

Reading for Virtual Compline

Brent House

November 17, 2020

St. Bede, *Ecclesiastical History of England* (trans. Sellar, adapted), book 4, chapter 23

Leader All

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

A reading from the "History" of the Venerable Bede.

The life of Hilda, abbess of Whitby, falls into two equal parts,
for the first thirty-three years of it she spent living most nobly in the se - cu - lar ha - bit;
and still more nobly dedicated the remaining half to the Lord in the mo - nas - tic life.

For she was nobly born, being the great-niece of King Ed - - win,
and with that king she also received the faith and mysteries of Christ
at the preaching of Paulinus, of blessed memory, the first bishop of the Northumbrians,
and preserved the same undefiled till she attained to the vision of our Lord in Hea - ven.

When she had resolved to quit the secular habit, and to serve Him a - lone,
she undertook either to build or to set in order a monastery in the place called Whit - by;

and taught there the strict observance of justice, piety, chastity,

and other virtues, and particularly of peace and cha - ri - - - ty;

so that, after the example of the primitive Church,

no one there was rich, and none poor, for they had all things common,

and none had any private pro - - - per - - - ty.

Her prudence was so great, that not only meaner men in their need,

but sometimes even kings and princes, sought and received her coun - - - sel.

Thus this handmaid of Christ, the Abbess Hil - - - da,

whom all that knew her called Mother, for her singular piety and grace,

was not only an example of good life, to those that lived in her mo - na - ste - ry,

but afforded occasion of amendment and salvation to many who lived at a distance,

to whom the blessed fame was brought of her industry and vir-tue.

Leader **All**

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.