

READINGS & PRAYERS

ASCENSION DAY

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Acts 1.1–11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will

come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 47



R. Jesus reigns, our Lord and King.

(All repeat)



Let all nations ¹ clap their hands,
sing to God with ¹ hymns of praise.
For the Lord is high and to ¹ be adored,
the great King over ¹ all the earth. **R.**

He is gone up with ¹ shouts of joy,
the trumpet sounds as the ¹ Lord ascends.
O sing praises ¹ to our God,
sing praises ¹ to our King. **R.**

For God is King of ¹ all the earth,
his mighty acts shall ¹ be proclaimed.
The Lord is King over ¹ all the world,
he reigns in glory ¹ on his throne. **R.**

SECOND READING

Eph 1.15–23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is

named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28.19,20

Alleluia.

Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord:

remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Lk 24.44-53

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Lord, we offer you this sacrifice in thanks for your Son's glorious ascension: grant that it may help us to lift up our hearts with him from the things of this world to those of heaven; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING

God the Father, who has given to his Son the name above every name, strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord. **Amen.**

God the Son, who is our great high priest passed into the heavens, plead for you at the right hand of the Father. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church, make you faithful servants of Christ our King. **Amen.**

And the blessing ...