

Seventh Sunday of Pascha
After Feast of the Ascension
Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

VESPERS: Tone 6

P. Regular Beginning
 C. Lord I have cried...

1. O Christ, triumphant **over** hell,/ Thou hast ascended **upon** the Cross,/ to raise up with Thyself those dwelling in the **darkness** of death./ Free **among** the dead,/ Thou pourest forth life from **Thine** own light:// O almighty Saviour, have mercy **upon** us.
2. Christ, having trampled upon **death** today,/ according to His word, rose up bestowing **joy** upon the world,/ that all of us shouting this **hymn** might say:/ O Fount of life, O Light that no **man** can approach,// O almighty Saviour, have mercy **upon** us.
3. Whither shall we sinners fly from **Thee**, O Lord,/ Who art everywhere in the creation?/ Into heaven? Thy **abode** is there./ Into hell? Thou hast trampled **upon** death./ Into the uttermost **parts** of the sea?/ Thy hand reaches thither, O **Master**./ We run to Thee and falling before **Thee** we pray:// O Thou, risen from the dead, have mercy **upon** us.

Stichera for the Ascension (Tone 6)

4. The Lord was taken up into the **Heavens**/ that He might send the Comforter **unto** the world./ The Heavens made ready His throne, and the **clouds** His mount./ The Angels marvel as they see a man more **exalted** than they./ The Father receiveth Him Whom He had with Him eternally in His **bosom**./ The Holy Spirit commandeth all His **Angels**:/ Lift up your gates, O ye **princes**./ All ye nations, **clap** your hands;/// for Christ hath ascended whither He **was** before.
5. O Lord, the Cherubim were amazed at Thine **Ascension**,/ when they **beheld** Thee, O God,/ Who sittest on them, ascending **upon** the clouds./ And we glorify Thee, for Thy **mercy** is good.// Glory **be** to Thee.
6. Having beheld Thine ascent on the holy **mountains**, O Christ,/ Thou Effulgence of the Father's **glory**,/ we praise the radiant likeness of Thy **countenance**./ We worship Thy Passion, we honour Thy **Resurrection**,// and we glorify Thy glorious Ascension. Have **mercy** on us.

Stichera of the Holy Fathers (Tone 6)

7. Ere the **morning** star/ from the womb wast Thou born from the **Father**/ motherless ere the **ages**,/ though Arius held Thou wast created and **thus** not God,/ boldly and mindlessly identifying thee, the **Creator**,/ with things created, thus storing up fuel for the **eternal** fire./ But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that **Thou**, O Lord,// art truly the Son of God, one with the Father and the **Spirit** in rank.

8. O My Saviour, Who hath thus rent Thy **raiment**?/ Thou didst say: It was Arius who sundered the Trinity's **headship**,/ which is one in rank and **honour**./ That Thou art One of the Most Holy Trinity he **disputed**;/ and he taught Nestorius the godless not to say Theotokos./ But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that **Thou**, O Lord,/ art truly the **Son** of God, // one with the Father and the **Spirit** in rank.
9. Keeping his eyes shut, that he might **not** see light,/ into sin's deep pit Arius fell **headlong**./ His bowels were torn by a **divine** hook/ that he gave up violently all his **substance** and his soul/ and became in this wise through his most evil purpose and his manner another **Judas**./ But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that **Thou**, O Lord, // art truly the Son of God, one with the Father and the **Spirit** in rank.
10. Mindless, foolish **Arius**/ once divided the All-holy Trinity's one **dominion**/ and made thus three essences, dissimilar and **foreign**./ Hence, the God-bearing Fathers gathered together in their **fervor**,/ burning with zeal like to Elias the **Thesbite**,/ and they cut down with the sharp sword of the Holy **Spirit**/ the vile blasphemer, who taught doctrine of **shamefulness**.// Thus did the Spirit **reveal** to them.

Glory... (Tone 6)

Let us **acclaim** today/ those mystical trumpets of the **Spirit**,/ namely the God-bearing Fathers, who, in the **midst** of the Church,/ sang a harmonious song of theology,/ teaching that the **Trinity** is one,/ unchanging in essence and **Godhead**;/ they are the refuters of Arius, and the foremost warriors of the **Orthodox**.// And they ever intercede with the Lord that our souls find **mercy**.

Both now & ever... Dogmatikon Tone 6

Who does not call thee **blessed**,/ O all-hallowed **Virgin**?/ Who does not sing the praises of thy **giving** birth,/ which was not according to the laws of **nature**;/ for the only-begotten **Son** Himself,/ timelessly having shone out of the **Father**,/ came forth from thee who **art** pure;/ and having been ineffably made flesh, He, Who by **nature** is God,/ for our sakes became also by **nature** man,/ not in two divided **persons**, /but in two natures without **confusion** is He known./ O thou, honoured and greatly **blessed**,// beseech Him to have **mercy** on our souls.

P. Wisdom. Aright!

C. O Joyful Light...

P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...

