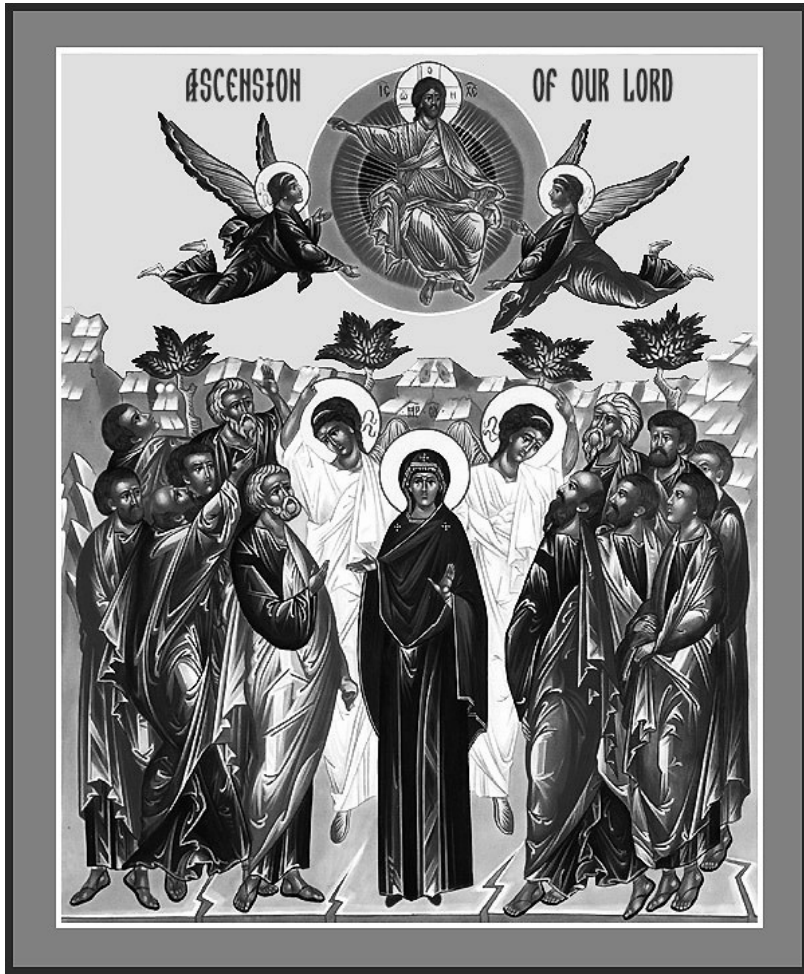


God ascended amid shouts of joy, the Lord amid trumpet blasts, in order to save the fallen Adam and to send the Spirit, the Counselor, to sanctify our souls.

Aposticha, Vespers on Wed. evening



O Lord, as You go up to Heaven from where You came down, do not leave us as orphans. Let Your Spirit come upon us, bringing peace to the world. Manifest Your mighty works to all mankind, O Lord!

Great Vespers on Thursday evening

St. Ignatios of Antioch Melkite Church

706-738-9388 1003 Merry St., Augusta, GA 30904 www.melkite.net
Parish Administrator: Fr. Miguel Grave de Peralta
Office: 706-481-7725

Feast of the Ascension 2011



Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

No invocation of the Holy Spirit.

Antiphon Prayer:

Celebrant:

O Christ our God, before Your Ascension into Heaven, You promised not to leave us orphans. You filled Your all-holy Mother and Your Disciples with a joy beyond description; therefore we implore You: let Your Holy Spirit bring peace to the world. Let Him proclaim to mankind Your mighty deeds; and through the intercession of Your holy Apostles, make us worthy of sharing the joy of Your elect.

For You are the Way, the Truth and the Life, O Christ God, and to You we render glory, thanksgiving and worship, and to Your Eternal Father and Your All-holy, Good and Life-giving Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

People: Amen

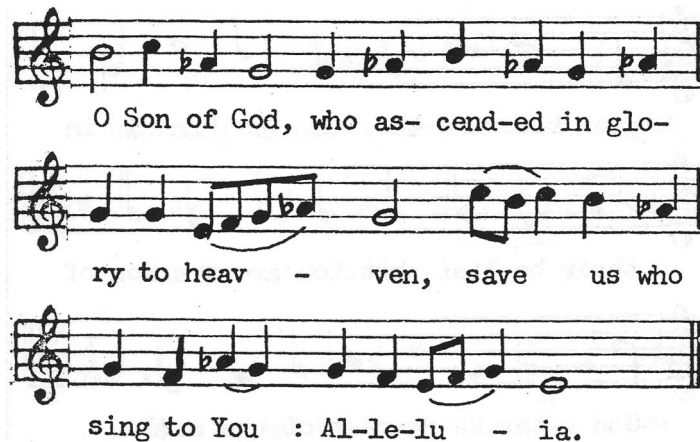
Antiphons of the Ascension

First Antiphon:

Usual response: Through the prayers of the Mother of God...

