

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

Vespers for Wednesday after the Third Sunday in Lent

(Wednesday after the Third 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 127 *Nisi Dominus*

No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹ Unless the LORD builds the house, *
their labor is in vain who build it.

² Unless the LORD watches over the city, *
in vain the watchman keeps his vigil.

³ It is in vain that you rise so early and go to bed so late; *
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil, for he gives to his beloved sleep.

⁴ Children are a heritage from the LORD, *
and the fruit of the womb is a gift.

⁵ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior *
are the children of one's youth.

⁶ Blessed is the man who has his quiver full of them! *
he shall not be put to shame when he contends with his enemies in the gate.

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.

No one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

Psalm 50 *Deus deorum*

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

¹ The LORD, the God of gods, has spoken; *
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

² Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, *
God reveals himself in glory.

³ Our God will come and will not keep silence; *
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm.

⁴ He calls the heavens and the earth from above *
to witness the judgment of his people.

- ⁵ Gather before me my loyal followers, *
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice.
- ⁶ Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; *
for God himself is judge.
- ⁷ Hear, O my people, and I will speak: "O Israel, I will bear witness against you; *
for I am God, your God.
- ⁸ I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices; *
your offerings are always before me.
- ⁹ I will take no bull-calf from your stalls, *
nor he-goats out of your pens;
- ¹⁰ For all the beasts of the forest are mine, *
the herds in their thousands upon the hills.
- ¹¹ I know every bird in the sky, *
and the creatures of the fields are in my sight.
- ¹² If I were hungry, I would not tell you, *
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.
- ¹³ Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls, *
or drink the blood of goats?
- ¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving *
and make good your vows to the Most High.
- ¹⁵ Call upon me in the day of trouble; *
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me."
- ¹⁶ But to the wicked God says: *
"Why do you recite my statutes, and take my covenant upon your lips;
- ¹⁷ Since you refuse discipline, *
and toss my words behind your back?
- ¹⁸ When you see a thief, you make him your friend, *
and you cast in your lot with adulterers.
- ¹⁹ You have loosed your lips for evil, *
and harnessed your tongue to a lie.
- ²⁰ You are always speaking evil of your brother *
and slandering your own mother's son.
- ²¹ These things you have done, and I kept still, *
and you thought that I am like you."

22 I have made my accusation; *

I have put my case in order before your eyes.

23 Consider this well, you who forget God, *

lest I rend you and there be none to deliver you.

24 Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honors me; *

but to those who keep in my way will I show the salvation of God."

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.

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

Psalm 1 *Beatus vir qui non abiit*

The wicked are like chaff which the wind blows away.

1 Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.

3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.

4 It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.

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 wicked are like chaff which the wind blows away.

The Lessons

A reading from 'John 8:12-20 (NRSV)'

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Then the Pharisees said to him, "You are testifying on your own behalf; your testimony is not valid." Jesus answered, "Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid because I know where I have come from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. You judge by human standards; I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is valid; for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is valid. I testify on my own behalf, and the Father who sent me testifies on my behalf." Then they said to him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also." He spoke these words while he was teaching in the treasury of the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.

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 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

Give ear to our prayers, O Lord, and direct the way of your servants in safety under your protection, that, amid all the changes of our earthly pilgrimage, we may be guarded by your mighty aid; 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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