

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

## Vespers for Ascension Day

(Ascension Day)

[Commemoration of Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605](#)

### 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

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 for ever. 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 Psalms Appointed

### Psalm 59 *Eripe me de inimicis*

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

- <sup>1</sup> Rescue me from my enemies, O God; \*  
protect me from those who rise up against me.
- <sup>2</sup> Rescue me from evildoers \*  
and save me from those who thirst for my blood.
- <sup>3</sup> 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.
- <sup>4</sup> Not because of any guilt of mine \*  
they run and prepare themselves for battle.
- <sup>5</sup> Rouse yourself, come to my side, and see; \*  
for you, LORD God of hosts, are Israel's God.
- <sup>6</sup> Awake, and punish all the ungodly; \*  
show no mercy to those who are faithless and evil.
- <sup>7</sup> They go to and fro in the evening; \*  
they snarl like dogs and run about the city.
- <sup>8</sup> Behold, they boast with their mouths, and taunts are on their lips; \*  
"For who, they say, will hear us?"
- <sup>9</sup> But you, O LORD, you laugh at them; \*  
you laugh all the ungodly to scorn.
- <sup>10</sup> My eyes are fixed on you, O my Strength; \*  
for you, O God, are my stronghold.
- <sup>11</sup> My merciful God comes to meet me; \*  
God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.
- <sup>12</sup> 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.

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

**Psalm 60** *Deus, repulisti nos*

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

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.

- <sup>6</sup> God spoke from his holy place and said: \*
- "I will exult and parcel out Shechem; I will divide the valley of Succoth.
- <sup>7</sup> Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine; \*
- Ephraim is my helmet and Judah my scepter.
- <sup>8</sup> Moab is my wash-basin, on Edom I throw down my sandal to claim it, \*
- and over Philistia will I shout in triumph."
- <sup>9</sup> Who will lead me into the strong city? \*
- who will bring me to Edom?
- <sup>10</sup> Have you not cast us off, O God? \*
- you no longer go out, O God, with our armies.
- <sup>11</sup> Grant us your help against the enemy, \*
- for vain is the help of man.
- <sup>12</sup> 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.

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

**Psalm 123** *Ad te levavi oculos meos*

*The Lord will be your light for ever; your God will be your glory, hallelujah.*

- <sup>1</sup> To you I lift up my eyes, \*
- to you enthroned in the heavens.
- <sup>2</sup> As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, \*
- and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
- <sup>3</sup> So our eyes look to the LORD our God, \*
- until he show us his mercy.
- <sup>4</sup> Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, \*
- for we have had more than enough of contempt,
- <sup>5</sup> 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.

*The Lord will by your light for ever; your God will be your glory, hallelujah.*

## The Lessons

A reading from 'Matthew 28:16-20 (NRSV)'

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

*Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory, hallelujah.*

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 for ever. Amen.

*Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory, hallelujah.*

# 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 for ever. 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*

Almighty God, whose blessed Son our Savior Jesus Christ ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things: Mercifully give us faith to perceive that, according to his promise, he abides with his Church on earth, even to the end of the ages; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

## *Commemoration of Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury, 605*

The Lord loved him \* and adorned him: he clothed him with a robe of glory, and at the gates of paradise he crowned him.

V. The Lord guided the righteous in right paths.

**R. And showed him the kingdom of God.**

O Lord our God, who by your Son Jesus Christ called your servant Augustine to preach the Gospel to the English people: We pray that all whom you call and send may do your will, bide your time, and see your glory; through the same 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.*

*Pause and add prayers for healing, and intercessory and thanksgiving prayers here.*

#### *A 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. Alleluia, alleluia

*Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia*

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 for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20*

## **Regina Caeli**

O Queen of heaven, be joyful : *Alleluia*

For he who was born of your body : *Alleluia*

Has arisen as he promised : *Alleluia*

Pray for us to the Father : *Alleluia*

V: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

R: *For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.*

Let us pray:

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ gave gladness to the world: Grant, we pray, that we, aided by the prayers of the Virgin Mary his mother, may attain to the joys of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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