

58 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

YEAR B

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 (longer)

Ephesians 4.1-13

We build up the body of Christ, until we come to the measure
of the full stature of Christ.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

- 1 I, the prisoner in the Lord,
beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another in love,
3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.
4 There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
6 one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.
7 But each of us was given grace
according to the measure of Christ's gift.
8 Therefore it is said,
"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people."
9 When it says, "He ascended,"
what does it mean but that he had also descended
into the lower parts of the earth? 

10 He who descended is the same one who ascended
far above all the heavens,
so that he might fill all things.

11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles,
some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

SECOND READING (shorter)

Ephesians 4.1-7, 11-13

We build up the body of Christ, until we come to the measure
of the full stature of Christ.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

1 I, the prisoner in the Lord,
beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another in love,
3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

4 There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
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who is above all and through all and in all.

7 But each of us was given grace
according to the measure of Christ's gift.

11 The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles,
some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ,
13 until all of us come to the unity of the faith
and of the knowledge of the Son of God,
to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

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

Mark 16.15-20

The Lord Jesus was taken up into heaven
and sat down at the right hand of God.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

- 15 Jesus appeared to the eleven, and he said to them,
“Go into all the world
and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.
16 The one who believes and is baptized will be saved;
but the one who does not believe will be condemned.
17 And these signs will accompany those who believe:
by using my name they will cast out demons;
they will speak in new tongues;
18 they will pick up snakes in their hands,
and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them;
they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them,
was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
20 And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere,
while the Lord worked with them
and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

The gospel of the Lord.