

SUNDAY, MAY 31
7th Sunday of Pascha
Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Afterfeast of Ascension

TONE 6

"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!

Tone 6 *(for the Resurrection)*

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,
since You are free among the dead,
You ascended the Cross
raising with Yourself those who sat in the shades of death.//
Drawing life from Your light, O almighty Savior, have mercy on us!

v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

Today Christ tramples on death,
for He is risen as He said!
Let us all sing this song,
for He has granted joy to the world:
O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//
O Savior Almighty, have mercy on us!

v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Where shall we sinners flee from You, for You are in all creation?
In heaven You dwell!
In hell You trampled on death!
In the depths of the sea?
Even there is Your hand, O Master!
To You we flee, and falling before You, we pray://
“As You rose from the dead, have mercy on us!”

v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Tone 6 *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Ascension)*

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. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

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. (5) For Your name's sake I have waited for You, O Lord, my soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

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 sufferings,
we honor Your Resurrection,
as we glorify Your glorious Ascension.//
Have mercy on us!

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

Tone 6 *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Fathers)*

You were begotten from the Father before the Morning Star,
but Arius taught wrongfully that You were created:
in his ignorance he designated You as a creature,
yet the Fathers of the Council proclaimed You as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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

O Savior, who has torn Your garment?
Who has challenged the unity of the triune Godhead?
It is Arius, for he denied that You are equal to the Father.
Those who follow him do not believe that God took flesh for our sake,
but the Fathers of the Council proclaimed You as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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

Arius fell into the abyss of sin,
pretending blindness that he might not see the Light.
By his purpose he became the image of Judas.
But the Council at Nicea proclaimed You as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures
forever.*

The foolish Arius blasphemed the All-holy Trinity,
dividing the Persons into three different unequal substances,
but the God-bearing Fathers denounced his confusion:
they assembled with the zeal of Elijah,
destroying error with the sword of the Spirit, //
as they were directed by the inspiration of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Fathers)*

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,
the God-bearing Fathers,
who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,
praising the changeless Trinity!
They laid low the errors of Arius
and upheld the Orthodox Faith.//
They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 *(Theotokion - Dogmatikon)*

Who will not bless you, O most holy Virgin?
Who will not sing of your most pure childbearing?
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,
but from you He was ineffably incarnate.
God by nature, yet Man for our sake,
not two persons but one known in two natures.
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady,//
to have mercy on our souls!

Old Testament Readings

Genesis 14:14-20

Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17

Deuteronomy 10:14-21

Aposticha

Tone 6 *(for the Resurrection)*

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
the Angels in heaven sing!
Enable us on earth//
to glorify You in purity of heart!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Destroying the gates of hell,
breaking the chains of death,
You resurrected the fallen human race as almighty God!//
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You!

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Desiring to return us to Paradise,
Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.
The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,
“Woe to us, O Savior!
How do You deign to descend to death?
What place can hold Your life bearing body?
Come to us as You promised!
Take away our wailing and tears!”
Then the Angel appeared to them:
“Stop your lamentations!
Go, proclaim to the Apostles:
‘The Lord is risen,//
granting us purification and great mercy!’”

v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

Having been crucified as You willed,
by Your burial You captured death, O Christ,
rising on the third day as God in glory,//
granting the world unending life and great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 4 *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Fathers)*

Today we celebrate the annual memory
of the God-bearing Fathers who assembled in Nicea.
They laid low the godless doctrines of Arius,
driving him from the unity of the Catholic Church,
and teaching us how to confess the consubstantial and co-eternal Son of God.
They expressed this clearly in the Symbol of Faith,
and we follow their divine doctrines,
believing in and serving the Son with the Father and the all-Holy Spirit,//
the consubstantial Trinity and one Divinity.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 *(from the Pentecostarion, for the Ascension)*

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.

(at Great Vespers)

Tone 6 **Troparion** *(Resurrection)*

The angelic powers were at Your tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave,
seeking Your most pure body.
You captured hell, not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who rose from the dead,//
glory to You.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

Tone 8 **Troparion** *(Fathers)*

You are most glorious, O Christ our God!
You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them You have guided us to the true Faith.//
O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 **Troparion** *(Ascension)*

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.

(at the Divine Liturgy)

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Tone 8 Kontakion *(Fathers)*

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one
Faith for the Church.
Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, //
It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

Tone 6 Kontakion *(Ascension)*

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!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Song of the Three Children)*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is
Your name forever! *(Song of the Three Holy Children, v. 3)*

v: For You are just in all that You have done for us! (v. 4)

Epistle
Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Tone 1
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the
sun to its setting. (Ps 49/50:1)*

v: Gather to Me My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!
(Ps 49/50:5)

Gospel
John 17:1-13

(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 magnify you, O Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave
birth in time to the Timeless One.

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.