

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

Vespers for Wednesday after the Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Wednesday after the Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Opening Sentence

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15,16*

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 38 *Domine, ne in furore*

God will come from Lebanon and his splendor will shine like the light.

¹ O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger; *
do not punish me in your wrath.

² For your arrows have already pierced me, *
and your hand presses hard upon me.

³ There is no health in my flesh, because of your indignation; *
there is no soundness in my body, because of my sin.

⁴ For my iniquities overwhelm me; *
like a heavy burden they are too much for me to bear.

⁵ My wounds stink and fester *
by reason of my foolishness.

⁶ I am utterly bowed down and prostrate; *
I go about in mourning all the day long.

⁷ My loins are filled with searing pain; *
there is no health in my body.

⁸ I am utterly numb and crushed; *
I wail, because of the groaning of my heart.

⁹ O Lord, you know all my desires, *
and my sighing is not hidden from you.

¹⁰ My heart is pounding, my strength has failed me, *
and the brightness of my eyes is gone from me.

¹¹ My friends and companions draw back from my affliction; *
my neighbors stand afar off.

¹² Those who seek after my life lay snares for me; *
those who strive to hurt me speak of my ruin and plot treachery all the day long.

¹³ But I am like the deaf who do not hear, *
like those who are mute and who do not open their mouth.

¹⁴ I have become like one who does not hear *
and from whose mouth comes no defense.

15 For in you, O LORD, have I fixed my hope; *
you will answer me, O Lord my God.

16 For I said, "Do not let them rejoice at my expense, *
those who gloat over me when my foot slips."

17 Truly, I am on the verge of falling, *
and my pain is always with me.

18 I will confess my iniquity *
and be sorry for my sin.

19 Those who are my enemies without cause are mighty, *
and many in number are those who wrongfully hate me.

20 Those who repay evil for good slander me, *
because I follow the course that is right.

21 O LORD, do not forsake me; *
be not far from me, O my God.

22 Make haste to help me, *
O Lord of my salvation.

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.

God will come from Lebanon and his splendor will shine like the light.

Psalm 70 *Deus, in adiutorium*

O Israel, prepare to meet the Lord who is coming.

1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O LORD, make haste to help me.

2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.

4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

⁶ You are my helper and my deliverer; *

O LORD, do not tarry.

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 Israel, prepare to meet the Lord who is coming.

Psalm 56 *Miserere mei, Deus*

On that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious.

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, for my enemies are hounding me; *
all day long they assault and oppress me.

² They hound me all the day long; *
truly there are many who fight against me, O Most High.

³ Whenever I am afraid, *
I will put my trust in you.

⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust and will not be afraid, *
for what can flesh do to me?

⁵ All day long they damage my cause; *
their only thought is to do me evil.

⁶ They band together; they lie in wait; *
they spy upon my footsteps; because they seek my life.

⁷ Shall they escape despite their wickedness? *
O God, in your anger, cast down the peoples.

⁸ You have noted my lamentation; put my tears into your bottle; *
are they not recorded in your book?

⁹ Whenever I call upon you, my enemies will be put to flight; *
this I know, for God is on my side.

¹⁰ In God the LORD, whose word I praise, in God I trust and will not be afraid, *
for what can mortals do to me?

¹¹ I am bound by the vow I made to you, O God; *
I will present to you thank-offerings;

¹² For you have rescued my soul from death and my feet from stumbling, *
that I may walk before God in the light of the living.

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.

On that day the branch of the Lord shall be beautiful and glorious.

The Lessons

A reading from Luke 1:26-38 (NRSV)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Here ends the Reading.

O Virgin of Virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? That which ye behold is a divine mystery.

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 Virgin of Virgins, how shall this be? For neither before thee was any like thee, nor shall there be after. Daughters of Jerusalem, why marvel ye at me? That which ye behold is a divine mystery.

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 A

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;

R. And grant us your salvation.

V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

R. Let your people sing with joy.

V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

R. For only in you can we live in safety.

V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;

R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

V. Let your way be known upon earth;

R. Your saving health among all nations.

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;

R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

A Collect for Protection

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *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.*