

Holy Transfiguration

Greek Orthodox Church

The Sunday of the Holy Fathers – The Afterfeast of the Ascension

May 31, 2020

The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

The Antiphonal Psalm verses are for the Feast.

The 2nd Antiphon: Save us, O Son of God, who ascended in glory from us to heaven. We sing to you: Alleluia!

Only begotten Son and Logos of God, being immortal, You condescended for our salvation to take flesh from the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and, without change, became man. Christ, our God, You were crucified and conquered death by death. Being one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

3rd Antiphon: the Ascension Apolytikion (p 169) You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, having gladdened Your disciples by Your promise of the Holy Spirit. And Your blessing confirmed their belief that You are indeed God's Son, the Redeemer of the world.

Hymns after the Gospel Entrance

Resurrectional Apolytikion 6 (p 119): The angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it became as dead men, and Mary stood at Your grave seeking, seeking Your most pure body. But You made hell a captive; You were untouched by its might. You came to the virgin and granted life. O Lord, who rose from the dead, glory to You.

The Ascension Apolytikion (above)

Apolytikion of the Holy Fathers (p 171): Unending glory be Yours, O Christ our God, for making our holy fathers radiant lights to all the world. Through them You led us to the true faith. Compassionate Savior, glory to You.

Parish Apolytikion: You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, showing Your glory to the disciples as much as they could bear. Shine on us also, the sinners, shine Your everlasting light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Giver of Life; glory to You!

The Ascension Kontakion (279): When You had joined earth to heaven and fulfilled Your plan of redemption, You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, while remaining in our midst. For You assured us who love You that no one can prevail against us since You Yourself are with us.

The Epistle Reading: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36. In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: "Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.'" And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The Gospel Reading: John 17:1-13. At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves."

The Cherubic Hymn: Let us who mystically represent the cherubim... and sing the thrice-holy hymn... to the life-giving Trinity... now lay aside every worldly care.... That we may receive the King of all....

After "Let us love one another that with oneness of mind we may confess": Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Trinity one in essence and undivided.

The Creed: I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not created, of one essence with the Father, through Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; and He rose on the third day, according to the Scriptures. And He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of life, Who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.

p 87, instead of "We have seen," sing the Ascension Apolytikion.

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Try to fill your soul with Christ so as not to have it empty. Your soul is like a cistern full of water. If you channel the water to the flowers, that is, to the virtues, you will experience true joy and all the thorns of evil will wither away. But if you channel the water to the weeds, these will grow and choke you and all the flowers will wither.

St. Porphyrios of Kafsokalyvia