

Thursday, May 13

Ascension of Our Lord and God Jesus Christ

First Antiphon: All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with cries of gladness!

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

For the Lord, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

He brings people under us; nations under our feet.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

The Lord mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the Lord amid trumpet blasts.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Glory be ... now and forever ... : Only Begotten Son ...

Third Antiphon: Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all who dwell in the world.

Tropar of the Ascension, tone 4: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God; * You delighted the disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. * Through this blessing they were assured that You are the Son of God, * the Redeemer of the world.

Of lowly birth or high degree, rich and poor alike.

You ascended in glory ...

My mouth shall speak wisdom, prudence shall be the utterance of my heart.

You ascended in glory ...

At the Little Entrance: God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy, the Lord, amid trumpet blasts.

You ascended in glory ...

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and for ever and ever. Amen!

Kondak, tone 6: When you fulfilled the plan of salvation for us * and united all things on earth to those in heaven, O Christ our God, * You ascended in glory, never leaving us, but remaining ever-present. * For You proclaimed to those who love You: * "I am with you and no one else has power over you."

Prokimen, tone 7: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; above all the earth be your glory.

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

Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-12

In my first account, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up to heaven, having first instructed the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit. In the time after his

suffering he showed them in many convincing ways that he was alive, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking to them about the reign of God. On one occasion when he met with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem: "Wait, rather, for the fulfillment of my Father's promise, of which you have heard me speak. John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." While they were with him they asked, "Lord, are you going to restore the rule to Israel now?" His answer was: "The exact time it is not yours to know. The Father has reserved that to himself. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you; then you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, yes, even to the ends of the earth." No sooner had he said this than he was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took him from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking up at the skies? This Jesus who has been taken from you will return, just as you saw him go up into the heavens." After that they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet near Jerusalem -- a mere sabbath's journey away.

Alleluia Verses: The Lord mounts his throne amid shouts of joy, the Lord, amid trumpet blasts.

All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness.

Gospel: Luke 24: 36-53

At that time, Jesus, having been raised from the dead, stood in the midst of his apostles and said to them, "Peace to you." In their panic and fright they thought they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and my feet; it is really I. Touch me, and see that a ghost does not have flesh and bones as I do." As he said this he showed them his hands and feet. They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of cooked fish, which he took and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "Recall those words I spoke to you when I was still with you: everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and psalms had to be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to the understanding of the Scriptures. He said to them: "Thus it is written that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In his name, penance for the remission of sins is to

be preached to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of this. See, I send down upon you the promise of my Father. Remain here in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Then he led them out near Bethany, and with hands upraised, blessed them. As he blessed, he left them, and was taken up to heaven. They fell down to do him reverence, then returned to Jerusalem filled with joy. There they were to be found in the temple constantly, speaking the praises of God.

Instead of ‘It is truly right...’: O my soul, extol the Lord * who in glory ascended bodily into heaven. * O Mother of God, * who in a manner beyond understanding and beyond words * gave birth in time to Him * whom time cannot contain, * we the faithful magnify you * with one accord.

Communion Hymn: God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy, the Lord, amid trumpet blasts. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Instead of: ‘We have seen the true light...’ and ‘May our mouths be filled...’: Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; above all the earth be your glory.