

THE SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF THE ASCENSION

May 24, 2026

(Page numbers are for Western Rite Service Book and **St. Ambrose Hymnal**)

MATINS

Trisagion Prayers 34
Versicle & Response & Venite 11
Psalm: 108, 110
Lesson: II Kings 2:1-11
Versicle & Response*

Benedictus
Resurrection Gospel
Kyrie eleison
Lord's Prayer
Prayers & The Grace

*Officiant: The Lord hath established, alleluia.
People: His throne in heaven, alleluia.

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. GREGORY THE GREAT

Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the Chalice for Holy Communion, but everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.

Hymn: 130
Preparation 82
Introit
Kyrie & Gloria: 85
Collect of the Day
Lesson & Epistle
Alleluia
Sequence Hymn 134 1 - 2/ 3 - 4
Holy Gospel:
Sermon
Nicene Creed (pg. 45) and Litany

Offertory Hymns: 190, 159
Secret
Sursum Corda 88
Sanctus 89
Canon of the Mass 89
Lord's Prayer and Fraction 92
Agnus Dei 93
Communion Hymn 167
Dismissal and Blessing 95
Regina Coeli
Hymn: 131

COLLECT - O almighty and everlasting God, make us bear towards Thee always a devoted will, and serve Thy majesty with a sincere heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth . . .

LESSON: Acts 1:15-26 Brethren: In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus —for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." (Now this man acquired a field with the reward of his wickedness; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out. This became known to all the residents of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their language

Hakeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his homestead become desolate, and let there be no one to live in it'; and 'Let another take his position of overseer.' So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us — one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

EPISTLE I Peter 4: 7-11 Dearly beloved, Be prudent and watch in prayers. But before all things have a constant mutual charity among yourselves: for charity covereth a multitude of sins. Using hospitality one towards another, without murmuring: as every man hath received grace, ministering the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak, as the words of God: if any minister, let him do it, as of the power which God administereth: that in all things God may be honored through Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL John 15: 26, 27; 16:1-4 At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: When the Paraclete cometh, whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceedeth from the Father, He shall give testimony of Me: and you shall give testimony because you are with Me from the beginning. These things I have spoken to you, that you may not be scandalized. They will put you out of the synagogues: yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doth a service to God. And these things will they do to you, because they have not known the Father, nor Me. But these things I have told you, that, when the hour shall come, you may remember that I told you of them.

SECRET - May these spotless Sacrifices purify us, O Lord, and give to our minds the strength of heavenly grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who . . .

POST COMMUNION - Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord, that being filled with Thy sacred gifts, we may ever remain in thanksgiving for them. Through our Lord . . .

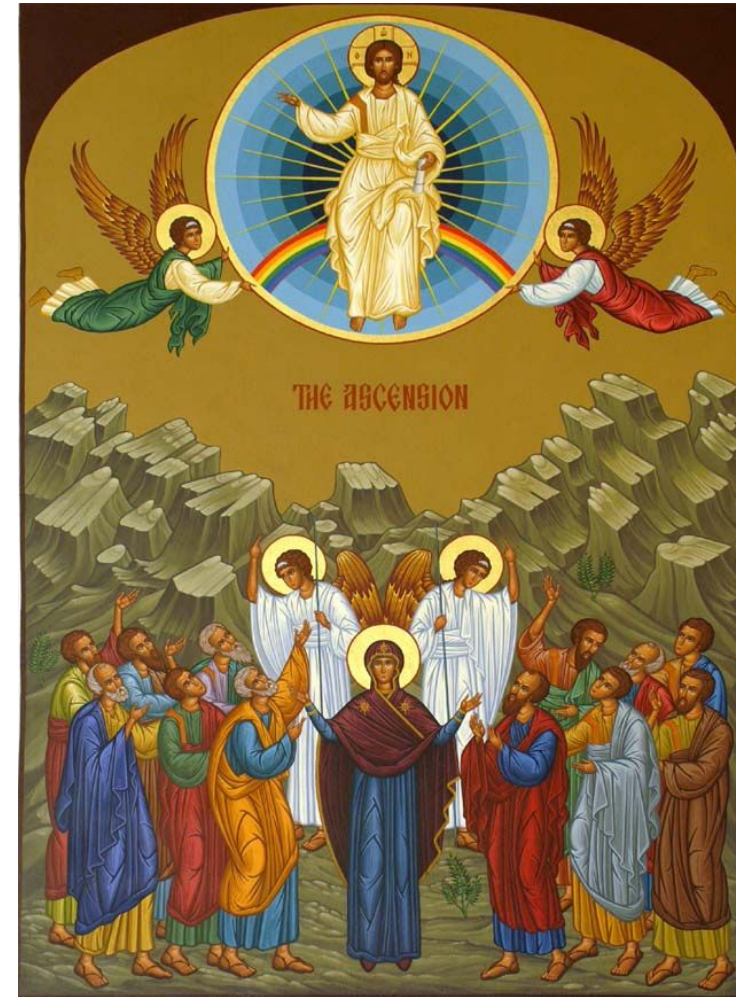
Prayer in Preparation for the Feast of Pentecost

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord, Amen. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Wednesday, May 27 Liturgy 6pm
Thursday, May 28 Jesus Prayer 7pm
Saturday, May 30 VIGIL OF PENTECOST: Vespers 4:30pm followed by Confession
Sunday, May 31 HOLY PENTECOST: Matins 9:45am Divine Liturgy 10am. This week after Pentecost is fast-free.

THE ICON OF THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD is a joyous icon. It is painted with bright colors. Christ is shown ascending in His glory in a mandorla. A mandorla is a design which is almond-shaped or round. Inside the mandorla is the figure of a holy person. Christ blesses the assembly with His right hand. In His left is a scroll. The scroll is a symbol of teaching. This icon shows that the Lord in heaven is the source of blessing. In addition, Jesus is the source of knowledge. The icon reminds us that Christ continues to be the source of the teaching and message of the Church, blessing and guiding those to whom He has entrusted his work. The Theotokos occupies a very special place in this icon. She is in the center of the icon, immediately below the ascending Christ. The gesture of her hands is gesture of prayer. She is clearly outlined by the whiteness of the garments of the angels. The Theotokos is depicted in a very calm pose. This is quite different from the appearance of the Disciples. They are moving about, talking to one another and looking and pointing towards heaven. The entire group, the Theotokos and the disciples represent the Church. The icon of the Ascension includes some who did not witness the Ascension. St. Paul is shown to the left of the Theotokos, but we know that he was not present at the Ascension. At that time, St. Paul did not yet believe in Jesus. But he became a Christian and one of the greatest Apostles and missionaries of Church. The icon expresses the sovereignty of Christ over His Church; He is its Head, its guide, its source of inspiration and teaching; it receives its commission and ministry from Him, and fulfils it in the power of the Holy Spirit.



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