

Vesper Propers
Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Council of Nicaea
Seventh Paschal Sunday

*All page numbers refer to **The Order of Vespers for Sundays After Pentecost, 2006.***

The First Kathisma is sung.

Lamplighting Psalms: Tone 6, stichera 10-8, p. 82.

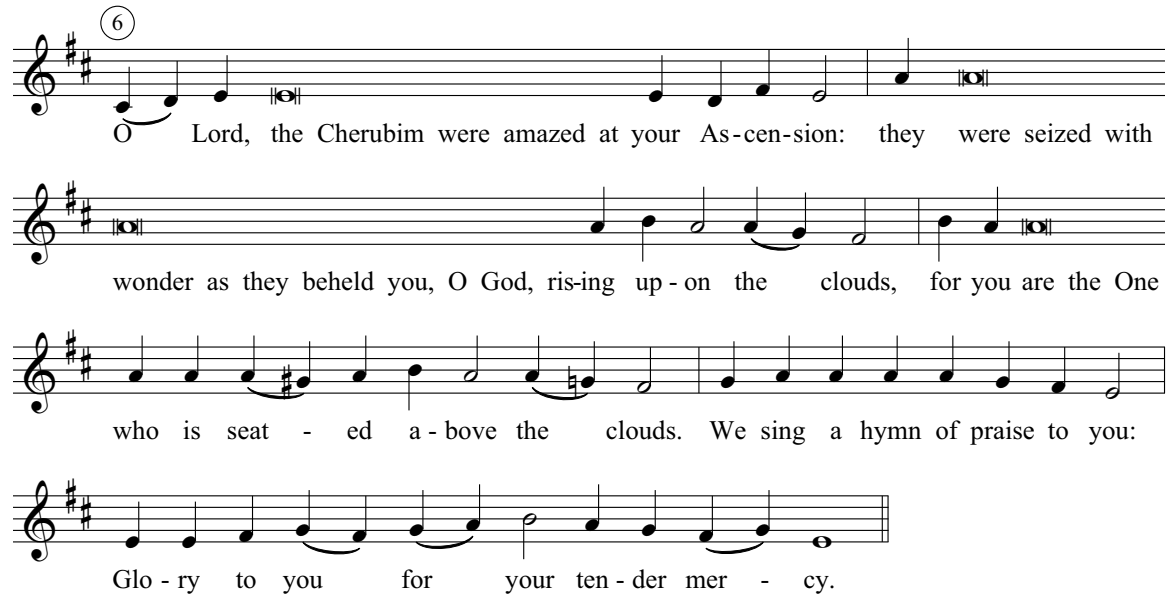
Cantor: (Tone 6) Let your ears be attentive
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

Stichera of Ascension - Tone 6

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 the Father 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: 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.

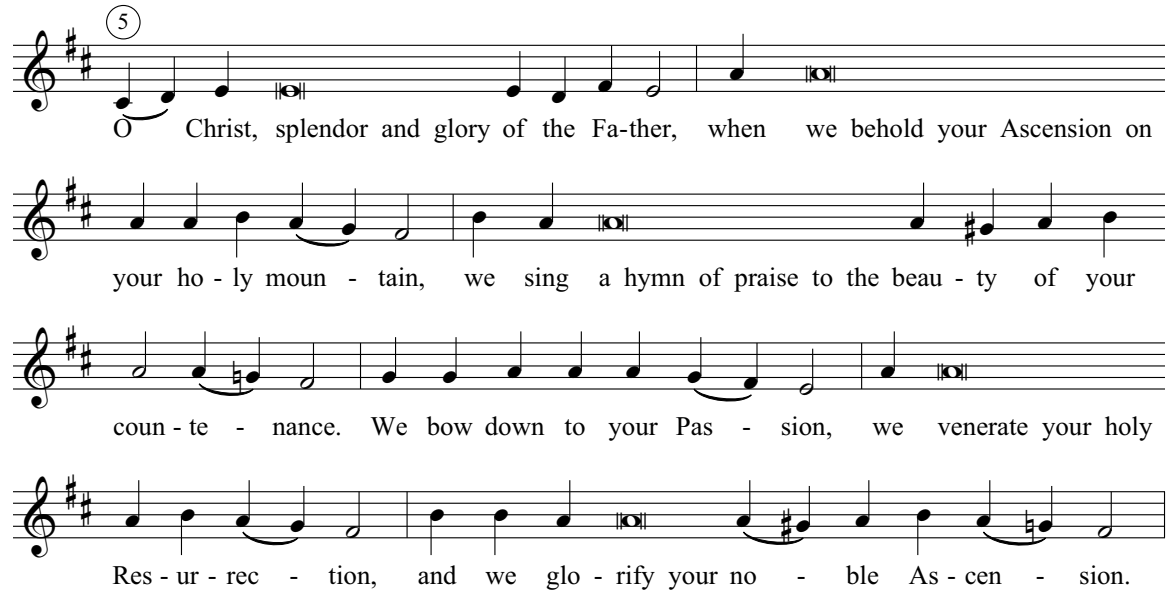
⑥



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: My soul is longing for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

⑤



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 Res - ur - rec - tion, and we glo - rify your no - ble As - cen - sion.

O Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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

Stichera of the Sunday of the Council Fathers - Tone 6

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

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-gres-sing Nes-to - ri - us to say that the Vir-gin 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: Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**
 (on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

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.

Troparia

Troparion of the Resurrection, Tone 6, p. 91.

Cantor: (Tone 8) Glory...

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!

Cantor: (Tone 4) Now and ever...

Troparion of Ascension - 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 Spir - it. By bless - ing them you con - firmed
 that you are the Son of God, the Re - deem - er of the world.

The service continues on page 21.

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 anyone else in her
 moth - er - ly heart, had more than anyone else the right to share the joy that
 fills us as we witness your ascending in - to heav - en. We
 glo - rify your infin - ite mer - cy o - ver - flow - ing up - on us.

The service continues on page 19.

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

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: Glory ...

Doxastikon of the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea - 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, p. 87.

The service continues on page 12 of the Vesper book.

Readings: Genesis 14: 14 - 20 (EOT p. 301)
 Deuteronomy 1: 8 - 11; 15 - 17
 Deuteronomy 10: 14 - 21

Aposticha of the Resurrection, Tone 6, p. 88.

Cantor: (Tone 4) Glory...

Doxastikon of the Fathers of the Council of Nicaea - 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 city of Ni-cae - a. They rejected

the doctrine of the im-pi - ous A - ri - us and ban - ished him from the
 u - ni - ver - sal Church by a de-cree of the Coun - cil. They instructed all
 to profess openly the Son of God, that he is con - substantial and co-eternal with
 the Father before e - ter - ni - ty, and they clear-ly wrote this in the Sym-bol of
 Faith There - fore, following 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