

## A reading from the second book of Kings

Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces. He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 110

*Refrain: The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.*

**All: The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.**

- 1 The Lord said to my lord, 'Sit at my right hand, ♦  
until I make your enemies your footstool.'
- 2 May the Lord stretch forth the sceptre of your power; ♦  
rule from Zion in the midst of your enemies.
- 3 'Noble are you on this day of your birth; ♦  
on the holy mountain, from the womb of the dawn  
the dew of your new birth is upon you.'

**All: The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.**

- 4 The Lord has sworn and will not retract: ♦  
'You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.'
- 5 The king at your right hand, O Lord, ♦  
shall smite down kings in the day of his wrath.

**All: The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.**

- 6 In all his majesty, he shall judge among the nations, ♦  
smiting heads over all the wide earth.
- 7 He shall drink from the brook beside the way; ♦  
therefore shall he lift high his head.

**All: The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel.**

## **A reading from the acts of the apostles**

When they heard these things, the Sanhedrin became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, '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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been 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 was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy;

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**