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

**Vespers and the Great Litany for Eve of the First Sunday in Lent**

**(Eve of the First Sunday in Lent)**

***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***

**Opening Sentence**

**If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalm 139:10,11***

**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.**

**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 begin 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 Pati and closing antiphon.***

**Psalm 146 *Lauda, anima mea***

***When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.***

**1  Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! \*  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.  
2  Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, \*  
for there is no help in them.  
3  When they breathe their last, they return to earth, \*  
and in that day their thoughts perish.  
4  Blessed are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! \*  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;  
5  Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; \*  
who keeps his promise for ever;  
6  Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, \*  
and food to those who hunger.  
7  The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; \*  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
8  The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; \*  
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.  
9  The LORD shall reign for ever, \*  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

***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.**

***When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.***

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

**Psalm 147 *Laudate Dominum***

***God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.***

**1  Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!  
2  The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.  
3  He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.  
4  He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.  
5  Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.  
6  The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.  
7  Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.  
8  He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;  
9  He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.  
10  He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.  
11  He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;  
12  But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.**

***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.**

***God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.***

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

**Psalm 147 (cont.)**

***God declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgments to Israel.***

**13  Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;  
14  For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.  
15  He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
16  He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.  
17  He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
18  He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?  
19  He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
20  He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
21  He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!**

***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.**

***God declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgments to Israel.***

***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 'John 17:20-26 (NRSV)'**

**"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."**

**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.***

***You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.***

**(╬)My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: \* the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \* for he has remembered his promise of mercy, The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
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.**

***You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.***

## The Great Litany

## *The Leader begins:* O God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, *The members respond after each supplication:*

## *Have mercy upon us.* O God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *Have mercy upon us.* O God the Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, *Have mercy upon us.* O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, one God, *Have mercy upon us.*

**Remember not, Lord Christ, our offenses, nor the offenses  
of our forefathers; neither reward us according to our sins.  
Spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast  
redeemed with thy most precious blood, and by thy mercy  
preserve us, for ever.  
*Spare us, good Lord.***

**From all evil and wickedness; from sin; from the crafts  
and assaults of the devil; and from everlasting damnation,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**From all blindness of heart; from pride, vainglory,  
and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all want  
of charity,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**From all inordinate and sinful affections; and from all the  
deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**From all false doctrine, heresy, and schism; from hardness  
of heart, and contempt of thy Word and commandment,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**From lightning and tempest; from earthquake, fire, and  
flood; from plague, pestilence, and famine,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**From all oppression, conspiracy, and rebellion; from  
violence, battle, and murder; and from dying suddenly and  
unprepared,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity  
and submission to the Law; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and  
Temptation,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**By thine Agony and Bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion;  
by thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection  
and Ascension; and by the Coming of the Holy Ghost,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in  
the hour of death, and in the day of judgment,  
*Good Lord, deliver us.***

**We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God; and that  
it may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church  
Universal in the right way,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to illumine all bishops, priests, and  
deacons, with true knowledge and understanding of thy  
Word; and that both by their preaching and living, they may  
set it forth, and show it accordingly,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to bless and keep all thy people,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to send forth laborers into thy  
harvest, and to draw all mankind into thy kingdom,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to give to all people increase of grace  
to hear and receive thy Word, and to bring forth the fruits of  
the Spirit,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to bring into the way of truth all such  
as have erred, and are deceived,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to give us a heart to love and fear  
thee, and diligently to live after thy commandments,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee so to rule the hearts of thy servants,  
the President of the United States (*or* of this nation), and all  
others in authority, that they may do justice, and love mercy,  
and walk in the ways of truth,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to make wars to cease in all the world;  
to give to all nations unity, peace, and concord; and to  
bestow freedom upon all peoples,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to show thy pity upon all prisoners  
and captives, the homeless and the hungry, and all who are  
desolate and oppressed,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to give and preserve to our use the  
bountiful fruits of the earth, so that in due time all may enjoy  
them,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to inspire us, in our several callings,  
to do the work which thou givest us to do with singleness of  
heart as thy servants, and for the common good,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to preserve all who are in danger by  
reason of their labor or their travel,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to preserve, and provide for, all  
women in childbirth, young children and orphans, the  
widowed, and all whose homes are broken or torn by strife,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to visit the lonely; to strengthen all  
who suffer in mind, body, and spirit; and to comfort with thy  
presence those who are failing and infirm,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to support, help, and comfort all who  
are in danger, necessity, and tribulation,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to have mercy upon all mankind,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive  
us all our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue  
us with the grace of thy Holy Spirit to amend our lives  
according to thy holy Word,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors,  
and slanderers, and to turn their hearts,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; to  
comfort and help the weak-hearted; to raise up those who  
fall; and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to grant to all the faithful departed  
eternal life and peace,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**That it may please thee to grant that, in the fellowship of  
[\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and] all the saints, we may attain to thy  
heavenly kingdom,  
*We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.***

**Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.  
*Son of God, we beseech thee to hear us.***

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy upon us.***

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*Have mercy upon us.***

**O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,  
*Grant us thy peace.***

**O Christ, hear us.  
*O Christ, hear us.***

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| **Lord, have mercy upon us.** |
| ***Christ, have mercy upon us.*** |
| **Lord, have mercy upon us.** |

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

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| **V.** | **O Lord, let thy mercy be showed upon us;** |
| **R.** | **As we do put our trust in thee.** |

*The leader concludes with the following prayers*

**Let us pray.**

**Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan; Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

***A Collect for Saturdays***

**O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.**

**Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of  
those who ask in thy Son's Name: We beseech thee mercifully  
to incline thine ear to us who have now made our prayers  
and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things  
which we have asked faithfully according to thy will, may be  
obtained effectually, to the relief of our necessity, and to the  
setting forth of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.***

**(╬)The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.  
*Amen.***

**The Supplication**

**O Lord, arise, help us;  
*And deliver us for thy Name's sake.***

**O God, we have heard with our ears, and our fathers have  
declared unto us, the noble works that thou didst in their  
days, and in the old time before them.**

***O Lord, arise, help us;  
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.***

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

***O Lord, arise, help us;  
and deliver us for thy Name's sake.***

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| **V.** | **From our enemies defend us, O Christ;** |
| **R.** | **Graciously behold our afflictions.** |
| **V.** | **With pity behold the sorrows of our hearts;** |
| **R.** | **Mercifully forgive the sins of thy people.** |
| **V.** | **Favorably with mercy hear our prayers;** |
| **R.** | **O Son of David, have mercy upon us.** |
| **V.** | **Both now and ever vouchsafe to hear us, O Christ;** |
| **R.** | **Graciously hear us, O Christ; graciously hear us, O Lord Christ.** |

***The Leader concludes***

**Let us pray.**

**We humbly beseech thee, O Father, mercifully to look upon  
our infirmities; and, for the glory of thy Name, turn from us  
all those evils that we most justly have deserved; and grant  
that in all our troubles we may put our whole trust and  
confidence in thy mercy, and evermore serve thee in holiness  
and pureness of living, to thy honor and glory; through our  
only Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.***

**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*.**

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