

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

## Vespers for Thursday after the First Sunday after the Epiphany

([Aelred of Rievaulx, Monastic and Theologian, 1167](#))

Commemoration of First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord

### 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 9 *Confitebor tibi*

*You never forsake those who seek you, O LORD.*

<sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; \*  
I will tell of all your marvelous works.

<sup>2</sup> I will be glad and rejoice in you; \*  
I will sing to your Name, O Most High.

<sup>3</sup> When my enemies are driven back, \*  
they will stumble and perish at your presence.

<sup>4</sup> For you have maintained my right and my cause; \*  
you sit upon your throne judging right.

<sup>5</sup> You have rebuked the ungodly and destroyed the wicked; \*  
you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

<sup>6</sup> As for the enemy, they are finished, in perpetual ruin, \*  
their cities plowed under, the memory of them perished;

<sup>7</sup> But the LORD is enthroned for ever; \*  
he has set up his throne for judgment.

<sup>8</sup> It is he who rules the world with righteousness; \*  
he judges the peoples with equity.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will be a refuge for the oppressed, \*  
a refuge in time of trouble.

<sup>10</sup> Those who know your Name will put their trust in you, \*  
for you never forsake those who seek you, O LORD.

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.

*You never forsake those who seek you, O LORD.*

**Psalm 9 (cont.)**

*The LORD is known by his acts of justice.*

11 Sing praise to the LORD who dwells in Zion; \*  
proclaim to the peoples the things he has done.

12 The Avenger of blood will remember them; \*  
he will not forget the cry of the afflicted.

13 Have pity on me, O LORD; \*  
see the misery I suffer from those who hate me, O you who lift me up from the gate of death;

14 So that I may tell of all your praises and rejoice in your salvation \*  
in the gates of the city of Zion.

15 The ungodly have fallen into the pit they dug, \*  
and in the snare they set is their own foot caught.

16 The LORD is known by his acts of justice; \*  
the wicked are trapped in the works of their own hands.

17 The wicked shall be given over to the grave, \*  
and also all the people that forget God.

18 For the needy shall not always be forgotten, \*  
and the hope of the poor shall not perish for ever.

19 Rise up, O LORD, let not the ungodly have the upper hand; \*  
let them be judged before you.

20 Put fear upon them, O LORD; \*  
let the ungodly know they are but mortal.

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 is known by his acts of justice.*

**Psalm 129 *Sæpe expugnaverunt***

*My oppressors shall not prevail against me.*

1 Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth, \*  
let Israel now say;

2 Greatly have they oppressed me since my youth", \*

but they have not prevailed against me."

<sup>3</sup> The plowmen plowed upon my back \*  
and made their furrows long.

<sup>4</sup> The LORD, the Righteous One, \*  
has cut the cords of the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Let them be put to shame and thrown back, \*  
all those who are enemies of Zion.

<sup>6</sup> Let them be like grass upon the housetops, \*  
which withers before it can be plucked;

<sup>7</sup> Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, \*  
nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves;

<sup>8</sup> So that those who go by say not so much as, "The LORD prosper you. \*  
We wish you well in the Name of the LORD."

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.

*My oppressors shall not prevail against me.*

## The Lessons

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

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and take your mat and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"~ he said to the paralytic~ "I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home." And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Here ends the Reading.

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

*I am the light of the world. We must work the works of him who sent me whithersoever he will.*

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.

*I am the light of the world. We must work the works of him who sent me whithersoever he will.*

## 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*

Grant to your people, Almighty God, a spirit of mutual affection; that, following the example of your servant Aelred of Rivaulx, we might know the love of Christ in loving one another; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*Commemoration of First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord*

A voice from the heavens was heard saying, This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

V. Of the increase of his government.

**R. And of his peace there shall be no end.**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. 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.

*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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