

THE ASCENSION OF THE Lord, Year A

Season of Easter

First Reading # Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I wrote about everything Jesus began to do and teach from the beginning until the day when, after giving instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, he was taken up to heaven.

He had presented himself alive to them after his Passion by many proofs: for forty days he had continued to appear to them speaking about the kingdom of God. While at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. He had said,

‘This is what you have heard me speak about: for John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

Now having met together, they asked him,

‘Lord, is this the time for you to restore the kingdom to Israel?’

He replied,

‘It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has laid down by his own authority, but you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit coming upon you, and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.’

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him up out of their sight. And while they were staring into the sky as he went, suddenly two men in white were standing beside them, and they said,

‘Why are you Galileans standing here looking into the sky?
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven
will come back in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.’

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 46:2-3,6-9

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

All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, is fearsome
the great king over all the earth.

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

God goes up with shouts of joy.
The Lord goes up to the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praise for God; sing praise!
Sing praise to our king; sing praise!

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

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God reigns over the nations.
God sits on his holy throne.

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

Second Reading † Ephesians 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in further knowledge of him; that the eyes of your mind may be enlightened for you to see what the hope of his call is, what are the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the overflowing greatness of his power to us believers, according to the working of the strength of his might which he has put to work in Christ by raising him from the dead and enthroning him at his right hand, in the heavens, far above every rule and authority and power and lordship and every title that is given, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

He has put all things under his feet and has given him as head above all things to the Church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 28:19,20

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

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

Now the eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him they worshipped him, though some hesitated.

Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said,

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

Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations;
baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teach them to observe everything I have commanded you.

And look, I am with you always till the end of time.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Monday of the seventh week of Easter