



ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Years A, B, C

FIRST READING: Acts 1:1-11

A reading from Acts.

「Luke writes:」

¹In the first book, Theophilus,

I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach

²until the day when he was taken up to heaven,
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit
to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them
by many convincing proofs,
appearing to them during forty days
and speaking about the dominion of God.

⁴While staying with them, Jesus ordered them not to leave Jerusalem
but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

“This,” Jesus said, “is what you have heard from me;

⁵for John baptized with water,
but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him,

“Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

⁷Jesus replied,

“It is not for you to know the times or periods
that the Father has set by divine authority.

⁸But 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.”

⁹When Jesus had said this, as they were watching,
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven,
suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

¹¹They said, “You Galileans,
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.”

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus
and your love toward all the saints,
and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you
as I remember you in my prayers,
¹⁷that 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 God,
¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,
you may perceive what is the hope to which God has called you,
what are the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints,
¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of God's power for us who believe,
according to the working of God's great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when God raised him from the dead
and seated him at the right hand of Power in the heavenly places,
²¹far above all rule and authority and might and dominion
and above every name that is named,
not only in this age but also in the age to come.
²²And God has put all things under the feet of Christ
and has made him the head over all things for the church,
²³which is the body of Christ, the fullness of the one who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

The holy gospel according to Luke.

⁴⁴ Jesus said to the eleven and those with them,

“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 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 Jesus 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 worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The gospel of the Lord.