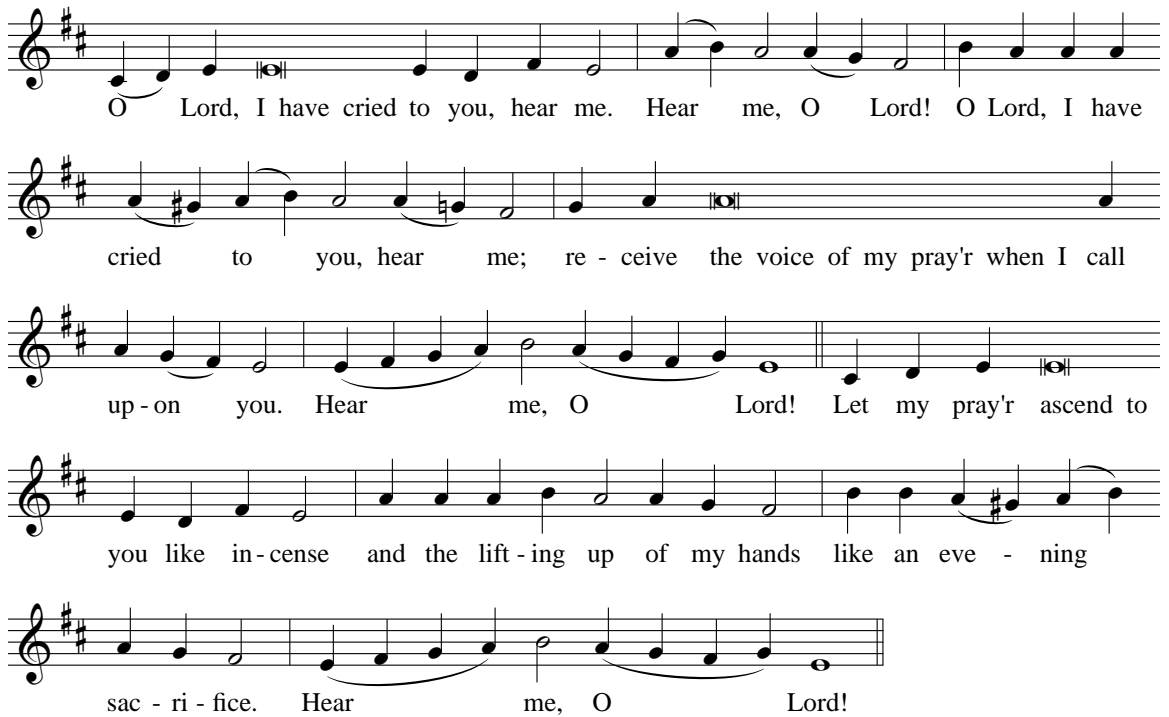


Vesper Propers, Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea  
Seventh Paschal Sunday  
The Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

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*harmed.

**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.

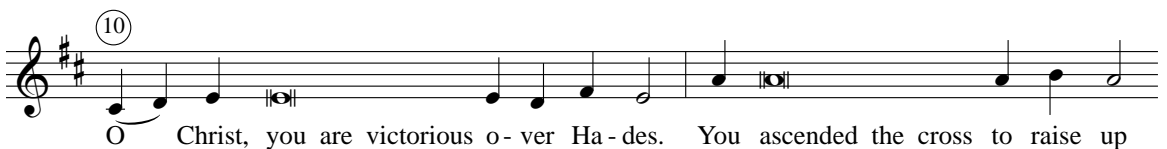
I have no means of escape,  
not one who cares for *my* soul.

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.