P. Wisdom! (And readings, if any)

The reading from the book of Genesis (14:14-20)

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from

the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand.

The reading from the book of Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)

In those days, Moses said to the sons of Israel: Behold, I have set the land before you: go in and possess the land which the Lord swore unto your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their seed after them. And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able to bear you myself alone: The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. (The Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as He hath promised you!) So I took the chief of your tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties, and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes. And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the stranger that is with him. Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment is God's.

The reading from the book of Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

In those days, Moses said to the sons of Israel: Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear by His name. He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

- P. Augmented Litany
- R. Vouchsafe...
- P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya Prayers (Tone 1)

As Thou ascendest unto the Heavens,/ whence Thou also didst descend,/ leave us not orphaned, O Lord;/ let Thy spirit come, bringing peace unto the world;/ show Thou unto the sons of men the works of Thy might,// O man-befriending Lord.

Glory... (of the Holy Fathers) (Tone 3)

Ye have become exact keepers of the apostolic traditions,/ O Holy Fathers;/ for in setting forth in council the dogma of the consubstantiality/ of the Holy Trinity in Orthodox fashion,/ ye cast down the blasphemy of Arius./ Then, after censuring Macedonius, the enemy of the

Holy Spirit,/ ye condemned Nestorius, Eutyches, Dioscorus,/ Sabellius, and Severus the headless./ Wherefore, make ye entreaty that we be delivered from their error,// and that our life be preserved blameless in the Faith, we pray.

Both now and ever... (Tone 6)

O Lord, when Thou didst fulfill the mystery of Thy dispensation,/ Thou didst take Thy disciples and ascend the Mount of Olives;/ and behold, Thou didst pass through the firmament of heaven./ O Thou Who for my sake becomest poor like unto me,/ and Who didst ascend thither whence Thou wast not separated,// send forth Thine All-holy Spirit to enlighten our souls.

P. Litya (O Lord, save Thy people...) (*In the back of the Church*)

APOSTICHA: (Tone 6)

1. Angels in heaven sing the **praises**/ of Thy Resurrection, O Christ our **Saviour**./ Vouchsafe that we **too** on earth// may from pure hearts give Thee **glory**.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious apparel.

2. After breaking in pieces the **gates** of brass/ and crushing the bolts and **bars** of hell,/ Thou, being almighty God, didst raise **fallen** man./ Therefore, with one **accord**, we cry:// Glory unto Thee, O Lord, **risen** from the dead.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it cannot be moved.

3. Wishing to lift us out of the ancient **corruption**,/ Christ was nailed upon the Cross and **laid** in the tomb./ As in tears the women bearing myrrh **searched** for Him,/ they said, lamenting: Woe are we, O **Saviour** of all:/ How comes it that Thou wast pleased to **dwell** in the tomb?/ How comes it, if that was Thy wish, that Thou hast now been **stolen**?/ How comes it that Thou hast been taken **elsewhere**?/ In what place have they laid Thy life-bearing **Body**?/ But, O Master, as Thou hast **promised**,/ appear to us and dry up the **fountain** of our tears./ Upon which, as they wept, an angel **came** to them and cried:/ Cease your weeping and tell the apostles that the Lord is **risen**// giving the world purification and great **mercy**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, forever.

4. Crucified according to Thy **Will**, O Christ,/ despoiling death by Thy **entombment**,/ Thou hast risen up on the third day as God in **glory**,// granting the world life without end and great **mercy**.

Glory... (Tone 4)

O ye assemblies of the **Orthodox**,/ let us celebrate today with faith and **piety**/ the annual **memorial** of the God-bearing **Fathers**/ who, in the illustrious city of **Nicaea**,/ came together from the whole **inhabited** world./ For with pious mind they refuted the godless dogma of the grievous **Arius**,/ and by synodal decree banished him from the **Cath'lic** Church./ And they

instructed all to openly confess the consubstantial and co-eternal **Son** of God,/ Who existed before the **ages**./ This, in exactness and piety, did they set forth in the **Symbol** of Faith./ Wherefore, following their divine doctrines and believing with **assurance**,/ we worship, in One Godhead, the Father, Son and All-holy **Spirit**,// the Trinity one in **essence**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 4)

O **Lord**, having fulfilled the mystery that was hidden from before the **ages**/ and from all generations,/ as Thou art **good**, Thou didst come with Thy disciples to the Mount of **Olives**,/ having together with Thyself her that gave birth **unto** Thee,/ The Creator and Fashioner of **all** things;/ for it was meet that she who, as Thy **Mother**,/ suffered at Thy Passion **more** than all,/ should also enjoy the surpassing joy of the glorification of Thy flesh, O **Master**,/ to which we have attained by Thine Ascension to the **Heavens**,// and we glorify Thy great mercy **toward** us.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer
R. Trisagion

C. Troparion of the Fathers, (Tone 8) x2

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God,/ Who hast established our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth,/ and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith.// O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

Troparion of the Ascension, (Tone 4) x1

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God,/ and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit;/ and they were assured by the blessing/ that Thou art the Son of God// and Redeemer of the world.

