

The Ascension of Our Lord

May 28, 2002

Troparion:

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion:

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven: You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love You, but remaining with them and crying: "I am with you and no one will be against you!"

Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone:

Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens and Thy glory over all the earth.

(Vs.) My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody in my glory.

Epistle:

The reading is from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (Acts 1:1-12)

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen. After His suffering He presented Himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," He said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When He had said this, as they were watching, He was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. While He was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

Alleluia Verses:

God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

(Vs.) Clap your hands, all ye people, shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel According to St. Luke. (Chapter 24:36-53)

At that time, after His resurrection, Jesus stood in the midst of His disciples and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and panic-stricken, and thought they were seeing a ghost. And He asked them, "Why are you disturbed, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and feet, that it is I myself. Feel me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." And having said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But as joy left them disbelieving, and they marveled, He said, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they offered Him a pieced of broiled fish and a honeycomb. And taking it, He ate it before them. And He said to them, "These are the words I spoke to you while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled that are written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning me." Then He opened their minds, that they might understand the Scriptures. And He said to them, "Thus it is written; and thus the Christ should suffer, and should rise again from the dead on the third day; and repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. And you yourselves are witnesses to these things. And I send forth upon you the promise of my Father. But wait here in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Now He led them out towards Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. And it came to pass as He blessed them, that He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.