

Reader; Prior to the service please check these readings with those in the bulletin. If you have any questions concerning the readings please speak with the celebrant. Thank you.

May 4, 2008
7th Sunday of Easter – Ascension Sunday

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

(Jesus said to the apostles) “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.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward 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.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord

The portion of the Psalter appointed for today is Psalm 47
Reading aloud and together:

- 1 Clap your hands, all you peoples; * shout to God with a cry of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared; * he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdues the peoples under us, * and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He chooses our inheritance for us, * the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, * the Lord with the sound of the ram's-horn.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises; * sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is King of all the earth; * sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations; * God sits upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples have gathered together * with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 The rulers of the earth belong to God, * and he is highly exalted.

A Reading from the first letter of Peter

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker. Yet if any of you suffers as a Christian, do not consider it a disgrace, but glorify God because you bear this name. For the time has come for judgment to begin with the household of God; if it begins with us, what will be the end for those who do not obey the gospel of God? And "If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinners?" Therefore, let those suffering in accordance with God's will entrust themselves to a faithful Creator, while continuing to do good.

The Word of the Lord

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

The Word of the Lord