

Thursday, May 18, 2023

Ascension Day, Year A

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

¹In the first writing, I worked on, Theophilus, everything Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day he instructed the apostles whom he had chosen through the Holy Spirit and was taken up to heaven. ³Jesus presented himself to them, living, after his suffering through many convincing proofs, by appearing to them forty days and speaking about the reign of God. ⁴And staying with them, Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, rather to wait there for the promise of the Faithful God, “what you heard from me.” ⁵For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from this one.”

⁶When they [the disciples], came together, they asked Jesus, “Rabbi, is this the time when you will restore sovereignty to Israel?” ⁷He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Sovereign God has set through divine authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹And saying this, as they were watching Jesus was taken up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While they were gazing up toward heaven as Jesus was going, suddenly two in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, “Galileans, why are you standing looking up into heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Psalm: Psalm 24

¹To the CREATOR OF ALL belongs the earth and all that fills her,
the world, and those who dwell in her.

²For God upon the seas has founded her,
and on the rivers has established her.

³Who shall ascend the hill of the HOLY ONE?
And who shall stand in God’s holy place?

⁴The woman or man who has clean hands and pure hearts,
who does not lift up their [hands] to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully on their souls.

⁵[Instead] they will lift up a blessing from the FAITHFUL GOD,
and what is right from the God of their salvation.

⁶Such is the generation of those who seek God,
who seek the face of the God of Rebekah. *Selah*

⁷Lift up your heads, you gates!
and be lifted up, you everlasting doors!
that the One of glory may come in.

⁸Who is the One of glory?
The FIRE OF SINAI, strong and mighty,
the GOD WHO IS MAJESTY, mighty in battle.

⁹Lift up your heads, you gates!

and be lifted up, you everlasting doors!
that the One of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this One of glory?

The COMMANDER of heaven's legions,
God is the One of glory. *Selah*

Second Reading: Revelation 3:20-22

²⁰“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and dine with you, and you with me. ²¹To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Abba on God's throne. ²²Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

Gospel: Luke 24:46-53

⁴⁶Then Jesus said to them, “So it is written, the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹Now look! I am sending you the promise of my Abba. You all stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰Then Jesus led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting his hands, he blessed them.

⁵¹While he was blessing them, Jesus retreated from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they bowed down and worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were in the temple every day blessing God.