

## Ascension Day (Year A)

### **First Reading** - Acts 1.3-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After his suffering  
and death,

Jesus

presented himself alive  
to the apostles,  
with many

convincing proofs,  
appearing to them  
during forty days,  
and speaking  
of the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to them,

'Do not  
leave Jerusalem,  
but wait here

for all that is promised  
by the Father.

John baptised with water,

but you will be  
baptised  
with the Holy Spirit  
not many days from now.'

The apostles

asked Jesus, 'Lord, is this the time  
when you will restore  
the kingdom of Israel?'

Jesus replied, 'You cannot know  
every time or season  
in the purposes  
of the Father.

But you will receive power  
when the Holy Spirit  
comes upon you.

And you will be my witnesses  
in Jerusalem, in all Judea,  
in Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth.'

Then, as they were watching,  
he was taken up,

and a cloud  
hid him  
from their sight.

And as they looked intently  
into the sky,

two figures in white robes appeared,  
saying, 'Men of Galilee,  
why do you stand here  
looking into the sky?'

This Jesus

has been  
taken up  
from you  
into heaven,

and will return  
in the same way  
you saw him go.'

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Second Reading** - *Hebrews 7.23-28*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The former high priests

were many in number,  
because they were prevented by death  
from continuing in office.

But Jesus lives for ever,

and his priesthood  
does not  
come to an end.

He is able to intercede, for all time,  
on behalf of those who  
approach God  
through him.

He is holy,  
righteous,  
undefiled;

set apart now  
from sinners,  
exalted

above the heavens.

The former high priests

offered sacrifices  
day after day,  
for their own sins  
and for the sins of the people;

but Jesus offered himself,  
once for all.

The old law

appointed  
high priests who were  
subject to human weakness;

but the new law  
appoints

a Son, who is  
made perfect  
for ever.

This is the word of the Lord.

### **Gospel** - *Matthew 28.16-20*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.

The eleven disciples went  
to the mountain in Galilee,  
as Jesus had directed them.

When the disciples saw Jesus there,  
one by one, they bowed down  
and worshipped him.

Jesus said, 'All authority  
in heaven and on earth  
has been given to me.

Go therefore, and make disciples  
of all nations,  
baptising them

in the name of the Father, and the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them  
all that I have commanded you.

And know

that I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.