

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

Vespers for Monday after the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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 2 *Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

Remain steadfast and you will see the power of the Lord helping us.

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar? *

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?

³ Let us break their yoke, they say; *
let us cast off their bonds from us.

⁴ He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.

⁵ Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.

⁶ I myself have set my king *
.upon my holy hill of Zion

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰ And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;

¹² Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

¹³ Blessed are they all *
who take refuge in him!

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.

Remain steadfast and you will see the power of the Lord helping us.

Psalm 49 *Audite haec, omnes*

To you, O Lord, I have lifted up my soul; come and deliver me, Lord, for I flee to you for refuge.

¹ Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell in the world, *
you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

² My mouth shall speak of wisdom, *
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.
³ I will incline my ear to a proverb *
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.
⁴ Why should I be afraid in evil days, *
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,
⁵ The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, *
and boast of their great riches?
⁶ We can never ransom ourselves, *
or deliver to God the price of our life;
⁷ For the ransom of our life is so great, *
that we should never have enough to pay it,
⁸ In order to live for ever and ever, *
and never see the grave.

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.

To you, O Lord, I have lifted up my soul; come and deliver me, Lord, for I flee to you for refuge.

Psalm 49 (cont.)

Come, Lord, and do not delay; turn your face to your people, Israel.

⁹ For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish *
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.
¹⁰ Their graves shall be their homes for ever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, *
though they call the lands after their own names.
¹¹ Even though honored, they cannot live forever; *
they are like the beasts that perish.
¹² Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, *
and the end of those who delight in their own words.
¹³ Like a flock of sheep they are destined to die; Death is their shepherd; *
they go down straightway to the grave.
¹⁴ Their form shall waste away, *
and the land of the dead shall be their home.
¹⁵ But God will ransom my life; *
he will snatch me from the grasp of death.
¹⁶ Do not be envious when some become rich, *
or when the grandeur of their house increases;
¹⁷ For they will carry nothing away at their death, *
nor will their grandeur follow them.
¹⁸ Though they thought highly of themselves while they lived, *

and were praised for their success,

¹⁹ They shall join the company of their forebears, *
who will never see the light again.

²⁰ Those who are honored, but have no understanding, *
are like the beasts that perish.

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.

Come, Lord, and do not delay; turn your face to your people, Israel.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Luke 1:1-25 (NRSV)'

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Zechariah said to the angel, "How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days

his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:*

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy, The promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever

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 Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!

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 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 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.*