

COLLECT

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abideth with his Church on earth, even unto the end of the ages; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

FIRST LESSON

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While 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; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But 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."

Psalm 47 *Omnes gentes, plaudite* Read responsively by whole verse.

- 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.*

EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I 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, so 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, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God 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, far 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. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and

was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

The Prayers of the People

Form III Adapted

Father, we pray for the Episcopal Church, the Church of England, the Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Holy Land, for this Parish, and for all your holy Catholic Church; **That we all may be one.**

Grant that our staff, our vestry, and every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you; **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Allan Gates, our Diocesan Bishop; Carol Gallagher our Assistant Bishop, Fr. Eric our Priest; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons; **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for Biden, our President; Warren and Markey, our Senators; Healey and Driscoll, our Governor and Lt. Governor, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on all Christians who suffer persecution; those affected by war, disaster, and tragedy throughout the world; all those who suffer from any grief or trouble; and those for whom our prayers are requested; **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

We now pray for any particular people either silently or aloud.
Silence is kept as people pray for individuals aloud or silently.

Give to the departed eternal rest; **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

We remember Joseph Tomlinson, in whose memory the altar flowers are given by his family. We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy; **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

In the silence the people may add their own prayers of intercession or thanksgiving.