

one side and to the other, till the two of them could go over on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask what I shall do for you, before I am taken from you." And Elisha said, "Please let there be a double portion of your spirit on me." And he said, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it shall be so for you, but if you do not see me, it shall not be so." And as they still went on and talked, behold, chariots of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it and he cried, "My father, my father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" And he saw him no more. Then he took hold of his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. And he took up the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. Then he took the cloak of Elijah that had fallen from him and struck the water, saying, "Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" And when he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over. Now when the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho saw him opposite them, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

GRADUAL: 1 Corinthians 15:20a; Psalm 8:5b-6

R: Christ has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor,

R: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C: He has put all things under His feet.

EPISTLE READING: Acts 1:1-11 P. 156

R: In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 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; 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, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed 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 and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." 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. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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."

***NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE**

P. 266–267

***HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 24:44–53 P. 157

P: Then Jesus 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are 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 blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "On Christ's Ascension I Now Build" # 492

SERMON

***NICENE CREED** P. 158

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** P. 159

OFFERING: (as the offerings are being gathered to glorify our Lord, please sign and pass the red attendance booklet found in the pew)

***OFFERTORY:** "Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven" # 477 v. 3

***PREFACE – *SANCTUS** P. 160–161

***LORD'S PRAYER – *AGNUS DEI** P. 162–163

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns" # 532

"God of the Prophets, Bless the Prophets' Sons" # 682

***POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:** "Thank the Lord" P. 164

***POST-COMMUNION COLLECT – *BENEDICTION** P. 166

***CLOSING HYMN:** "Up through Endless Ranks of Angels" # 491