

Vespers, Ascension of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

All page numbers refer to the *Paschal Vespers Book*.

Psalm 140

Tone 6

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord! O Lord, I have
cried to you, hear me; re - ceive the voice of my pray'r when I call
up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r ascend to
you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands like an eve - ning
sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.

Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuses for sins I *commit*.

Let me never share in sinners' feasting.
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness

but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.

The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way *un*harméd.

Psalm 141 With all my voice I cry to the Lord,
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *en*trap me.

Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for *my* soul.

I cry to you, O Lord.
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of *dist*ress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger *than* I.

Cantor: Bring my soul out of this prison
(on 10) and then I shall praise your name.



The Lord ascended in - to heav - en to send the Comfort - er in - to this world.

The heav-ens prepared his throne and clouds were his lad - der; the an-gels
 mar-velled at the sight of a human being more exalt-ed than them-selves. To-day, the
 Fa - ther receives again in his bos - om the One who was in him from all
 e - ter - ni - ty, and the Ho - ly Spirit gives a command to all the an - gels:
 Lift up your lin-tels, O you gates! O you na-tions of the earth, clap your hands,
 for Christ as-cends to the place where he had been from all e - ter - ni - ty.

Cantor: Around me the just will assemble
 (on 9) because of your goodness to me. *Repeat "The Lord ascended..."*

Cantor: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; **Psalms 129**
 (on 8) Lord, hear my voice!

⑧ & ⑦
 O Lord, the Cherubim were amazed at your As-cen-sion: they were seized with
 wonder as they beheld you, O God, ris-ing up-on the clouds, for you are the One

who is seat - ed a - bove the clouds. We sing a hymn of praise to you:

Glo - ry to you for your ten - der mer - cy.

Cantor: Let your ears be attentive
 (on 7) to the voice of my pleading. *Repeat "O Lord, the Cherubim..."*

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord who would survive?
 (on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

O Christ, splendor and glory of the Fa-ther, when we behold your Ascension on

your ho - ly moun - tain, we sing a hymn of praise to the beau - ty of your

coun - te - nance. We bow down to your Pas - sion, we venerate your holy

Re - sur - rec - tion, and we glo - rify your no - ble As - cen - sion.

O Lord, have mer - cy on us.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
 (on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. *Repeat "O Christ..."*

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

④ & ③

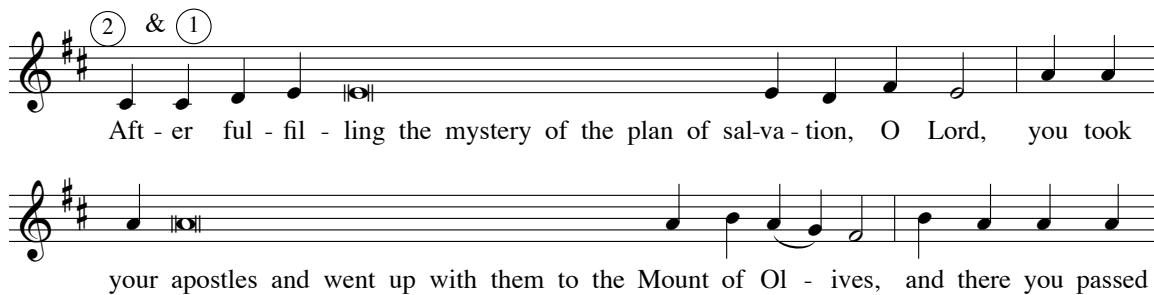


O Lord and Giv-er of Life, when the apostles saw you ascend-ing up - on
 the clouds, a great sad-ness o - ver-came them; they shed burn - ing tears
 and ex-claimed: O our Master, do not leave us or - phans; we are
 your servants whom you loved so ten-der - ly. Since you are most wonderful,
 send down upon us your all-ho-ly Spir - it to en-light - en our souls, as you
 pro - mised.

Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
 (on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. *Repeat "O Lord and Giver of life..."*

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**
 (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

② & ①



Aft - er ful - fil - ling the mystery of the plan of sal-va-tion, O Lord, you took
 your apostles and went up with them to the Mount of Ol - ives, and there you passed

be-yond the fir - ma - ment of heav - en. You hum - bled yourself and were clothed
 in our hu - man - i - ty, and now you return from that place you did not leave.
 Send down your all - ho - ly Spir - it to en - light - en our souls.

Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
 now and ever and forever. Amen.

Doxastikon

Tone 6

O lov - ing Je - sus, while you lived on earth, you were God inseparable
 from the Fa - ther, and yet you truly shared our hu - man - i - ty.
 As - cend - ing in glory today from the Mount of Ol - ives, through your great love
 you lifted up our fall - en na - ture and en - throned it with the
 Fa - ther on high. There - fore, the bodiless powers were amazed and filled with awe



at see - ing your great love for all. To - geth - er with them,
we who live on earth are glo - rifying your conde-scen - sion to us
and your ascen-sion a-way from us. Now we im-plore you, say - ing:
Through your Ascension you have filled your apostles and your moth - er
with a joy that surpasses ev - 'ry oth - er joy, and through their
in - ter - ces - sion make us wor - thy of the joy of your e - lect,
for you are rich in mer - - - cy.

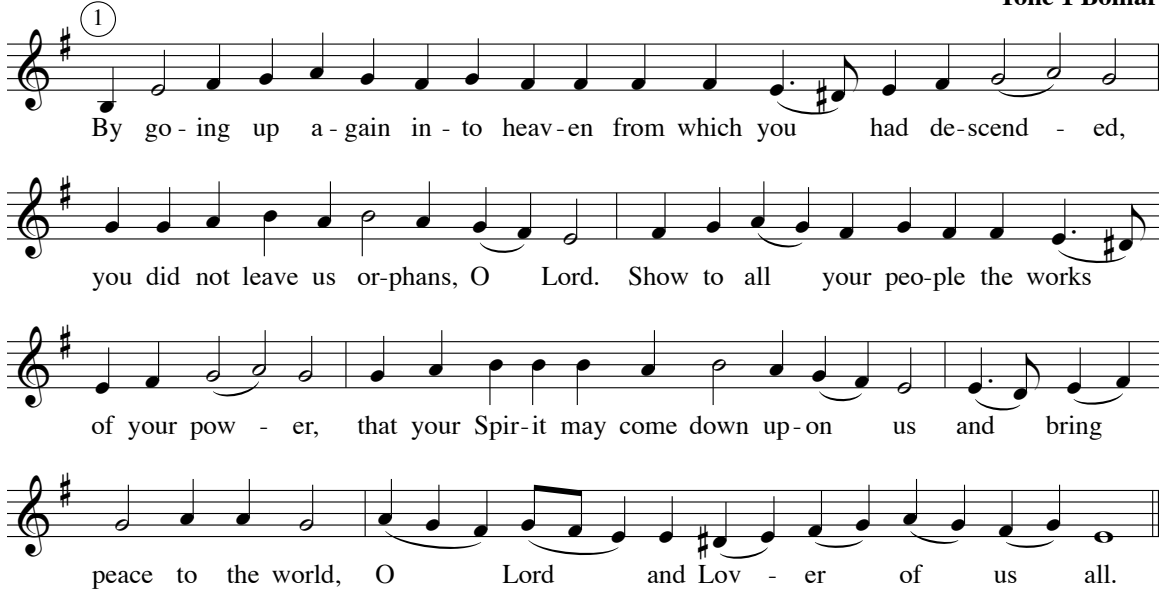
The service continues on page 12.

