

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

Vespers for Eve of Holy Cross Day

Opening Sentence

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

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 25 *Ad te, Domine, levavi*

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

¹ To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

² Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

³ Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.

⁴ Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁵ Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

⁶ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁷ Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸ He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

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.

Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

Psalm 25 (cont.)

Lead me in your truth, O Lord, and teach me.

⁹ All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

¹⁰ For your Name's sake, O LORD, *
forgive my sin, for it is great.

¹¹ Who are they who fear the LORD? *
he will teach them the way that they should choose.

¹² They shall dwell in prosperity, *
and their offspring shall inherit the land.

¹³ The LORD is a friend to those who fear him *
and will show them his covenant.

¹⁴ My eyes are ever looking to the LORD, *
for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.

¹⁵ Turn to me and have pity on me, *
for I am left alone and in misery.
¹⁶ The sorrows of my heart have increased; *
bring me out of my troubles.
¹⁷ Look upon my adversity and misery *
and forgive me all my sin.
¹⁸ Look upon my enemies, for they are many, *
and they bear a violent hatred against me.
¹⁹ Protect my life and deliver me; *
let me not be put to shame, for I have trusted in you.
²⁰ Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, *
for my hope has been in you.
²¹ Deliver Israel, O God, *
out of all his troubles.

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.

Lead me in your truth, O Lord, and teach me.

Psalm 138 *Confitebor tibi*

I will bow down toward your holy temple, and praise your Name, O Lord.

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.
² I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness;
³ For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.
⁴ When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.
⁵ All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.
⁶ They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
that great is the glory of the LORD.
⁷ Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
he perceives the haughty from afar.
⁸ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.
⁹ The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
O LORD, your love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

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.

I will bow down toward your holy temple, and praise your Name, O Lord.

The Lessons

A reading from Ephesians 2:11-22 (NRSV)

So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision"~ a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands~ remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Here ends the Reading.

God has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant. My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

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.

God has looked with favor on me, a lowly servant. My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

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, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world to himself: Mercifully grant that we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Commemoration of Cyprian of Carthage, Bishop and Martyr, 258

If any would come after me, let them deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me.

V. The righteous shall flourish like a palm-tree.

R. And shall spread abroad like a cedar in Lebanon.

Almighty God, who gave to your servant Cyprian boldness to confess the Name of our Savior Jesus Christ before the rulers of this world and courage to die for this faith: Grant that we may always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us and to suffer gladly for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Commemoration of Proper 19 The Sunday closest to September 14

Those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and the sake of the Gospel, will save it.

V. Let my prayer, O Lord, be set forth.

R. In your sight as incense.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Collect for Peace

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgements, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. **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.***