

Lectionary Readings  
for  
Ascension of the Lord  
Year A

Scriptures Set by  
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## Psalm 47

Leader: Clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

People: The Lord, the Most High, is awesome! He is a great King over all the earth.

Leader: He has given us victory over peoples and nations.

People: He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom He loves.

Leader: God has gone up with a shout!

People: The Lord has gone up with the sound of a trumpet.

Leader: Sing praises to God! Sing praises!

People: Sing praises to our King! Sing praises!

Leader: God is the King of all the earth.

People: Sing His praises!

Leader: God sits on His holy throne.

People: Sing His praises!

Leader: The princes of the people gather as the people of the God of Abraham, for the shields of the earth belong to God.

People: He is highly exalted!

*Same Psalm – more generalized with Jewish allusions removed*

Reading from Psalm 47

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Leader: Sing praises to God!

People: Sing His praises!

Leader: Sing praises to our King!

People: Sing His praises!

Leader: God is the King of all the earth.

People: Sing His praises!

Leader: God sits on His holy throne.

People: **Sing His praises!**

Leader: He is highly exalted!

People: **Sing His praises!**

Hymn/Song Suggestions:

“He Is Exalted”

“Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above”

“Awesome God”

“Crown Him King of Kings”

“Shout to God” (Joseph Martin anthem)

Mozart “Gloria” from the Twelfth Mass

*There are LOTS of good settings of the “Clap Your Hands” text!*

Acts 1:1-11  
Ascension

Responsive Dialogue from Acts 1: 4-11

*The part of the people may be read by a fourth solo reader.*

Leader: On one occasion, while Jesus was eating with the disciples, he gave them this command:

Reader One: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

**People: "Lord, are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel now?"**

Reader One: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

**People: After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.**

Leader: Looking intently up into the sky as he was going, the people suddenly saw two men dressed in white standing beside them.

Reader Two: "People of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be the God.**

Congregational Dialogue from Acts 1:3-11

Leader: After His suffering, Jesus presented Himself alive to His disciples. With many convincing proofs, He appeared to them during forty days, speaking to them about the Kingdom of God. Staying with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father, saying to them:

**Men: "This is what you have heard from me: John baptized with water; but not many days from now, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

*Women: "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom of Israel?"*

**Men: "It is not for you to know the time that the Father has set by His own authority.**

**All: "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."**

Leader: 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 and said:

**All: "Why do you stand here looking up toward heaven? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."**

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Hymn/Song Suggestions:

- “Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious”
- “Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise”
- “The Head that Once Was Crowned with Thorns”
- “Thine Is the Glory”
- “If I Be Lifted Up” (Mark Blankenship chorus)
- “All Rise” (Babbie Mason chorus)
- “The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done”
- “O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing” (UMC) – 8.8.8.8

*Epistle Readings on Next Page*

## **Ephesians 1:15-23**

### **A Prayer for the Faithful from Ephesians 1:15-19**

*Have one person lead this, pausing for several seconds between each request.*

When I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not ceased to give thanks for you in my prayers. This is what I pray on your behalf:

- That you may be given a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you grow closer to Christ.
- That the eyes of your heart may be enlightened.
- That you may know the hope to which he has called you.
- That you may know the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints.
- That you may know the immeasurable greatness of his power for all who believe.

May he do all this according to his great power. Amen.

Hymn/Chorus Suggestions:

- “Thou My Everlasting Portion” (Close to Thee)
- “Open the Eyes of My Heart”
- “Open My Eyes that I May See”
- “Our Hope Is in the Living God”
- “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”
- “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”
- “Faith is the Victory”
- “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

### **A Reading in Praise of Christ from Ephesians 1:20-23**

Leader: God put his great power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in heaven.

*People: He now sits enthroned far above all rulers and authorities, powers and dominions, above every name that is named in this age and in the ages yet to come.*

Leader: God has put all things under the feet of Christ and has made him head over all things related to the church.

*People: The church is the body of Christ, the very fulfillment of him who fills all in all.*

Hymn/Chorus Suggestions:

- “He Who Began a Good Work in You”
- “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus” (W&R)
- “Thine Is the Glory”
- “Hallelujah! What a Savior”
- “The Church’s One Foundation”
- “We Are God’s People”
- “We Will Glorify”
- “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”
- “You Are My All in All”