



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

Vespers for The Feast of our Holy Father St. Benedict

Opening Sentence

Holy Father Benedict, the man of God. Blessed in word, and in deed.

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 113 *Laudate, pueri*

His disciples carried Benedict to the Oratory where he did arm himself for his death by receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord.

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of the LORD; *
praise the Name of the LORD.

² Let the Name of the LORD be blessed, *
from this time forth for evermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its going down *
let the Name of the LORD be praised.

⁴ The LORD is high above all nations, *
and his glory above the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the LORD our God, who sits enthroned on high, *
but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?

⁶ He takes up the weak out of the dust *

and lifts up the poor from the ashes.

⁷ He sets them with the princes, *
with the princes of his people.

⁸ He makes the woman of a childless house *
to be a joyful mother of children.

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.

*His disciples carried Benedict to the Oratory where he did arm himself for his death
by receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord.*

Psalm 114 *In exitu Israel*

*His disciples supported his weak limbs. Benedict stood up, his hands lifted toward
heaven and with prayer he breathed forth his soul.*

¹ Hallelujah! When Israel came out of Egypt, *
the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,

² Judah became God's sanctuary *
and Israel his dominion.

³ The sea beheld it and fled; *
Jordan turned and went back.

⁴ The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.

⁵ What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? *
O Jordan, that you turned back?

⁶ You mountains, that you skipped like rams? *
you little hills like young sheep?

⁷ Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the God of Jacob,

⁸ Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water *
and flint-stone into a flowing spring.

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.

His disciples supported his weak limbs. Benedict stood up, his hands lifted toward heaven and with prayer he breathed forth his soul.

Psalm 115 *Non nobis, Domine*

The monks beheld a way stretching from his cell to heaven shining with numerous lamps by which Benedict, beloved of the Lord, ascended to God.

¹ Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your Name give glory; *
because of your love and because of your faithfulness.

² Why should the heathen say, *
"Where then is their God?"

³ Our God is in heaven; *
whatever he wills to do he does.

⁴ Their idols are silver and gold, *
the work of human hands.

⁵ They have mouths, but they cannot speak; *
eyes have they, but they cannot see;

⁶ They have ears but they cannot hear; *
noses, but they cannot smell;

⁷ They have hands, but they cannot feel; feet, but they cannot walk; *
they make no sound with their throat.

⁸ Those who make them are like them, *
and so are all who put their trust in them.

⁹ O Israel, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.

¹⁰ O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.

¹¹ You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD; *
he is their help and their shield.

¹² The LORD has been mindful of us, and he will bless us; *

he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

¹³ He will bless those who fear the LORD, *
both small and great together.

¹⁴ May the LORD increase you more and more, *
you and your children after you.

¹⁵ May you be blessed by the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

¹⁶ The heaven of heavens is the LORD'S, *
but he entrusted the earth to its peoples.

¹⁷ The dead do not praise the LORD, *
nor all those who go down into silence;

¹⁸ But we will bless the LORD, *
from this time forth for evermore. 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.

The monks beheld a way stretching from his cell to heaven shining with numerous lamps by which Benedict, beloved of the Lord, ascended to God.

The Lessons

A reading from '2 Kings 2:1-12 (NRSV)'

Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your

master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Here ends the Reading.

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

O Blessed Benedict your spirit now rejoices with Christ in heaven. O Kind Shepherd, preserve your flock and strengthen them by your holy prayer. Let them enter into heaven on the way you, their Guide, have shown them.

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 Blessed Benedict your spirit now rejoices with Christ in heaven. O Kind Shepherd,
preserve your flock and strengthen them by your holy prayer. Let them enter into
heaven on the way you, their Guide, have shown them.*

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 for St. Benedict

O God, who made the Abbot Saint Benedict an outstanding master in the school of divine service, grant, we pray, that, putting nothing before love of you, we may hasten with a loving heart in the way of your commands. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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. 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 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.*