P. Blessing of the loaves
C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3
C. Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 6

P. Regular Beginning
P. Great Ectenia
C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 6) x2

The angelic powers were at thy tomb;/ the guards became as dead men./ Mary stood by Thy grave,/ seeking Thy most pure Body./ Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it./ Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life./ O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead:// Glory to Thee.

Glory... Troparion of the Fathers, (Tone 8)

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God,/ Who hast established our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth,/ and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith.// O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

Both... Troparion of the Ascension, (Tone 4)

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God,/ and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit;/ and they were assured by the blessing/ that Thou art the Son of God// and Redeemer of the world.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
 Glory...

R. Now...
 R. Kathisma II
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

When the tomb was opened and hades wept, Mary cried out to the apostles, who had hidden themselves: "Come forth, ye laborers of the vineyard! Proclaim the tidings of the resurrection! The Lord hath risen, granting the world great mercy."

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

O Lord, Mary Magdalene stood before Thy tomb and wept aloud; and supposing Thee to be the gardener, she said: "Where hast Thou hidden our eternal Life? Where hast Thou laid Him Who sitteth upon the throne of the cherubim? For those who guarded Him have become as dead through fear. Either give me my Lord, or cry out with me: O Thou Who wast among the dead and hast raised up the dead, glory to Thee!"

G/B... He Who called thee Mother and blessed went up of His own will to suffer, and wishing to search out Adam, He made light shine with the Cross, saying unto the angels: Rejoice with Me, for I have found the lost piece of silver. Glory unto Thee, O God, Who hast ordered all things wisely.

R. Kathisma III
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Life lay in the tomb, and a seal was affixed to the stone. Soldiers guarded Christ as they would a sleeping king, and the Lord arose, invisibly smiting His enemies.

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

By Thy voluntary death have we found immortal life, O Almighty one and only Savior of all; for by Thine august arising Thou hast recalled all men, O Thou Who didst destroy the victory of Hades and the sting of death."

G/B... O Virgin Theotokos, entreat thy Son, Christ our God, Who of His own will was nailed to the Cross and arose from the dead, that our souls be saved.

R. Psalm 118
 C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

Having, as God broken down the gates of hades by Thy voluntary and life-creating death, O Christ, Thou didst open ancient paradise unto us; and rising from the dead, Thou hast delivered our life from corruption.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

I lift up mine eyes to heaven, to Thee, O Word. Have pity, that I may live in Thee.

Have mercy upon us who are downcast, O Word, making us vessels useful to Thee.

G/B... The Holy Spirit is the Cause of all salvation. And if He blow upon anyone as it meet, He quickly taketh him away from among the things of earth: He giveth him wings, maketh him grow and setteth him on high.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

If the Lord were not among us, none of us would be able to combat the warfare of the enemy; for they who conquer are lifted upon from hence.

Let not my soul be seized like a bird by the teeth of the enemy, O Word. Woe is me! How shall I, who love sin, escape them?

G/B... From the Holy Spirit come deification, goodwill, understanding, peace and blessing for all; for He worketh equally with the Father and the Word.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

They that hope in the Lord are fearsome to the enemy and wondrous to all; for they direct their gaze on high.

He who hath Thee, O Saviour, as his Helper, the Portion of the righteous, doth not stretch out his hands toward iniquities.

G/B... The dominion of the Holy Spirit is over all. Him do the armies on high worship, as doth every creature here below.

P. Prokimenon:

O Lord, stir up Thy might/ and come to save us.

V. O Shepherd of Israel, attend, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #10

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...

Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Traversing the deep on foot/ as though it were dry land,/ and seeing the tyrant Pharaoh drowned,/ Israel cried aloud:// Let us chant unto God a hymn of victory.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Jesus the Good, by Thine arms outspread upon the Cross, Thou hast filled all things with the good pleasure of the Father. Therefore shall we all sing Thee a triumphal song.

For fear of Thee, the end that is death became like a servant and was ordered to approach the Master of Life, whereby He awarded us life without end and the Resurrection.

Theotokion

Having received thine own Creator incarnate of thy seedless womb in manner past understanding, O pure one, as He Himself desired, thou wast truly shown to be the Mistress of creation.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

Let us sing a song of victory, O all ye peoples, unto Christ, Who is taken up with glory upon the shoulders of the Cherubim, and Who hath seated us together with Himself at the right hand of the Father; for He is glorified.

Let us all sing unto God, Who was seen upon Mount Sinai, and Who gave the law unto Moses the seer of God, and Who ascended from the Mount of Olives in the flesh, for He is glorified.

Beholding Christ, the Mediator between God and men, with His flesh in the heights, the choirs of the Angels were amazed, and with one accord they sang a hymn of victory.

Theotokion

O spotless Mother of God, do thou unceasingly intercede with Him that was incarnate of thee and was not separated from the bosom of the Father, that He save from every calamity those whom He hath fashioned.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

While acclaiming the all-holy Council of the holy Fathers, I entreat Thee, O Christ, crying: Preserve in me its all-holy oracle.

