

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

Vespers for The Transitus of our Holy Father St. Benedict

(Tuesday after the Fourth Sunday in Lent)

Commemoration of Thomas Ken, Bishop, 1711

Opening Sentence

Worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. *Psalm 96:9*

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 110 *Dixit Dominus*

His disciples carried him to the Oratory where Benedict did arm himself for his death by receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord.

¹ The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, *
until I make your enemies your footstool."

² The LORD will send the scepter of your power out of Zion, *
saying, "Rule over your enemies round about you.

³ Princely state has been yours from the day of your birth; *
in the beauty of holiness have I begotten you, like dew from the womb of the morning."

⁴ The LORD has sworn and he will not recant: *
"You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

⁵ The Lord who is at your right hand will smite kings in the day of his wrath; *
he will rule over the nations.

⁶ He will heap high the corpses; *
he will smash heads over the wide earth.

⁷ He will drink from the brook beside the road; *
therefore he will lift high his head.

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.

His disciples carried him to the Oratory where Benedict did arm himself for his death by receiving the Body and Blood of our Lord.

Psalm 111 *Confitebor tibi*

His disciples supported his weak limbs. Benedict stood up, his hands lifted toward heaven and with prayer he breathed forth his soul.

¹ Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

- ² Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- ³ His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- ⁴ He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- ⁵ He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- ⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- ⁷ The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- ⁸ They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
- ⁹ He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- ¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding; his praise endures 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.

His disciples supported his weak limbs. Benedict stood up, his hands lifted toward heaven and with prayer he breathed forth his soul.

Psalm 112 *Beatus vir*

The monks beheld a way stretching from his cell to heaven spread with garments and shining with numerous lamps. This is the way by which Benedict, beloved of the Lord, ascended to God.

- ¹ Hallelujah! Blessed are they who fear the Lord *
and have great delight in his commandments!
- ² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; *
the generation of the upright will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be in their house, *
and their righteousness will last for ever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness for the upright; *
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending *
and to manage their affairs with justice.

⁶ For they will never be shaken; *
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; *
their heart is right; they put their trust in the Lord.

⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, *
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, *
and their righteousness stands fast for ever; they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; *
the desires of the wicked will 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 monks beheld a way stretching from his cell to heaven spread with garments and shining with numerous lamps. This is the way by which Benedict, beloved of the Lord, ascended to God.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Luke 14:26-33 (NRSV)'

"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

Today Holy Benedict, in the presence of his disciples, ascended to heaven. Today with hand uplifted, he died between the words of his prayer. Today he was received into glory by the Holy 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.

Today Holy Benedict, in the presence of his disciples, ascended to heaven. Today with hand uplifted, he died between the words of his prayer. Today he was received into glory by the Holy 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 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

Lord, our God, you filled the blessed abbot Benedict with the spirit of your Son and made him a master in the way of perfection. As we celebrate his entrance into glory, may we attain that love, which surpasses all understanding. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

Commemoration of Thomas Ken, Bishop, 1711

The Lord loved him * and adorned him: he clothed him with a robe of glory, and at the gates of paradise he crowned him.

V. The Lord guided the righteous in right paths.

R. And showed him the kingdom of God.

Almighty God, you gave your servant Thomas Ken grace and courage to bear witness to the truth before rulers and kings: Give us strength also that we may constantly defend what is right, boldly reprove what is evil, and patiently suffer for the truth's 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 Aid against Perils

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Prayer for Mission

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; 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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