You were taken up in glory, O Christ our God; you gladdened the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. By blessing them, you confirmed that you are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Cantor: Glory… (All repeat the Troparion)

Cantor: Now and ever… (All repeat the Troparion)

You ascended in glory, and the angels were astonished at this wonder; the disciples were amazed at your marvelous Ascension; and the gates opened before You, O Lord. The Pow'rs of heaven were also overjoyed,
and they cried out: "Glorify to your condescension, O Savior!"

Glory to your kingdom! Glory to your Ascension, O only Lover of us all!

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

Sessional Hymn 2

The God who exists before all eternity and who has mystically divinized the human nature which He assumed today goes up to heaven.

The angels proceed Him and show to the disciples the Lord who ascends into the clouds amid great glory, and they then fall to the ground and say:

Cantor: Glory...now and ever... All repeat "The God who exists before all eternity..."
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 Giver of Life, and see-ing

you go up to heaven in your most pure body, we praise your holy

Ascension.

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! Glory to you, O God!
Bulgarian Verse

God ascends amid shouts of joy;
the Lord amid trumpet blast, to save the
image of Adam.

Sessional Hymn

You descended from heaven to the earth, O Christ, and by your Ascension
You wondrously raised up the race of Adam which had been lying
in the depths of the prisons of Hades. And having taken our nature
back to heaven, You seated it with You on your Father's throne
because of your mercy 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)

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.


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.

Today, the Powers on high see our nature in heaven, and they marvel at this wondrous Ascension, and they say to one another: Who is this who has just arrived in heaven? But when they recognize their own Lord, they order the gates of heaven to be opened. With them let us praise unceasingly the One who shall come again from heaven in our flesh as the judge of the universe and the almighty God.

Canon

Ode 1
Irmos

Our Savior and our God led the people across the sea as if on dry land and drowned Pharaoh
and his whole army. To him alone will we sing,

for he is covered with glory.

Refrain

Glory to your holy Ascension, 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.

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.
Enveloped by the divine cloud, the man of unsure speech taught the Law written by God; wiping the dust from his eyes, he saw the One Who Is, and was initiated into the knowledge of the Spirit.

Let us praise him with inspired songs.

Ode 3
Irmos

By the power of your Cross, O Christ, strengthen my mind so that I may sing and glorify your saving Ascention.
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.

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 shackles of a barren womb and the unbridled pride that filled a mother were
shattered by the pray'r of the prophetess of old, Anna,

who bore a contrite and humbled heart before

the Supreme and almighty God.

Riding upon the heav'nly clouds, after having brought peace to your people on earth, you have been taken up to sit on the divine throne since you are consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit. You have appeared in the flesh without change, and you await the fulfillment of all things, when you shall return to the earth to judge the whole world. O just

Judge, spare our souls and grant forgiveness of sins to your
O Lord and God of mercy.

I have heard the fame of the might of your Cross, that, through it, Paradise was opened, and I cried out: Glory to your power, 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.
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever--

and forever. Amen.

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 only Son of the Father,

O Word proceeding from the Father without beginning,

You sent your Spirit of truth upon your apostles who sing:

Glory to your power, * O Lord!
Waking at dawn, we cry out to you, O Lord, save us, for you are truly our God, and we know none other beside you.

Refrain

Glory to your holy Ascension, 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!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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.
Receive the Holy Spirit, breathing the flames of fresh dew as a baptism that takes away sin,

O children enlightened by the Church. For today the Law comes forth from Zion; it is the grace of the Spirit which comes in tongues of fire.

The abyss surrounded me; the sea monster held me as in a tomb;

I cried out to you, O Lover 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 entire human race was saved after the fall of Adam.

Kontakion

When you had fulfilled the plan of salvation for us and united the earthly

with the heavenly, you were taken up in glory, O Christ our God.

Never parting from us but remaining constantly, you proclaim to those

who love you: I am with you and no one can be against 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

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.

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.
The symphony of instruments was raised up to adore the lifeless golden statue; but the bright grace of the Paraclete invites us to sing with devotion:

Trinity unique, equal in power, without beginning, blessed are you!

Ode 8
Irmos

The Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, has taken flesh from the Virgin Mother in these last days.
Praise him, you priests, and let the whole nation exalt him forever.

Refrain

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

Glory to your holy ascension, 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.

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.

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.

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, singing and highly exalting him above all forever.

Katavasia

The triple flame of the unique divinity breaks the chains and stirs the flames with dew; the youths sing his praises and every creature, the work of his hands, blesses its only Savior and Benefactor.

The Canticle 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


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 I) Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness.

(on 4) & (3)

With the angels in heaven, let us praise on earth our God who ascends to his throne glory, and let us sing to him: Holy are you, O Father of heaven, O co-e-ternal Word and most Holy Spirit.

Cantor: O praise him with sound of trumpet praise him with lute and harp. All repeat “With the angels in heaven…”

Cantor: Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.

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 glory.

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.

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

Doxastikon

O God, you were born in a manner of your own choosing; you appeared,

and suffered in the flesh as you willed; you crushed death through your Resurrection and
You were taken up in glory, O Christ our God; you gladdened the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. By blessing them you confirmed that you are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the World.

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