The God-bearing Fathers, coming together like flashes of lightning on this day, clearly confessed Thee, O Christ, as the Only-begotten Son, co-beginningless and consubstantial with the Father.

Glory... Having clearly set forth the boundary of the Faith of Thy Bride, the Church, O Master, these glorious bridesmen have adorned it as with a majestic golden adornment.

Both... Adorned with the divine glory, the august Queen doth stand in the presence of her Son and God, entreating Him for the salvation of our souls.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Covered by the **divine** cloud,/ he that was slow of tongue proclaimed the Law **written** by God;/ For having **shaken** off the impurity from the **eye** of his mind,/ he beholdeth **Him** That Is,/ and he is initiated into the knowledge of the **Spirit**,// while giving praise with God-**inspired** songs.

Canticle Three

Irmos: There is none as holy as Thee, / O Lord my God, / Who hast uplifted the horn of Thy faithful / and established us // on the rock of the confession of Thee, O Good One.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The creation, looking upon God crucified in the flesh was dissolved by fear but was strongly held together by the firm hand of Him Who was crucified for us.

Death having been destroyed by death, the wretch lay lifeless; For, not able to bear the divine assault, he who was strong was put to death and the Resurrection was bestowed upon all.

Theotokion

The miracle of thy divine birthgiving transcendeth every order of nature, O pure one; for thou didst supernaturally conceive God in thy womb, and having given birth thou dost ever remain a virgin.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

Thou didst go up unto the Father, O Life-giving Christ, and Thou didst exalt our race by Thine ineffable compassion, O Lover of mankind.

The orders of Angels, O Saviour, on beholding mortal nature going up together with Thee, were amazed and ceaselessly praised Thee.

The choirs of Angels were amazed, O Christ, as they beheld Thee taken up with Thy body, and they praised Thy holy Ascension.

Theotokion

Unceasingly entreat Him that came forth from thy loins, O pure one, that they who praise thee as the Mother of God may be delivered from the deception of the devil.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The foolish, ungodly Arius, impiously attributing change and passion and division unto Thy divine Nativity, is cut off by the cutting sword of the Fathers.

Like divine Abraham of old, all the august heralds of God, in waging war against Thy raving enemies, O Good One, have mightily destroyed them by Thy might.

Glory... The first gathering of Thy priests, O Saviour, piously proclaimed Thee to be begotten and consubstantial with the beginningless Father and Creator of all.

Both... Neither the speech nor the tongue of mortals can acclaim thee worthily, O Virgin; for without seed Christ, the Giver of life, was well-pleased to be incarnate of thee, O all-pure One.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Only the prayer of the Prophetess **Anna**,/ who of old brought a broken spirit unto the Mighty One and God of **knowledge**,/ loosed the fetters of a **childless** womb// and the unruly rebuke of her with **children**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Ascension (Tone 6) **Pg 27 PENTECOSTARION 2**

When Thou hadst fulfilled Thy dispensation for our sakes,/ uniting things on earth with the Heavens,/ Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,/ departing not hence, but remaining inseparable from us/ and crying unto them that love Thee:// I am with you, and no one can be against you.

R. Ikos of the Ascension

Leaving the things of earth upon the earth, and surrendering to the earth things of ashes, come, let us come to our senses and raise our eyes and thoughts on high; let us, O mortals, turn our gaze together with our senses up unto the heavenly gates. Let us consider ourselves present at the Mount of Olives, and gaze intently at the Redeemer Who is riding upon a cloud; for the Lord hath hastened up from there into the Heavens. And there the bountiful Giver of gifts distributed gifts unto His Apostles, calling to them as a Father, and strengthening them; He guided them like sons and said unto them: I am not separated from you; I am with you, and no one can be against you.

R. Sessional Hymns of the Fathers

Ye truly were shown, O blessed Fathers, unto the world as luminous stars bright with the truth of Christ that have shone most brilliantly on the earth. Ye burnt up the heresies of slanderous babblers; and ye wholly quenched blasphemers' flagrant confusions. As hierarchs of Christ, do ye then pray that we may be saved.

Glory... (of the Fathers)

Today the brilliant city of the Nicaeans hath called together to herself from the whole world three hundred eighteen hierarchs against Arius, him that uttered blasphemy and made little account of the One of the Trinity, the true Son and Divine Word; and having thus deposed this man from power, the Fathers mightily strengthened the Holy Faith.

Both... (of the Ascension)

Thou Who didst rise into the Heavens with glory, and didst sit down at the right hand of the Father, from Whom Thou never hadst parted, O Lover of man, Thou, O Christ, didst promise to send down Thy Holy Spirit to Thy wise initiates. Do Thou now grant unto us enlightenment, illumining our minds, O Master, that we may hymn Thee unceasingly.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Christ is my power, my God and my Lord,/ the honoured Church doth sing,/ crying out in godly manner/ with a pure mind,// keeping festival in the Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Wood made life truly flower, O Christ. For the Cross set up and watered by the Blood and Water from Thy spotless side, put forth life for us.

