



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

VII • Unhappy Judas

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

Prelude

“Unhappy Judas”
(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O’Meara)

Continuing their journey on the ocean, holy Brendan and his companions meet Judas — buffeted by the waves as he sits precariously on a rock in the sea — and Saint Brendan defends him from the demons of hell.

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.

**Give us the strength and courage to confess our guilt
as earnestly as were this the moment of our death.**

Leader

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

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.
Christ Jesus,

bring you to the land of peace
in the nearness of his love.
Praise to the Father,
praise to the Son,
praise to the Spirit.

May the three in one bring us to the peace of eternity.

Amen.

Leader

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.

Community **and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.**

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

Reflection “Embracing the Standard of Christ”
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 Prayers and Blessings after the optional hymn.

Hymn (optional)

Prayers and Blessings

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

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 ...

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

O Holy God,

guide us with your wisdom,
chastise us with your justice,
help us with your mercy,

Peace between persons injured ...
... 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 ...

... 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.**

The peace of the Father of Joy,

the peace of Christ the Lamb,

the peace of the Spirit of Grace, be with you.

**The peace of the Father of Joy,
of Christ the Lamb, and of the Spirit of Grace,
be with us all.**

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

I set the teachings of Christ before you;

I set the guarding of God about you.

May it possess us and protect us all.

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

[After questioning Jesus in private], Pilate went out to the Jews and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!” Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the

soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

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.

Psalm 22, Verses 1 through 11 and 23 through 31.

Leader

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me,
from the words of my groaning?

Community

**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.**

Leader
Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

Community

**In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Leader

To you they cried, and were saved;

Community

in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

Leader

But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

Community

All who see me mock at me;

they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

Leader

"Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver:

Community

let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

Leader

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

Community

On you I was cast from my birth,

and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Leader

Do not be far from me,

Community

for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Leader

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

Community

stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

Leader

For he did not despise or abhor

Community

the affliction of the afflicted;

Community

he did not hide his face from me,

Leader

but heard when I cried to him.
From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

Community

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;

Community

and all the families of the nations

Leader

shall worship before him.

Community

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

Leader

and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth
bow down;

Community

**before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
and I shall live for him.**

Leader

Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,