Second Antiphon:

Response:



O Son of God, who as-cend-ed in glo-
ry to heav - ven, save us who
sing to You : Al-le-lu - ia.

Third Antiphon:

Response: Troparion of the Feast

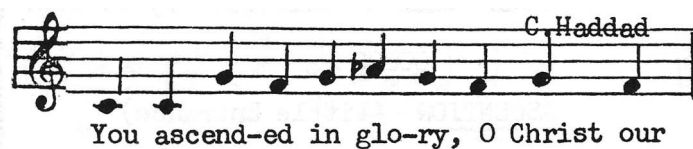
Little Entrance Hymn:

God ascended with a shout of joy, the Lord with a blast of the trumpet.

O Son of God who ascended in glory to heaven, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Hymns:

Troparion of the Ascension, Tone 4 (3 Times)



C. Haddad
You ascend-ed in glo-ry, O Christ our

"We who seemed unworthy of the earth, are now raised to heaven," says St John Chrysostom. "We who were unworthy of earthly dominion have been raised to the Kingdom on high, have ascended higher than heaven, have come to occupy the King's throne, and the same nature from which the angels guarded Paradise, stopped not until it ascended to the throne of the Lord." By His Ascension the Lord not only opened to man the entrance to heaven, not only appeared before the face of God on our behalf and for our sake, but likewise "transferred man" to the high places. "He honored them He loved by putting them close to the Father."

The Ascension is the token of Pentecost, the sign of its coming, "The Lord has ascended to heaven and will send the Comforter to the world"

The Ascension is a sign and token of the Second Coming. "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Excerpts from "AND ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN..." V. Rev. George Florovsky, D.D. , found at www.oca.org

Leaving to the earth the cares that are of the earth, to the dust that which is dust and rubbish, come, let us rouse ourselves from sleep and turn our eyes and hearts to the heights. Let us lift up our gaze and our thoughts from earth to the gates of heaven, as though we were on the Mount of Olives, seeing the Redeemer carried up by the cloud. It is from there that the Lord departed into heaven. It is from there that He generously poured out His gifts on His Apostles, giving them power and consoling them as a Father. Leading them like sons, He said, "I will not leave you. I am with you always, and no one has power against you!"

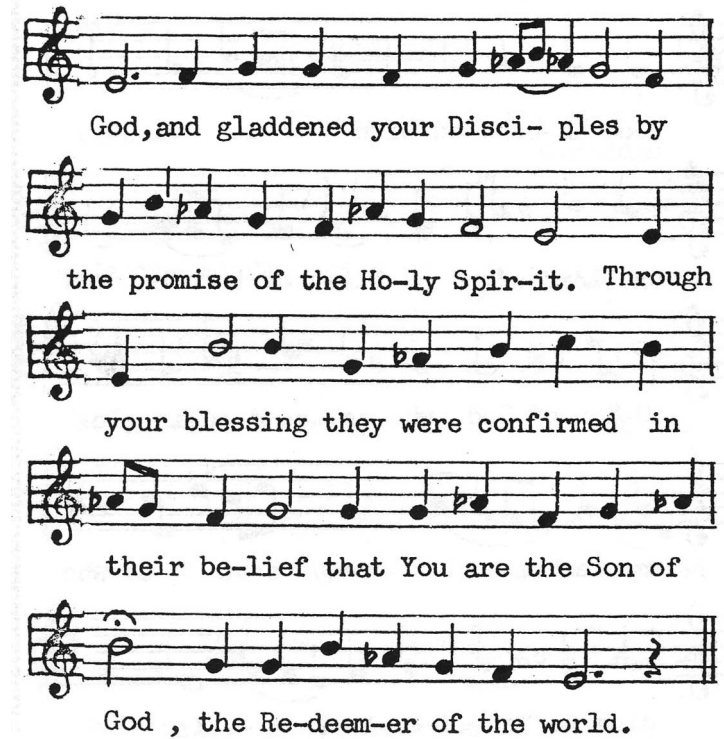
Ikos, Orthos on the Feast of the Ascension

In the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ's Resurrection.

