The Lord ascended into heaven to send the Comforter into this world.

The heavens prepared his throne and clouds were his ladder; the angels marvelled at the sight of a human being more exalted than themselves. Today, the Father receives again in his bosom the One who was in him from all eternity, and the Holy Spirit gives a command to all the angels:

Lift up your lintels, O you gates! O you nations of the earth, clap your hands, for Christ ascends to the place where he had been from all eternity.

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

All page numbers refer to The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006.

"Glory to you, our God..." and "Heavenly King..." are omitted.
The First Kathisma is not sung.
"O Lord, I have cried" is sung in Tone 6, p. 82.

Cantor: (Tone 6) Bring my soul out of this prison and then I shall praise your name.

Cantor: (on 10)
Cantor: Around me the just will assemble
(on 9) because of your goodness to me. Repeat "The Lord ascended..."

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Psalm 129
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading. Repeat "O Lord, the Cherubim..."

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Cantor: O Christ, splendor and glory of the Father, when we behold your Ascension on
your holy mountain, we sing a hymn of praise to the beauty of your coun-te-nance. We bow down to your Pas-sion, we venerate your holy
Resurrection, and we glorify your noble Ascension.

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. Repeat "O Christ..."

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

O Lord and Giver of Life, when the apostles saw you ascending upon the clouds, a great sadness overcame them; they shed burning tears and exclaimed: O our Master, do not leave us orphans; we are your servants whom you loved so tenderly. Since you are most wonderful, send down upon us your all-holy Spirit to enlighten our souls, as you promised.

My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

"O Christ..."
After fulfilling the mystery of the plan of salvation, O Lord, you took your apostles and went up with them to the Mount of Olives, and there you passed beyond the firmament of heaven. You humbled yourself and were clothed in our humanity, and now you return from that place you did not leave.

Send down your holy Spirit to enlighten our souls.

Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever. Repeat "After fulfilling the mystery..."

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

O loving Jesus, while you lived on earth, you were God inseparable from the Father, and yet you truly shared our humanity.
As cend-ing in glory today from the Mount of Ol-ives, through your great love
you lifted up our fall-en na-ture and en-throned it with the
Fa-ther on high. There-fore, the bodiless powers were amazed and filled with awe
at see-ing your great love for all. To-get-her with them,
we who live on earth are glo-ry-ing your con-de-scen-sion to us
and your ascen-sion a-way from us. Now we im-plore you, say-ing:
Through your Ascension you have filled your apostles and your moth-er
with a joy that surpasses ev-ry oth-er joy, and through their
in-ter ces-sion make us wor-thy of the joy of your e-lect,
for you are rich in mer-cy.
The service continues on page 12.

The Prokeimenon for Wednesday is found on page 115.

Readings: Isaiah 2: 2 - 3  
Isaiah 62: 10 - 12 and 63: 1 - 9  
Zechariah 14: 1, 4, 8 - 11

Litija

By going up again into heaven from which you had descended, you did not leave us orphans, O Lord. Show to all your people the works of your power, that your Spirit may come down upon us and bring peace to the world, O Lord and Lover of us all.

You ascended, O Christ, to your eternal Father even though you were not removed from his bosom;
and the Powers could not contain their praise of the Trinity.

Even after the Incarnation they recognized you as the only Son of the Father. In the abundance of your goodness, have mercy on us!

Your angels, O Lord, said to the apostles: Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? Christ our God, who by leaving you ascended into heaven, will come again in the manner by which you have seen him leave.

Therefore, serve him in justice and holiness.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

O Lord most mer - ci - ful, aft er ful - fill - ing the mys - t'ry hid - den
from all e - ter - ni - ty, you, the Cre - a - tor and Mas - ter of all, went up to the
Mount of Ol - ives with your dis - ci - ples and your Moth - er. For the one
who, at the sight of your Pas - sion, had suf - fered more than all
oth - ers in her moth - er - ly heart, had more than an - y - one else
the right to share the joy that fills us as we
are wit - nes - sing your as - cen - sion in to heav - en.
We glorify your infinite mercy overflowing upon us.

The Litany of the Litiya is found on page 116 in the Appendix.

**Aposticha**

O our 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 ascended into glory, and you sent down the divine Spirit upon us. Therefore we sing a hymn of praise and glorify your divinity.

**Cantor**

All peoples, clap your hands; cry to God with shouts of joy!

O Christ, when the Powers of heaven beheld your Ascension from the
Mount of Olives, they wondered and exclaimed: Who is he? And they heard the reply: He is indeed the King of Glory. And why are his clothes crimson? Because he comes from Bosor which is the flesh.

As for you, O Christ, since you are God, you are enthroned at the right hand of God the Father; and you sent down upon us the Holy Spirit that he may enlighten us and save our souls.

Cantor

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blasts.

O Christ, you ascended in glory on the Mount of Olives in the presence of your disciples; you fill all things with your divinity; you were enthroned.
at the right hand of the Father and sent down upon your disciples the Holy Spirit who enlightens, strengthens and saves our souls.

Cantor:  
*(Tone 6) Glory...now and ever...*

**Doxastikon - Tone 6**

God goes up with shouts of joy, the Lord goes up with trumpet blast, in order to raise up the fallen image of Adam and to send down upon us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter who will sanctify our souls.

*The service continues on page 19 of the Vesper book.*
You were taken up in glory, O Christ our God; you gladened 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 Blessing of Bread, found on page 119 in the Appendix.