

Sunday after Ascension Day

COLLECT : O God the king of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land. “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart with new and right desires, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony heart of sin and give you a new, obedient heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so you will obey my laws and do whatever I command.

“And you will live in Israel, the land I gave your ancestors long ago.

You will be my people, and I will be your God.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, are you going to free Israel now and restore our kingdom?” “The Father sets those dates,” he replied, “and they are not for you to know. But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

It was not long after he said this that he was taken up into the sky while they were watching, and he disappeared into a cloud. As they were straining their eyes to see him, two white-robed men suddenly stood there among them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. And someday, just as you saw him go, he will return!”

The apostles were at the Mount of Olives when this happened, so they walked back to Jerusalem. Then they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying. Here is the list of those who were present:

Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the Zealot), and Judas (son of James). They all met together continually for prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 68

Let God arise and let his/ enemies be/ scattered: let them also that/ hate him/ flee be-/fore him. Like as the smoke vanisheth when the wind driveth it away,* and like as wax/ melteth in the/ fire: so let the ungodly/ perish at the/ presence of God. But let the righteous be glad and re-/joice before/ God: let them/ also be/ merry and/ joyful.

O Sing unto God and sing praises/ unto his/ name: magnify him that rideth upon the heavens; be glad in the/ Lord and re-/joice be-/fore him.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to John (17:1-11)

Glory to you O Lord

When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. For you have given him authority over everyone in all the earth. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. I brought glory to you here on earth by doing everything you told me to do. And now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began. “I have told these men about you. They were in the world, but then you gave them to me.

Actually, they were always yours, and you gave them to me; and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, for I have passed on to them the words you gave me; and they accepted them and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me. “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. And all of them, since they are mine, belong to you; and you have given them back to me, so they are my glory! Now I am departing the world; I am leaving them behind and coming to you. Holy Father, keep them and care for them—all those you have given me—so that they will be united just as we are.

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you O Christ**