

Stichera at the Litya

The Ascension of the Lord

Tone 1
Sticheron 1

Kievan Chant
arr. from B. Ledkovsky

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Hav - ing as - cend - ed to heaven whence Thou

hadst de - scend - ed, do not leave us orph - ans, O Lord!

May Thy Ho - ly Spir - it come, bringing peace to the world;

show the sons of men the works of Thy pow - er, //

O Lord Who lov - est man - kind!

Sticheron 2

Thou didst as-cend, O Christ, to Thy Fa - ther, Who is

with-out be-gin - ning, though Thou wast never parted from

His uncircumscribed bos - om, and the heavenly Powers accepted no

addition to the thrice - ho - ly hymn of praise, but rec - og-nized

Thee, O Lord, as one Son, only-begotten of the Fa - ther

even after be-com - ing man.// In the abundance of Thy com -

pas-sion, have mer - cy on us!

Sticheron 3

Thine An - gels, O Lord, said to the A - pos - tles:

"Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up in - to heav - en?

This is Christ God Who has been taken from you into heav - en.

He it is Who will come a - gain in like man - ner as you

have seen Him going to heav - en. // Worship Him in ho - li - ness

and right - eous-ness!"

Tone 4
Sticheron 4

When Thou didst come, O Christ, to the Mount of Ol - ives

to ac - complish the good pleasure of the Fa - ther, the An - gels of

[heaven were amazed.]

heav - en were a-mazed, and the demonic powers were seized with

fear; the Disciples stood by trembling with joy as Thou — didst

speak to them; and aloft, a waiting cloud was pre-pared as a throne;

heaven flung wide its gates and appeared in its beau - ty,

and the earth re-veals — its hid-den vaults, so that Adam's de -

scent was made known, and his a-scent a-gain. But Thy foot -

steps were raised up, as if by a hand, while Thy mouth was

heard pronouncing a great bless - ing; a cloud received

Thee, and heaven wel-comed Thee in. This great and marvelous work

didst Thou per-form, O Lord, // for the sal-va - tion of our souls.

Sticheron 5

The na - ture of Ad - am, which had de-scended to the nether-most

parts of the earth, Thou didst re-new in Thy-self, O God, and to -

day Thou didst take it up above every Principality and Pow - er, for

loving it, Thou didst seat — it with Thy-self; and having compassion

on it, Thou didst u - nite it with Thy-self; and united with it,

[Thou didst suffer...]

Thou didst suf - fer with it; and Thou Who art passionless hast glorified

it with Thy-self. But the Bodiless Powers were ask - ing:

"Who is this Man of beau - ty? Not man only, but both

God and man, the two natures together made man - i - fest."

And so exultant Angels, flying about the Disciples in shin - ing robes

[cried out:]

cried out: "O Men — of Gal - i - lee, He Who is gone from you,

this Jesus, both Man and God will come again as God and Man,

the Judge of the liv - ing and the dead, // granting the faithful

forgiveness of sins and His great mer - - cy!"

Sticheron 6

When Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God,

[while the Disciples looked on]

while the Dis - ci - ples looked on, the clouds re - ceived Thee

with Thy flesh; the gates of heaven were lift - ed up; the choirs of

An - gels re - joiced with glad - ness; the higher Powers cried out

say - ing: "Lift up your gates, you princ - es, and the King of

Glo - ry will come in!" But the Disciples said in a - maze - ment:

“Do not be parted from us, O good Shep - herd, but send us

Thine All-ho - ly Spir - it, // to guide and il - lu-mine and

sanc - ti - fy our — souls!”