



# A Journey to the Land of the Saints

## V • The Community of Ailbe

Community

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)

*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.*

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

### Prelude

“The Community of Ailbe”

*(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O’Meara)*

Leaving the Paradise of Birds, Saint Brendan and his companions  
wander on the ocean for many months before landing on another  
island where they are welcomed by the Community of Saint Ailbe.

*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	praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit. <b>The three in one.</b>	Father, Son and Spirit, 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>	
<i>All stand.</i>			
Leader	Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom, in the words our Lord taught us:	Community Leader	Holy God, Father, Son and Spirit, pour down upon us from heaven the rich blessing of your peace. Peace between nations ...
All	<b>“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.”</b> (Matthew 6: 9-13)	Community Leader Community Leader Community Leader	<b>... peace between neighbors.</b> Peace between kindred ... <b>... peace between lovers.</b> Peace between persons injured ... <b>... peace between foes.</b> 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 ...
Community Leader	<b>... and sheltering us under the mantle of your care.</b> O holy God, be a smooth path before us, a guiding star above us, a keen eye behind us, this day, this night, forever. We are weary and forlorn, O God, lead us to your house, to the peace of heaven. <b>Lead us to your house, to the peace of heaven.</b> Help us do your will...	All	<b>... as the angels and saints do in heaven:</b> <b>without malice, without jealousy, without envy, without fear, without terror of anyone under the sun.</b> <b>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.</b>
Community Leader	Help us give you your due...	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 Leader	<b>... and put aside our entitlement.</b> Help us travel your path...		<b>The peace of the Father of Joy, of Christ the Lamb, and of the Spirit of Grace, be with us all.</b>
Community Leader	<b>... and leave behind our own.</b> Help us ponder Christ's death...	Community	
Community Leader	<b>... and find hope in our own.</b> Help us meditate on Christ agony...		

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.

Community

**May it possess us and protect us all.**

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." so they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come

Leader

**so that in our own hearts, we may feel your presence.**  
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

Leader

Praise to the Father,

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.

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.

Community

**O Generous Lord,  
cleanse our hearts, make holy our souls,  
confirm our faith,  
keep safe our minds, encompass our bodies about**

and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew  
again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to  
the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to  
Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come  
to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind  
was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four  
miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near  
the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is  
I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the  
boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward  
which they were going.

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the  
other side of the sea went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the  
sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"  
Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are  
looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because  
you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food  
that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life,  
which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that  
God the Father has set his seal."

Jesus [then] said to them, "I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever  
believes in me will never be thirsty."

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

Community

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

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

Leader

Psalms 103, Verses 1 through 22.

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

Community

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits —**  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

Community	<b>who redeems your life from the Pit,</b>	Leader	Bless the Lord, all his works,
Leader	<b>who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,</b>		in all places of his dominion.
Community	who satisfies you with good as long as you live	Community	<b>Bless the Lord, O my soul.</b>
Leader	<b>so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.</b>	<i>There is a brief silence after the psalm before reading or presenting the audio version of the following reflection.</i>	
Community	The Lord works vindication	Reflection	"Living as Citizens of Heaven"
Leader	<b>and justice for all who are oppressed.</b>		by Timothy J. Ray
Community	He made known his ways to Moses,	<i>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.</i>	
Leader	<b>his acts to the people of Israel.</b>	Hymn (optional)	
Community	The Lord is merciful and gracious,	<b>Eucharistic Prayer</b>	
Leader	<b>slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.</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>	
Community	He will not always accuse,		
Leader	<b>nor will he keep his anger forever.</b>		
Community	He does not deal with us according to our sins,		
Leader	<b>nor repay us according to our iniquities.</b>		
Community	For as the heavens are high above the earth,		
Leader	so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;		
Community	<b>as far as the east is from the west,</b>		
	<b>so far he removes our transgressions from us.</b>		
Leader	As a father has compassion for his children,		
Community	so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.		
	<b>For he knows how we were made;</b>		
	<b>he remembers that we are dust.</b>	Leader	Thanks be to you, Holy Father of Glory,
Leader	As for mortals, their days are like grass;		father-kind, ever-loving, ever-powerful,
	they flourish like a flower of the field;		because of all the abundance, favor and deliverance
Community	<b>for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,</b>		that you bestow on us in our need.
Leader	<b>and its place knows it no more.</b>	Community	<b>May your name be praised forever,</b>
	But the steadfast love of the Lord	Leader	<b>in the heavens above and here on earth.</b>
Community	is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,		Whatever Providence befalls us as your children,
	<b>and his righteousness to children's children,</b>		in our portion, in our lot, in our path,
	<b>to those who keep his covenant</b>		give to us with it the riches of your hand
	<b>and remember to do his commandments.</b>		and the joyous blessing of your mouth.
Leader	The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,	Community	<b>May your kingdom be seen to flourish</b>
Community	<b>and his kingdom rules over all.</b>	Leader	<b>through the joy of your people, always grateful.</b>
Leader	Bless the Lord, O you his angels,		In the steep common path of our calling,
Community	<b>you mighty ones who do his bidding,</b>		be it easy or uneasy to our flesh,
	<b>obedient to his spoken word.</b>		be it bright or dark for us to follow,
Leader	Bless the Lord, all his hosts,		your perfect guidance will be upon us.
Community	<b>his ministers that do his will.</b>		