



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

- X • Keep Us in the Nearness of Your Love
~ A Liturgy of Memories & Blessings

The members of the community enter and pray in silence. After the community is fully assembled, the prelude should be presented.

Prelude

“The Burial of Saint Brendan”
by Padraig Colum

Nearing death, Brendan knew his body would offer both spiritual and material gifts that some people would try to appropriate for their own benefit. In Padraic Colum’s “The Burial of Saint Brendan,” the saint seeks to ensure that — even in death — he will be able to glorify God for the good of all rather than profit the selfish few.

A period of silent meditation follows the reading before the leader begins the penitential prayers.

Penitential Prayers

A bell rings and the members of the community kneel. If anyone cannot kneel, they should remain seated with their head bowed.

Leader
All

We bend our knees
(making the sign of the cross)

**in the eye of the Father who created us,
in the eye of the Son who purchased us,
in the eye of the Spirit who cleansed us. Amen.**

All stand.

Leader

Lord Jesus Christ,
give us the grace of repentance;
give us the grace of earnestness;
give us the grace of submission.

Community

Give us the strength and courage to confess our guilt

Leader	as earnestly as were this the moment of our death.			
	Lord Jesus, help us speak according to your justice, help us heed your laws and directives. Each day and night, help us know your chastening, so we may act justly toward you and toward others.			
	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.			
Community Leader	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.			
	Christ Jesus, help us count the causes of your mercy, help us praise the features of your goodness. Each day and night, help us know your kindness, so we may act tenderly toward you and toward others.			
	Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.			
Community Leader	Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.			
	Lord Jesus, help us know the depths of your love, help us live according to your wisdom. Each day and night, help us know your peace, so we may act humbly toward you and toward others.			
	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.			
Community Leader	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.			
	Lord Jesus Christ, with the Father who created us and the Spirit that cleansed us, Purify our hearts, make holy our souls and confirm our faith, keep safe our minds and compass our bodies all about. Enfold us...			
	... and surround us. Guide our speech...			
Community Leader	... and our thoughts. Guard us in our sleeping...			
	... and in our waking. Nurture us in our watching...			
	... and in our hoping. Shield us in our lives...			
Community	May the Triune God protect and keep you from every challenge and sorrow, from every evil and anguish ...			
	... offering a mantle for both our bodies and our souls. Amen.			
	Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit.			
Community Leader	The three in one. <i>(making the sign of the cross)</i> The guarding of the God of life be on you, the guarding of the loving Christ be on you, the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you, aiding and enfolding you each day and night of your lives.			
	May God, the three in one, encompass us all, shielding us on sea and on land, in day and in night, guarding each step and each path we travel. Amen.			
Hymn (optional)				
<i>The members of the community sit or kneel after the service concludes, as they prefer. Silence is observed to allow private prayer or meditation. Individuals should leave quietly as the Spirit moves them.</i>				

Leader	We give you offering with our whole thoughts.	Father, Son and Spirit,
Community	Keep us in the nearness of your love.	pour down upon us from heaven
Leader	We give you praise with our whole being.	the rich blessing of your forgiveness.
Community	Keep us in the nearness of your love.	Be patient with us and grant to us
Leader	We give you love with our whole devotion.	the fear of God, the love of God, and your affection
Community	Keep us in the nearness of your love.	so we may do your will on earth at all times ...
Leader	We give you kneeling with our whole desires.	... as the angels and saints do in heaven.
Community	Keep us in the nearness of your love.	Holy God,
Leader	We give you love with our whole heart.	Father, Son and Spirit,
Community	Keep us in the nearness of your love.	pour down upon us from heaven
Leader	We give you affection with our whole sense.	the rich blessing of your peace.
Community	Keep us in the nearness of your love.	Peace between nations ...
Leader	We give you our existence with our whole mind.	... peace between neighbors.
Community	Keep us in the nearness of your love.	Peace between kindred ...
Leader	We beseech you, O God,	... peace between lovers.
	keep us from all ill, hurt and harm,	Peace between persons injured ...
	protect us from mischance, grief and despair,	... peace between foes.
	and guide us into the land of your peace.	Holy God,
	Amen.	Father, Son and Spirit,
Community	In the silence of your heart,	help us to love and bless your creation,
Leader	bring your special needs or concerns before God.	all that we see, all that we hear, all that we touch.
	If you wish us to join in your prayers for these needs,	Let us share your peace with our fellow creatures
	speak them aloud, saying when you are finished,	at all times,
	"For this I pray."	living as signs of forgiveness and reconciliation on the earth ...
	<i>Members of the community offer their particular prayers. The community's response to these individual petitions is:</i>	... as the angels and saints do in heaven:
	May God's blessing be yours,	without malice, without jealousy, without envy,
	and well may it befall you.	without fear, without terror of anyone under the sun.
	<i>When these personal prayers are finished, the leader offers the final blessing.</i>	And may the Father, the Son and the Spirit
		kindle in our hearts the flame of love to our neighbors,
		to our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all,
		to the brave, to the knave, to the thrall.
Leader	May the Father, Son and Spirit enfold you on every side,	The peace of the Father of Joy,
	never forsaking or forgetting you,	the peace of Christ the Lamb,
	nor letting evil come near you,	the peace of the Spirit of Grace, be with you.
	in each step of the journey before you.	The peace of the Father of Joy,
	God the Father go with you at every pass,	of Christ the Lamb, and of the Spirit of Grace,
	Christ our Lord be with you on every hill,	be with us all.
	The Spirit of Grace guide you across every stream.	Let us share a sign of peace with those present here

as a testimony to the peace God offers to the world.

