

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

Vespers for Thursday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Thursday after the Fifth 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 128 *Beati omnes*

May you live to see your children's children; may peace be upon Israel, hallelujah.

¹ Blessed are they all who fear the LORD, *
and who follow in his ways!

² You shall eat the fruit of your labor; *
happiness and prosperity shall be yours.

³ Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine within your house, *
your children like olive shoots round about your table.

⁴ The man who fears the LORD *
shall thus indeed be blessed.

⁵ The LORD bless you from Zion, *
and may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

⁶ May you live to see your children's children; *
may peace be upon Israel.

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.

May you live to see your children's children; may peace be upon Israel, hallelujah.

Psalm 131 *Domine, non est*

Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart, hallelujah.

¹ O LORD, I am not proud; *
I have no haughty looks.

² I do not occupy myself with great matters, *
or with things that are too hard for me.

³ But I still my soul and make it quiet, like a child upon its mother's breast; *
my soul is quieted within me.

⁴ O Israel, wait upon the LORD, *
from this time forth for evermore.

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.

Learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart, hallelujah.

Psalm 132 *Memento, Domine*

Arise, O LORD, into your resting place, hallelujah.

¹ LORD, remember David, *

and all the hardships he endured;

² How he swore an oath to the LORD *

and vowed a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob:

³ I will not come under the roof of my house, *

nor climb up into my bed;

⁴ I will not allow my eyes to sleep, *

nor let my eyelids slumber;

⁵ Until I find a place for the LORD, *

a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

⁶ The ark! We heard it was in Ephratah; *

we found it in the fields of Jearim.

⁷ Let us go to God's dwelling place; *

let us fall upon our knees before his footstool."

⁸ Arise, O LORD, into your resting-place, *

you and the ark of your strength.

⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness; *

let your faithful people sing with joy.

¹⁰ For your servant David's sake, *

do not turn away the face of your Anointed.

¹¹ The LORD has sworn an oath to David; *

in truth, he will not break it:

¹² A son, the fruit of your body *

will I set upon your throne.

¹³ If your children keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, *

their children will sit upon your throne for evermore."

¹⁴ For the LORD has chosen Zion; *

he has desired her for his habitation:

¹⁵ This shall be my resting-place for ever; *

here will I dwell, for I delight in her.

¹⁶ I will surely bless her provisions, *

and satisfy her poor with bread.

¹⁷ I will clothe her priests with salvation, *

and her faithful people will rejoice and sing.

18 There will I make the horn of David flourish; *

I have prepared a lamp for my Anointed.

19 As for his enemies, I will clothe them with shame; *

but as for him, his crown will shine."

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.

Arise, O LORD, into your resting place, hallelujah.

The Lessons

A reading from 'Luke 8:26-39 (NRSV)'

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"~ for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss. Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned. When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

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 God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way,
the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your
Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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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