



# THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY



ANGELIC CHURCH  
IN NORTH AMERICA

YEAR A

## SEASONAL GREETING

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Acts 1:(1-5)6-14

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

<sup>4</sup> And 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; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” )

<sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But 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.” <sup>9</sup> And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup> And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, <sup>11</sup> and 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.”

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

OR

Ezekiel 39:21-29

“And I will set my glory among the nations, and all the nations shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid on them. <sup>22</sup> The house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God, from that day forward. <sup>23</sup> And the nations shall know that the house of Israel

went into captivity for their iniquity, because they dealt so treacherously with me that I hid my face from them and gave them into the hand of their adversaries, and they all fell by the sword. <sup>24</sup> I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their transgressions, and hid my face from them.

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: Now I will restore the fortunes of Jacob and have mercy on the whole house of Israel, and I will be jealous for my holy name. <sup>26</sup> They shall forget their shame and all the treachery they have practiced against me, when they dwell securely in their land with none to make them afraid, <sup>27</sup> when I have brought them back from the peoples and gathered them from their enemies' lands, and through them have vindicated my holiness in the sight of many nations. <sup>28</sup> Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, because I sent them into exile among the nations and then assembled them into their own land. I will leave none of them remaining among the nations anymore. <sup>29</sup> And I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD.”

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## PSALTER VERSES

*(In said services, the psalm verses may be placed between the Epistle and the Gospel, with the congregation standing in preparation for the Gospel. At services where there is a hymn or canticle before the Gospel, the psalm might be said between the Old Testament and Epistle, the people seated.)*

## Psalm 68:1-20

- <sup>1</sup> Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him also flee before him.
- <sup>2</sup> As the smoke vanishes, so shall you drive them away; \*  
and as wax melts before the fire, so let the ungodly perish  
before the presence of God.
- <sup>3</sup> But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.
- <sup>4</sup> O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name; magnify  
him who rides upon the heavens. \*  
The LORD is his Name; rejoice before him.
- <sup>5</sup> He is a father of the fatherless and defends the cause of the  
widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation.
- <sup>6</sup> He is the God who gives the solitary a home, and brings  
the prisoners out of captivity, \*  
but lets the rebellious dwell in a desert land.
- <sup>7</sup> O God, when you went forth before the people, \*  
when you went through the wilderness,
- <sup>8</sup> The earth shook, and the heavens poured forth rain at the  
presence of God, \*  
even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who  
is the God of Israel.
- <sup>9</sup> You, O God, sent a gracious rain upon your inheritance \*  
and refreshed the land when it was weary.
- <sup>10</sup> Your congregation found a dwelling there, \*  
for you, O God, of your goodness have provided for the  
poor.
- <sup>11</sup> The Lord gave the word; \*

great was the company of those who proclaimed the tidings.

- <sup>12</sup>Kings with their armies fled, they fled, \*  
and the women at home divided the spoil.
- <sup>13</sup>Though you have lain among the sheepfolds, \*  
yet shall you be like the wings of a dove that are covered  
with silver, and whose feathers shine like gold.
- <sup>14</sup>When the Almighty scattered kings, \*  
it was as if it snowed in Zalmon.
- <sup>15</sup>As the hill of Bashan, so is God's hill, \*  
even a high hill, as the hill of Bashan.
- <sup>16</sup>Why look with envy, you high hills? This is God's hill, on  
which it pleases him to dwell; \*  
surely, the LORD will abide on it for ever.
- <sup>17</sup>The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands  
of angels, \*  
and the Lord has come from Sinai into the holy place.
- <sup>18</sup>You have gone up on high; you have led captivity captive,  
and received gifts from men, \*  
even from your enemies, that the LORD God might  
dwell among them.
- <sup>19</sup>Praised be the Lord daily, \*  
even the God who helps us and pours his benefits upon us.
- <sup>20</sup> He is our God, the God from whom salvation comes; \*  
God is the LORD, by whom we escape death.

OR

Psalm 47

- <sup>1</sup> O clap your hands together, all you peoples; \*  
O cry aloud unto God with shouts of joy.

- <sup>2</sup> For the LORD Most High is to be feared; \*  
he is the great King over all the earth.
- <sup>3</sup> He shall subdue the peoples under us, \*  
and the nations under our feet.
- <sup>4</sup> He shall choose our inheritance for us, \*  
the pride of Jacob whom he loved.
- <sup>5</sup> God has gone up with a shout of triumph, \*  
the LORD with the sound of the trumpet.
- <sup>6</sup> O sing praises, sing praises unto our God; \*  
O sing praises, sing praises unto our King.
- <sup>7</sup> For God is the King of all the earth; \*  
think upon his mighty acts and praise him with a song.
- <sup>8</sup> God reigns over the nations; \*  
God sits on his holy throne.
- <sup>9</sup> The princes of the peoples are gathered with the people of  
the God of Abraham; \*  
for the mighty upon earth have become the servants of  
the Lord, and he is very highly exalted.

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

### 1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. <sup>15</sup> But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify

God in that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

<sup>18</sup> And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

<sup>19</sup> Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St. John.

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 17:1-11

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup> “I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup> Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. <sup>8</sup> For I have

given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## OFFERTORY AND POST-COMMUNION SENTENCES

*(Drawn from verses of Holy Scripture, these sentences are chosen by the celebrant or preacher to reinforce the lessons or teaching of the day.)*

### PROPER PREFACE

#### *Ascension*

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who after his most glorious resurrection appeared to his Apostles, and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also ascend, and reign with him in glory.

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