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Benedictus: A Reading Based on Ephesians 1.3-14

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Benedictus:

A Reading Based on Ephesians 1.3-14

LEE MAGNESS

In this liturgical reading, the beautiful prayer-preface to the letter to the Ephesians is punctuated by echoes from throughout scripture, especially Paul's other writings. The configuration printed here calls for a Leader (L) to read the Ephesians passage and two other readers (1 and 2) to supply the echoes.

L Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers that do his pleasure,
Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion,
bless the Lord, O my soul.

(Ps 103.1, 21-22)

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
O Lord my God, you are very great.
Bless God in the great congregation.

(Ps 104.1)

(Ps 68.26)

**L Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ,**

2 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those that mourn, and those that are meek.

1 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.
Blessed are the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers.

2 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
1,2 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

(Matt 5.3-10)

**L He has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ,
according as he has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,**

1 Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom
prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

(Matt 25.34)

2 God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation
through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

(2 Thess 2.13)

1 You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,
in order that you should show forth the praises of him who called you
out of darkness into his marvelous light.

(1 Pet 2.9)

**L He has chosen us in him before the foundation of the world,
that we should be holy and without blame before him in love,**

2 Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.

- that he might make it holy and cleanse it
with the washing of water by the word,*
- 1 *that he might present it to himself a glorious church,
not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing,
but that it should be holy and without blemish.* (Eph 5.25-27)
- 2 *...so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in
the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.* (Phil 2.15)
- 1 *...to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable in his sight.* (Col 1.22)
- L** *Having predestined us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself,
according to the pleasure of his will,*
- 2 *But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son,
born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those that were under the law,
that we might receive adoption as his children.* (Gal 4.4-5)
- 1 *For we have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear,
but we have received the spirit of adoption,
whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* (Rom 8.15)
- L** *To the praise of his glorious grace, wherein he has made us accepted in the beloved,*
- 1 *To the praise of his glorious grace*
- 2 *To the praise of his glorious grace*
- 1,2 *To the praise of his glorious grace*
- L** *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins,
according to the riches of his grace,*
- 1 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, being justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.* (Rom 3.23-24)
- 2 *But you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God,
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.* (1 Cor 1.30)
- 1 *He has delivered us from the power of darkness,
and has translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son,
in whom we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of sins.* (Col 1.13-14)
- L** *Wherein he has abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
having made known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his good pleasure which he has purposed in himself,*
- 1 *But we speak the hidden wisdom of God in a mystery,
which God ordained before the world for our glory.* (1 Cor 1.7)
- 2 *...to make all people see what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world has been hidden in God,
who created all things by Jesus Christ...
according to the eternal purpose
which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Eph 3.9, 11)
- 1 *...the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations,
but now is made manifest to his saints,*
- 2 *to whom God made known the riches of the glory of this mystery among the nations,
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* (Col 1.26-27)

- L** *That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth, even in him,*
- 1 *For by him all things were created, things in heaven and things on earth, visible and invisible, ...all things were created by him and for him.*
- 2 *He is before all things, and by him all things consist. For it pleased God that in him all the fullness would dwell, and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things to himself. (Col 1.16-20)*
- L** *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his own will,*
- 1 *May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, and the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. (Eph 1.18)*
- 2 *We give thanks to the Father who has made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. (Col 1.12)*
- 1 *Knowing that from the Lord you shall receive the reward of the inheritance, for you serve the Lord Christ. (Col 3.24)*
- 1,2 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- 1 *who according to his abundant mercy has begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*
- 2 *to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and unfading, reserved in heaven for you. (1 Pet 1.3-4)*
- L** *That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ,*
- 1 *To the praise of his glory*
- 2 *To the praise of his glory*
- 1,2 *To the praise of his glory*
- L** *In whom you also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession,*
- 1 *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by which you are sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 4.30)*
- 2 *Now God is the one who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us, who has also sealed us, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Cor 1.21-22)*
- L** *You were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*
- 1 *To the praise of his glory*
- 1,2 *To the praise of his glory*
- 1,2,L *To the praise of his glorious grace*

