

New Testament: A reading from Acts 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked Jesus, "Rabbi, 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 Abba God has set authoritatively. 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 Jesus 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 toward heaven, suddenly two figures in white robes stood by them.

They said, "People 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."

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

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.

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

pause

For the stories from the early Christ communities,

We give thanks.

Gospel: Listen for words of faith from the Gospels John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Abba God, the hour has come; glorify your Chosen One so that this One may glorify you, since you have given authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given me.

And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

So now, Abba, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"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.

Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; 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.

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.

All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy One, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

For the Word that was in the beginning,
for the Word that invites and inspires,
for the Word embodied in us.

We give thanks.