Stichera at the Litya
The Ascension of the Lord

Russian Imperial Court Chant
arr. from L’vov-Bakhmetev

Soprano
Alto

Tenor
Bass

Having ascended to heaven whence Thou hadst descand-ed, do not leave us orphans, O Lord! May Thy Holy Spirit come, bringing peace to the world; show the sons of men the works of Thy power, // O Lord Who lov-est man-kin-d!
Sticheron 2

Thou didst ascend, O Christ, to Thy Father, Who is

without beginning, though Thou wast never parted from

His uncircumscribed bosom, and the heavenly Powers accepted no

addition to the thrice-holy hymn of praise, but recognized

Thee, O Lord, as one Son, only-begotten of the Father
even after be-com-ing man. // In the abundance of Thy compassion,

have mer-cy on us!

Sticheron 3

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

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

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

[He it is Who will come...]
He it is Who will come again in like manner as you have seen Him going to heaven. // Worship Him in holiness and righteousness!"

Tone 4
Sticheron 4

When Thou didst come, O Christ, to the Mount of Olives to accomplish the good pleasure of the Father, the Angels of [heaven were amazed.]
heaven 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 prepared as a throne; heaven flung wide its gates and appeared in its beauty, and the earth reveals its hidden vaults, so that Adam’s de-
[scent was made known]
scent was made known, and his ascent again. But Thy foot-
steps were raised up, as if by a hand, while Thy mouth was
heard pronouncing a great blessing: a cloud received
Thee, and heaven welcomed Thee in. This great and marvelous work
didst Thou perform, O Lord, for the salvation of our souls.
The nature of Ad-am, which had descended to the nethermost 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 with it; and Thou Who art passionless hast glorified it with Thyself. But the Bodiless Powers were asking:

"Who is this Man of beauty? Not man only, but both

God and man, the two natures together made manifest."

And so exultant Angels, flying about the Disciples in shining robes...
cried out: "O Men of Galilee, He Who is gone from you,

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

the Judge of the living and the dead, // granting the faithful

forgiveness of sins and His great mercy!"

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

[while the Disciples looked on]
while the Disciples looked on, the clouds received Thee

with Thy flesh; the gates of heaven were lifted up; the choirs of

Angels rejoiced with gladness; the higher Powers cried out

saying: “Lift up your gates, you princes, and the King of

Glory will come in!” But the Disciples said in amazement:

[“Do not be parted...”]
“Do not be parted from us, O good Shepherd, but send us Thine all-holy Spirit, to guide and illuminate and sanctify our souls!”