



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

VIII • The Island of Paul the Hermit

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

Prelude

“The Island of Paul the Hermit”
(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O’Meara)

After many months on the sea, Saint Brendan and his brothers come to an island where they are welcomed by a hermit named Paul. After recounting his own spiritual journey, Paul the Hermit tells holy Brendan the final things he and his companions must do to come to the Land of the Saints.

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

Leader

Lord Jesus,

Community Leader	<p>Bless and protect us beneath your glorious mantle.</p> <p>There is no plant in the ground, nor form in the strand, that is not full of your virtue.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Christ Jesus,</p> <p>Guard and secure us behind the strength of your shield,</p> <p>There is no life, in the sea or river, in air or on land, that does not proclaim your goodness.</p> <p>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus,</p> <p>Help and teach us to trust in your constant care.</p> <p>There is nothing in the firmament,</p> <p>nor beneath sun and moon,</p> <p>that is not full of your blessing.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus Christ,</p> <p>with the Father who created us</p> <p>and the Spirit that cleansed us,</p> <p>Purify our hearts, make holy our souls</p> <p>and confirm our faith,</p> <p>keep safe our minds and compass our bodies all about.</p> <p>Enfold us...</p> <p>... and surround us.</p> <p>Guide our speech...</p> <p>... and our thoughts.</p> <p>Guard us in our sleeping...</p> <p>... and in our waking.</p> <p>Nurture us in our watching...</p> <p>... and in our hoping.</p> <p>Shield us in our lives...</p> <p>... and grant us peace in eternity.</p> <p>Holy God,</p> <p>Father, Son and Spirit,</p> <p>pour down upon us from heaven</p> <p>the rich blessing of your forgiveness.</p>	Community Leader	<p>May the three in one bring us to the peace of eternity. Amen.</p> <p>Praise to the Father,</p> <p>praise to the Son,</p> <p>praise to the Spirit.</p> <p>The three in one.</p> <p><i>(making the sign of the cross)</i></p> <p>The guarding of the God of life be on you,</p> <p>the guarding of the loving Christ be on you,</p> <p>the guarding of the Holy Spirit be on you,</p> <p>aiding and enfolding you each day and night of your lives.</p> <p>May God, the three in one, encompass us all,</p> <p>shielding us on sea and on land, in day and in night,</p> <p>guarding each step and each path we travel. Amen.</p>
Community Leader	<p>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.</p>	Community Leader	<p>Community</p> <p>Hymn (optional)</p>

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.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means

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:

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.

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...

Community

Leader

... implant saintly thoughts.

In our deeds...

Community

... may others see your kindness.

Leader	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.	
	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.	
	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.	
	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	Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.	
	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.	
	Leader	Psalm 91, Verses 1 through 16.
	You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”	
	Leader	For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;
	Community	he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
	Leader	You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day,
	Community	or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
Leader	A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.	
Community	You will only look with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.	
Leader	Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,	
Community	no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.	
Leader	For he will command his angels concerning you	

