

## Ascension Day (Year B)

### 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 - Revelation 5.5a,6a,7-13

A reading from the book of Revelation.

Looking like a lamb

that has been slain,  
and is alive again,

the one who is

the Lion of Judah, and the root of David, took  
the scroll

from the one who was  
seated on the throne.

The four living creatures, and the twenty-four elders,  
holding musical instruments,  
and golden bowls  
of fragrant offerings of incense  
(which are the prayers of the saints),

fell down before the Lamb,

and sang: 'You are worthy,  
for you were slain,

and by your blood

you have restored to God  
a people to serve

as a royal priesthood on earth  
from every nation, tribe, and language.'

Then I heard thousands of angels,

all around the throne,

with the living creatures, and the elders,  
singing in full voice: 'Worthy

is the Lamb that was slain,  
to receive

all wisdom and power,

all glory and honour and praise!'

Then I heard every creature

in heaven and on earth,

and under the earth, and in the sea,

singing to the one who was seated on the throne,  
and to the Lamb, 'Blessing and honour  
and glory and power,

be yours for ever and ever!'

This is the word of the Lord.

### Gospel - Mark 16.15-16a,19-20

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

Jesus said to the disciples,

'Go into all the world,  
and proclaim the good news  
to the whole creation.'

And all who believe, and are baptised,  
will be saved.'

Then the Lord Jesus,

after he had spoken to them,  
was taken up into heaven,  
and sat down  
at the right hand of God.

And the disciples went out  
and proclaimed the good news  
everywhere.

And the Lord worked with them  
and confirmed the message  
by the signs  
that accompanied it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.