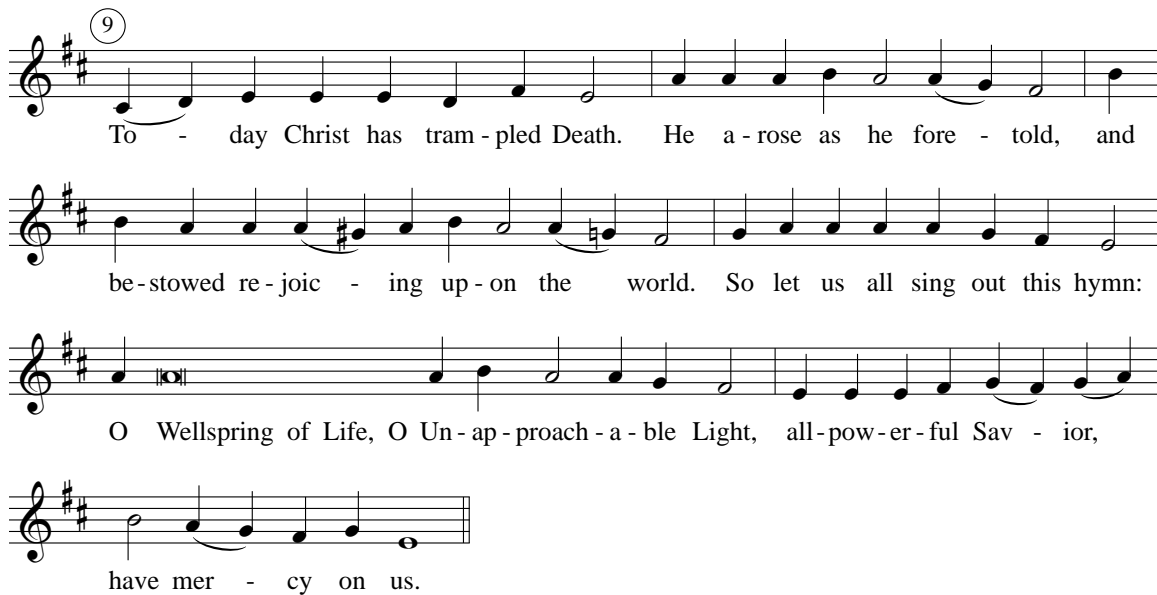
**Cantor:** Bring my soul out of this prison  
(*on 10*) and then I shall praise your name.





with your-self those who sat in the dark-ness of death. You a-lone are free  
 a-mong the dead. From your own light you well up with life. All-pow-er-ful  
 Sav-ior, have mer-cy on us.

**Cantor:** Around me the just will assemble  
 (on 9) because of your goodness to me.



To-day Christ has tram-pled Death. He a-rose as he fore-told, and  
 be-stowed re-joic-ing up-on the world. So let us all sing out this hymn:  
 O Well-spring of Life, O Un-ap-proach-a-ble Light, all-pow-er-ful Sav-ior,  
 have mer-cy on us.

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



Where can we sin-ners flee from you, O Lord, who are present in all cre-a-tion;

to the heav-ens? – that is where you dwell; to Ha-des? – there you tram-pled death;  
to the depths of the sea? – e-ven there is your hand. We flee to you and, fall - ing  
be-fore you, we beg: O Lord, ris-en from the dead, have mer - cy on us.

**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
*(on 7)* to the voice of my pleading.

Be-fore the morn-ing star you were begotten of the Fa-ther; be-fore the ages you were  
conceived with-out a moth - er, e-ven though Arius believed you to be cre-a-ted,  
and not God. He shame - lessly confused the Creator with his crea - tures,  
thus deserving e-ter-nal pun-ish - ment. Yet the Coun-cil of Nicaea pro-claimed you  
as the Son of God who is en-throned with the Fa-ther and the Spir - it.

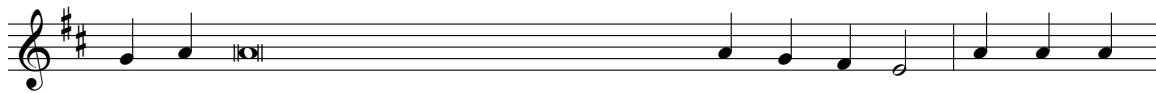
**Cantor:** If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?  
*(on 6)* But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.



Who has sev - ered your gar - ment, O Sav - ior? It was Arius who divid - ed the



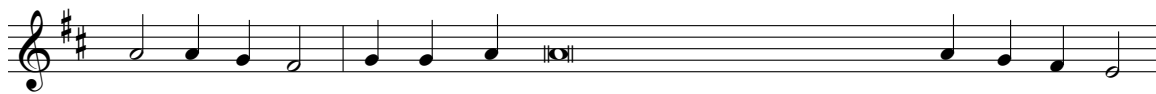
Trin - i - ty who is e - qual in glory and e - ter - nal maj - es - ty.



