

# The Saint Bede's Breviary: Companions of St. Luke Edition

## Vespers for Thursday after the Third Sunday of Advent

(Thursday after the Third Sunday of Advent)

### Opening Sentence

I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me, night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not fall. *Psalm 16:7,8*

### The Invitatory and Psalter

V: O God, make speed to save us.

R: O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Alleluia

**O Gracious Light** *Phos hilaron*

O gracious Light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

## The Psalm or Psalms Appointed

### Psalm 124 *Nisi quia Dominus*

*You heavens shower dew from above; you clouds rain down the just one. Let the earth open and bud forth the Savior.*

- <sup>1</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
let Israel now say;
- <sup>2</sup> If the LORD had not been on our side, \*  
when enemies rose up against us;
- <sup>3</sup> Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
in their fierce anger toward us;
- <sup>4</sup> Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
and the torrent gone over us;
- <sup>5</sup> Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- <sup>6</sup> Blessed be the LORD! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- <sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- <sup>8</sup> Our help is in the Name of the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*You heavens shower dew from above; you clouds rain down the just one. Let the earth open and bud forth the Savior.*

### Psalm 136 *Confitemini*

*Lord, send the Lamb, the ruler of the earth, from Petra of the desert to the holy mountain of Zion.*

- <sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.
- <sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.

- 3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.
- 4 Who only does great wonders, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 5 Who by wisdom made the heavens, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 6 Who spread out the earth upon the waters, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 7 Who created great lights, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 8 The sun to rule the day, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 9 The moon and the stars to govern the night, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.
- 10 Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 11 And brought out Israel from among them, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 12 With a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 13 Who divided the Red Sea in two, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 14 And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 15 But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 16 Who led his people through the wilderness, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 17 Who struck down great kings, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 18 And slew mighty kings, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;
- 20 And Og, the king of Bashan, \*

for his mercy endures forever;

21 And gave away their lands for an inheritance, \*

for his mercy endures forever;

22 An inheritance for Israel his servant, \*

for his mercy endures forever.

23 Who remembered us in our low estate, \*

for his mercy endures forever;

24 And delivered us from our enemies, \*

for his mercy endures forever;

25 Who gives food to all creatures, \*

for his mercy endures forever;

26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, \*

for his mercy endures forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*Lord, send the Lamb, the ruler of the earth, from Petra of the desert to the holy mountain of Zion.*

**Psalm 31** *In te, Domine, speravi*

*The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.

5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

6 I hate those who cling to worthless idols, \*  
and I put my trust in the LORD.

7 I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy; \*  
for you have seen my affliction; you know my distress.

<sup>8</sup> You have not shut me up in the power of the enemy; \*  
you have set my feet in an open place.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

## The Lessons

A reading from Matthew 3:1-12 (NRSV)

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Here ends the Reading.

*O Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, and gave him the law in Sinai: come to redeem us with outstretched arm!*

### **The Song of Mary Magnificat**

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*

in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, \*

to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*O Adonai, and Ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, and gave him the law in Sinai: come to redeem us with outstretched arm!*

## The Prayers

V: The Lord be with you.

R: *And also with you.*

Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### Suffrages B

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,  
and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in  
the communion of [the glorious and ever-blessed Virgin Mary,  
St. Michael the Defender, \_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints,  
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,  
*We entreat you, O Lord.*

#### *Collect of the Day*

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,  
let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you  
and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

#### *A Prayer of Self-Dedication*

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our  
wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray you, as you will, and always  
to your glory and the welfare of your people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### *Prayer for Mission*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey  
you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[\[Include authorized intercessions or thanksgivings~opens new window\]](#)

#### *A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and  
you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you  
will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in  
this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from  
generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20*

# The Supplication

O Lord, arise, help us;

*And deliver us for your Name's sake.*

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, the noble works that you did in their days, and in the old time before them.

*O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for your Name's sake.*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

*O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for your Name's sake.*

V. From our enemies defend us, O Christ;

R. Graciously behold our afflictions.

V. With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts;

R. Mercifully forgive the sins of your people.

V. Favorably with mercy hear our prayers;

R. O Son of David, have mercy upon us.

V. Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ;

R. Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.

Let us pray.

We humbly implore you, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of your Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy, and evermore serve you in holiness and pureness of living, to your honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary

*And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

Behold the handmaid of the Lord

*Be it unto me according to your word*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

And the Word was made flesh.

*And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus

*Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

V: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R: *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray:

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*