

The Ascension of our Lord

Forty Days after Pascha

Services: (no services at St Philip's)

At Holy Ascension Church, West Chester, PA

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

4:15 pm - Vigil with Litia and Artoklasia

6:30 pm - Divine Liturgy

At St Paul Church, Emmaus, PA

Wednesday, May 24, 2017

6:30 pm - Evening Divine Liturgy



Scripture readings:

Acts 1:1-12

St. Luke 24:36-53

The Synaxarion:

On this day, the Thursday of the sixth week of Pascha, we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

After His Resurrection, Jesus remained on earth for forty days, appearing to His Disciples in various places. He ate, drank and conversed with them, verifying and assuring His Resurrection. On the fortieth day after Pascha, Jesus appeared to His Disciples in Jerusalem. He gave them His last commandment, to go forth and preach in His Name to all the nations. At the same time, He told them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait until they were clothed with the power from on high by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them. Having said this, Jesus led His Disciples to the Mount of Olives. Then He lifted up His hands and blessed them. And as He was speaking to them with words of fatherly blessing, Jesus departed from them and ascended into Heaven, being received by a shining cloud, indicating His divine majesty. He gradually disappeared from the sight of the Disciples as they gazed at Him. And as they stood thus, two angels in brilliant white robes appeared to them in the form of men and said to them: Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven? This same Jesus, Who is taken from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven. In these words is fulfilled and defined the doctrine concerning the Son of God and His Word, in the Confession of Faith. After our Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled all His great dispensation for us, He ascended in glory into Heaven, and sat on the right hand of God the Father. His Disciples returned from Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, rejoicing in the promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit. O Christ our God, Who didst ascend in glory, have mercy on us. Amen.

More Resources:

<http://antiochian.org/ascension> (includes links to more resources)

<https://www.goarch.org/-/the-ascension-of-our-lord-and-savior-jesus-christ>

Apolytikion – Tone 4

O Christ God, You have ascended in Glory, / Granting joy to Your disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. / Through the blessing they were assured / That You are the Son of God, / The Redeemer of the world!

Kontakion – Tone 6

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!”

How to Celebrate the Feast:

Invite a friend to church.

Prepare a festal meal.

Read about Christ's Ascension (St. Luke 24:36-53; Acts 1:1-12)

Sing the festal Troparion: "Thou hast ascended in glory ..."

Give Alms. Help someone. Be bold in generosity!

Use the appropriate Feast Day Greeting (or response) when meeting others

Visit relatives, friends, and neighbors (especially those in assisted living, who are homebound, or in the hospital)

Bring flowers, fruit, candles, etc., for blessing when appointed and distribute to your family and those you visit.

Listen to an AncientFaith.com podcast on the Transfiguration.

Have an extended amount of prayerful silence with the Jesus Prayer.