

May 17- All Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Acts 1:1-11

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

¹ In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach ² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ 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; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

The Ascension of Jesus

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.”

Ephesians 1:15-23

Paul’s Prayer

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead

and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,^l
²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion
and above every name that is named, not only in this age
but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things
under his feet and has made him the head over all things for
the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills
all in all.

Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴ Then 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.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to
understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ 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 ⁴⁷ and that repentance and
forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all
nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of
these things. ⁴⁹ 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.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his
hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he

withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and they were continually in the temple blessing God.