The serpent no more whispers falsely to me that I should be God; for Christ, the divine Maker of the nature of man has now unfolded unto me, without hindrance, the path of life.

Theotokion

Truly ineffable and unapproachable to those on earth and in heaven are the mysteries of thy divine birthgiving, O Ever-virgin.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

Thou wast taken up in glory, O King of the Angels, that Thou mightest send us the Comforter from the Father. Wherefore we cry: Glory to Thine Ascension, O Christ.

As the Saviour ascended in the flesh unto the Father, the arrays of the Angels were astonished at Him and cried: Glory to Thine Ascension, O Christ.

The hosts of the Angels cried unto those above: Lift up the gates for Christ our King; Him do we praise together with the Father and the Spirit.

Theotokion

The Virgin gave birth and experienced not those things that pertain to motherhood. but though she was a mother, yet she remained a virgin; as we praise her, we cry: Rejoice, O Theotokos.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Arius of evil fame, having, in his foolish mind, adulterated the Orthodox Faith, was banished from the Church as a rotten member by the decrees of the Fathers.

The choir of the Fathers that struggled for Thee, O Master, mightily put to flight Thine enemies; and they glorified Thee as consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit.

Glory... Thou Who art God and man becamest a Mediator between God and men. Wherefore, O Christ, the men of godly mind proclaimed Thee, knowing Thee to be one Son in two natures.

Both... The tasting of the tree showed me forth as dead; but the Tree of Life, which appeared from thee, O all-pure One, raised me up and made me an heir of the joy of Paradise.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O **King** of **kings**,/ even Thou Who art from the **Holy One**,/ O **Word**, Who comest forth from the only uncaused **Father**,/ Thou, as our Benefactor, didst unfaithfully sent Thine equipotent **Spirit**/ unto the **Apostles**, who sing:// Glory to Thy **power**, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: With Thy divine light/ illumine the souls of those who with love/ rise at dawn unto Thee, I pray Thee, O Good one,/ that they may know Thee, O Word of God, to be the true God// Who calleth all forth from the darkness of sin.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The cherubim now withdraws from me and the flaming sword turns its back on me, O Master, after beholding Thee, O Word of God Who art God indeed, making for the thief a way in Paradise.

I shall no more fear my return to the earth, O Master Christ, for through much compassion hast Thou by Thy Resurrection led me, forgotten, from the earth to the height of immortality.

Theotokion

Save those who with all their soul confess thee to be the Theotokos, O good Mistress of the world, for we have thee, the true Theotokos, as an invincible intercession.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

Having filled all things with joy, O Merciful One, Thou didst come in Thy flesh unto the hosts on high.

As the hosts of Angels saw Thee being lifted up, they cried: Lift ye the gates for our King.

As the Apostles beheld the Saviour being lifted on high, they cried with trembling: Glory be to Thee, O our King.

Theotokion

We praise thee as a Virgin after childbirth, O Theotokos; for thou didst conceive God the Word in the flesh for the sake of the world.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Truly comely are the feet of them that proclaim Thee, the Peace that passeth all understanding of all Angels and men, O Christ, Who by the abundance of peace hast united the world.

Coming together, the divine teachers of the all-holy priesthood, augustly sealed by the Law, proclaimed Thee to be the Enhypostatic Word, the Wisdom and Power of the Father.

Glory... Having watered the Church with the pure waters of Christ's teaching, ye now take delight by the waters of rest, rejoicing forever.

Both... O all-pure One, knowing thee to be the radiant lamp that upon all hath shone its ray, even Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, we now invoke thy protection, O only pure Mother of God.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O ye children of the Church, / whose likeness is like unto light, / receive ye the fire-breathing dew of the Spirit, / which is a redeeming purification of offences; / For now hath the Law gone forth from Sion, // even the Spirit's grace, in the form of tongues of fire.

Canticle Six

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life / surging with the tempest of temptations, / fleeing to Thy calm haven I cry unto Thee: / Lead up my life from corruption, // O greatly Merciful One.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Master, crucified with nails, Thou hast wiped out the curse against us while pierced in Thy side by the lance, Thou hast torn up the handwriting against Adam and set the world free.

Tripped up by the heel through beguilement, Adam has been led down towards the pit of hell. But God Who is compassionate by nature, descended to seek him and carrying him on His shoulders, He raised him up with Himself.

Theotokion

O all-pure Mistress who for men gavest birth to Christ, the Helmsman, allay the inconstant and grievous tumult of my passions, and grant serenity to my heart.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

In their hope for the coming of the Spirit, the Apostles leapt for joy as they beheld on high the Creator being lifted up, and they cried out with fear: Glory be to Thine ascent.

The Angels came and cried unto Thy disciples, O Christ: In like manner as ye see Christ going up, so shall He, the righteous Judge of all, come in the flesh.

