Reader: **The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah**

Thus saith the Lord: In the last days the mountain of the Lord shall be revealed, and the house of God shall be on the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall come to it. And many peoples shall go and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will tell us His way, and we will walk therein."

Reader: **The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah**

Thus saith the Lord: "Go through My gates, and make a way for My people; and cast the stones out of the way; lift up a standard for the nations." For, behold, the Lord hath proclaimed to the end of the earth: "Say ye to the daughter of Sion: Behold, thy Savior hath come to thee, having His reward and His work before His face. And one shall call them the holy people, delivered by the Lord: and thou shalt be called a city sought out, and not forsaken." Who is this that is come from Edom, with red garments from Bozrah, this one who is fair in His apparel, mighty in strength? I speak of righteousness and saving judgment. Wherefore are Thy garments red, and Thy raiment as if fresh from a trodden winepress? "I alone have trodden the vintage, and of the nations there is not a man with Me." I remembered the mercy of the Lord, the virtues of the Lord in all things wherein He doth recompense us. The Lord is a good judge to the house of Israel; He dealeth with us according to His mercy, and according to the abundance of His righteousness. And He said: "Are these not my people? The children surely will not be rebellious." And He became to them salvation out of all their tribulation. Not an ambassador, nor a messenger, but the Lord Himself saved them, because He loved them, and spared them: He Himself redeemed them, and took them up, and lifted them up all the days of the age.

Old Testament Readings

Reader: **The Reading from the Prophecy of Zechariah**

Thus saith the Lord: "Behold, the days of the Lord come, and His feet shall stand in that day on the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east. And in that day living water shall come forth out of Jerusalem, half of it toward the former sea, and half of it toward the latter sea; and so shall it be in summer and spring. And the Lord shall be king over all the earth; in that day there shall be one Lord, and His name one, compassing all the earth, and the wilderness from Geba unto Rimmon, beyond the crest of Jerusalem. And He shall ascend, and shall remain in that place. And from the gate of Benjamin to the place of the first gate, to the gate of the corners, and to the tower of Hannanel, as far as the king's wine-presses, they shall dwell in the city; and there shall be no more any curse, and Jerusalem shall dwell securely.

Reader: **In the 1st Tone— O Lord, Who hast ascended into the heavens**

Stichera of the Litia

Thou didst ascend to Thine unoriginate Father, O Christ, /
Who wast never separated from His uncircumscribable bosom, /
and the powers did not accept any addition to the thrice-holy praise, /
but acknowledged Thee, O Lord, /
as the one Son, the only begotten from the Father, /
Who hadst become man in the multitude of Thy compassions. //
Have mercy on us!

Thine angels said to the apostles, O Lord: /
"Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up at the sky?
He Who is upborne from you into heaven is Christ God. /
He will come again, /
in the same manner in which ye have seen Him going to heaven. //
Serve Him in holiness and righteousness!"

Reader: **In the 4th Tone:**

When Thou didst come to the Mount of Olives, /
to do the will of the Father, O Christ, /
the angels of heaven were amazed, /
and the nether regions were filled with fear. /
The disciples stood before Thee, trembling with joy, as Thou didst speak with them. /
and a waiting cloud was made ready as a throne across from them; /
and heaven, opening its gates, revealed its beauty, /
and the earth opened its hidden chambers, /
that Adam might recognize Thy descent and rising again. /
But Thy feet were lifted up, as if by hands; /
Thy mouth uttered blessings aloud, that they might be heard; /
the cloud bore Thee aloft, and heaven took Thee in.
This work, great and all-glorious, didst Thou do, O Lord, for the salvaton of our souls.

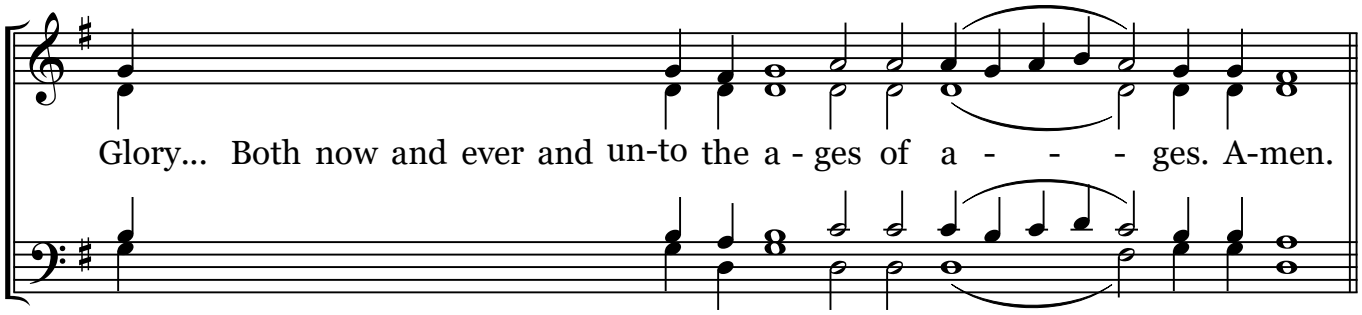
(in the same tone)

O God Who in Thyself didst fashion anew the nature of Adam /
which had gone down into the nether regions of the earth, /
today thou hast raised it higher than any principality or authority; /
for, loving it, Thou hast enthroned it with Thyself, and having mercy on it, /
Thou hast united it to Thyself and glorified it with Thyself. /
Yet, the incorporeal beings said: /
"Who is this beauteous Man?" /
Yet Thou art not only man, but God and Man, united and revealed. /
Wherefore, the angels, astonished, /
some flying, garbed in radiant garments, /
and others standing by the disciples cried: /
"Ye men of Galilee, /
He Who hath departed from you is Jesus, the God-man. /
As God and man He will come again, judging the living and the dead, //
and granting to the faithful forgiveness of sins and great mercy.

When Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ God, /
as the disciples watched, the clouds bore Thee up in the flesh; /
the gates of heaven were lifted up; /
the choir of the angels rejoiced with gladness; /
and the highest hosts cried out, saying: /
"Lift up your gates, ye princes, and the King of glory shall enter in!" /
But the disciples, marvelling, said: /
"Part not from us, O good Shepherd, /
but send upon us Thine all-holy Spirit, //
Who guideth, confirmeth, enlighteneth and sanctifieth our souls!"

Stichera of the Litia

Reader: **Glory, Both now, in the 4th Tone.**



Having fulfilled the mystery /
which was hidden from all the ages and generations, O Lord, /
in that Thou art good, Thou didst go with Thy disciples to the Mount of Olives, /
bringing also her who gave birth to Thee, /
the Creator and Fashioner of all; /
for it was fitting that she, who as Thy Mother, /
was pained more than all others at Thy suffering, /
also delight with surpassing joy in the glory of Thy flesh. /
and we also, sharing in Thine ascension into heaven, O Master, //
glorify Thy great mercy toward us.

English translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©2007, "The Pentecostarion of the Orthodox Church",
St. John of Kronstadt Press. The complete service text may be purchased through: sjkp.org