

## Ascension Day (Year C)

### 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 - Ephesians 1.17-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

The power of God

has raised Christ

from the dead,

to God's right hand on high,

far above all earthly powers -

above every other name,

in this world, or the next.

God has made Christ

the head of the church;

and has made the church

the body of Christ.

So now may your hearts be filled

with the same power of God, which is

the gift of God

to all who believe.

May your hearts be filled

with all the glorious riches

that God gives to you, and to all the saints;

and with confidence

for the future

to which God has called you.

And may the God of glory,

the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

give you a spirit of wisdom

and insight,

that you may continue to grow

in the knowledge of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

### Gospel - Luke 24.44-53

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

Jesus opened the minds of the disciples

to understand the scriptures, saying to them:

'Everything that is written about me,

in the law of Moses, in the prophets,

and in the psalms, must be fulfilled:

that the Messiah must suffer,

and rise from the dead on the third day;

and then repentance, and forgiveness,

will be proclaimed, to all nations,

in his name, beginning from Jerusalem.

You are witnesses to these things.

And now I am sending you

the gift that my Father promised;

so stay here in the city

until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out of Jerusalem

to Bethany,

and there, lifting up his hands,

he blessed them.

And while he was blessing them,

he withdrew from them,

and was taken up into heaven.

And they worshipped him.

They returned to Jerusalem

filled with joy.

And they were continually in the temple,

praising God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.