

As 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.
 A 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.
 I 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. As for the rest of
 the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their
 lives were prolonged for a season and a time.
 As 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.
 To 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.

Daniel 7.9-14

PSALM 47

The response to the psalm is:

○ sing praises to God, sing praises.

○ sing praises to God, sing praises.

1 Clap your hands together, all you peoples;

○ sing to God with shouts of joy.

2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared;

he is the great King over all the earth.

3 He subdued the peoples under us

and the nations under our feet.

4 He has chosen our heritage for us,

the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.

○ sing praises to God, sing praises.

5 God has gone up with a merry noise,

the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.

6 ○ sing praises to God, sing praises;

sing praises to our King, sing praises.

7 For God is the King of all the earth;

sing praises with all your skill.

○ sing praises to God, sing praises.

8 God reigns over the nations;

God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.

9 The nobles of the peoples are gathered together

with the people of the God of Abraham.

10 For the powers of the earth belong to God

and he is very highly exalted.

○ sing praises to God, sing praises.

THE SECOND READING

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 they had come together, they asked him, '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 towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They 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.'

Acts 1.4-11

THE GOSPEL

Jesus said to the disciples, '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.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

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

Luke 24.44-end