

*Introduction: There are great celebrations when the leader of a people is installed. A king is led to his throne, a President has to swear an oath and other leaders are solemnly led into their new office. When the Māori Queen was enthroned the Bible was placed on her head. Sometimes the whole nation takes part by listening to the radio or watching the celebration on TV. Today we celebrate the installation of Christ as the great Lord of all nations; Christ has ascended into heaven and takes his seat at the right hand of God. All honour and power are given to him. On this day of Ascension we rejoice with all people in heaven and all nations on earth. We acclaim Jesus as our Lord.*

ENGLISH TEXT: Contemporary English Version

### FIRST READING

From the Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11  
Theophilus, I first wrote to you about all that Jesus did and taught from the very first until he was taken up to heaven. But before he was taken up, he gave orders to the apostles he had chosen with the help of the Holy Spirit. For forty days after Jesus had suffered and died, he proved in many ways that he had been raised from death. He appeared to his apostles and spoke to them about God's kingdom. While he was still with them, he said: "Don't leave Jerusalem yet. Wait here for the Father to give you the Holy Spirit, just as I told you he has promised to do. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." While the apostles were still with Jesus, they asked him, "Lord are you now going to give Israel its own king again?" Jesus said to them, "You don't need to know the time of those events that only the Father controls. But the Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world." After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. They could not see him, but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky. Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them. They said, "Why are you men from Galilee standing here and looking up into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go."

Ko te kupu tēnei a te Ariki. **Whakawhetai ki te Atua.**

*Response: God goes up with shouts of joy, the Lord with trumpet blast. Kua kake atu te Atua i roto i te hāmama, a lhowa i roto i te tangi o te tētere.*

1 All of you nations clap you hands and shout joyful praise to God. The Lord Most High is fearsome, the ruler of all the earth. *℟. Kua kake atu te Atua ....*

2 God goes up to his throne as people shout and trumpets blast. Sing praise to God our King, the ruler of all the earth! *℟. Kua kake atu te Atua ...*

3 Praise God with songs. God rules the nations from his sacred throne. Their leaders come together and are now the people of Abraham's God. *℟. Kua kake atu ...*

### SECOND READING

From Paul to the Ephesians 1: 17-23  
(Paul's prayer) I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you his Spirit. The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God. My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and that you will understand the hope that was given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all of God's people. I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right hand in heaven. There Christ rules over all forces, authorities, powers and rulers. He rules over all beings in this world and will rule in the future world as well. God has put all things under the power of Christ, and for the good of the church he has made him the head of everything. The church is Christ's body and is filled with Christ who completely fills everything.  
Ko te kupu tēnei a te Ariki. **Whakawhetai ki te Atua.**

*Arerua: Haere, whakaakongia ngā iwi katoa. Ko ahau tēnā hei hoa mō koutou i ngā wā katoa, tae noa ki te mutunga o te ao.*

### RONGO PAI

Nō te Pukapuka a Ruka 24: 46-53  
Ka mea a Hehu ki āna ākonga: "Ko te mea tēnei i tuhituhia, ko te tikanga anō tēnei, ko te Karaiti kia whakamatea ā, kia ara i ngā tūpāpaku i te toru o ngā rā. Kia kauwhautia anō hoki te ripeneta me te murunga hara i runga i tōna ingoa ki ngā iwi katoa, ki Hiruharama tīmata ai. Ā, ko koutou hei kaiwhakapono mō ēnei mea. Ā, māku e tuku ki a koutou te mea i meinga i mua e tōku Matua: otiia kia noho koutou ki te Pā, kia whakakākahuria rā anō ki te kaha i runga." Na, arahina ana rātou e ia ki waho ki Petania: katahi ka ara ōna ringa, ā, whakapaingia ana rātou e ia. Ā, i a ia e whakapai ana i a rātou, ka mawehe atu ia i a rātou, ā, tangohia atu ana ki te rangi. Na, ka koropiko rātou ki a ia, ā, hoki mai ana ki Hiruharama, nui atu anō te hari. Ā, noho tonu ana rātou i te temepara me te whakanui me te whakapai ki te Atua. Ko te Rongo Pai tēnei a te Ariki. **Kia whakanuia rā koe e Hehu Karaiti.**

### HOLY GOSPEL

From St Luke's Gospel 24: 46-53  
Jesus said to his disciples: "The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning with Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened. I will send you the one my Father promised, but you must stay in the city until you are given power from heaven." Jesus led his disciples out to Bethany, where he raised his hands and blessed them. As he was doing this, he left and was taken up to heaven. After his disciples had worshipped him, they returned to Jerusalem and were very happy. They spent their time in the temple, praising God. This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**