

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

## Vespers for Monday after Christmas

### St. Stephen, Martyr

#### Opening Sentence

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalms 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 104 *Benedic, anima mea*

*By your miraculous birth from the virgin you have fulfilled the Scripture: like a gentle rain falling upon the earth you have come down to save your people. O God, we praise you.*

<sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul; \*

O LORD my God, how excellent is your greatness! you are clothed with majesty and splendor.

<sup>2</sup> You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak \*

and spread out the heavens like a curtain.

<sup>3</sup> You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; \*

you make the clouds your chariot; you ride on the wings of the wind.

<sup>4</sup> You make the winds your messengers \*

and flames of fire your servants.

<sup>5</sup> You have set the earth upon its foundations, \*

so that it never shall move at any time.

<sup>6</sup> You covered it with the Deep as with a mantle; \*

the waters stood higher than the mountains.

<sup>7</sup> At your rebuke they fled; \*

at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.

<sup>8</sup> They went up into the hills and down to the valleys beneath, \*

to the places you had appointed for them.

<sup>9</sup> You set the limits that they should not pass; \*

they shall not again cover the earth.

<sup>10</sup> You send the springs into the valleys; \*

they flow between the mountains.

<sup>11</sup> All the beasts of the field drink their fill from them, \*

and the wild asses quench their thirst.

<sup>12</sup> Beside them the birds of the air make their nests \*

and sing among the branches.

<sup>13</sup> You water the mountains from your dwelling on high; \*

the earth is fully satisfied by the fruit of your works.

<sup>14</sup> You make grass grow for flocks and herds \*

and plants to serve mankind;

<sup>15</sup> That they may bring forth food from the earth, \*

and wine to gladden our hearts,

<sup>16</sup> Oil to make a cheerful countenance, \*

and bread to strengthen the heart.

<sup>17</sup> The trees of the LORD are full of sap, \*

the cedars of Lebanon which he planted,

<sup>18</sup> In which the birds build their nests, \*

and in whose tops the stork makes his dwelling.

<sup>19</sup> The high hills are a refuge for the mountain goats, \*  
and the stony cliffs for the rock badgers.  
<sup>20</sup> You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, \*  
and the sun knows the time of its setting.  
<sup>21</sup> You make darkness that it may be night, \*  
in which all the beasts of the forest prowl.  
<sup>22</sup> The lions roar after their prey \*  
and seek their food from God.  
<sup>23</sup> The sun rises, and they slip away \*  
and lay themselves down in their dens.  
<sup>24</sup> Man goes forth to his work \*  
and to his labor until the evening.  
<sup>25</sup> O LORD, how manifold are your works! \*  
in wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

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.

*By your miraculous birth from the virgin you have fulfilled the Scripture: like a gentle rain falling upon the earth you have come down to save your people. O God, we praise you.*

#### **Psalm 104 (cont.)**

*You open your hand, and we filled with good things.*

<sup>26</sup> Yonder is the great and wide sea with its living things too many to number, \*  
creatures both small and great.  
<sup>27</sup> There move the ships, and there is that Leviathan, \*  
which you have made for the sport of it.  
<sup>28</sup> All of them look to you \*  
to give them their food in due season.  
<sup>29</sup> You give it to them; they gather it; \*  
you open your hand, and they are filled with good things.  
<sup>30</sup> You hide your face, and they are terrified; \*  
you take away their breath, and they die and return to their dust.  
<sup>31</sup> You send forth your Spirit, and they are created; \*  
and so you renew the face of the earth.  
<sup>32</sup> May the glory of the LORD endure forever; \*  
may the LORD rejoice in all his works.

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.

*You open your hand, and we filled with good things.*

## Psalm 104 (cont.)

*I will praise my God while I have my being, hallelujah.*

<sup>33</sup> He looks at the earth and it trembles; \*  
he touches the mountains and they smoke.

<sup>34</sup> I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; \*  
I will praise my God while I have my being.

<sup>35</sup> May these words of mine please him; \*  
I will rejoice in the LORD.

<sup>36</sup> Let sinners be consumed out of the earth, \*  
and the wicked be no more.

<sup>37</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul. \*  
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.

*I will praise my God while I have my being, hallelujah.*

## The Lessons

### A reading from 'Acts 7:59-8:8 (NRSV)'

While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died. And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison. Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city\* of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah\* to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

**Here ends the Reading.**

### The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

*Luke 1:46-55*

*O marvelous exchange, the Creator of humanity has taken a human body, born of a virgin. We are made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.*

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 marvelous exchange, the Creator of humanity has taken a human body, born of a virgin. We are made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity.*

## 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*

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand: where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

### *Commemoration of First Sunday after Christmas*

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 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.***