

First Reader: **A READING FROM ACTS**

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “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.”

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.

Reader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Responding by whole verse:**

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 **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.**
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 **Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens;
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!**
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows,
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 **God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into
freedom;
but the rebels shall live in dry places.**
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 **The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 **Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the
poor.**
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 **He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.**
- 35 Ascribe power to God;
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.
- 36 **How wonderful is God in his holy places!
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!
Blessed be God!**

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 the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, 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 his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Prayers of the People:

Beloved siblings in Christ, peace be with you. Let us pray to our merciful Lord, saying, “Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**”

Lord Jesus Christ, you have given your Church the gift of your Holy Spirit. May that same Spirit comfort and strengthen us as we proclaim your resurrection to the world. *Silence*

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God of wisdom, teach and counsel the leaders of nations. May this world be filled with justice and peace. *Silence*

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God our provider, you have given us this earth as a goodly heritage. May we use its resources wisely and always according to your purpose. *The congregation may add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

All-knowing God, raise up for this community people who will stand and voice your truth. May we be led by you on good paths of life. *Silence*

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

Merciful God, you are a strong refuge for those in trouble. Protect all those who suffer various trials. Reveal yourself to those who struggle to believe in you. Make all your people glad by the living hope that is found in you. *The congregation may add their petitions, followed by silence.*

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

God of life, may the dying and the dead rest in hope. Give us faith that you do not abandon anyone—even to the grave. And preserve us for the great inheritance you give us through the resurrection of your Son from the dead.

Silence

Our Lord and our God, **have mercy on us.**

The Celebrant concludes, adding a Collect.

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