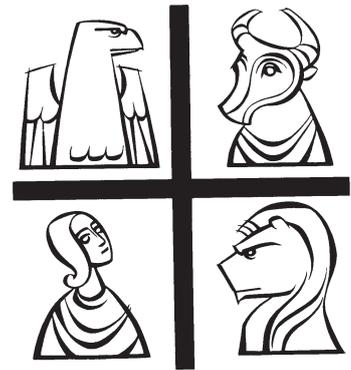


Reading Luke in Easter

Gospel of Luke 24:50–53

The Ascension

- ⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany,
and lifting up his hands he blessed them.
- ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them
and was carried up into heaven.
- ⁵² And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,
⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.



Reflection

In subtle ways Luke shows Jesus to be priest, prophet and king. At the Transfiguration Jesus spoke of his exodus which he would accomplish in Jerusalem. Jesus' exodus echoes that of Moses the prophet and includes death, resurrection and ascension into glory. It was in Bethany that the Palm Sunday procession began and Jesus was acclaimed king. Before ascending into heaven, as the prophet Elijah did, Jesus raise his hands to bless them — a sign of priestly ministry.

Luke brings the whole of Gospel to a close in the same place where he began it — in the temple in Jerusalem. From there forgiveness will be proclaimed to all nations.

- Though Jesus has left them the disciples are filled with joy because he has helped them to understand the scriptures and given them a mission.
 - What have you found noteworthy reading the whole of Luke's Gospel?
 - How has it inspired you to live differently?

Prayer

God of majesty,
you led the Messiah
through suffering into risen life
and took him up to the glory of heaven.

Clothe us with the power
promised from on high,
and send us forth to the ends of the earth
as heralds of repentance
and witnesses of Jesus Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
who lives and reigns with you now and always
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

