

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

Vespers for Maundy Thursday

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 145 *Exaltabo te, Deus*

The Lord fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and helps them.

¹ I will exalt you, O God my King, *

and bless your Name for ever and ever.

² Every day will I bless you *

and praise your Name for ever and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

there is no end to his greatness.

⁴ One generation shall praise your works to another *

and shall declare your power.

⁵ I will ponder the glorious splendor of your majesty *

and all your marvelous works.

⁶ They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, *

and I will tell of your greatness.

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; *

they shall sing of your righteous deeds.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, *

slow to anger and of great kindness.

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 fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and helps them.

Psalm 145 (cont.)

The Lord fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and helps them.

⁹ The LORD is loving to everyone *

and his compassion is over all his works.

¹⁰ All your works praise you, O LORD, *

and your faithful servants bless you.

¹¹ They make known the glory of your kingdom *

and speak of your power;

¹² That the peoples may know of your power *

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; *

your dominion endures throughout all ages.

¹⁴ The LORD is faithful in all his words *

and merciful in all his deeds.

¹⁵ The LORD upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.
¹⁶ The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, *
and you give them their food in due season.
¹⁷ You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.
¹⁸ The LORD is righteous in all his ways *
and loving in all his works.
¹⁹ The LORD is near to those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.
²⁰ He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; *
he hears their cry and helps them.
²¹ The LORD preserves all those who love him, *
but he destroys all the wicked.
²² My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; *
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and 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.

The Lord fulfills the desire of those who fear him; he hears their cry and helps them.

Psalm 1 *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

The wicked are like chaff which the wind blows away.

¹ Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
² Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not
wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
⁴ It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

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 wicked are like chaff which the wind blows away.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Mark 14:12-25 (NRSV)'

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.' They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, 'Surely, not I?' He said to them, 'It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread* into the bowl* with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.'

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the* covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.'

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

She bought this perfume so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have 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.

She bought this perfume so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have 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 Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **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.**