

MAY 25

The Ascension of Our Lord

"Lord I Call..." Tone 6\*

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Hear me, O Lord!  
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!  
Receive the voice of my prayer,  
when I call upon You!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise  
in Your sight as incense,  
and let the lifting up of my hands  
be an evening sacrifice!//  
Hear me, O Lord!

- v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!*
- v. (9) The righteous will surround me, for You will deal bountifully with me.*
- v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*
- v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*
- v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*
- v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

**Tone 6**     *Idiomela*     *(from the Pentecostarion)*

The Lord has ascended into heaven  
that He might send the Comforter into the world.  
The heavens prepared His throne, and the clouds His mount.  
Angels marvel to see a Man high above them.  
The Father receives Him Whom He holds, co-eternal, in His bosom.  
The Holy Spirit commands all His Angels:  
"Lift up your gates, you princes!  
All you nations, clap your hands://  
for Christ has gone up to where He was before!"

- v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

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\* Music for the Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations can be downloaded at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org).

The Cherubim were amazed at Your Ascension, O Lord,  
beholding You, the God Who sits enthroned upon them,  
ascending upon the clouds;  
and we glorify You, for Your mercy is good.//  
Glory to You!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

Beholding Your Ascension on the holy mountain,  
O Christ, the brightness of the Father's glory,  
we hymn the radiant appearance of Your countenance;  
we worship Your Passion,  
we honor Your Resurrection,  
as we glorify Your glorious Ascension.//  
Have mercy on us!

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Lord, when Your Apostles saw You carried up upon the clouds,  
they were filled with despondency, O Christ the Giver of Life;  
with wailing and tears they lamented and said:  
"Master, do not leave us, Your servants, as orphans,  
whom through pity You have loved in Your compassion;  
but, as You promised, send us Your All-holy Spirit//  
to enlighten our souls!"

*v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Lord, when You had fulfilled the mystery of Your dispensation,  
You took Your Disciples with You,  
up onto the Mount of Olives;  
and behold! You passed through the firmament of heaven.  
For my sake You became poor like me,  
and ascended to the place from where You were never parted.//  
Send forth Your All-holy Spirit to illumine our souls!

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

**Tone 6**      *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Not parted from the Father's bosom, O sweetest Jesus,  
and having lived among those on earth as man,  
today You have been taken up in glory from the Mount of Olives,  
and in Your compassion exalting our fallen nature,  
You have seated it with the Father.  
Therefore the heavenly ranks of the Bodiless Powers were amazed at the wonder,  
and beside themselves with fear;  
and seized with trembling, they magnified Your love for mankind.  
With them, we on earth also give glory  
for Your condescension to us  
and Your Ascension from us;  
and we supplicate You, saying:  
“At Your Ascension You filled with boundless joy  
the Disciples and the Theotokos who bore You;  
by their prayers make us also worthy of the joy of Your elect  
through Your great mercy!”

**Old Testament Readings**

**Isaiah 2:2-3**

**Composite 21** *(Isaiah 62:10-63:1-3, 7-9)*

**Composite 22** *(Zachariah 14:1, 4, 8-11)*

**Litya**

**Tone 1**      *Idiomela*      *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Having ascended to heaven from where You had descended,  
do not leave us orphans, O Lord!  
May Your Holy Spirit come, bringing peace to the world;  
show the sons of men the works of Your power, //  
O Lord Who love mankind!

You ascended, O Christ, to Your Father,  
Who is without beginning,  
though You were never parted from His uncircumscribed bosom,  
and the heavenly Powers accepted no addition to the thrice-holy hymn of praise,  
but recognized You, O Lord, as one Son, only-begotten of the Father  
even after becoming man. //  
In the abundance of Your compassion, have mercy on us!

Your Angels, O Lord, said to the Apostles:  
"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven?  
This is Christ God Who has been taken from you into heaven.  
He it is Who will come again  
in like manner as you have seen Him going to heaven://  
worship Him in holiness and righteousness!"

#### **Tone 4**

When You came, O Christ, to the Mount of Olives  
to accomplish the good pleasure of the Father,  
the Angels of heaven were amazed,  
and the demonic powers were seized with fear;  
the Disciples stood by trembling with joy as You spoke to them;  
and aloft, a waiting cloud was prepared as a throne;  
heaven flung wide its gates and appeared in its beauty,  
and the earth reveals its hidden vaults,  
so that Adam's descent was made known, and his ascent again.  
But Your footsteps were raised up, as if by a hand,  
while Your mouth was heard pronouncing a great blessing;  
a cloud received You, and heaven welcomed You in.  
This great and marvelous work You performed, O Lord, //  
for the salvation of our souls.

The nature of Adam,  
which had descended to the nethermost parts of the earth,  
You renewed in Yourself, O God,  
and today, You took it up above every Principality and Power,  
for loving it, You seated it with Yourself;  
and having compassion on it, You united it with Yourself;  
and united with it, You suffered with it;  
and You Who are passionless have glorified it with Yourself.  
But the Bodiless Powers were asking:  
"Who is this Man of beauty?  
Not man only, but both God and man,  
the two natures together made manifest.  
And so exultant Angels, flying about the Disciples in shining robes  
cried out: "O Men of Galilee,  
He Who is gone from you,  
this Jesus, both Man and God  
will come again as God and Man, the Judge of the living and the dead, //  
granting the faithful forgiveness of sins and His great mercy!"

