

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 1 beginning at verse 1. [1.1-11]

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning

²until the day when he was taken up to heaven,

after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me;

⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him,

'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;

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

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?

This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 47

1. O clap your hands, all you peoples:
and cry aloud to God with shouts of joy.
2. **For the Lord Most High is to be feared:
he is a great king over all the earth.**
3. He cast down peoples under us:
and the nations beneath our feet.
4. **He chose us a land for our possession:
that was the pride of Jacob, whom he loved.**
5. God has gone up with the sound of rejoicing:
and the Lord to the blast of the horn.
6. **O sing praises, sing praises to God:
O sing praises, sing praises to our king.**
7. For God is the king of all the earth:
O praise him in a well-wrought psalm.
8. **God has become the king of the nations:
he has taken his seat upon his holy throne.**
9. The princes of the people are gathered together:
with the people of the God of Abraham.
10. **For the mighty ones of the earth
are become the servants of God:
and he is greatly exalted.**

Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians chapter 1 beginning at verse 1. [1.15-23]

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason

¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him,

¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened,

you may know what is the hope to which he has called you,

what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints,

¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named,

not only in this age but also in the age to come.

²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew chapter 28. beginning at verse 16. (28.16-20)

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

16 Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them,

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

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

²⁰and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.