

Community  
Leader

... **abiding in us forever and eternally. Amen.**  
Praise to the Father,  
praise to the Son,  
praise to the Spirit.

Community  
Leader

**The three in one.**  
*(making the sign of the cross)*  
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

**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.*



# A Journey to the Land of the Saints

## 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

We bend our knees

All

*(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**



*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.**  
O holy God, be a smooth path before us,  
a guiding star above us, a keen eye behind us,  
this day, this night, forever.

Leader

We are weary and forlorn, O God,  
lead us to your house, to the peace of heaven.

Community

**Lead us to your house, to the peace of heaven.**  
Help us do your will...

Leader

**... and bridle our own.**

Community

Help us give you your due...

Community  
Leader

**... and grant us peace in eternity.**  
Holy God,  
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 ...  
**... as the angels and saints do in heaven.**

Community  
Leader

Holy God,  
Father, Son and Spirit,  
pour down upon us from heaven  
the rich blessing of your peace.  
Peace between nations ...

Community  
Leader

**... peace between neighbors.**

Peace between kindred ...

Community  
Leader

**... peace between lovers.**

Peace between persons injured ...

Community  
Leader

**... peace between foes.**

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

**... as the angels and saints do in heaven:**  
**without malice, without jealousy, without envy,**  
**without fear, without terror of anyone under the sun.**  
**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

The peace of the Father of Joy,  
the peace of Christ the Lamb,  
the peace of the Spirit of Grace, be with you.

Community

**The peace of the Father of Joy,**

**of Christ the Lamb, and of the Spirit of Grace,  
be with us all.**

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.

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

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.

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)

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.

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

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 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.

Community

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

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

Leader

Psalm 40, Verses 1 through 17:

I waited patiently for the Lord;

Community

**he inclined to me and heard my cry.**

Leader

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

Community

**and set my feet upon a rock,**

**making my steps secure.**

## Leader

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

## Community

**Many will see and fear,**

**and put their trust in the Lord.**

## Leader

Happy are those who make  
the Lord their trust,

Community	<b>who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.</b>	Community	<b>Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, “Aha, Aha!”</b>
Leader	You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; <b>none can compare with you.</b>	Leader	But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
Community	<b>Were I to proclaim and tell of them, they would be more than can be counted.</b>	Community	<b>may those who love your salvation say continually, “Great is the Lord!”</b>
Leader	Sacrifice and offering you do not desire, but you have given me an open ear.	Leader	As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.
Community	<b>Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.</b>	Community	<b>You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.</b>
Leader	Then I said, “Here I am; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.	<i>There is a brief silence after the psalm before reading or presenting the audio version of the following reflection.</i>	
Community	<b>I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.”</b>	Reflection	“Learning The Patterns of God’s Presence” by Timothy J. Ray
Leader	I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation;	<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>	
Community	<b>see, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord.</b>	Hymn (optional)	
Leader	I have not hidden your saving help within my heart, I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;	<b>Eucharistic Prayer</b>	
Community	<b>I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness</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	<b>from the great congregation.</b>	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	Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me;	Community	<b>May your name be praised forever, in the heavens above and here on earth.</b>
Leader	<b>let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.</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	For evils have encompassed me without number;		
Community	<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.		