

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

Vespers for Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

(Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist)

Commemoration of Christmas

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 75 *Confitebimur tibi*

With the choirs of angels, we declare all your wonderful deeds, hallelujah.

¹ We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, *
calling upon your Name and declaring all your wonderful deeds.

² I will appoint a time, says God; *
I will judge with equity.

³ Though the earth and all its inhabitants are quaking, *
I will make its pillars fast.

⁴ I will say to the boasters, 'Boast no more, ' *
and to the wicked, 'Do not toss your horns;

⁵ Do not toss your horns so high, *
nor speak with a proud neck."

⁶ For judgment is neither from the east nor from the west, *
nor yet from the wilderness or the mountains.

⁷ It is God who judges; *
he puts down one and lifts up another.

⁸ For in the LORD'S hand there is a cup, full of spiced and foaming wine, which he pours out, *
and all the wicked of the earth shall drink and drain the dregs.

⁹ But I will rejoice for ever; *
I will sing praises to the God of Jacob.

¹⁰ He shall break off all the horns of the wicked; *
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

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 the choirs of angels, we declare all your wonderful deeds, hallelujah.

Psalm 33 *Exultate, justi*

Praise the Lord with the harp; sing for God a new song.

¹ Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous; *

it is good for the just to sing praises.

² Praise the LORD with the harp; *

play to him upon the psaltery and lyre.

³ Sing for him a new song; *

sound a fanfare with all your skill upon the trumpet.

⁴ For the word of the LORD is right, *

and all his works are sure.

⁵ He loves righteousness and justice; *

the loving-kindness of the LORD fills the whole earth.

⁶ By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, *

by the breath of his mouth all the heavenly hosts.

⁷ He gathers up the waters of the ocean as in a water-skin *

and stores up the depths of the sea.

⁸ Let all the earth fear the LORD; *

let all who dwell in the world stand in awe of him.

⁹ For he spoke, and it came to pass; *

he commanded, and it stood fast.

¹⁰ The LORD brings the will of the nations to naught; *

he thwarts the designs of the peoples.

¹¹ But the LORD'S will stands fast for ever, *

and the designs of his heart from age to age.

¹² Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD! *

blessed the people he has chosen to be his own!

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.

Praise the Lord with the harp; sing for God a new song.

Psalm 33 (cont.)

Our heart rejoices in the Lord, for in his holy Name we put our trust, hallelujah.

- 13 The LORD looks down from heaven, *
and beholds all the people in the world.
- 14 From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze *
on all who dwell on the earth.
- 15 He fashions all the hearts of them *
and understands all their works.
- 16 There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; *
a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- 17 The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; *
for all its strength it cannot save.
- 18 Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, *
on those who wait upon his love,
- 19 To pluck their lives from death, *
and to feed them in time of famine.
- 20 Our soul waits for the LORD; *
he is our help and our shield.
- 21 Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, *
for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- 22 Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, *
as we have put our trust in you.

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.

Our heart rejoices in the Lord, for in his holy Name we put our trust, hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from 1 John 5:1-12 (NRSV)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth. There are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood, and these

three agree. If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

Here ends the Reading.

When you were born of the Virgin, then were the Scriptures fulfilled: you came down like a gentle rain upon a woolen fleece to bring salvation to all people. We praise you, O God.

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.

When you were born of the Virgin, then were the Scriptures fulfilled: you came down like a gentle rain upon a woolen fleece to bring salvation to all people. We praise you, O God.

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 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

Shed upon your Church, O Lord, the brightness of your light, that we, being illumined by the teaching of your apostle and evangelist John, may so walk in the light of your truth, that at length we may attain to the fullness of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Commemoration of Christmas

This day the Christ is born: This day the Savior is appeared: * This day the angels sing praise in the earth and the Archangels rejoice : this day the righteous are glad and say, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia, alleuia.

V. The Lord has made known~Alleluia.

R. His salvation~Alleluia.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, 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 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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