

# 58 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

## YEAR A

### FIRST READING

Acts 1.1-11

As the disciples were watching, Jesus was lifted up.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

- 1 In the first book, Theophilus,  
I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning  
2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven,  
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit  
to the apostles whom he had chosen.  
3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them  
by many convincing proofs,  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem,  
but to wait there for the promise of the Father.  
“This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me;  
5 for John baptized with water,  
but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit  
not many days from now.”  
6 So when they had come together, they asked him,  
“Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”  
7 He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods  
that the Father has set by his own authority.  
8 But you will receive power  
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”  
9 When he had said this, as they were watching,  
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.  
10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven,  
suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.  
11 They said, “Men of Galilee,  
why do you stand looking up toward heaven?  
This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven,  
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 47.1-2, 5-6, 7-8 (R.5a)

R. God mounts the throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

or: Alleluia! (Two or three times)

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples;  
shout to God with loud songs of joy.  
2 For the Lord, the Most High, is awesome,  
a great king over all the earth. R.  
5 God has gone up with a shout,  
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.  
6 Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises. R.  
7 For God is the king of all the earth;  
sing praises with a psalm.  
8 God is king over the nations;  
God sits on his holy throne. R.

## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1.17-23

God raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- 17 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory,  
may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation  
as you come to know him,  
18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,  
you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,  
what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,  
19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power  
for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.  
20 God put this power to work in Christ  
when he raised him from the dead  
and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,  
21 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 age to come.  
22 And he has put all things under his feet  
and has made him the head over all things for the church,  
23 which is his body,  
the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Matthew 28.19, 20**

This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.  
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.

Go and teach all people my gospel;  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

## **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 28.16-20**

**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

- 16 The eleven disciples went to Galilee,  
to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.
- 17 When they saw him, they worshipped him;  
but some doubted.
- 18 And Jesus came and said to them,  
“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.  
“And remember, I am with you always,  
to the end of the age.”

The gospel of the Lord.