

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

Vespers for Monday after the First Sunday in Lent

(Monday after the First Sunday in Lent)

Commemoration of George Herbert, Priest and Poet, 1633

Opening Sentence

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. *Psalm 141:2*

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.

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 2 *Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

Submit to the LORD with fear and with trembling bow before him.

¹ Why are the nations in an uproar? *

Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

² Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?

³ Let us break their yoke, they say; *
let us cast off their bonds from us.

⁴ He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.

⁵ Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.

⁶ I myself have set my king *
.upon my holy hill of Zion

⁷ Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son; this day have I begotten you.

⁸ Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

⁹ You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

¹⁰ And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

¹¹ Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;

¹² Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.

¹³ Blessed are they all *
who take 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.

Submit to the LORD with fear and with trembling bow before him.

Psalm 49 *Audite haec, omnes*

For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish.

¹ Hear this, all you peoples; hearken, all you who dwell in the world, *
you of high degree and low, rich and poor together.

² My mouth shall speak of wisdom, *
and my heart shall meditate on understanding.

³ I will incline my ear to a proverb *
and set forth my riddle upon the harp.

⁴ Why should I be afraid in evil days, *
when the wickedness of those at my heels surrounds me,

⁵ The wickedness of those who put their trust in their goods, *
and boast of their great riches?

⁶ We can never ransom ourselves, *
or deliver to God the price of our life;

⁷ For the ransom of our life is so great, *
that we should never have enough to pay it,

⁸ In order to live for ever and ever, *
and never see the grave.

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.

For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish.

Psalm 49 (cont.)

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

⁹ For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stupid they perish *
and leave their wealth to those who come after them.

¹⁰ Their graves shall be their homes for ever, their dwelling places from generation to generation, *

though they call the lands after their own names.

¹¹ Even though honored, they cannot live for ever; *
they are like the beasts that perish.

¹² Such is the way of those who foolishly trust in themselves, *
and the end of those who delight in their own words.

¹³ Like a flock of sheep they are destined to die; Death is their shepherd; *
they go down straightway to the grave.

¹⁴ Their form shall waste away, *
and the land of the dead shall be their home.

¹⁵ But God will ransom my life; *
he will snatch me from the grasp of death.

¹⁶ Do not be envious when some become rich, *
or when the grandeur of their house increases;

¹⁷ For they will carry nothing away at their death, *
nor will their grandeur follow them.

¹⁸ Though they thought highly of themselves while they lived, *
and were praised for their success,

¹⁹ They shall join the company of their forebears, *
who will never see the light again.

²⁰ Those who are honored, but have no understanding, *
are like the beasts that perish.

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 message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Lessons

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

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days.

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

You must be made new in mind and spirit, and put on the new nature of God's creating, which shows itself in a just and devout life.

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.

You must be made new in mind and spirit, and put on the new nature of God's creating, which shows itself in a just and devout life.

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 and everlasting God, mercifully increase in us your gifts of holy discipline, in almsgiving, prayer, and fasting; that our lives may be directed to the fulfilling of your most gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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O teacher most excellent, * O light of holy Church, lover of the divine law, intercede for us unto the Son of God

V. With my lips, I have been telling of all the judgements of your mouth.

R. I have had more delight in the way of your testimonies than in all manner of riches.

Almighty God, who called your servant George Herbert from the pursuit of worldly honors to be a poet and a pastor of souls: Give us grace, we pray, joyfully to dedicate all our powers to your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and 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.*

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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