As the hosts of Heaven saw Thee, our Saviour, being taken up into the heights together with Thy body, they cried out, saying: Great is Thy love for man, O Master.

Theotokion

O thou unburning bush, and mountain, and living ladder, and gate of Heaven, we glorify thee as is meet, O glorious Mary, thou boast of the Orthodox.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The sower of tares, who was called the namesake of madness, was not able to escape the unspeakable judgment of providence; for having zealously emulated Judas, he, the most evil one, was rent asunder like him.

The divine and august assembly of the Fathers doth proclaim Thee as the Only-begotten Effulgence that shone forth from the essence of the Father, and as the Son Who was begotten before all ages, O Master.

Glory... In a most providential manner, by the prayers of the God-inspired priests, literally rent asunder were those bowels, even that source that gushed forth the turbid and undrinkable water of impious heresies.

Both... Moses, great among the Prophets, symbolically wrote aforetime concerning thee as an ark, and table, and lamp, and an urn, signifying the incarnation of the Most High that took place in thee, O Virgin Mother.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Thou hast shone forth from the **Virgin**/ as forgiveness and salvation for us, O Christ **Master**,/ that like as Jonas who was reft from the belly of the sea **monster**,// Thou mightest snatch from corruption all the fallen race of Adam.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Fathers, (Tone 8) **Pg 27 PENTECOSTARION 2**

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed the one Faith in the Church./ And wearing the garment of truth woven from the theology on high,// she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

R. Ikos of the Fathers

In the lofty preaching of the Church of God, let us hearken as she crieth: he that thirsteth, let him come and drink. The cup which I bear is the cup of wisdom. Its drink have I mixed with the word of truth. I pour forth the water, not of contention, but of confession. As Israel doth now drink thereof, it beholdeth God, Who saith: See, see, that I am He, and have not changed. I am God, I am first, and I am hereafter, and besides Me there is none other. Hence, they that partake shall be filled, and shall praise the great mystery of piety.

Canticle Seven

Irmos: An angel caused the furnace to pour forth dew/ upon the pious youths,/ and the command of God, which consumed the Chaldeans,/ prevailed upon the tyrant to cry out:// Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The sun, lamenting at Thy Passion, was wrapped in gloom, and on that day, O Master, the light was darkened over the whole earth, that cried aloud: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

At Thy descent, O Christ, the lowest parts of the earth put on light: while our forefather appeared singing full of joy and he danced crying aloud: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Theotokion

Through thee, O Virgin Mother, radiant Light hath shone forth upon the whole world; for thou gavest birth unto God, the Creator of all. Him do thou entreat, O most pure one, that He send down great mercy upon us, the faithful.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

O Thou Who wast taken up on a cloud of light and didst save the world, blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

O Christ Who didst ascend and didst take upon Thy shoulders our erring nature, Thou didst bring it unto God the Father.

O Thou Who didst ascend in the flesh unto the bodiless Father, blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Theotokion

O Thou Who wast born of the Virgin, thereby making her the Theotokos, blessed art Thou, O God of our Fathers.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Ye conquered Arius, the namesake of madness, who was raving grievously and spake unjust things to the uttermost against God; for he refused to cry unto the Son: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

Imitating the Son of Thunder, O ye marvelous ones, with your fire-like mouths ye teach all to proclaim the Word, Who is co-beginningless and of one throne with the Father, and to cry: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

Glory... Ye came as though on wings, with the help of the Word, O ye blessed of God; for the Holy Spirit gathered you from the ends of the world, that ye might cry: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

Both... The furnace did not burn the three Youths, thus prefiguring thy giving of birth; for the Divine Fire dwelt in thee and did not consume thee, and enlightened all, that they may cry: Blessed art thou who didst conceive God in the flesh.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **unison** of instrumental **music**/ declared that all should worship the lifeless image **wrought** of gold;/ But the **light**-bearing grace of the **Comforter**/ doth teach us to cry out in **reverence**:/ O only Trinity, equipotent and **beginningless**,// **blessed** art Thou.

Canticle Eight

Irmos: From the flame didst Thou pour forth dew upon the venerable ones,/ and didst consume the sacrifice of the righteous one with water;/ for Thou, O Christ, dost do all things soever Thou desirest.// Thee do we exalt supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Envy has now made the people of the Jews who killed the Prophets in past times into killers of God, since they hung Thee upon the Cross, O Word of God Whom we exalt above all for ever.

Without forsaking the vaults of Heaven, Thou hast gone down into hell, and hast raised up with Thyself, O Christ, man entire who lay in decay and who exalts Thee above all forever.

Theotokion

From Light thou didst conceive the Word, the Bestower of light; and having ineffably given birth unto Him, thou hast been glorified. For the Spirit of God dwelt within thee, O Maiden. Wherefore, we hymn thee for all ages.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

Unto Christ, the Giver of life, Who in two essences hath soared unto the Heavens with glory and sitteth together with the Father, give praise, O ye priests, and supremely exalt Him, O ye people, unto all the ages.

