

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

## Vespers for Thursday After Proper 15

### 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*

*Our help is in the Name of the Lord.*

- <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.

*Our help is in the Name of the Lord.*

## Psalm 136 *Confitemini*

*Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord God Almighty.*

- <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.  
<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.  
<sup>4</sup> Who only does great wonders, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>5</sup> Who by wisdom made the heavens, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>6</sup> Who spread out the earth upon the waters, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;

<sup>7</sup> Who created great lights, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>8</sup> The sun to rule the day, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>9</sup> The moon and the stars to govern the night, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.  
<sup>10</sup> Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>11</sup> And brought out Israel from among them, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>12</sup> With a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>13</sup> Who divided the Red Sea in two, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>14</sup> And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>15</sup> But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>16</sup> Who led his people through the wilderness, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.  
<sup>17</sup> Who struck down great kings, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>18</sup> And slew mighty kings, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>19</sup> Sihon, king of the Amorites, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>20</sup> And Og, the king of Bashan, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>21</sup> And gave away their lands for an inheritance, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>22</sup> An inheritance for Israel his servant, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.  
<sup>23</sup> Who remembered us in our low estate, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>24</sup> And delivered us from our enemies, \*  
for his mercy endures forever;  
<sup>25</sup> Who gives food to all creatures, \*  
for his mercy endures forever.  
<sup>26</sup> 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.

*Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord God Almighty.*

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

*Incline your ear to me, O Lord; make haste to deliver me.*

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

<sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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

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

<sup>7</sup> 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.

*Incline your ear to me, O Lord; make haste to deliver me.*

## **The Lessons**

### **A reading from Mark 12:28-34 (NRSV)**

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,'— this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

**Here ends the Reading.**

*All generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me.*

## **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.

*All generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me.*

## **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*

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of this redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.**

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

### *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 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.***