

## A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, Theophilus,  
I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught  
until the day he was taken up,  
after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit  
to the apostles whom he had chosen.  
He presented himself alive to them  
by many proofs after he had suffered,  
appearing to them during forty days  
and speaking about the kingdom of God.  
While meeting with them,  
he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem,  
but to wait for "the promise of the Father  
about which you have heard me speak;  
for John baptized with water,  
but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they had gathered together they asked him,  
"Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"  
He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons  
that the Father has established by his own authority.  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you,  
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,  
throughout Judea and Samaria,  
and to the ends of the earth."

When he had said this, as they were looking on,  
he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight.  
While they were looking intently at the sky as he was going,  
suddenly two men dressed in white garments stood beside them.  
They said, "Men of Galilee,  
why are you standing there looking at the sky?  
This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven  
will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven."

**The Word of the Lord!**

## **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians**

Brothers and sisters,  
I, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the calling  
you have received,  
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another through love,  
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace:  
one body and one Spirit,  
as you were also called to the one hope of your calling;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
one God and Father of all,  
who is over all and through all and in all.

But grace was given to each of us  
according to the measure of Christ's gift.

And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets,  
others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers,  
to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry,  
for building up the body of Christ,  
until we all attain to the unity of faith  
and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature to adulthood,  
to the extent of the full stature of Christ.

**The Word of the Lord!**