

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

Vespers for Thursday after the Third Sunday in Lent

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.

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 59 *Eripe me de inimicis*

My eyes are fixed on you, O my Strength; for you, O God, are my stronghold.

¹ Rescue me from my enemies, O God; *
protect me from those who rise up against me.

² Rescue me from evildoers *
and save me from those who thirst for my blood.

³ See how they lie in wait for my life, how the mighty gather together against me; *
not for any offense or fault of mine, O LORD.

⁴ Not because of any guilt of mine *
they run and prepare themselves for battle.

⁵ Rouse yourself, come to my side, and see; *
for you, LORD God of hosts, are Israel's God.

⁶ Awake, and punish all the ungodly; *
show no mercy to those who are faithless and evil.

⁷ They go to and fro in the evening; *
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

⁸ Behold, they boast with their mouths, and taunts are on their lips; *
"For who, they say, will hear us?"

⁹ But you, O LORD, you laugh at them; *
you laugh all the ungodly to scorn.

¹⁰ My eyes are fixed on you, O my Strength; *
for you, O God, are my stronghold.

¹¹ My merciful God comes to meet me; *
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

¹² Slay them, O God, lest my people forget; *
send them reeling by your might and put them down, O Lord our shield.

¹³ For the sins of their mouths, for the words of their lips, for the cursing and lies that they utter, *
let them be caught in their pride.

¹⁴ Make an end of them in your wrath; *
make an end of them, and they shall be no more.

¹⁵ Let everyone know that God rules in Jacob, *
and to the ends of the earth.

¹⁶ They go to and fro in the evening; *
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.

¹⁷ They forage for food, *
and if they are not filled, they howl.

¹⁸ For my part, I will sing of your strength; *
I will celebrate your love in the morning;

¹⁹ For you have become my stronghold, *

a refuge in the day of my trouble.

²⁰ To you, O my Strength, will I sing; *
for you, O God, are my stronghold and my merciful God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

My eyes are fixed on you, O my Strength; for you, O God, are my stronghold.

Psalm 60 *Deus, repulisti nos*

You have made your people know hardship.

¹ O God, you have cast us off and broken us; *
you have been angry; oh, take us back to you again.

² You have shaken the earth and split it open; *
repair the cracks in it, for it totters.

³ You have made your people know hardship; *
you have given us wine that makes us stagger.

⁴ You have set up a banner for those who fear you, *
to be a refuge from the power of the bow.

⁵ Save us by your right hand and answer us, *
that those who are dear to you may be delivered.

⁶ God spoke from his holy place and said: *
"I will exult and parcel out Shechem; I will divide the valley of Succoth.

⁷ Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; *
Ephraim is my helmet and Judah my scepter.

⁸ Moab is my wash-basin, on Edom I throw down my sandal to claim it, *
and over Philistia will I shout in triumph."

⁹ Who will lead me into the strong city? *
who will bring me to Edom?

¹⁰ Have you not cast us off, O God? *
you no longer go out, O God, with our armies.

¹¹ Grant us your help against the enemy, *
for vain is the help of man.

¹² With God we will do valiant deeds, *
and he shall tread our enemies under foot.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

You have made your people know hardship.

Psalm 123 *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy.

¹ To you I lift up my eyes, *
to you enthroned in the heavens.

² As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, *
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

³ So our eyes look to the LORD our God, *
until he show us his mercy.

⁴ Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, *
for we have had more than enough of contempt,

⁵ Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, *
and of the derision of the proud.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Mark 6:30-46 (NRSV)'

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?" And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men. Immediately he made his disciples get into the boat

and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*
Luke 1:46-55

God is always looking at you from heaven, that your actions are everywhere visible to the divine eyes and are constantly being reported to God by the Angels.

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 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 is always looking at you from heaven, that your actions are everywhere visible to the divine eyes and are constantly being reported to God by the Angels.

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

Keep watch over your Church, O Lord, with your unfailing love; and, since it is grounded in human weakness and cannot maintain itself without your aid, protect it from all danger, and keep it in the way of salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *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.***