

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

## Vespers for Holy Cross Day

### Opening Sentence

Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. *Psalm 96:9*

### 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 137 *Super flumina*

*If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill.*

<sup>1</sup> By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept, \*  
when we remembered you, O Zion.

<sup>2</sup> As for our harps, we hung them up \*  
on the trees in the midst of that land.

<sup>3</sup> For those who led us away captive asked us for a song, and our oppressors called for mirth: \*  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD'S song \*  
upon an alien soil?

<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem, \*  
let my right hand forget its skill.

<sup>6</sup> Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth if I do not remember you, \*  
if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy.

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.

*If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its skill.*

## Psalm 135 *Laudate nomen*

*Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to his Name for it is lovely.*

<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! Praise the Name of the LORD; \*  
give praise, you servants of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup> You who stand in the house of the LORD, \*  
in the courts of the house of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; \*  
sing praises to his Name, for it is lovely.

<sup>4</sup> For the LORD has chosen Jacob for himself \*  
and Israel for his own possession.

<sup>5</sup> For I know that the LORD is great, \*  
and that our Lord is above all gods.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD does whatever pleases him, in heaven and on earth, \*  
in the seas and all the deeps.

<sup>7</sup> He brings up rain clouds from the ends of the earth; \*  
he sends out lightning with the rain, and brings the winds out of his storehouse.

<sup>8</sup> It was he who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, \*  
the firstborn both of man and beast.

<sup>9</sup> He sent signs and wonders into the midst of you, O Egypt, \*  
against Pharaoh and all his servants.

<sup>10</sup> He overthrew many nations \*  
and put mighty kings to death:

<sup>11</sup> Sihon, king of the Amorites, and Og, the king of Bashan, \*  
and all the kings of Canaan.

<sup>12</sup> He gave their land to be an inheritance, \*  
an inheritance for Israel his people.

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.

*Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praises to his Name for it is lovely.*

### **Psalm 135 (cont.)**

*The Lord gives his people justice and shows compassion to his servants.*

<sup>13</sup> O LORD, your Name is everlasting; \*  
your renown, O LORD, endures from age to age.

<sup>14</sup> For the LORD gives his people justice \*  
and shows compassion to his servants.

<sup>15</sup> The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, \*  
the work of human hands.

<sup>16</sup> They have mouths, but they cannot speak; \*  
eyes have they, but they cannot see.

<sup>17</sup> They have ears, but they cannot hear; \*  
neither is there any breath in their mouth.

<sup>18</sup> Those who make them are like them, \*  
and so are all who put their trust in them.

<sup>19</sup> Bless the LORD, O house of Israel; \*  
O house of Aaron, bless the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> Bless the LORD, O house of Levi; \*  
you who fear the LORD, bless the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, \*  
who dwells in Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

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 Lord gives his people justice and shows compassion to his servants.*

## The Lessons

### A reading from 1 Peter 3:17-22 (NRSV)

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you— not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**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, 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 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 Aid against Perils*

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Prayer for Mission*

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; 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.***