The members of the community share a sign of peace before sitting down. A brief period of silence follows before the reader begins the Word of God.

The Word of God

Reader	I set the teachings of Christ before you; I set the guarding of God about you. May it possess us and protect us all.
Community	
Reader	A reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.
	Jesus said: “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
	The gospel of Jesus Christ, source of strength, Source of salvation, source of healing grace. May it be a mantle to our bodies.
Community	

Leader	Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit. The three in one.
Community	
All stand.	
Leader	Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom, in the words our Lord taught us: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.” (Matthew 6: 9-13)
Leader	Thanks be to you, Eternal Father, for you have enwrapped our bodies and our souls, safeguarding us in the sanctuary of your love and sheltering us under the mantle of your care. We give you our whole soul, O God: our thoughts, our deeds, our words, our will, our understanding and our intellect. Everything we are sings your praises. We give you worship with our whole lives. Keep us in the nearness of your love. We give you assent with our whole powers. Keep us in the nearness of your love. We give you praise with our whole tongues. Keep us in the nearness of your love. We give you honor with our whole utterances. Keep us in the nearness of your love. We give you reverence with our whole understanding. Keep us in the nearness of your love.
Community	
Leader	
Community	
Leader	
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Leader	
Community	

Community	O Generous Lord, cleanse our hearts, make holy our souls, confirm our faith, keep safe our minds, encompass our bodies about so that in our own hearts, we may feel your presence.
Leader	O Holy Spirit, of greatest power, come down upon us and subdue us; from your glorious mansion in the heavens. The knee that is stiff, O healer, make pliant, the heart that is cold, make warm beneath your wing; guide the soul that is wandering from your path and it shall not die. Each thing that is foul, may you cleanse, each thing that is hard, may you soften with your grace, each wound that is causing us pain, may you make whole. Now to the Father who created each creature, now to the Son who paid ransom for his people, now to the Holy Spirit, comforter of might: shield and protect us from every wound.
Community	Encompass the beginning and the end of our race, give us courage to sing in glory, in peace, in rest, in reconciliation.
Leader	Come share in the table of the Lord, source of love for those who cherish his kindness, source of solace for those who need his forgiveness, source of hope for those who fear his judgement. Come share in the table of the Lord.
Community	Where no tear shall be shed, where death comes no more. Amen.

The community shares the Eucharist in silence. Afterward, the table is cleared during the hymn. If there is no hymn, the members of the community use this time for private prayer.

Hymn (optional)

Then, the leader continues the service.

Prayers and Blessings

A brief silence follows the reading, until the leader begins the psalm.

Leader	Psalms 62, Verses 1 through 12.
Community	For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall never be shaken. How long will you assail a person, will you batter your victim, all of you, as you would a leaning wall, a tottering fence?
Leader	Their only plan is to bring down a person of prominence.
Community	They take pleasure in falsehood; they bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse.
Leader	For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.
Community	He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken. On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
Leader	Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him;
Community	God is a refuge for us.
Leader	Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.
Leader	Put no confidence in extortion, and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.
Community	Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord.
Community	For you repay to all according to their work.

The leader should invite the community to share reflections on their experiences during this sequence of prayer services by saying:

Leader

At the end of any journey, especially a spiritual one, it is important to consider where you have been, what you have done and who you have met during your travels. So, take a moment to reflect on your time traveling with Brendan and his companions.

Then, if you have any thoughts or prayers you would like to share, perhaps an image or a particular moment from your prayers, please share them now as remembrances or prayerful desires for your companions. Please remember to be brief so everyone who desires will have an opportunity to speak.

The members of the community share brief reflections or prayers from their experiences during the retreat. When appropriate, the leader ends these reflections by saying:

Leader

Let us reflect and pray in silence.

A period of silence is observed for private meditation, with or without music. Afterward, the leader proceeds to the Eucharistic Prayer after the optional hymn.

Hymn (optional)

Eucharistic Prayer

If the community wishes to share the Eucharist, the table is prepared during the hymn. If there is no hymn, the table should be prepared in silence — slowly and deliberately. Then, the leader begins the Eucharistic Prayer.

Leader

Thanks be to you, Holy Father of Glory,
father-kind, ever-loving, ever-powerful,
because of all the abundance,
favor and deliverance that you bestow on us in our need.

Community

May your name be praised forever,
in the heavens above and here on earth.

Leader

Whatever Providence befalls us as your children,

in our portion, in our lot, in our path,
give to us with it the riches of your hand
and the joyous blessing of your mouth.
May your kingdom be seen to flourish
through the joy of your people, always grateful.

In the steep common path of our calling,
be it easy or uneasy to our flesh,
be it bright or dark for us to follow,
your perfect guidance will be upon us.

Provide for us in all our needs,
material and spiritual, this day and every day.

Be a shield to us from the wiles of the deceiver,
from the arch-destroyer with his arrows pursuing us,
and in each secret thought our minds get to weave,
guide and protect us.

Do not allow us to be tossed about by temptations
and protect us from all evils that would do us harm.

O Loving Christ, who was hanged upon a tree,
each day and each night we remember your covenant;
in our lying down and rising up, we yield ourselves to your cross,
in our lives and our deaths, we seek in you our peace.
Each day, may we remember the source of the mercies
you bestowed on us, gently and generously;
each day, may we become fuller in love with you.

My brothers and sisters, with St. Paul, I say to you:
“I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the
Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of
bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This
is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the
same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is
the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink
the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.”

(1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)

O Gracious God, (making the sign of the cross)
may your Spirit come upon us, and upon this bread and wine,
so that it might illumine our understanding, kindle our will,
incite our love, strengthen our weakness, and enfold our desires.