

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

First Reading

ACTS 1:1-11

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Dear Theophilus,

I am writing to tell you what Jesus did and taught from the time he began his work until he went up into heaven. Before Jesus went up into heaven, he ordered his apostles to stay in Jerusalem.

Jesus died and for forty days he showed that he is alive. He showed himself to the apostles in many ways to prove that he was raised from death. He spoke to them about the kingdom of God. He said, “Don’t leave Jerusalem. Wait here for the gift my Father promised you. John baptized with water but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

The apostles asked Jesus, “Lord, will you give back the kingdom to Israel?” Jesus said to them, “It is not for you to know the time for that to happen. Only the Father knows. But you will be filled with the Holy Spirit and you will have the power. You will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria and everywhere in the world.”

Ascension of the Lord

Then Jesus went up into heaven. The apostles were watching until Jesus disappeared into a cloud. They kept on watching him but could not see him anymore.

They were still watching and two men dressed in white clothes suddenly appeared beside the apostles. The men said to them, “Why are you still standing here and look up in the sky? Jesus is already in heaven and he will come back. He will come back in the same way that you saw him go into heaven.”

THE WORD OF THE LORD

RESPONSE: Let us clap and shout praises to God.

The Lord is awesome (amazing).
He is the ruler of all the earth.

RESPONSE:

Sing praises to God, our king.
He is the ruler of all the earth.
Praise God with songs.

RESPONSE:

For the king of all the earth is God.
Sing him songs of praise.
God reigns (rules) over the nations (countries).
God sits on his holy throne.

RESPONSE:

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

I pray that God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, to give you the Spirit to make you wise. The Spirit will show you God so you will know him. I pray that you will see his light so you will know the hope God wants you to have. You know the wonderful blessings God promised to his people.

I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power God used in raising Christ from death and let him sit at the right side in heaven. God made Christ more important than all authorities, powers and rulers. His name is more important than all other names now in the world or in the future. God put everything under the control of Christ. Christ is the head of the church. We, the church, are his body. Christ makes everything in the world perfect.

The Word of the Lord

Ascension of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia---Alleluia---Alleluia

Jesus said, “Go and make all people disciples.
I (Jesus) am with you forever.

Alleluia---Alleluia---Alleluia

Gospel

MATTHEW 28:16-20

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew

The eleven went to a mountain in Galilee that Jesus told them to go. They saw Jesus waiting for them and they worshipped him. But some were not sure.

Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth is given to me. Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them everything I have told you. I will always be with you until the end of the world.

The Good News of the Lord

Ascension of the Lord

