



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

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VI • The Crystal Pillar  
& The Island of Smiths

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

**Prelude**

“The Crystal Pillar & The Island of Smiths”  
*(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O’Meara)*

After visiting the Community of Ailbe, holy Brendan and his brethren set sail once again and encounter two wondrous sights while upon the ocean — one awe-inspiring and the other terrifying.

*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  
as earnestly as were this the moment of our death.**

Leader

Lord Jesus,

Community Leader	keep the eye of God between us and every other eye; keep the purpose of God between us and every other purpose; keep the desire of God between us and every other desire; and no mouth can curse us. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. <b>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</b> Christ Jesus, keep your pain between us and every other pain; keep your love between us and every other love; keep your dearness between us and every other dearness; and no venom can wound us. Christ Jesus, have mercy on us. <b>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</b> Lord Jesus, keep the desire of God between us and every other desire; keep the might of God between us and every other might; keep the right of God between us and every other right; and no ill thing can touch us. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. <b>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</b> 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...	Leader	May the God of life encompass you, protecting your form and your frame. May the Christ of love encompass you, shielding you from hatred and from harm. May the spirit of grace encompass you, guiding you towards goodness and away from ill. The blessings of the Triune God surround you ... <b>... abiding in us forever and eternally. Amen.</b> Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit. <b>The three in one.</b> <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. <b>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.</b>
Community Leader	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.	Community Leader	Hymn (optional)
Community Leader		Community Leader	
Community Leader		Community Leader	



The Word of God

Reader

I set the teachings of Christ before you;  
I set the guarding of God about you.

Community

May it possess us and protect us all.

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.”

But when Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus

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

Leader

Praise to the Father,  
praise to the Son,  
praise to the Spirit.

Community

The three in one.

All stand.

Leader

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom,  
in the words our Lord taught us:

All

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 ...

Community

... and sheltering us under the mantle of your care.

Community	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, <i>(making the sign of the cross)</i> 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.	
Community	<b>O Generous Lord,</b> <b>cleanse our hearts, make holy our souls, confirm our faith,</b> <b>keep safe our minds, encompass our bodies about</b> <b>so that in our own hearts, we may feel your presence.</b>	
	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.	
	<b>Encompass the beginning and the end of our race,</b> <b>give us courage to sing in glory,</b> <b>in peace, in rest, in reconciliation.</b> Come share in the table of the Lord,	
Leader		

said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”  
Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, source of strength,  
Source of salvation, source of healing grace.

**May it be a mantle to our bodies.**

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

Psalm 40, Verses 1 through 17.

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
**he inclined to me and heard my cry.**

He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
out of the miry bog,

**and set my feet upon a rock,**  
**making my steps secure.**

He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God.

**Many will see and fear,**  
**and put their trust in the Lord.**

Happy are those who make  
the Lord their trust,

**who do not turn to the proud,**  
**to those who go astray after false gods.**

You have multiplied, O Lord my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;

**none can compare with you.**

**Were I to proclaim and tell of them,**  
**they would be more than can be counted.**

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
but you have given me an open ear.

**Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

Then I said, “Here I am;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**I delight to do your will, O my God;**  
**your law is within my heart.”**

I have told the glad news of deliverance

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

Hymn (optional)	
<b>Eucharistic Prayer</b>	
<i>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.</i>	
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	<b>May your name be praised forever, in the heavens above and here on earth.</b>
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.
Community	<b>May your kingdom be seen to flourish through the joy of your people, always grateful.</b>
Leader	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.
Community	<b>Provide for us in all our needs, material and spiritual, this day and every day.</b>
Leader	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.
Community	<b>Do not allow us to be tossed about by temptations and protect us from all evils that would do us harm.</b>
Leader	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

Community	in the great congregation; <b>see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.</b>
Leader	I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; <b>I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.</b>
Leader	Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me; <b>let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.</b>
Community	For evils have encompassed me without number; <b>my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me.</b>
Leader	Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.
Community	<b>Let all those be put to shame and confusion who seek to snatch away my life;</b>
Leader	let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt.
Community	<b>Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, “Aha, Aha!”</b>
Leader	But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
Community	<b>may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the Lord!”</b>
Leader	As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.
Community	<b>You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.</b>

*There is a brief silence after the psalm before reading or presenting the audio version of the following reflection.*

Reflection	“Learning The Patterns of God’s Presence” by Timothy J. Ray
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