

FAITH COMES BY HEARING Bible Study – 5.08.24 (for 5.12.24)

FIRST READING: Psalm 47:1-7

¹Clap your hands, all peoples!
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
²For the Lord, the Most High, is to be
feared, a great king over all the earth.
³He subdued peoples under us,
and nations under our feet.
⁴He chose our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob whom he loves.
⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of a trumpet.
⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
⁷For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm!

- 1) The sons of Korah wrote this psalm to invoke us to praise. How do they call us to praise God in worship? [How is expressiveness in worship easy or hard for you?]
- 2) Why is God worthy of such expressions of acclaim?
- 3) Luther called music, “the living of the Gospel.” How does this psalm reinforce Luther’s thought?

Second Reading: Acts 1:4-14

⁴And 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; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But 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.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and 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.” ¹²Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a

Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³And when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and

Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

- 1) Before Jesus' ascension, He reiterates a promise that will soon be delivered to the disciples. What is it He's going to give them soon?
- 2) What will this gift enable the disciples to do? Where will they do this?
- 3) How do the disciples respond to Jesus' ascension? What does Luke tell us they were up to?

GOSPEL: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴Then 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 and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You

are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And 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." ⁵⁰And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

- 1) Luke ends his Gospel the same way he begins its sequel (Acts). Why does Luke tell the same story twice, but in two different ways?
- 2) Jesus focuses on the message to be proclaimed here. What is the content of the message the disciples are to share?
- 3) Jesus ascends after giving His blessing to the disciples. Where and what does that blessing lead the disciples?