

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 24: 44-53

Ascension Sunday

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

The Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Prayer over the Gifts**

Eternal God,

**our Saviour Jesus Christ has promised to be with us until the end of time.**

**Accept all we offer you this day and renew us in his transfigured life; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Eternal Giver of love and power,

**your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom. Confirm us in this mission and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Collect**

Almighty God,

**your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of his peace and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**First Reading**

A reading from the book of Acts 1:1-11

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with<sup>[a]</sup> water, but in a few days you will be baptized with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit.”<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.<sup>10</sup> They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>“Men of

Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 47

Refrain: *“God has gone up with a shout.”*

*Unison*

God has gone up with a shout.

Clap your hands, all you nations;  
shout to God with cries of joy.

**For the Lord Most High is awesome,  
the great King over all the earth. R**

He subdued nations under us,  
peoples under our feet.

**He chose our inheritance for us,  
the pride of Jacob, whom he loved. R**

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,  
the Lord amid the sounding of trumpets.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
sing praises to our King, sing praises. R**

For God is the King of all the earth;  
sing to him a psalm of praise.

**God reigns over the nations;**

**God is seated on his holy throne. R**

The nobles of the nations assemble  
as the people of the God of Abraham,  
**for the kings of the earth belong to God;  
he is greatly exalted. R**

### Second Reading

A reading from the book of Ephesians 1:15-23

<sup>15</sup> For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, <sup>16</sup> I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup> I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup> I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup> and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**