

[Comments or
suggestions?](#)

12/26/2023

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

The Rites to welcome new Postulants and Novice Oblates may be offered before either Matins or Vespers begins. You can access the appropriate rite below.

New Postulant
Rite

Novice Oblates
Rite

Vespers for Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr (Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr)

Vespers provided here can be prayed privately, or in community virtually or at convocation. These rubrics (instructions) provide guidance for virtual and convocation services.

- *When the service is prayed virtually, prayers and responses should be said by each participant, even though each person's response cannot be heard.*
- *At the Magnificat which begins after the daily antiphon, and during the final blessing, everyone should make the sign of the cross across their chest, represented in the service as (✙).*

- *Portions of Vespers at convocation may be chanted. Chant tones will be distributed before the service.*
- *At convocation: All Stand. Prayed by the Leader*

Commemoration of Christmas

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.

*Members bow their heads while praying the phrase before * in the Gloria Patri*

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 (*omit during Lent*)

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

At convocation, remain standing and it is prayed by the leader

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

When the service is prayed virtually the first reader appointed prays the antiphon and first verse of each psalm, the Gloria Patri and repeats the antiphon. The second reader appointed prays the second verse. The two readers alternate praying the remaining verses.

In convocation, For each psalm, all stand and the leader begins with the antiphon and the first verse. All sit at the second verse and the psalm is said antiphonally by seating section. All rise for the last verse of each psalm for the Gloria Patri and closing antiphon.

Psalm 37: Part I *Noli aemulari*

Take delight in the LORD and he shall give you your heart's desire, hallelujah.

¹ Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

² For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.

³ Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

⁴ Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.

6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.

7 Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.

8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

10 For evildoers shall be cut off, *
but those who wait upon the LORD shall possess the land.

11 In a little while the wicked shall be no more; *
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

12 But the lowly shall possess the land; *
they will delight in abundance of peace.

13 The wicked plot against the righteous *
and gnash at them with their teeth.

14 The Lord laughs at the wicked, *
because he sees that their day will come.

15 The wicked draw their sword and bend their bow to strike down the poor and
needy, *
to slaughter those who are upright in their ways.

16 Their sword shall go through their own heart, *
and their bow shall be broken.

17 The little that the righteous has *
is better than great riches of the wicked.

18 For the power of the wicked shall be broken, *
but the LORD upholds the righteous.

*Members bow their heads while praying the phrase before * in the Gloria Patri*

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.

Take delight in the LORD and he shall give you your heart's desire, hallelujah.

There is to be a short pause before beginning the next psalm

Psalm 37: Part II *Novit Dominus*

The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom; the law of their God is in their heart.

19 The LORD cares for the lives of the godly, *
and their inheritance shall last for ever.

20 They shall not be ashamed in bad times, *
and in days of famine they shall have enough.

21 As for the wicked, they shall perish, *
and the enemies of the LORD, like the glory of the meadows, shall vanish; they shall
vanish like smoke.

22 The wicked borrow and do not repay, *
but the righteous are generous in giving.

23 Those who are blessed by God shall possess the land, *
but those who are cursed by him shall be destroyed.

24 Our steps are directed by the LORD; *
he strengthens those in whose way he delights.

- 25 If they stumble, they shall not fall headlong, *
for the LORD holds them by the hand.
- 26 I have been young and now I am old, *
but never have I seen the righteous forsaken, or their children begging bread.
- 27 The righteous are always generous in their lending, *
and their children shall be a blessing.
- 28 Turn from evil, and do good, *
and dwell in the land for ever.
- 29 For the LORD loves justice; *
he does not forsake his faithful ones.
- 30 They shall be kept safe for ever, *
but the offspring of the wicked shall be destroyed.
- 31 The righteous shall possess the land *
and dwell in it for ever.
- 32 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, *
and their tongue speaks what is right.
- 33 The law of their God is in their heart, *
and their footsteps shall not falter.

*Members bow their heads while praying the phrase before * in the Gloria Patri*

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 mouth of the righteous utters wisdom; the law of their God is in their heart.