When You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
while the Disciples looked on.

The clouds received You with Your flesh;  
the gates of heaven were lifted up;  
the choirs of Angels rejoiced with gladness;  
the higher Powers cried out, saying:

“Lift up your gates, you princes,  
and the King of Glory will come in!”

But the Disciples said in amazement:

“Do not be parted from us, O good Shepherd,  
but send us Your all-holy Spirit,//  
to guide and illumine and sanctify our souls!”

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

**Tone 4**      *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Fulfilling, O Lord, in Your goodness,  
the mystery hidden from ages and generations,  
You came with Your Disciples to the Mount of Olives,  
together with the Mother who bore You, the Maker and Creator of all;  
for it was fitting that she who as a mother had been grieved beyond all at Your  
Passion,  
should also be filled with exceeding joy at the glory of Your flesh.  
In this joy we also partake  
at Your ascent into heaven, O Master,//  
and we glorify Your great mercy that has come upon us.

### **Aposticha**

**Tone 2**      *Idiomela*      *(from the Pentecostarion)*

You were born, as You Yourself did will;  
and appeared as You Yourself desired;  
You suffered in the flesh, O our God;  
and rose from the dead, having trampled on death.  
You were taken up in glory, filling all things,  
and You sent us the Divine Spirit,//  
that we may praise and glorify Your Godhead.

*V. Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
(Ps. 46:1)*

As You were taken up, O Christ, from the Mount of Olives,  
the Powers saw it and cried to one another: "Who is this?"  
And they were told: "This is He Who is Strong and Mighty,  
this is He Who is mighty in war,  
this is truly the King of Glory."  
"And why are His garments crimson?"  
"He has come from Bosor, that is, from the flesh."  
But as God You sat down at the right hand of Majesty  
and have sent us the Holy Spirit, //  
to guide and save our souls.

*V. God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5)*

You ascended in glory from the Mount of Olives, O Christ our God,  
in the presence of Your Disciples,  
and sat down at the right hand of the Father,  
You Who in Your Godhead fill the universe;  
and You sent unto them the Holy Spirit, //  
Who enlightens and strengthens and sanctifies our souls.

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

**Tone 6**      *(from the Pentecostarion)*

God has gone up with a shout;  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet,  
to raise up Adam's fallen image,  
and send the Comforter Spirit, //  
to sanctify our souls.

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**Tone 4**      **Troparion**

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured  
that You are the Son of God, //  
the Redeemer of the world!

*(sung thrice at Great Vespers)*

*(at the Divine Liturgy)*

### **The First Antiphon**

Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
*(Ps. 46:1)*

*Refrain:* Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

For the Lord, the Most High is terrible; a great God over all the earth. *(Ps. 46:2)*  
*(Refrain)*

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet. *(Ps. 46:3) (Refrain)*

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! *(Ps. 46:5)*  
*(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and  
unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

### **The Second Antiphon**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God. *(Ps. 47:1a)*

*Refrain:* O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to Thee:  
Alleluia!

Mount Zion in the far north is the city of the Great King. *(Ps. 47:2) (Refrain)*

Within her citadels God is known when He defends her. *(Ps. 47:3) (Refrain)*

For lo, the kings assembled; they came on together. *(Ps. 47:4) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and  
unto ages of ages. Amen.

*(“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God...”)*

## The Third Antiphon

Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world! *(Ps. 48:1)*

### Tone 4 Troparion

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured  
that You are the Son of God, //  
the Redeemer of the world!

The earth-born and the sons of men, rich and poor together. *(Ps. 48:2)*  
*Troparion of the Feast*

My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be  
understanding. *(Ps. 48:3)*  
*Troparion of the Feast*

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody. *(Ps. 48:4)*  
*Troparion of the Feast*

### Entrance Verse

God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! *(Ps. 46:5)*

### Tone 4 Troparion

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured  
that You are the Son of God, //  
the Redeemer of the world!

### Tone 6 Kontakion

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake,  
and united earth to heaven:  
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
not being parted from those who love You,  
but remaining with them and crying: //  
“I am with you, and there is no one against you!”



*(The Trisagion is sung.)*

**Tone 7      Prokeimenon**

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; / and Your glory be over all the earth!

*(Ps. 56:14)*

*V. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast. I will sing and make melody. (Ps. 56:10)*

**Epistle**

(1) Acts 1:1-12

**Tone 2**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*V. God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! (Ps. 46:5)*

*V. Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples. Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Ps. 46:1)*

**Gospel**

(114) Luke 24:36-53

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)*

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!

We the faithful, with one accord, magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding, gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

**Communion Hymn**

God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet! *(Ps. 46:5)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*(Instead of "We have seen the True Light...", we sing the Troparion of Ascension.)*

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon's Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir's Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.