gin-ning, bless - ed are you!

Ode 8

Irmos



The Son of God, born of the Fa-ther be-fore all a-ges,
has tak - en flesh from the Virgin Moth-er in these last days.

Praise him, you priests, and let the whole nation ex - alt

him for - ev - - - er.

Refrain

Glo - ry to your ho - ly scen-sion, O Lord!

Christ the Giver of life ascends in glory to heaven; * with both his natures, He is seated at the right hand of the Father. * Praise Him, you priests, * and let the whole nation exalt Him forever.

You have redeemed the work of your hands from the slavery of the false gods; * You have presented it in freedom to your Father. * O Savior, we praise and exalt You forever.

The One who descended among us * and trampled down our Enemy * now raises up our humanity by his Ascension. * Praise Him, you priests, * and let the whole nation exalt Him forever.

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er

and for - ev - er. A - men.

You appeared more venerable than the Cherubim, O holy Mother of God, * when you carried in your womb * the One whom they carry on their wings in heaven; * and with the bodiless angels, we mortals glorify Him forever.



Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord, sing - ing and highly exalting him a - bove



all for - ev - - - er.

Katavasia



The tri - ple flame of the u - nique di - vin - i - ty



breaks the chains and stirs the flames with dew;



the youths sing his prais - es and ev - 'ry crea - ture,



the work of his hands, bless - - - es its on - ly



Sav - - - ior and Ben - e - fac - - - tor.

The Cantic of the Theotokos is not sung.

Magnification - sing this refrain before the irmos and each troparion

Ex - tol, ex - tol, O my soul, O my soul, the Lord who
was tak - en up bod - i - ly with glo - ry in - to heav - en.

Ode 9

Irmos

We the faith - ful with one ac - cord pro - claim your great - ness,
O Moth - er of God, for be - yond understanding or ex - pres - sion,
you gave birth in time to the Time - less One.

Surpassing our spirit and our understanding, * you gave birth in the world and in time to the timeless Lord; * with one voice and one heart, O Mother of God, * we the faithful extol you.

O Redeemer of the world, Christ our God, * the apostles contemplate your divine exaltation; * and in fear and in joy, they extol You.

Seeing your divinized flesh, O Christ, * the angels on high said to each other: * Truly this man is our God!

Seeing You raised upon the clouds, O Christ our God, * the choir of angels cried out: * Lift up the gates of heaven for the King of glory!

You have descended to the depths of the earth; * You have saved humanity; * and You have raised it up by your holy Ascension. * O Christ our God, we extol You!

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it, now and ev - er
and for - ev - er. A - men.

Rejoice, O holy Mother of Christ our God, * for today you extol the One whom you bore * as you see Him carried by the angels from earth to heaven.

Katavasia

Re - joice, re - joice, O Queen, the glo - ry of
vir - gins and moth - ers. E - ven the most so - phis - ti - cat - ed
rhet - o - ric fails to praise you wor - thi - ly, and ev - 'ry
mind spins when it con - sid - ers how you gave birth.
There - fore we, with one voice, glo - ri - fy you.