For he denied that you are one of the most ho - ly Trin - i - ty. He taught the



trans - ges - sing Nes - to - ri - us to say that the Virgin is not the



Moth - er of God; but the Coun - cil of Nicaea proclaimed you as the Son of God

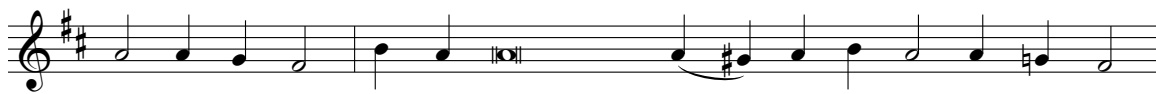


who is en - throned with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.

**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.



De - clar - ing that the light could not be seen, A - rius fell into the pit of the



im - pi - ous ones; his bod - y was torn a - part by the jus - tice of God,



and he gave up his soul in a viol - ent man - ner. He was another Judas by his

thoughts and deeds. But the Coun - cil of Nicaea pro claimed you as the  
 Son of God who is en-throned with the Fa - ther and the Spir - it.

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

The fool - ish A - rius divided the unity of the Ho - ly Trin - i - ty in - to  
 three different and un - e - qual sub - stan - ces. But the God - bearing Fathers came  
 to - geth - er in coun - cil. Burn - ing with the zeal of Elias the Tish - bite  
 and with the sword of the Ho - ly Spir - it, they cut down these shame - ful  
 blas - phem - ies; for they were di - rect - ed by the Ho - ly Spir - - - it.

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

**Stichera of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian** **Tone 1 podobn: Nebesnych**<sup>v</sup>

As the wit - ness of revela - tions be - yond words and in - ter - pret - er

of the sub-lime mys-t'ries of God, O son of Ze-be-dee,  
 you have writ-ten the gos-pel of Christ for us. You taught us to  
 glo-ri-fy the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it.

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

② Lyre of heav-enly canti-cles, di-vine-ly moved, you are the  
 mys-ti-cal writ-er and the God-in-spired voice  
 me-lo-diously singing the di-vine hymns. Pray for the  
 sal-va-tion of our souls.

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

① O be-lov-ed of God, with your thun-der-ing voice, you de-clared

the wis - dom of God. You pro - claimed a - loud the hid - den word  
 by fre - quent - ly say - ing: In the be - gin - ning was the Word.  
 You have il - lu - mined all with the knowl - edge of God.

**Cantor:** Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Council Fathers**

*Tone 6*

Let us hon - or today those mystical trumpets of the Spir - it, name - ly the God -  
 - man - tled Fa - thers, who, speak - ing of di - vine things,  
 sang in the midst of the Church a hymn in u - ni - son, teach - ing that the  
 Trin - i - ty is one, not dif - fering in sub - stance or God - head,  
 re - fut - ing Arius and defending the true faith. They al - ways in - ter - cede  
 with the Lord to grant great mer - cy to our souls.



**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Dogmatikon**

*Tone 6*

Who would not extol you, most ho-ly Vir-gin? Who would not praise your giv-ing  
birth with - out pain? For the on - ly - be - got - ten Son, who shines  
forth from the Fa-ther time-less-ly, has himself come forth from you, O pure one.  
He took flesh from you in a manner be-yond un - der-stand - ing: re - tain-ing  
di-vine na - ture but assuming human na-ture for our sake; not di-vid-ed  
in - to two per - sons but ex - ist - ing in two natures, distinct and un - con - fused.  
O honored and most blessed one, be - seech him to have mer - cy on our souls.

