

Introit

Psalm 47:1–2, 5, 8; antiphon: Acts 1:11

Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | luia.

Clap your hands, all | peoples!*

Shout to God with loud | songs of joy!

For the LORD, the Most High, is | to be feared,*

a great king over | all the earth.

God has gone up | with a shout,*

the LORD with the sound of a | trumpet.

God reigns over the | nations;*

God sits on his | holy throne.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Men of | Galilee,*

why do you stand looking into heaven? Alle- | luia.

This Jesus, who was taken up from you into | heaven,*

will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. Alle- | luia.

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 2:5–15

⁵The sons of the prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take away your master from over you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know it; keep quiet.”

⁶Then Elijah said to him, “Please stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the sons of the prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his cloak and rolled it up and struck the water, and the water was parted to the one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground.

Readings for the Ascension of Our Lord 2021

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you.” And Elisha said, “Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me.” ¹⁰And he said, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so.” ¹¹And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it and he cried, “My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” And he saw him no more.

Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. ¹³And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, “The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha.” And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

Psalm

Psalm 110; antiphon: v. 1

Sit at My Right Hand

¹The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my | right hand,*
until I make your enemies your | footstool.”

²The LORD sends forth from Zion
your mighty | scepter.*

Rule in the midst of your | enemies!

³Your people will offer themselves freely
on the day of your power,
in holy | garments;*

from the womb of the morning,
the dew of your youth | will be yours.

⁴The LORD has sworn
and will not | change his mind,*

Readings for the Ascension of Our Lord 2021

“You are a priest forever
after the order of Mel- | chizedek.”

⁵The Lord is at your | right hand; *
he will shatter kings on the day | of his wrath.

⁶He will execute judgment among the nations,
filling them with | corpses; *
he will shatter chiefs
over the | wide earth.

⁷He will drink from the brook | by the way; *
therefore he will lift | up his head.

Second Reading

Acts 1:1–11

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “**you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**”

The Ascension

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “**It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:44–53

⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to them, “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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

The Ascension

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Acknowledgments

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