Readings: Isaiah 2: 2 - 3
Isaiah 62: 10 - 12 and 63: 1 - 9
Zechariah 14: 1, 4, 8 - 11

Litija

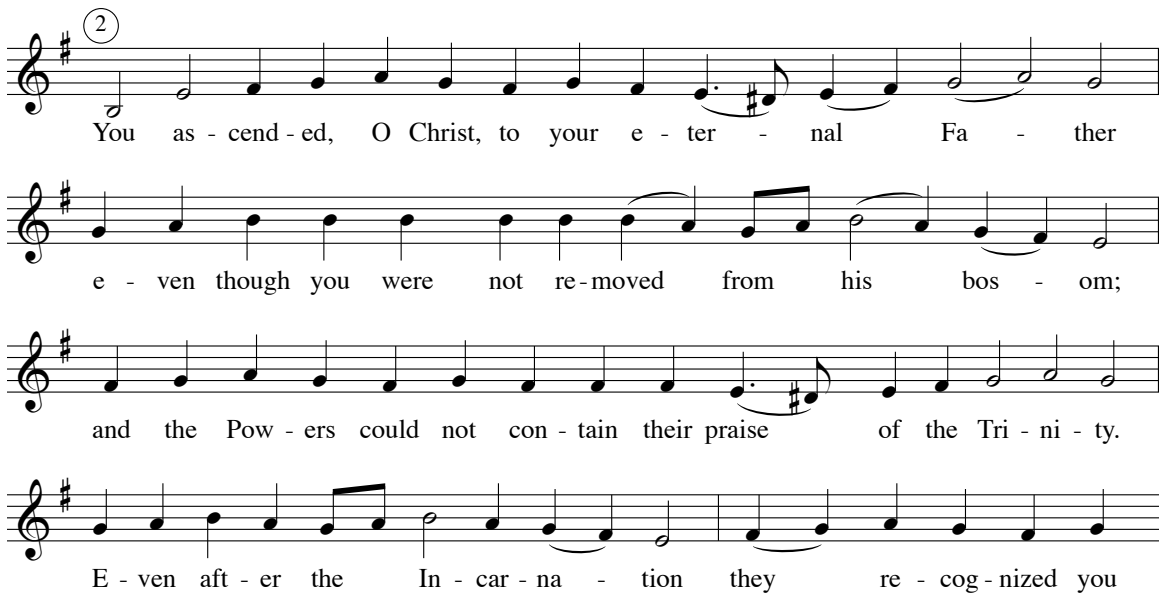
Tone 1 Bolhar

①



By go - ing up a - gain in - to heav - en from which you had de - scend - ed,
you did not leave us or - phans, O Lord. Show to all your peo - ple the works
of your pow - er, that your Spir - it may come down up - on us and bring
peace to the world, O Lord and Lov - er of us all.

②



You as - cend - ed, O Christ, to your e - ter - nal Fa - ther
e - ven though you were not re - moved from his bos - om;
and the Pow - ers could not con - tain their praise of the Tri - ni - ty.
E - ven aft - er the In - car - na - tion they re - cog - nized you

as the on-ly Son of the Fa - ther. In the a-bun - dance of your good-ness,

have mer - cy on us!

3
Your an - gels, O Lord, said to the a-pos - tles: Men of Gal - i - lee, why

do you stand here look - - ing in - to the sky? Christ our God,

who by leav - ing you as - cend - ed in - to heav - en,

will come a - gain in the man - ner by which you have seen hm leave.

There - fore, serve him in jus - tice and ho - li - ness.

Cantor

Tone 4 Bolhar

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it:

now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

Doxastikon

O Lord most mer - ci - ful, aft - er ful - fil - ling the mys - t'ry hid - den

from all e - ter - ni - ty, you, the Cre - a - tor and Mas - ter of all, went up to the

Mount of Ol - ives with your dis - ci - ples and your Moth - er. For the one

who, at the sight of your Pas - sion, had suf - fered more than all

oth - ers in her moth - er - ly heart, had more than an - y - one else

the right to share the joy that fills us as we

are wit - nes - sing your as - cen - sion in to heav - en.