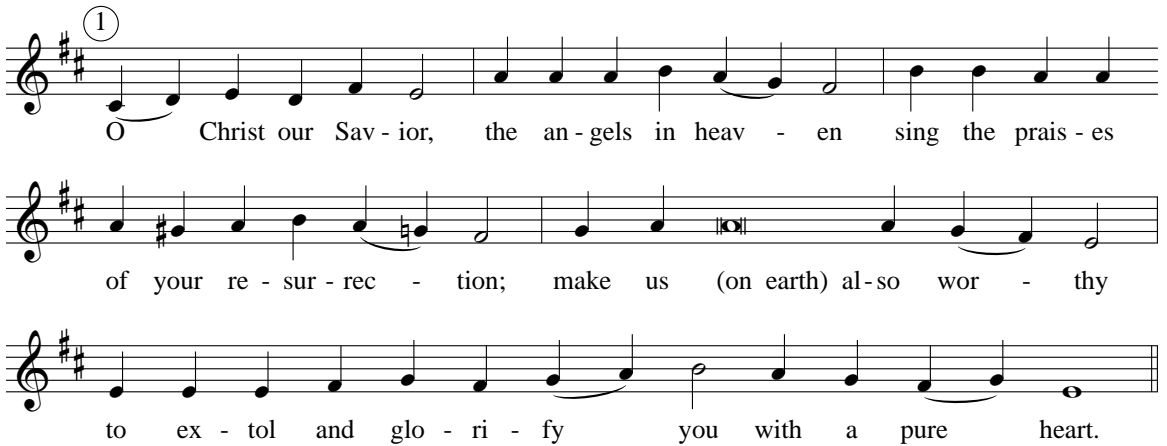
*The service continues on page 12.*

**Readings:** Genesis 14: 14 - 20  
Deuteronomy 1: 8 - 11, 15 - 17  
Deuteronomy 10: 14 - 21

# Aposticha

Tone 6

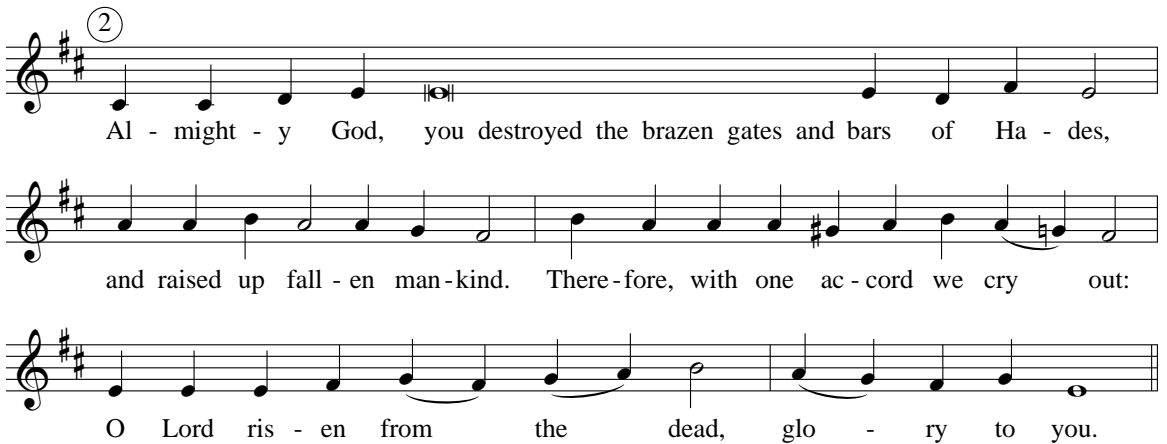
①



O Christ our Sav - ior, the an - gels in heav - en sing the prais - es  
of your re - sur - rec - tion; make us (on earth) al - so wor - thy  
to ex - tol and glo - ri - fy you with a pure heart.

**Cantor:** The Lord reigns, he is clothed in majesty.  
Robed is the Lord and girt about with strength.

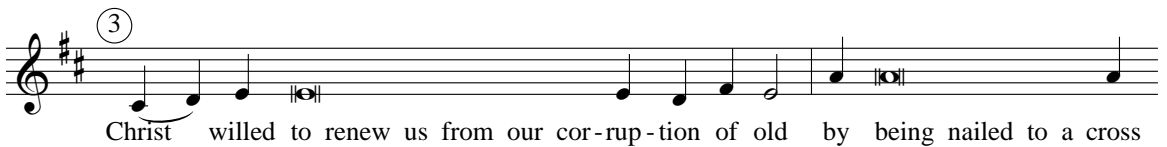
②



Al - might - y God, you destroyed the brazen gates and bars of Ha - des,  
and raised up fall - en man - kind. There - fore, with one ac - cord we cry out:  
O Lord ris - en from the dead, glo - ry to you.

**Cantor:** For he has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

③



Christ willed to renew us from our cor - rup - tion of old by being nailed to a cross



and placed in a tomb. When the wom-en came to anoint his body, they tear-ful-ly



cried out: O what sor-row af-flicts us! O Savior of all, how could you



con-sent to rest in a grave? If you tru-ly willed this,



why then did you allow your body to be sto-len? How were you re-moved?



