



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

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IX • The Promised Land of Saints  
& The Return Home

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

Prelude

“The Promised Land of the Saints & The Return Home”  
*(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O’Meara)*

After leaving the island of Paul the Hermit, Saint Brendan and his companions sail to the south and return to some of the places they had visited before. After celebrating Easter and Pentecost, Saint Brendan and his brothers are guided to the Promised Land of the Saints — and then commanded to return home.

*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	We bend our knees
All	<i>(making the sign of the cross)</i>
	<b>in the eye of the Father who created us,</b>
	<b>in the eye of the Son who purchased us,</b>
	<b>in the eye of the Spirit who cleansed us. Amen.</b>

*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	<b>Give us the strength and courage to confess our guilt</b>

Leader	<b>as earnestly as were this the moment of our death.</b>	
	Lord Jesus, Bless and protect us beneath your glorious mantle. There is no plant in the ground, nor form in the strand, that is not full of your virtue. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.	
Community Leader	<b>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</b> Christ Jesus, Guard and secure us behind the strength of your shield, There is no life, in the sea or river, in air or on land, that does not proclaim your goodness. Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.	
	<b>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</b> Lord Jesus, Help and teach us to trust in your constant care. There is nothing in the firmament, nor beneath sun and moon, that is not full of your blessing. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.	
Community Leader	<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...	
	<b>... and surround us.</b> Guide our speech...	
Community Leader	<b>... and our thoughts.</b> Guard us in our sleeping...	
	<b>... and in our waking.</b> Nurture us in our watching...	
Community Leader	<b>... and in our hoping.</b> Shield us in our lives...	
	<b>... and grant us peace in eternity.</b> Holy God, Father, Son and Spirit,	
Community	Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit.	
	<b>May the three in one bring us to the peace of eternity. Amen.</b>	
Leader	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.	
Community	<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>	
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>	

Community	... <b>implant saintly thoughts.</b>	
Leader	In our deeds...	
Community	... <b>may others see your kindness.</b>	
Leader	In our words...	
Community	... <b>may others hear your mercy.</b>	
Leader	In our wishes...	
Community	... <b>may others feel your compassion.</b>	
Leader	In our reason...	
Community	... <b>may others discern your wisdom.</b>	
Leader	Divine Majesty,	
	fill us with your goodness,	
	shield us with your shade,	
	and change us with your grace.	
Community	<b>Amen.</b>	
Leader	In the silence of your heart,	
	bring your special needs or concerns before God.	
	If you wish us to join in your prayers for these needs,	
	speak them aloud, saying when you are finished,	
	"For this I pray."	

Members of the community offer their particular prayers. The community's response to these individual petitions is:

	<b>May God's blessing be yours, and well may it befall you.</b>	
	<i>When these personal prayers are finished, the leader offers the final blessing.</i>	
Leader	May God our Creator	
	guard you from hurt and	
	protect you from harm	
	in the nearness of his love.	
	May Christ our Savior	
	shield you from mischance and	
	shelter you from grief	
	in the nearness of his love.	
	May the Guiding Spirit	
	keep you from ill and	
	bring you to the land of peace	
	in the nearness of his love.	

	pour down upon us from heaven	
	the rich blessing of your forgiveness.	
	Be patient with us and grant to us	
	the fear of God, the love of God, and your affection	
	so we may do your will on earth at all times ...	
	<b>as the angels and saints do in heaven.</b>	
Community	Holy God,	
Leader	Father, Son and Spirit,	
	pour down upon us from heaven	
	the rich blessing of your peace.	
	Peace between nations ...	
Community	... <b>peace between neighbors.</b>	
Leader	Peace between kindred ...	
Community	... <b>peace between lovers.</b>	
Leader	Peace between persons injured ...	
Community	... <b>peace between foes.</b>	
Leader	Holy God,	
	Father, Son and Spirit,	
	help us to love and bless your creation,	
	all that we see, all that we hear, all that we touch.	
	Let us share your peace with our fellow creatures	
	at all times,	
	living as signs of forgiveness and reconciliation on the earth ...	

All	... <b>as the angels and saints do in heaven:</b>	
	<b>without malice, without jealousy, without envy,</b>	
	<b>without fear, without terror of anyone under the sun.</b>	
	<b>And may the Father, the Son and the Spirit</b>	
	<b>kindle in our hearts the flame of love to our neighbors,</b>	
	<b>to our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all,</b>	
	<b>to the brave, to the knave, to the thrall.</b>	
Leader	The peace of the Father of Joy,	
	the peace of Christ the Lamb,	
	the peace of the Spirit of Grace, be with you.	
Community	<b>The peace of the Father of Joy,</b>	
	<b>of Christ the Lamb, and of the Spirit of Grace,</b>	
	<b>be with us all.</b>	

Leader  
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 showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them,

Prayers and Blessings

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.”**

All

Leader

(Matthew 6: 9-13)  
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.**

Community

Leader

O Holy God,  
guide us with your wisdom,  
chastise us with your justice,  
help us with your mercy,  
protect us with your strength.  
In our dreams...

Community

Leader

**... arouse holy ambitions.**

In our repose...

Community

Leader

**... strengthen us for your service.**

In our hearts...

Community

Leader

**... nurture love for all your creatures.**

In our minds...

so that it might illumine our understanding, kindle our will,  
incite our love, strengthen our weakness, and enfold our desires.

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.

**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.

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.*

and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that  
Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, source of strength,  
Source of salvation, source of healing grace.  
**May it be a mantle to our bodies.**

Community

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

Leader

Psalms 116, Verses 1 through 19.

I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

Community

**Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

Leader

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

Community

**Then I called on the name of the Lord:  
“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

Leader

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;  
our God is merciful.

Community

**The Lord protects the simple;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

Leader

Return, O my soul, to your rest,  
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

Community

**For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling.**

Leader

I walk before the Lord  
in the land of the living.  
I kept my faith, even when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted”;

Community

**I said in my consternation,  
“Everyone is a liar.”**

Leader

What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?

Community

**I will lift up the cup of salvation**

Leader  
**and call on the name of the Lord,**  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.  
Community  
**Precious in the sight of the Lord**  
**is the death of his faithful ones.**  
Leader  
O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.  
Community  
**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice**  
**and call on the name of the Lord.**  
Leader  
I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,  
Community  
**in the courts of the house of the Lord,**  
**in your midst, O Jerusalem.**  
**Praise the Lord!**

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

Reflection  
“Treasuring the Gifts of Pilgrimage”  
by Timothy J. Ray

*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)

**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,**

Leader  
**in the heavens above and here on earth.**  
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  
**May your kingdom be seen to flourish**  
**through the joy of your people, always grateful.**  
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  
**Provide for us in all our needs,**  
**material and spiritual, this day and every day.**  
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  
**Do not allow us to be tossed about by temptations**  
**and protect us from all evils that would do us harm.**  
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.  
Community  
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,