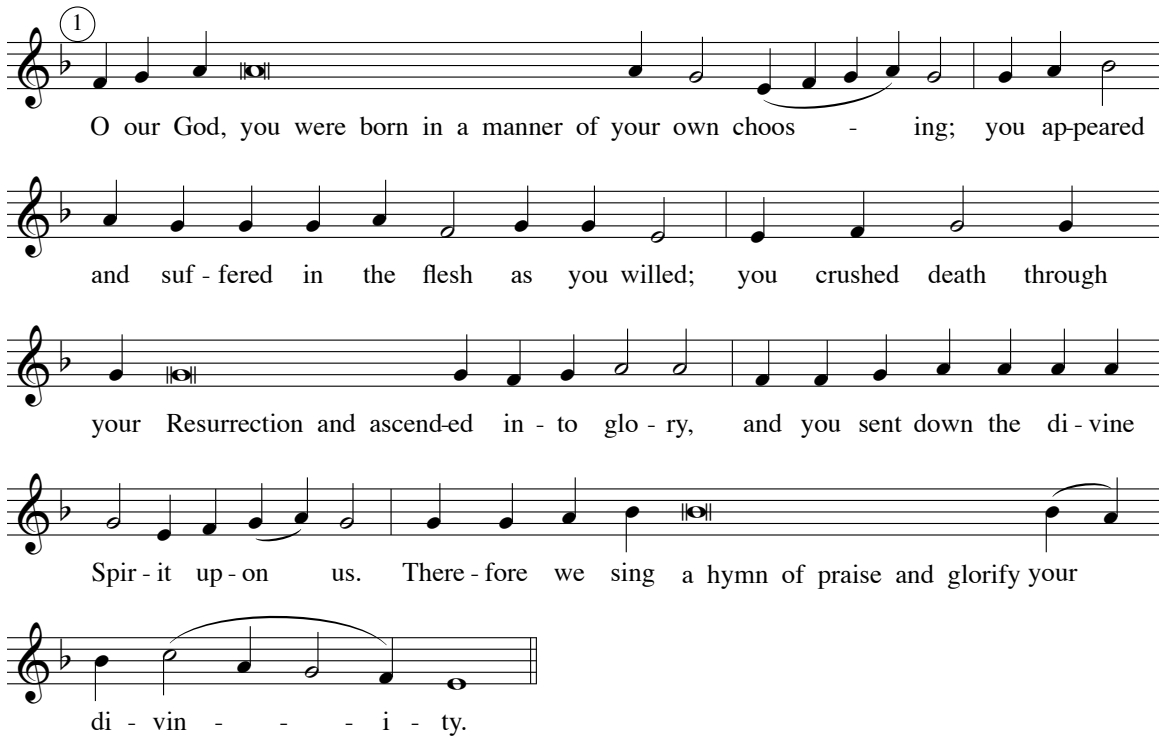
We glo - ri - fy your in - fi - nite mer - cy o - ver - flow - ing up - on us.

The Litany of the Litija is found on page 26 in the Appendix

Aposticha


Tone 2

①



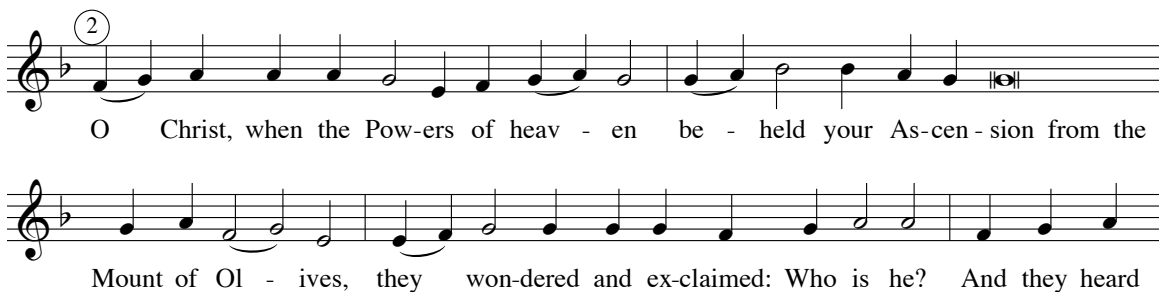
O our God, you were born in a manner of your own choos - ing; you ap-peared
and suf - fered in the flesh as you willed; you crushed death through
your Resurrection and ascend-ed in - to glo - ry, and you sent down the di-vine
Spir - it up - on us. There - fore we sing a hymn of praise and glorify your
di - vin - - - i - ty.