The Lord did not rise in order to return again to the fleshly order of life, so as to live again and commune with the disciples and the multitudes by means of preaching and miracles. Now he does not even stay with them, but only "appears" to them during the forty days, from time to time, and always in a miraculous and mysterious manner. "He was not always with them now, as He was before the Resurrection," comments St John Chrysostom. "He came and again disappeared, thus leading them on to higher conceptions. He no longer permitted them to continue in their former relationship toward Him, but took effectual measures to secure these two objects: That the fact of His Resurrection should be believed, and that He Himself should be ever after apprehended to be greater than man." There was something new and unusual in His person (cf. John 21:1-14). As St John Chrysostom says, "It was not an open presence, but a certain testimony of the fact that He was present." That is why the disciples were confused and frightened. Christ arose not in the same way as those who were restored to life before Him. Theirs was a resurrection for a time, and they returned to life in the same body, which was subject to death and corruption - returned to the previous mode of life. But Christ arose for ever, unto eternity. He arose in a body of glory, immortal and incorruptible. He arose, never to die, for "He clothed the mortal in the splendor of incorruption."

By His Resurrection He abolished and destroyed death, abolished the law of corruption, "and raised with Himself the whole race of Adam." Christ has risen, and now "no dead are left in the grave" (cf. The Easter Sermon of St John Chrysostom). And now He ascends to the Father, yet He does not "go away," but abides with the faithful for ever (cf. The Kontakion of Ascension). For He raises the very earth with Him to heaven, and even higher than any heaven. God's power, in the phrase of St John Chrysostom, "manifests itself not only in the Resurrection, but in something much stronger." For "He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God" (Mark 16:19).

And with Christ, man's nature ascends also.



God, and gladdened your Disci- ples by
the promise of the Ho-ly Spir-it. Through
your blessing they were confirmed in
their be-lief that You are the Son of
God , the Re-deem-er of the world.

Kontakion of the Ascension

After fulfilling for us Your plan of redemption and joining the things of earth with those of heaven, You gloriously ascended, O Christ our God, without abandoning us, but remained with us forever, and proclaimed to those who love You: Behold, I am with you, no one has power against you.

Acts: 1, 1-12

ASCENSION THURSDAY

PROKIMENON (Tone 7)

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

Stichon: My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and chant praise.

READING from the Acts of the Apostles: 1: 1-12
In the preceding book, Theophilus, I was concerned with every-

thing Jesus did and taught from the beginning, until the day he was taken up, after giving commandments through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. To them also he showed himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about God's kingdom. And while eating with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise, "of which you have heard," he said, "by my mouth. For while John baptized with water, you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit within a few days."

Now, those gathered there questioned him, asking, Lord, is it now that you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" But he answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or the proper moments the Father has set by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and even to the very ends of the earth."

And when he had said this, while they were looking on, he rose up, and a cloud hid him from their eyes. And as they kept looking at the sky while he went, behold, two men stood by them in white garments and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in the same way as you have seen him going up to heaven."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mountain called Olive Grove which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey.

ALLELUIA (*Tone 2*)

All you peoples, clap your hands! Shout to God with cries of gladness!

Stichon: God is gone up with a triumphant cry, the Lord, at the sound of the trumpet.

Gospel of the Feast: Luke 24:36-53
ASCENSION THURSDAY

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST

At that time, after his resurrection, Jesus stood in the midst of his disciples and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were startled

and panic-stricken, and thought they were seeing a ghost. And he asked them, "Why are you disturbed, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and feet, that it is I myself. Feel me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." And having said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. But as joy left them disbelieving, and they marveled, he said, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they offered him a piece of broiled fish and a honeycomb. And taking it, he ate it before them. And he said to them, "These are the words I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled that are written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning me." Then he opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written; and thus the Christ should suffer, and should rise again from the dead on the third day; and repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. And you yourselves are witnesses to these things. And I send forth upon you the promise of my Father. But wait here in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Now he led them out towards Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And it came to pass as he blessed them, that he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Hirmos:

O you who have given birth in time to the One whom no limit of time can hold, You thus have become the Mother of God in a manner beyond understanding and beyond words. We the faithful magnify you in one mind.

Kinonikon: Instead of *Praise the Lord*,...

God ascended with a shout of joy, with a shout of joy, the Lord ascended with a blast of trumpet. Alleluia!

Post Communion Hymn: Instead of: *We have seen the true Light...* Troparion of the Ascension