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 lanterns, 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.
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.

O Lord, the Cherubim were amazed at your Ascension: they were seized with wonder as they beheld you, O God, rising up on the clouds, for you are the One who is seated above the clouds. We sing a hymn of praise to you:

Glory to you for your tender mercy.

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

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 countenance. We bow down to your Passion, we venerate your holy Resurrection, and we glorify your noble Ascension.
O Lord, have mercy on us.

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

Stichera of the Sunday of the Council Fathers - Tone 6

Before the morning star you were begotten of the Father; before the ages you were conceived without a mother, even though Arius believed you to be created, and not God. He shamelessly confused the Creator with his creatures, thus deserving eternal punishment. Yet the Council of Nicaea proclaimed you as the Son of God who is enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Who has severed your garment, O Savior? It was Arius who divided the Trinity who is equal in glory and eternal majesty.
For he denied that you are one of the most holy Trinity. He taught the
transgressing Nestorius to say that the Virgin is not the Mother of God;
but the Council of Nicaea proclaimed you as the Son of God
who is enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.

Declaring that the light could not be seen, Arians fell into the pit of the
impious ones; his body was torn apart by the justice of God,
and he gave up his soul in a violent manner. He was another Judas by his
thoughts and deeds. But the Council of Nicaea proclaimed you as the
Son of God who is enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.
The foolish Arius divided the unity of the Holy Trinity into three different and unequal substances. But the God-bearing Fathers came together in council. Burning with the zeal of Elias the Tishbite and with the sword of the Holy Spirit, they cut down these shameful blasphemies; for they were directed by the Holy Spirit.

Cantor: Glory ...

Doxastikon of the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea - Tone 6

Let us honor today those mystical trumpets of the Spirit, namely the God-mantled Fathers, who, speaking of divine things, sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in unison, teaching that the
Trinity is one, not differing in substance or Godhead, refuting Arius and defending the true faith. They always intercede with the Lord to grant great mercy to our souls.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Dogmatikon, Tone 6, p. 87.

The service continues on page 12 of the Vesper book.

Readings: Genesis 14: 14 - 20  (EOT p. 301)
Deuteronomy 1: 8 - 11; 15 - 17
Deuteronomy 10: 14 - 21

Aposticha of the Resurrection, Tone 6, p. 88.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea - Tone 4

O believers, let us come together today to celebrate in faith and true worship the remembrance of the God-inspired Fathers who had come together from throughout the world in the splendid city of Nicaea. They rejected
the doctrine of the impi-ous Arius and banished him from the universal Church by a decree of the Council. They instructed all to profess openly the Son of God, that he is con-substantial and co-eternal with the Father before eternity, and they clearly wrote this in the Symbol of Faith. Therefore, following their divine doctrine, let us worship the Son in true faith, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, con-substantial in one Godhead.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Theotokion of Ascension - Tone 4

O Lord most merciful, after fulfilling the mystery hidden from all eternity, you, the Creator and Master of all, went up to the Mount
of Olives with your disciples and your Mother. For the one who,

at the sight of your Passion, had suffered more than anyone else in her

motherly heart, had more than anyone else the right to share the joy that

fills us as we witness your ascending into heaven. We

glorify your infinite mercy overflowing upon us.

The service continues on page 19.
Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 6, p. 91.

Cantor:  (Tone 8) Glory…

Troparion of the Council Fathers - Tone 8

O Christ our God, you are above all praise. You have established our fathers as beacons on the earth, leading us all to the true faith through them. O most merciful Lord, glory to you!

Cantor:  (Tone 4) Now and ever…

Troparion of Ascension - Tone 4

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 on page 21.