

READINGS

Acts 1:3-14

Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,

glorify your Son

in the lives of the people called by his name.

Through no merit of ours,

you have made us your own,

to be your witnesses on earth.

Keep us true to the name we bear,

that people everywhere may know

that you are the loving God and Creator of us all.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,

the resurrection and the life,

who lives and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God,

may we who share Christ's banquet

be one with him as he is one with you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ,

our risen and ascended Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 1:3-14

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

After his death and resurrection, Jesus presented himself alive to the apostles by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of 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 the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, "Rabbi, 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 have been set by God's 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 Jesus 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.

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 68:1-10, 33-36

Let God arise, and let God's enemies be scattered;
let those who hate God flee in terror.

**Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;
as the wax melts at the fire,
so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.

**Sing to our God, sing praises to God's name;
exalt the One who rides upon the heavens;
YAHWEH is God's name, in whom we rejoice!**

Parent of orphans, defender of widows,
God is in the holy habitation;

**Our God, who gives the solitary a home
and brings forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in dry places.**

O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
**the earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at your presence, the God of Sinai,
at your presence, the God of Israel.**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

**Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God,
you made provision for the poor.**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to our God;
who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
who sends forth a mighty voice.

Ascribe power to God,
whose majesty is over Israel;
whose strength is in the skies.
How wonderful is God in the holy places,
the God of Israel
giving strength and power to the people!
Blessed be our God!

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

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. Humble yourselves therefore under God's mighty hand, so that God may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on God, who cares for you throughout all.

Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist the devil, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to eternal glory in Christ, will indeed restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.

To God be the power forever and ever! Amen!

Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: John 17:1-11

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

The Holy Gospel

of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Praise be to Thee, O Lord.

God be with you.

And also with you.

The Good News

of Lord Jesus Christ

according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said:

Holy One, the hour has come;
glorify your Beloved
so that your Beloved 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, your Messiah, whom you have sent.
I glorified you on earth
by finishing the work that you gave me to do.
So now, Holy One,
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 I am in the world no longer,
but they are in the world,
and I am coming to you.

Holy One,
protect by your name
those you have given me,
so that they may be one
—even as we are one.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Gospel of Christ.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.