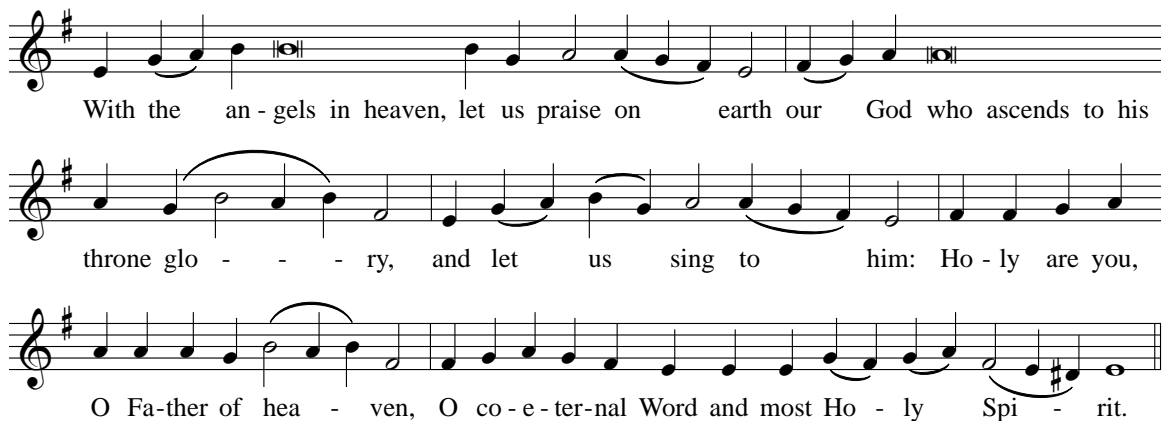
Hymn of Light

O Christ, You were raised up to heaven in the sight of your disciples; * You again went up to share your Father's throne. * The angels who came to meet You at the heavenly gate cried out: * Open your gates and lift up your lintels * so that the King of glory may come in, * for our King comes again to the Source of light. (3 times)

The Psalms of Praise are sung in Tone 18 through stich 5 (92-94).

Cantor: (Tone 1) Praise him for his powerful deeds,
(on 4) praise his surpassing greatness.

④ & ③

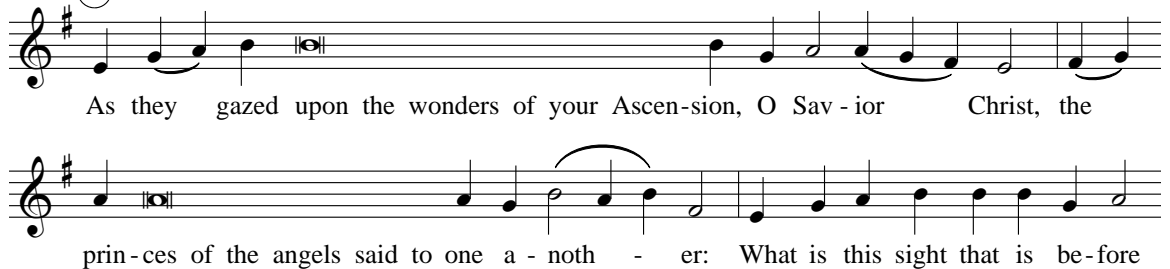


With the an-gels in heaven, let us praise on earth our God who ascends to his throne glo - - - ry, and let us sing to him: Ho - ly are you, O Fa-ther of hea - ven, O co-e-ter-nal Word and most Ho - ly Spi - rit.

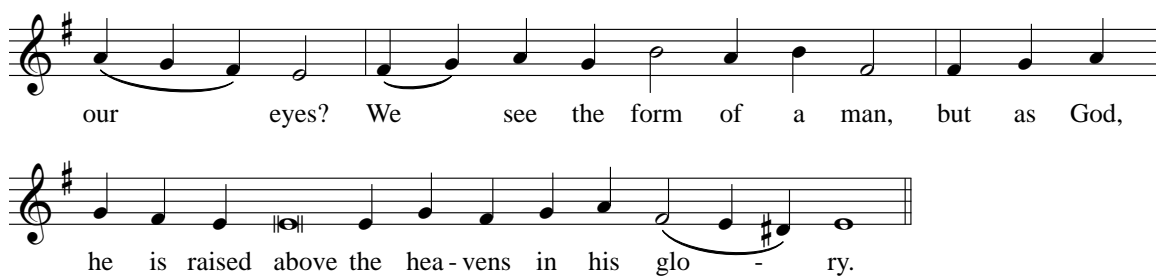
Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet
(on 3) praise him with lute and harp. *All repeat "With the angels in heaven..."*

Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance,
(on 2) praise him with strings and pipes.

