

1010
1187

Midday Prayer - 674
24.5.79
28.5.81

Haec Dies
Regina Caeli
(DEC. 0.20)²¹⁰
14

ASCENSION PREFACE

Just 40 days since Easter night, today's the day the Christian church recalls and celebrates the Ascension of Christ to heaven. Actually, tho', in many places nowadays (including the Catholic diocese of HK) the Ascension is celebrated rather on the evening Sunday instead, an option that allows more working people to take part in its observance, and remember its meaning in the sequence of Eastertide. The earliest Christian communities, instructively, didn't have a separate celebration for Ascension: and when it was introduced, it was much more closely associated with either or both Pentecost and Easter day. And then, eventually, the scriptural mention of 40 days put it on this Thursday - tho' evidently the scriptural 40 was not our more literal counting of so many 24-hr days. More recently still, we've supplemented Ascension with the Festival of Christ the King, later in the year - a more 'ideological' or 'dogmatic' emphasis on one of the aspects of the meaning of Ascension. But today, let's first listen again to the scripture, the way St Luke presents the Ascension, at the beginning of his second volume which we know as the Acts of the Apostles. @@, Sunday, Nissel.

St Luke, in the 'Acts of the Apostles'. Let us keep this word of God in our hearts and minds, and in our prayer of praise. This hymn of praise, now, 'God is gone up': words from 17th century set to music by an English composer of this century, Gerald Finzi: who died in 1956. MUSIC (Church's Year 2^d)
PRAYERS. (Eph 1:17-23: Asc. Day)
St Augustine [Brev. Ascens. p627]