

Sunday 12 May 2024

# The Ascension of the Lord Year B

## Entrance Antiphon

*Acts of the Apostles 1:11*

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens?

This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven

will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

The Gloria in excelsis  
(Glory to God in the  
highest) *is said.*

## First Reading

*Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and

then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but 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 from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

## Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6*

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

*or*

**(R.)** Alleluia!

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must  
fear,  
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.  
**(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 1:17-23*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

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

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

## Gospel Acclamation

*Matthew 28:19. 20*

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

## Gospel

*Mark 16:15-20*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The Lord Jesus was taken into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.*

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

*The Creed is said.*

## Communion Antiphon

*Matthew 28:20*

Behold, I am with you always,  
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

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