

# 58 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

## YEAR C

### 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

Hebrews 9.24-28; 10.19-23

Christ entered into heaven itself.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

- 24 Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands,  
a mere copy of the true one,  
but he entered into heaven itself,  
to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.  
25 Nor was it to offer himself again and again,  
as the high priest enters the Holy Place  
year after year with blood that is not his own;  
26 for then he would have had to suffer again and again  
since the foundation of the world.  
But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age  
to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself.  
27 Just as it is appointed for mortals to die once,  
and after that comes the judgment,  
28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many,  
will appear a second time,  
not to deal with sin,  
but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.  
19 Therefore, my friends,

since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary  
by the blood of Jesus,  
20 by the new and living way that he opened for us  
through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,  
21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,  
22 let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,  
with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience  
and our bodies washed with pure water.  
23 Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,  
for he who has promised is faithful.

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

Luke 24.46-53

Jesus withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

44 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,  
the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”  
45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,  
46 and he said to them,  
“Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer  
and to rise from the dead on the third day,  
47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed  
in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
48 You are witnesses of these things.  
49 “And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised;  
so stay here in the city  
until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ➤

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany,  
and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.  
51 While he was blessing them,  
he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.  
52 And they worshipped him,  
and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;  
53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.  
The gospel of the Lord.