

The Roughton Benefice

Thursday

21 May 2020

Ascension Day

Collect

Risen Christ,
you have raised our human
nature to the throne of
heaven:
help us to seek and serve you,
that we may join you at the
Father's side,
where you reign with the Spirit
in glory,
now and for ever.

First Reading: Daniel 7:9-14

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire.

¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousand served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgement, and the books were opened.

¹¹I watched then because of the noise of the arrogant words that the horn was speaking. And as I watched, the beast was put to death, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. ¹²As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time. ¹³As I watched in the night visions,

I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his

kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Psalm 47

To the leader. Of the Korahites. A Psalm.

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

²For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.

³He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

⁴He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*

⁵God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

⁷For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

⁸God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

⁹The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

Second Reading

Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the book of Acts

¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But 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.'

⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards 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.'

Gospel Luke 24:44-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

⁴⁴Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until

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you have been clothed with power from
on high.'

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as
Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he
blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing
them, he withdrew from them and was
carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they
worshipped him, and returned to
Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they
were continually in the temple blessing
God.

Post Communion

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in
Christ
and have fed us with the bread
of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished
with such spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the
heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.