

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

Vespers for Thursday after the Third Sunday in Lent

(Thursday after the Third Sunday in Lent)

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.

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*

The LORD will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble.

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

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

³ When my enemies are driven back, *
they will stumble and perish at your presence.

⁴ For you have maintained my right and my cause; *
you sit upon your throne judging right.

⁵ You have rebuked the ungodly and destroyed the wicked; *
you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

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

⁷ But the LORD is enthroned for ever; *
he has set up his throne for judgment.

⁸ It is he who rules the world with righteousness; *
he judges the peoples with equity.

⁹ The LORD will be a refuge for the oppressed, *
a refuge in time of trouble.

¹⁰ 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.

The LORD will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in time of trouble.

Psalm 9 (cont.)

Have pity on me, O LORD, you who lift me up from the gate of death.

- 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.

Have pity on me, O LORD, you who lift me up from the gate of death.

Psalm 129 *Sæpe expugnaverunt*

After flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

- 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."
- 3 The plowmen plowed upon my back *
and made their furrows long.

- ⁴ The LORD, the Righteous One, *
has cut the cords of the wicked.
- ⁵ Let them be put to shame and thrown back, *
all those who are enemies of Zion.
- ⁶ Let them be like grass upon the housetops, *
which withers before it can be plucked;
- ⁷ Which does not fill the hand of the reaper, *
nor the bosom of him who binds the sheaves;
- ⁸ 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.

After flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

The Lessons

A reading from 'John 8:21-32 (NRSV)'

Again he said to them, "I am going away, and you will search for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come." Then the Jews said, "Is he going to kill himself? Is that what he means by saying, 'Where I am going, you cannot come'?" He said to them, "You are from below, I am from above; you are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he." They said to him, "Who are you?" Jesus said to them, "Why do I speak to you at all? I have much to say about you and much to condemn; but the one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him." They did not understand that he was speaking to them about the Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own, but I speak these things as the Father instructed me. And the one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him." As he was saying these things, many believed in him. Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

God is always looking at you from heaven, that your actions are everywhere visible to the divine eyes and are constantly being reported to God by the Angels.

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.

God is always looking at you from heaven, that your actions are everywhere visible to the divine eyes and are constantly being reported to God by the Angels.

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

Keep watch over your Church, O Lord, with your unfailing love; and, since it is grounded in human weakness and cannot maintain itself without your aid, protect it from all danger, and keep it in the way of salvation; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. 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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