What place now conceals your life-bearing bo-dy? O Lord, appear to us



as you pro-mised, and put an end to our tears. As they were lamenting,



an angel ap-peared and cried out to them: Do not weep, but tell the apostles



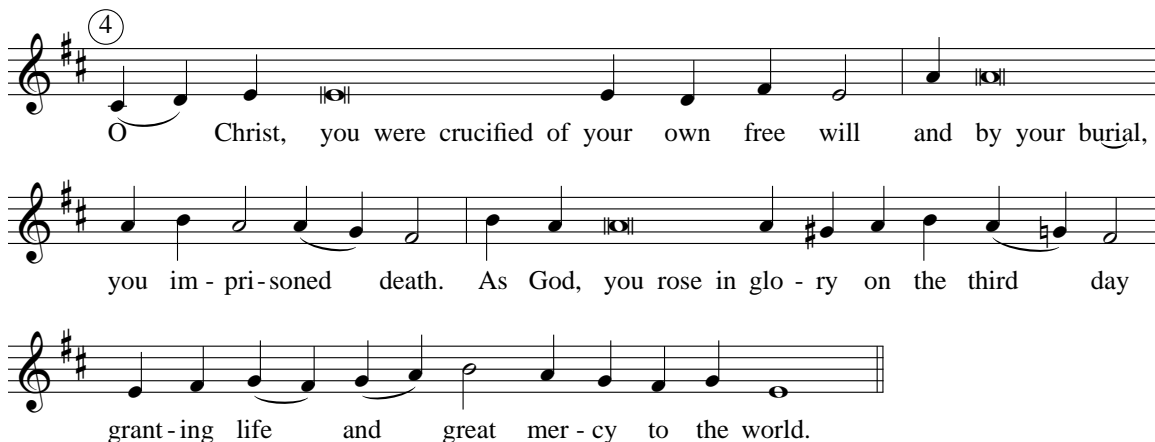
that the Lord is ris-en, grant-ing sanc-ti-fi-ca-tion and great



mer-cy to the world.

**Cantor:** Holiness befits your house O Lord for length of days.

④

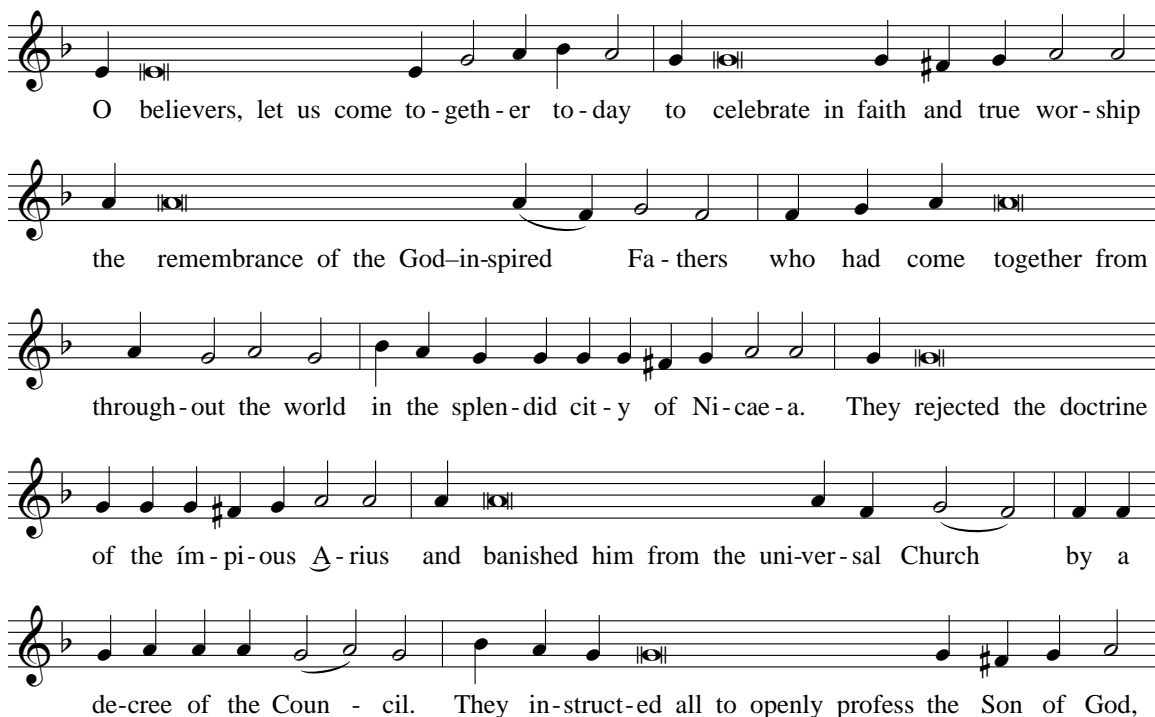


O Christ, you were crucified of your own free will and by your burial,  
you im-pri-soned death. As God, you rose in glo-ry on the third day  
grant-ing life and great mer-cy to the world.

