

**FIRST READING**

Why are you standing here looking at the sky?  
Jesus has been taken into heaven.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:8-11

**J**esus told his disciples:

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power.  
Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem,  
in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world.”

After Jesus had said this and while they were watching,  
he was taken up into a cloud.  
They could not see him, but as he went up,  
they kept looking up into the sky.

Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes  
were standing there beside them.  
They said, “Why are you men from Galilee  
standing here and looking up into the sky?  
Jesus has been taken to heaven.  
But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go.”

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

47:1-2, 5-6, 7-8

*R. (6a) God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.*

All of you nations,  
clap your hands and shout  
joyful praises to God.  
The Lord Most High is fearsome,  
the ruler of all the earth.

*R. God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.*

God goes up to his throne,  
as people shout

and trumpets blast.  
Sing praises to God our King.

*R. God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.*

God is ruler of all the earth!  
Praise God with songs.  
God rules the nations  
from his sacred throne.

*R. God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.*

## **SECOND READING**

God seated Jesus at his right hand in heaven.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians 1:17-21

**B**rothers and sisters:

I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ  
to give you his Spirit.

The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand  
what it means to know God.

My prayer is that light will flood your hearts  
and that you will understand the hope that was given to you  
when God chose you.

Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours  
together with all of God's people.

I want you to know about the great and mighty power  
that God has for us followers.

It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ from death  
and let him sit at his right side in heaven.

There Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers, and rulers.

He rules over all beings in this world  
and will rule in the future world as well.

The word of the Lord.

## ALLELUIA

Matthew 28:19a, 20b

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Go and teach all people my gospel;  
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Jesus blessed them, withdrew from them, and was carried to heaven.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

24:50-53

**J**esus led his disciples out to Bethany,  
where he raised his hands and blessed them.  
As he was doing this,  
he left and was taken up to heaven.

After his disciples had worshiped him,  
they returned to Jerusalem and were very happy.  
They spent their time in the temple, praising God.

The gospel of the Lord.