

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

Vespers for Thursday after the Fourth Sunday in Lent

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.

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 128 *Beati omnes*

The one who fears the LORD shall thus indeed be blessed.

¹ Blessed are they all who fear the LORD, *
and who follow in his ways!

² You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

³ Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

⁴ The man who fears the LORD *
shall thus indeed be blessed.

⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

⁶ May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

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 one who fears the LORD shall thus indeed be blessed.

Psalm 131 *Domine, non est*

The ladder is our life in the world, which the Lord raises up to heaven if our heart is humbled.

¹ O LORD, I am not proud; *
I have no haughty looks.

² I do not occupy myself with great matters, *
or with things that are too hard for me.

³ But I still my soul and make it quiet, like a child upon its mother's breast; *
my soul is quieted within me.

⁴ O Israel, wait upon the LORD, *
from this time forth for evermore.

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 ladder is our life in the world, which the Lord raises up to heaven if our heart is humbled.

Psalm 132 *Memento, Domine*

Let us fall upon our knees before God's footstool.

- ¹ LORD, remember David, *
and all the hardships he endured;
- ² How he swore an oath to the LORD *
and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:
- ³ I will not come under the roof of my house, *
nor climb up into my bed;
- ⁴ I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *
nor let my eyelids slumber;
- ⁵ Until I find a place for the LORD, *
a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."
- ⁶ The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *
we found it in the fields of Jearim.
- ⁷ Let us go to God's dwelling place; *
let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."
- ⁸ Arise, O LORD, into your resting-place, *
you and the ark of your strength.
- ⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *
let your faithful people sing with joy.
- ¹⁰ For your servant David's sake, *
do not turn away the face of your Anointed.
- ¹¹ The LORD has sworn an oath to David; *
in truth, he will not break it:
- ¹² A son, the fruit of your body *
will I set upon your throne.
- ¹³ If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *
their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."
- ¹⁴ For the LORD has chosen Zion; *
he has desired her for his habitation:
- ¹⁵ This shall be my resting-place forever; *
here will I dwell, for I delight in her.
- ¹⁶ I will surely bless her provisions, *
and satisfy her poor with bread.
- ¹⁷ I will clothe her priests with salvation, *
and her faithful people will rejoice and sing.
- ¹⁸ There will I make the horn of David flourish; *
I have prepared a lamp for my Anointed.
- ¹⁹ As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; *
but as for him, his crown will shine."

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.

Let us fall upon our knees before God's footstool.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Mark 8:27-9:1 (NRSV)'

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power."

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while you will see me.

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.

A little while and you will no longer see me, and again a little while you will see 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 and most merciful God, drive from us all weakness of body, mind, and spirit; that, being restored to wholeness, we may with free hearts become what you intend us to be and accomplish what you want us to do; through Jesus Christ 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.**