

Sunday of the 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council (Tone 6)
Acts 20: 16 – 18, 28 - 36 John 17: 1 – 13

Beatitude Verses

4 from Octoechos for Resurrection,
4 from Pentecostarion from Ode 4 for Ascension
4 from Pentecostarion from Ode 6 for the Fathers

People: In Your kingdom remember us, O Lord, when You come into Your kingdom.

People: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Reader: O God my Savior, remember me in Your kingdom, and save me, for You alone love mankind.

People: Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted!

Reader: By a tree was Adam deceived; yet again by the Tree of the Cross was the Robber saved, who cried out: O Lord, remember me in Your kingdom!

People: Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth!

Reader: O Bestower of Life, You broke down the gates and portals of hades. O Savior, You save all who cry out to You: Glory to Your resurrection!

People: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled!

Reader: O You who by Your burial have made death captive, and by Your resurrection have filled all with joy: remember me, as You are compassionate.

People: Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy!

Reader: O King of the Angels, You were taken up in glory, so that You might send us the Comforter from the Father. Therefore we cry: O Christ, glory to Your Ascension.

People: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God!

Reader: O King of the Angels, You were taken up in glory, so that You might send us the Comforter from the Father. Therefore we cry: O Christ, glory to Your Ascension.

People: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God!

Reader: As the Savior ascended in the flesh to the Father, the ranks of the Angels were astonished at Him and cried: O Christ, glory to Your Ascension.

People: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven!

Reader: The ranks of the Angels cried to those above: Lift up the gates for Christ our King; we praise Him together with the Father and the Spirit. (Psalm 23: 7)

People: Blessed are you when people revile you, persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for my sake!

Reader: Arius, the sower of weeds, who was called the namesake of madness, was not able to escape the unspeakable judgment of providence; for having zealously emulated Judas, he, the most evil one, was torn asunder like him.

People: Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven!

Reader: O Master, the divine and august assembly of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council proclaims You as the Only-begotten Brilliance that shone forth from the essence of the Father, and as the Son who was begotten before all ages.

People: **Glory** to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Reader: In a most providential manner and by the prayers of the God-inspired priests, the bowels of Arius were literally torn asunder, which were a source that gushed forth the turbid and undrinkable water of impious heresies.

People: **Now** and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Moses, great among the Prophets, wrote symbolically about you O Virgin Mother, as an ark, and table, and lamp, and an urn, signifying the incarnation of the Most High that took place in you.

Troparia & Kontakia

Resurrection Troparion

Tone 6

People:

The Angelic Powers were at Your tomb,
those who guarded You fell down mortified.
Mary stood inside the tomb seeking Your immaculate body.
You overthrew Hades and were not harmed by it.
You came to the Virgin and granted her life.
O Lord who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Troparion of Ascension

Tone 4

People:

O Christ our God, /
You ascended in glory. /
You delighted Your disciples with the promise of sending the Holy Spirit, /
giving them courage by the blessing that You are the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world.

Troparion of the Holy Fathers

Tone 8

People:

O Christ our God, You are most glorified, /
You have established our holy fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, /
and through them You guide us all to the true Faith. //
O Most merciful Lord, glory to You.

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Kontakion of the Holy Fathers

Tone 8

People:

The preaching of the apostles and the doctrines of the fathers confirmed the one Faith
of the Church. /
And wearing the garment of truth, woven from the theology on high, //
She rightly divides and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

People: Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

**Kontakion of Ascension
Tone 6**

People:

O Christ our God, when you completed Your mission for our salvation /
and united the earthly with the heavenly, /
then You ascended in glory, /
not being parted from us but remaining with us, /
and crying to those who love You:
'I am with you, and no one shall be against you.'

Prokeimenon Tone 4
(The Prayer of Azariah - Daniel 3: 26, 27)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be to all.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages.

Reader: For You are righteous in all You did for us.

People: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages.

Reader: Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers...

People: ... and praised and glorified is Your name to the ages.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Epistle
Acts 20: 16 – 18, 28 - 36

Reader: In those days, Paul had determined to sail past Ephesus in order not to spend time in Asia because he was in a hurry: if possible, he wanted to be in

Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. From Miletus, Paul sent a message to Ephesus and called to himself the elders of the Church. When they arrived, he told them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you all the time. Therefore, keep watch over yourselves and over the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you bishops! Be shepherds of the Church of the Lord and of God, which He has purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure, vicious wolves will enter in among you and they will not spare the flock. From among your own group, men will arise who will speak perverse things in order to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore, keep watch! Remember that for a period of three years, I did not cease night and day to warn everyone with tears. Now, brethren, I entrust 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 clothing. You yourselves know that these my hands, served my needs and those who were with me. In all things, I have given you an example, that by this kind of hard work you should support the weak and remember the word of the Lord Jesus, as He himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive!'" After saying these things, Paul knelt down and prayed with them all.

Priest: Peace be to you the reader.

Reader: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Alleluarion

Tone 1

(Psalm 49: 1, 5)

Reader: Alleluia in the 1st Tone.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: The God of gods, the Lord, spoke, and summoned the earth from the sun's rising to its very setting.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Reader: Gather His holy ones to Him, who establish His covenant upon sacrifices.

People: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Deacon: Bless Master, him who proclaims the Holy Gospel of the Holy, Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian.

Priest: May God, through the intercessions of the holy, glorious, all praised Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, enable you to proclaim the Good News with great power, for the fulfillment of the Gospel of His Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Wisdom! Arise! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John the Theologian.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Priest: Let us attend.

Deacon: **John 17: 1 – 13**

People: Glory to You, Lord, glory to You.

The Hymn to the Theotokos

Instead of “It is truly right...” we chant the Irmos of the 9th Ode of the First Canon of Ascension.

Tone 5

Refrain:

Magnify, O my soul, /
Christ the giver of life, //
who ascended from Earth to Heaven.

Irmos:

You the Mother of God
who beyond mind and word /
inexpressibly gave birth in time to the Timeless One; /
we the faithful with one mind //
magnify you.

Communion Verse (Koinonikon)

People:

Praise the Lord in the heavens, praise Him in the highest! O you righteous, rejoice in the Lord; praise is worthy for the upright. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The people chant instead of, "We have seen the True Light:"

Troparion of Ascension

Tone 4

People:

O Christ our God, /

You ascended in glory. /

You delighted Your disciples with the promise of sending the Holy Spirit, /

giving them courage by the blessing that You are the Son of God, //

the Redeemer of the world.