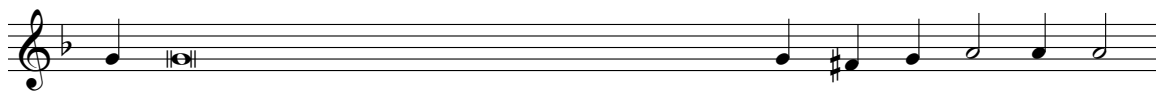
**Cantor:** Glory...

**Doxastikon of the Council Fathers**

*Tone 4*



O believers, let us come to-gether to-day to celebrate in faith and true wor-ship  
the remembrance of the God-in-spired Fa-thers who had come together from  
through-out the world in the splen-did cit-y of Ni-cae-a. They rejected the doctrine  
of the ím-pi-ous A-rius and banished him from the uni-ver-sal Church by a  
de-cree of the Coun - cil. They in-struct-ed all to openly profess the Son of God,



that he is consubstantial and co-eternal with the Father be - fore e - ter - ni - ty,



and they clearly wrote this in the Sym-bol of Faith. There-fore, fol - lowing their



di - vine doc - trine, let us wor - ship the Son in true faith, to - geth - er



with the Father and the Ho - ly Spir - it, the Trinity con-sub - stan - tial in



one God - head.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Theotokion of Ascension**

*Tone 4*



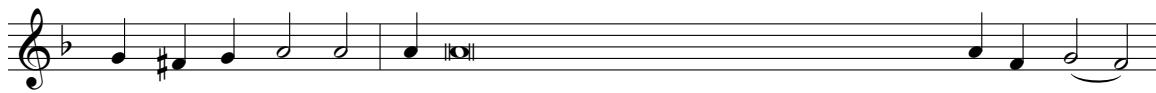
O Lord most mer - ci - ful, af - ter fulfilling the mystery hidden from all



e - ter - ni - ty, you, the Creator 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 suffered more than anyone else in her moth-er - ly heart,

had more than anyone else the right to share the joy that fills us as we  
 wit - ness your ascend - ing in - to heav - en. We glorify your in - fin - ite mer - cy  
 o - ver - flow - ing up - on us.

*The service continues on page 19.*

## Troparia

### Troparion of the Resurrection - *Tone 6*

An - gel - ic pow - ers ap - peared at your tomb, and the guards be - came like dead  
 men. Mar - y stood at the tomb seeking your most pure bod - y. You de - spoiled  
 Ha - des with - out a chal - lenge. You, the Giv - er of Life met the  
 Vir - gin. O Lord, ris - en from the dead, glo - - ry to you!

### Troparion of the Council Fathers - *Tone 8*

O Christ our God, you are a - bove all praise. You have es - tab - lished

our fa - thers as bea - cons on the earth, lead - ing us all to the  
 true faith through them. O most mer - ci - ful Lord, glo - ry to you!

*Glory...*

**Troparion of the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian - Tone 2**

Be - lov - ed a - pos - tle of Christ our God, has - ten to deliver a people that  
 lacks an - y oth - er de - fense He who ac - cepted that you lay your head  
 on his breast will al - so ac - cept your pray'r. Pray to Christ, O  
 The - o - lo - gian, that he may overcome the darkness of pa - gan na - tions,  
 and beg that he grant us peace and a - bun - dant mer - cy.

*Now and ever...*

**Festal Theotokion - Tone 2**

O The - o - tokos, the mysteries surrounding you are ex - ceed - ing - ly glo - rious,

and be-yond the pow-er of un - der - stand - ing. For you re-tained  
the seal of pur - i - ty, and your vir - ginity re-mained in - vi - o - late;  
yet you are ac-knowl - edged, with-out doubt, to be the Mother who gave birth  
to the true God. We beg you, therefore, to en - treat him to save our souls.

*The service continues on page 21.*