

Ascension Sunday ~ May 21, 2023

Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

¹ Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him.

² **As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God.**

³ But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

⁴ **Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds--his name is the LORD-- be exultant before him.**

⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation.

⁶ **God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.**

⁷ O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, Selah

⁸ **the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

⁹ Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished;

¹⁰ **your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.**

³² Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, Selah

³³ **O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

³⁴ Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies.

³⁵ **Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!**

Acts 1:6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ 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." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing

up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

¹¹ 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." ¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

John 17:1-11

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.