There is to be a short pause before beginning the next psalm

Psalm 37: Part II (cont.)

Happy is the one who listens to wisdom, watching daily at her gates, waiting beside her doors, hallelujah.

34 The wicked spy on the righteous *
and seek occasion to kill them.

35 The LORD will not abandon them to their hand, *
nor let them be found guilty when brought to trial.

36 Wait upon the LORD and keep his way; *
he will raise you up to possess the land, and when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

37 I have seen the wicked in their arrogance, *
flourishing like a tree in full leaf.

38 I went by, and behold, they were not there; *
I searched for them, but they could not be found.

39 Mark those who are honest; observe the upright; *
for there is a future for the peaceable.

40 Transgressors shall be destroyed, one and all; *
the future of the wicked is cut off.

41 But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the LORD; *
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.

42 The LORD will help them and rescue them; *
he will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because they seek refuge in him.

*Members bow their heads while praying the phrase before * in the Gloria Patri*

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.

*Happy is the one who listens to wisdom, watching daily at her gates, waiting beside her doors,
hallelujah.*

There is to be a short pause before moving to the Lessons

The Lessons

For the virtual service, the lesson is read by a selected reader

At convocation, Sit for the reading

A reading from 'Acts 7:59-8:8 (NRSV)'

While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died. And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison. Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the signs that he did, for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. So there was great joy in that city.

Here ends the Reading.

Magnificat: The Song of Mary - Luke 1:46-55

For the virtual service, the leader or a selected reader prays the entire canticle including the opening antiphon and the Gloria Patri, and the closing antiphon.

At convocation, the leader prays the opening antiphon and the first verse of the canticle and the people pray the rest of the Canticle, the Gloria Patri and the closing antiphon together.

When you were born of the Virgin, then were the Scriptures fulfilled: you came down like a gentle rain upon a woolen fleece to bring salvation to all people. We praise you, O God.

() 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.

When you were born of the Virgin, then were the Scriptures fulfilled: you came down like a gentle rain upon a woolen fleece to bring salvation to all people. We praise you, O God.

For the virtual service and the service at convocation, A second reading may be inserted here by the leader using the "Readings from the Desert" and can be accessed using this [LINK](#).

The Rite of Naming and Clothing of Novices may begin here. To access the Rite, click the link below.

Naming and
Clothing of
Novices

The Rite of Full
Oblation

The Prayers

At Convocation, All remain standing

V: The Lord be with you.

R: And also with you.

Let us pray.

The virtual service: the leader or a reader prays the Lord's Prayer.

Convocation service, the leader and the people say the Lord's Prayer together

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.

For the virtual service, the first reader begin and a second reader say the response.

For the convocation service, All remain standing for the all Prayers following. The leader begins and the members respond.

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

Virtual Service: Prayed by an appointed member.

For the convocation service, The collects are prayed by the leader.

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Commemoration of Christmas

This day the Christ is born: This day the Savior is appeared: * This day the angels sing praise in the earth and the Archangels rejoice : this day the righteous are glad and say, Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia, alleulia.

V. The Lord has made known~Alleluia.

R. His salvation~Alleluia.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for 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.

At convocation, a hymn may be sung here.

Pause and add prayers for healing, and intercessory and thanksgiving prayers here.

For both the virtual and convocation services, these prayers are said by the leader. Members will have an opportunity to offer personal prayer requests.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

For the virtual service, prayed by an appointed member.

For the convocation service, prayed by all members together.

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.

For both the virtual service and at convocation, this is prayed by the leader:

(✠)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

In the virtual service, the leader appoints a member to begin praying the Angelus and a second person and pray the response.

In convocation, the leader begins the prayer, and the responses are said by all.

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.*

For all services, members bow their heads here

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.*

In convocation, this prayer is said by all.

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.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The New Revised Standard Version Bible may be quoted and/or reprinted up to and inclusive of five hundred (500) verses without express written permission of the publisher, provided the verses quoted do not amount to a complete book of the Bible or account for fifty percent (50%) of the total work in which they are quoted.