Unto Thee, O Saviour, Who didst deliver creation from slavery to the idols, and didst present it free unto Thine own Father, do we give praise, and we supremely exalt Thee unto all the ages.

Unto Him Who by His descent destroyed the adversary, and Who by His ascent raised up man, give praise, O ye priests, and supremely exalt Him, O ye people, unto all the ages.

Theotokion

Thou hast proven to be more excellent than the Cherubim, O pure Theotokos, since thou hast carried in thy womb Him that rideth upon them. Together with the Bodiless, we mortals glorify Him unto all the ages.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Afire with the rays of Thy Divinity, Thy good shepherds confessed Thee as the Creator, Fashioner, and Lord of all things, Whom we supremely exalt unto all the ages.

The all-famed choir of shepherds, having gathered together, speak with divine authority in a godly-minded manner concerning the uncreated Trinity, and teach all to cry: Thee do we supremely exalt unto all the ages.

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

The many praiseworthy hierarchs and shepherds enlighten the Church of Christ, each of them illuminating it in diverse lands, and supremely exalting it unto all the ages.

Both... Mystically, in images, all the Prophets foresaw thee who hast conceived the Word; for by taking flesh from thee, He came forth twofold, Whom we supremely exalt unto all the ages.

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The type of the Godhead prefigured in the resplendent three/ loosened the bonds and moistened the **flames** with dew./ The Children praise, and all

creation that was **made** doth bless, // the only Saviour and Creator of all, as their Benefactor.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: It is not possible for men/ to behold God,/ upon Whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze;/ but through thee, O most pure one,/ hath the Word appeared incarnate unto men; // and magnifying Him with the armies of heaven, we call thee blessed.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Having associated in the flesh with passion, Thou hast remained without participation in passion. And Thou, O our Saviour, dost set man loose from passion by having made the passions suffer. For Thou only art impassible and almighty.

Having accepted the corruption of death, Thou hast kept Thy body from tasting corruption: While Thy life-giving and divine soul, O Master, has not been left in hell, but Thou, risen as from sleep, hast made us rise with Thyself.

Triadicon

O all ye men, with pure lips let us glorify God the Father and the Son Who is equally without beginning, and let us honour the ineffable and all-glorious power of the most Holy Spirit; for Thou alone art the almighty and indivisible Trinity.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

As the Apostles beheld Thee, Christ God, the Redeemer of the world, being exalted in a manner befitting God, they magnified Thee with awe as they leapt for joy.

Beholding Thy deified flesh on high, O Christ, the Angels beckoned to one another: Truly this is our God.

As the orders of the Bodiless saw Thee being lifted up in the clouds, O Christ God, they cried: Lift up the gates for the King of Glory.

Theotokion

Rejoice, O Theotokos, Mother of Christ God. As thou beheldest ascending from the earth Him Whom thou didst conceive, thou didst magnify Him together with the Angels.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Arming you with the mighty strength of the Spirit, the Word, Who is co-beginningless and of one throne with the Father before the ages, found you to be allies, and gathered you together; Him do ye now ever glorify together with the heavenly hosts, O all-sacred ones.

As physicians of both souls and bodies, ye did establish, against the spread of Arius' grievous heresy, the Symbol of Faith, which ye set forth for all in a sacred manner, to which we now cleave; and we ever glorify your memory, O sacred ministers.

Glory... Since Thou art the all-immaculate Light, O Christ, do Thou redeem my soul out of the darkness of the passions, by the intercessions of Thy sacred ministers, O Master, who have now proclaimed Thee as the beginningless, uncreated Creator of all, and God, co-beginningless with the Father.

Both... Unto the dead hath resurrection now been granted through thine ineffable and inexpressible giving of birth, O Lady Theotokos; for Life, being clothed in flesh taken from thee, hath shone forth upon all, and hath manifestly dispelled the gloom of death.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Rejoice, O Queen, boast of virgins and **mothers**; / For every eloquent and **capable** mouth / is unable to extol thee **worthily**, / and every mind is confounded in seeking to comprehend thy **childbirth**. // Wherefore, with one accord do we **glorify** thee.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Ten (John 21:1-14)

At the sea of Tiberias, with the sons of Zebedee, with Nathaniel and Peter, the two other disciples of old with Thomas were fishing. Casting to the right at the command of Christ they drew a multitude of fish. And Peter, recognizing Him, cast himself into the water after Him. This was the third time He appeared to them and He showed them bread and fish upon the coals.

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Fathers

While celebrating on this day the holy Fathers' memory, O all-compassionate Saviour, we pray Thee by their entreaties to save Thy people and Thy flock from all the harm of heresies and thus make us all worthy to extol the Word and the Father, yea, and the All-holy Spirit.

Both... Exapostilarion of the Ascension

While Thy disciples looked on Thee, Thou ascendedst O Christ, unto the Father to sit beside Him. Angels hastened, running on before and cried: Lift ye the gates up, lift them up; for the Lord King hath ascended unto His bright primal glory.

