

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

## Vespers for Eve of Saint Thomas the Apostle

(Eve of Saint Thomas the Apostle)

Commemoration of Fourth Sunday of Advent

### 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 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 Psalm or Psalms Appointed

### Psalm 37: Part I *Noli aemulari*

*Remain steadfast and you will see the power of the Lord helping us.*

- <sup>1</sup> Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; \*  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> For they shall soon wither like the grass, \*  
and like the green grass fade away.
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD and do good; \*  
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- <sup>4</sup> Take delight in the LORD, \*  
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, \*  
and he will bring it to pass.
- <sup>6</sup> He will make your righteousness as clear as the light \*  
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD \*  
and wait patiently for him.
- <sup>8</sup> Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, \*  
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- <sup>9</sup> Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; \*  
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.
- <sup>10</sup> For evildoers shall be cut off, \*  
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.
- <sup>11</sup> In a little while the wicked shall be no more; \*  
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.
- <sup>12</sup> But the lowly shall possess the land; \*  
they will delight in abundance of peace.
- <sup>13</sup> The wicked plot against the righteous \*  
and gnash at them with their teeth.

14 The Lord laughs at the wicked, \*  
because he sees that their day will come.

15 The wicked draw their sword and bend their bow to strike down the poor and needy, \*  
to slaughter those who are upright in their ways.

16 Their sword shall go through their own heart, \*  
and their bow shall be broken.

17 The little that the righteous has \*  
is better than great riches of the wicked.

18 For the power of the wicked shall be broken, \*  
but the LORD upholds the righteous.

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.

*Remain steadfast and you will see the power of the Lord helping us.*

**Psalm 37: Part II** *Novit Dominus*

19 The LORD cares for the lives of the godly, \*  
and their inheritance shall last for ever.

*To you, O Lord, I have lifted up my soul; come and deliver me, Lord, for I flee to you for refuge.*

20 They shall not be ashamed in bad times, \*  
and in days of famine they shall have enough.

21 As for the wicked, they shall perish, \*  
and the enemies of the LORD, like the glory of the meadows, shall vanish; they shall vanish like smoke.

22 The wicked borrow and do not repay, \*  
but the righteous are generous in giving.

23 Those who are blessed by God shall possess the land, \*  
but those who are cursed by him shall be destroyed.

24 Our steps are directed by the LORD; \*  
he strengthens those in whose way he delights.

25 If they stumble, they shall not fall headlong, \*  
for the LORD holds them by the hand.

26 I have been young and now I am old, \*  
but never have I seen the righteous forsaken, or their children begging bread.

27 The righteous are always generous in their lending, \*  
and their children shall be a blessing.

28 Turn from evil, and do good, \*  
and dwell in the land for ever.

29 For the LORD loves justice; \*  
he does not forsake his faithful ones.

30 They shall be kept safe for ever, \*  
but the offspring of the wicked shall be destroyed.

31 The righteous shall possess the land \*  
and dwell in it for ever.

32 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, \*  
and their tongue speaks what is right.

33 The law of their God is in their heart, \*  
and their footsteps shall not falter.

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 Lord, I have lifted up my soul; come and deliver me, Lord, for I flee to you for refuge.*

### **Psalm 37: Part II (cont.)**

*Come, Lord, and do not delay; turn your face to your people, Israel.*

34 The wicked spy on the righteous \*  
and seek occasion to kill them.

35 The LORD will not abandon them to their hand, \*  
nor let them be found guilty when brought to trial.

36 Wait upon the LORD and keep his way; \*  
he will raise you up to possess the land, and when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

37 I have seen the wicked in their arrogance, \*  
flourishing like a tree in full leaf.

38 I went by, and behold, they were not there; \*  
I searched for them, but they could not be found.

39 Mark those who are honest; observe the upright; \*  
for there is a future for the peaceable.

40 Transgressors shall be destroyed, one and all; \*  
the future of the wicked is cut off.

41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; \*  
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; \*  
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.

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.

*Come, Lord, and do not delay; turn your face to your people, Israel.*

## The Lessons

A reading from Revelation 21:1-4, 21:9-14 (NRSV)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Here ends the Reading.

*O Day-spring Brightness of the everlasting Light, Sun of Righteousness: come to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death!*

### The Song of Mary Magnificat

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
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.

*O Day-spring Brightness of the everlasting Light, Sun of Righteousness: come to give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death!*

## 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*

Ever-living God, who strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection:  
Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight: through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Commemoration of Fourth Sunday of Advent*

V. Drop down, heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down Righteous One.  
**R. Let the earth open, and bring forth a Savior.**

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*A Collect for Aid against Perils*

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Prayer for Mission*

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

[\[Include authorized intercessions or thanksgivings~opens new window\]](#)

*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.

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

## The Supplication

O Lord, arise, help us;

*And deliver us for your Name's sake.*

O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have declared unto us, the noble works that you did in their days, and in the old time before them.

*O Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for your Name's sake.*

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 Lord, arise, help us; and deliver us for your Name's sake.*

V. From our enemies defend us, O Christ;

R. Graciously behold our afflictions.

V. With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts;

R. Mercifully forgive the sins of your people.

V. Favorably with mercy hear our prayers;

R. O Son of David, have mercy upon us.

V. Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ;

R. Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.

Let us pray.

We humbly implore you, O Father, mercifully to look upon our infirmities; and, for the glory of your Name, turn from us all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy, and evermore serve you in holiness and pureness of living, to your honor and glory; through our only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## 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.*

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