

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

## Vespers for Wednesday after the Second Sunday in Lent

(Wednesday after the Second Sunday in Lent)

### Opening Sentence

Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night; you established the moon and the sun. You fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter. *Psalm 74:15,16*

### 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 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

*I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.*

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, \*  
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

<sup>2</sup> The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave took hold of me; \*  
I came to grief and sorrow.

<sup>3</sup> Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: \*  
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

<sup>4</sup> Gracious is the LORD and righteous; \*  
our God is full of compassion.

<sup>5</sup> The LORD watches over the innocent; \*  
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

<sup>6</sup> Turn again to your rest, O my soul. \*  
for the LORD has treated you well.

<sup>7</sup> For you have rescued my life from death, \*  
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

<sup>8</sup> I will walk in the presence of the LORD \*  
in the land of the living.

<sup>9</sup> I believed, even when I said, "I have been brought very low." \*  
In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."

<sup>10</sup> How shall I repay the LORD \*  
for all the good things he has done for me?

<sup>11</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>13</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD \*  
is the death of his servants.

<sup>14</sup> O LORD, I am your servant; \*

I am your servant and the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and call upon the Name of the LORD.

16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD \*  
in the presence of all his people,

17 In the courts of the LORD'S house, \*  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. 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 for ever. Amen.

*I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people.*

### **Psalm 98** *Cantate Domino*

*The Lord remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.

2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.

3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

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 remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel.*

### **Psalm 120** *Ad Dominum*

*I have come not to bring peace but a sword.*

<sup>1</sup> When I was in trouble, I called to the LORD; \*  
I called to the LORD, and he answered me.

<sup>2</sup> Deliver me, O LORD, from lying lips \*  
and from the deceitful tongue.

<sup>3</sup> What shall be done to you, and what more besides, \*  
O you deceitful tongue?

<sup>4</sup> The sharpened arrows of a warrior, \*  
along with hot glowing coals.

<sup>5</sup> How hateful it is that I must lodge in Meshech \*  
and dwell among the tents of Kedar!

<sup>6</sup> Too long have I had to live \*  
among the enemies of peace.

<sup>7</sup> I am on the side of peace, \*  
but when I speak of it, they are for war.

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 have come not to bring peace but a sword.*

## **The Lessons**

A reading from 'John 5:1-18 (NRSV)'

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids~ blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." At once the man was made

well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, "It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat." But he answered them, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Take up your mat and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take it up and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, "My Father is still working, and I also am working." For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

*Stand firm and unmovable, and work for God always, since you know that in God your labor cannot be lost.*

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.

*Stand firm and unmovable, and work for God always, since you know that in God your labor cannot be lost.*

## 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*

O God, you so loved the world that you gave your only-begotten Son to reconcile earth with heaven: Grant that we, loving you above all things, may love our friends in you, and our enemies for your sake; 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 Protection*

O God, the life of all who live, the light of the faithful, the strength of those who labor, and the repose of the dead: We thank you for the blessings of the day that is past, and humbly ask for your protection through the

coming night. Bring us in safety to the morning hours; through him who died and rose again for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

### *Prayer for Mission*

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. 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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