

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

Vespers for Thursday after the Second Sunday of Easter

(Thursday after the Second Sunday of Easter)

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.

Alleluia

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 124 *Nisi quia Dominus*

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler. hallelujah.

- ¹ If the LORD had not been on our side, *
let Israel now say;
- ² If the LORD had not been on our side, *
when enemies rose up against us;
- ³ Then would they have swallowed us up alive *
in their fierce anger toward us;
- ⁴ Then would the waters have overwhelmed us *
and the torrent gone over us;
- ⁵ Then would the raging waters *
have gone right over us.
- ⁶ Blessed be the LORD! *
he has not given us over to be a prey for their teeth.
- ⁷ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler; *
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- ⁸ Our help is in the Name of the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.

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.

We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler. hallelujah.

Psalm 136 *Confitemini*

With a mighty hand and a stretched out arm, he brought Israel out of Egypt, hallelujah.

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

- ² Give thanks to the God of gods, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ³ Give thanks to the Lord of lords, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ⁴ Who only does great wonders, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁵ Who by wisdom made the heavens, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁶ Who spread out the earth upon the waters, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁷ Who created great lights, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁸ The sun to rule the day, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ⁹ The moon and the stars to govern the night, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ¹⁰ Who struck down the firstborn of Egypt, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹¹ And brought out Israel from among them, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹² With a mighty hand and a stretched-out arm, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹³ Who divided the Red Sea in two, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁴ And made Israel to pass through the midst of it, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁵ But swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁶ Who led his people through the wilderness, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- ¹⁷ Who struck down great kings, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- ¹⁸ And slew mighty kings, *
for his mercy endures for ever;

- 19 Sihon, king of the Amorites, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 20 And Og, the king of Bashan, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 21 And gave away their lands for an inheritance, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 22 An inheritance for Israel his servant, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 23 Who remembered us in our low estate, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 24 And delivered us from our enemies, *
for his mercy endures for ever;
- 25 Who gives food to all creatures, *
for his mercy endures for ever.
- 26 Give thanks to the God of heaven, *
for his mercy 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.

With a mighty hand and a stretched out arm, he brought Israel out of Egypt, hallelujah.

Psalm 31 *In te, Domine, speravi*

Love the LORD, all you who worship him; the LORD protects the faithful, hallelujah.

- 1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; *
deliver me in your righteousness.
- 2 Incline your ear to me; *
make haste to deliver me.
- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- 4 Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, *
for you are my tower of strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O God of truth.

⁶ I hate those who cling to worthless idols, *
and I put my trust in the LORD.

⁷ I will rejoice and be glad because of your mercy; *
for you have seen my affliction; you know my distress.

⁸ You have not shut me up in the power of the enemy; *
you have set my feet in an open place.

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.

Love the LORD, all you who worship him; the LORD protects the faithful, hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Luke 3:1-14 (NRSV)'

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

Here ends the Reading.

The Song of Mary Magnificat Luke 1:46-55

Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory, hallelujah.

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.

Your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, your life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Christ in glory, hallelujah.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ 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. Alleluia, alleluia

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

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*

Regina Caeli

O Queen of heaven, be joyful : *Alleluia*

For he who was born of your body : *Alleluia*

Has arisen as he promised : *Alleluia*

Pray for us to the Father : *Alleluia*

V: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.

R: *For the Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia.*

Let us pray:

O God, who by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ gave gladness to the world: Grant, we pray, that we, aided by the prayers of the Virgin Mary his mother, may attain to the joys of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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