C. Lauds: Tone 6 Stichera

Let every breath **praise** the Lord/
Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the **highest**/
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**; /
Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts. //
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,
Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. Thy **Cross**, O Lord,/ is the life and resurrection of Thy **people**/ and assured of this, we sing unto Thee our **risen** God:// Have mercy upon us.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. Thy burial, O **Master**,/ opened Paradise for **mankind**,/ and we, delivered from **corruption**,/ sing unto Thee our **risen** God:// Have mercy upon us.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

3. Let us praise Christ with the Father and the **Spirit**:/ Let us cry aloud unto Him **risen** from the dead:/ Thou art our life and **resurrection**:// Have **mercy** on us.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

4. O Christ, on the **third** day,/ Thou hast risen from the tomb according to the **Scriptures**,/ having raised our fore**father** with Thyself;// therefore, mankind glorifies Thee and praises Thy Resurrection.
- V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

Stichera for the Fathers, (Tone 6)

5/6 Having brought together/ all knowledge of things of the **spirit**/ and made careful inquiry by the divine **Spirit's** grace,/ lo, like godly scribes the august **Fathers**/ wrote the celestial Symbol, the august Creed of our **holy** Faith,/ wherein they clearly teach that, like God the **Father**,/ the Word of God, is also unoriginate and is consubstantial with **Him** in truth./ Thus did these all-blest and renowned and godly-minded ones// indeed follow in manifest manner in that which the **Apostles** taught.

V. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Fathers.

7. When those blest defenders of the Gospel's doctrines, Christ's **heralds**,/ **had** received the fullness of noetic enlightenment through the **Spirit's** grace,/ they proclaimed the august oracle to **all** men/ under inspiration **from** our God,/ that most transcendent truth which, though few in words, is **sublimely** wise./ These champions of piety and pious traditions and **teachings**/ thus received revelation of piety and dogma **from** on high/ and were enlightened and then **set** forth// that faith which was **taught** of God.

V. Gather together unto Him His holy ones who have established His covenant upon sacrifices.

8. Lo, the divine **shepherds**,/ as devoted servants of Christ God and sacred initiates of the preaching **inspired** by God,/ brought together their wisdom as shepherds and their pastoral **knowledge**./ Then most righteously did they stir up their righteous **anger**/ and cast out from the plenitude of the Church the prowling and **destructive** wolves,/ driving them far off with the **Spirit's** sling,/ since those thus expelled had incurred a fall that leadeth **unto** death// and were diseased with an illness that could not be **relieved** or cured.

Glory... (Tone 8)

When the choir of the Holy **Fathers**/ flocked from the ends of the **inhabited** world,/ they proclaimed the doctrine of the One **Essence**/ and One Nature of the Father, Son and Holy **Spirit**,/ thereby delivering plainly to the Church the mystery of theology./ As we acclaim them in faith, we call them blessed, **saying**:/ O divine array, ye God-proclaiming hoplites of the Lord's **company**,/ ye most brilliant stars of the spiritual **firmament**,/ ye impregnable towers of the mystical **Sion**,/ ye fragrant flowers of Paradise, ye all-golden **mouths** of the Word,/ the boast of Nicaea and adornment of the **whole** world.// Intercede ye fervently in **behalf** of our souls.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **capt**ive,/ **A**dam recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **d**eath slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **C**hrist God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **g**lory to Thee.

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of hades, Thou hast destroyed the sentence of death, O Lord, delivering all from the snares of the enemy. Manifesting Thyself to Thine apostles, Thou didst send them forth to preach; and through them hast granted Thy peace to the world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

G/B... Gospel Sticheron, Tone 6

After the **d**escent into hell/ and the Resurrection **f**rom the dead,/ the disciples in all **l**ikelihood,/ losing heart at Thy parting from **t**hem, O Christ,/ turned to work, and again to their **b**oats and nets,/ and nowhere **w**as there a catch./ But Thou, O Saviour, hast been revealed as **M**aster of all,/ and hast commanded them to cast the net on the **r**ight side./ And straightway the word **b**ecame the deed,/ and there was a great **m**ultitude of fish/ and Thou hast prepared on land a strange **s**upper./ In this same supper of which Thy disciples **t**hen partook,// make us now worthy to delight in mind, O Lord, Who **l**ovest mankind.

R. Hours

Tropar	Sunday and Feast/Fathers (Alternate)
Kontak	Feast/Fathers (Alternate)

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar Sunday
Tropar Feast
Tropar Holy Fathers
Glory... Kontak Holy Fathers
Both... Kontak Feast

Prokimenon for the Holy Fathers (Tone 4)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Father, and praised and glorified is Thy Name unto the ages.

V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

Epistle(s): Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Alleluia (Tone 1)

Gospel(s): John 17:1-13

Instead of "It is Truly Meet", sing 9th Ode w/refrain for the Ascension
Communion Hymn: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous...