After-Feast of the Ascension, Wednesday of the 7th Week

(Sung on Wednesday night for Thursday)

Stichera at "O Lord, I have cried"

1) Having accomplished salvation for all mankind,

Thou, O Christ, didst make Thy way upon Mount Olivet,

whence Thou wast taken up in the sight of Thy disciples,

borne up in glory to Heaven from the earth.

Wherefore, sore astonished as they saw the mystery,

the lower orders then cried aloud to those above them:

Lift ye the gates, and our God, the King of all,

shall enter in whence He before went out,

even as it was well pleasing in His sight,
while most wondrously working full salvation for the world entire.

2) As the whole choir of disciples saw Thee taken up on high, O Master, they said: Where dost Thou depart now from Thy servants? Where goest Thou, O Thou that holdest the farthest parts of creation in Thy hands?

We have gladly left all things to follow after Thee, our God, while hoping to be with Thee unto the ages; do not forsake us as orphans comfortless,
O our good Father most compassionate:
even as Thou hast promised, send unto us
Thy good Comforter Spirit
and the sovereign Savior of our souls.

3) As Thou wast giving Thy friends a final blessing,
Thou didst then initiate them into mysteries:
Behold, I go to My Father now, O my beloved friends;
but I shall send you another Comforter.

And, O Master, Thou didst say: I never shall forsake
the sheep I gathered; those whom I love I shall forget not.

But once endued with divine pow'r from on high,

then go ye forth, and preach to all the world,

go your ways to all nations and every tribe,

and proclaim the good tidings

of salvation that is come to all.