Cantor



All peo - ples, clap your hands; cry to God with shouts of joy!

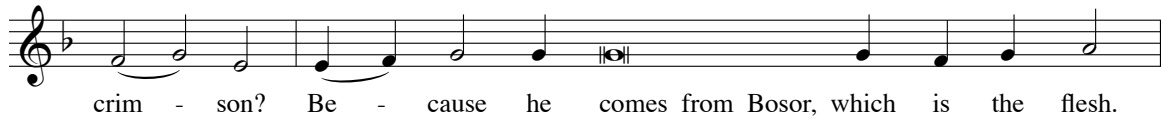
②



O Christ, when the Pow-ers of heav - en be - held your As-cen - sion from the
Mount of Ol - ives, they won-dered and ex-claimed: Who is he? And they heard



the reply: He is indeed the King of Glo - ry. And why are his clothes



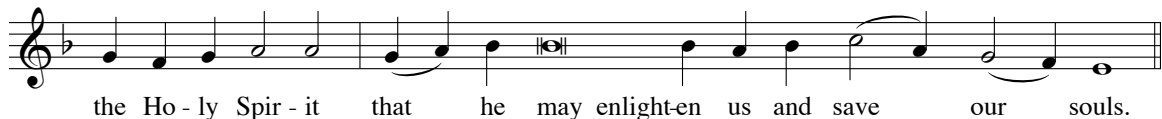
crim - son? Be - cause he comes from Bosor, which is the flesh.



As for you, O Christ, since you are God, you are en-throned

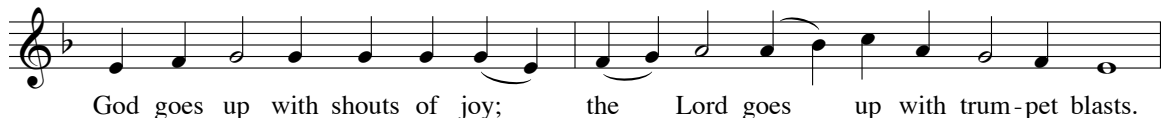


at the right hand of God the Fa - ther; and you sent down up - on us



the Ho - ly Spir - it that he may enlight-en us and save our souls.

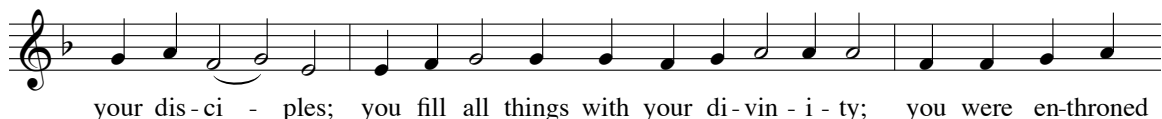
Cantor



God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trum-pet blasts.



③ O Christ, you as-cend-ed in glo - ry on the Mount of Ol - ives in the presence of



your dis-ci - ples; you fill all things with your di-vin - i - ty; you were en-throned



at the right hand of the Fa - ther and sent down up - on your disciples the Ho - ly

Spir - it who en - light - ens, strength - ens and saves our souls.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

Doxastikon

Tone 6

God goes up with shouts of joy, the Lord goes up with trum - pet blast, in or - der

to raise up the fallen im - age of Ad - am and to send down upon us the

Ho - ly Spir - it, the Comforter who will sanc - ti - fy our souls.

The service continues on page 19 of the Vesper book.

Troparion

Tone 4

You were tak - en up in glo - ry, O Christ our God; you glad - dened the disciples

with the promise of the Ho - ly Spi - rt. By bles - sing them, you con - frmed

that you are the Son of God, the Re - deem - er of the world.

The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, found on page 29 in the Appendix.