②



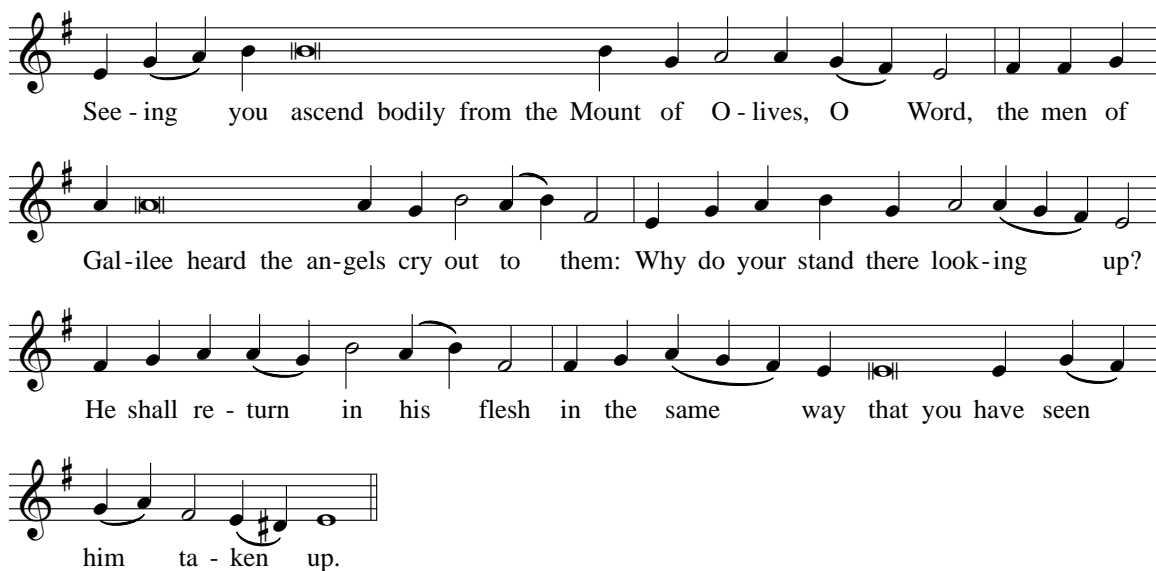
As they gazed upon the wonders of your Ascen-sion, O Sav - ior Christ, the prin-ces of the angels said to one a - noth - er: What is this sight that is be-fore



our eyes? We see the form of a man, but as God,
 he is raised above the heavens in his glo - ry.

Cantor: O praise him with resounding cymbals, praise him with clashing of cymbals.
(on 1) Let everything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

①

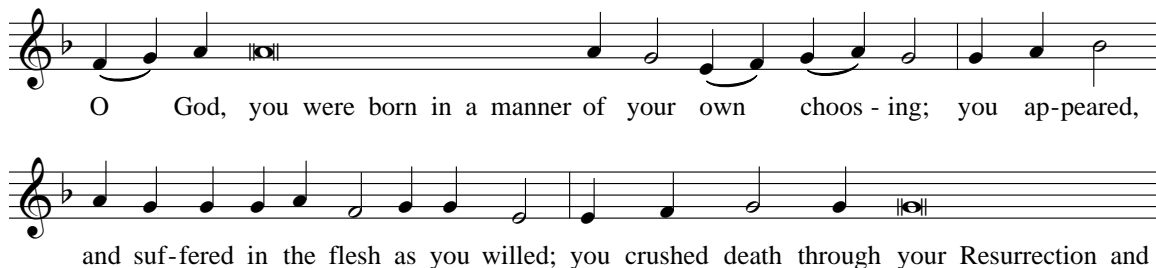


See - ing you ascend bodily from the Mount of O - lives, O Word, the men of
 Gal - ilee heard the an - gels cry out to them: Why do you stand there look - ing up?
 He shall re - turn in his flesh in the same way that you have seen
 him ta - ken up.

Cantor: *(Tone 2)* Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

Tone 2 samohlasen



O God, you were born in a manner of your own choos - ing; you ap - peared,
 and suf - fered in the flesh as you willed; you crushed death through your Resurrection and

ascen-ded in - to glo - ry, and you sent down the di-vine Spi - rit u - pon us;
 there - fore, we sing a hymn of praise and glo - ri - fy your di - vi - ni - ty.

Great Doxology, p. 41.

After the Great Doxology, the troparion of the feast is sung:

Troparion of Ascension - Tone 8

You were tak - en up in glo - ry, O Christ our God; you glad - dened the disciples
 with the promise of the Ho - ly Spir - it. By bless - ing them you con - firmed
 that you are the Son of God, the Re - deem - er of the World.

The service continues with the Litany of Supplication, p. 45