

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.

Community

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

III • The Island of Sheep & The Leviathan Jasconius

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 Sheep & The Leviathan Jasconius”
(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O’Meara)

Saint Brendan and his companions set sail again after refreshing themselves on the island with the uninhabited house. Their travels take them to two other islands filled with wonders and surprises.

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.

Community

Leader

Lord Jesus,
you are shade to those in the heat;
you are shelter to those in the cold;
you are a well to those in the desert.
Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

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| Community Leader | Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. Christ Jesus, you are eyes to those who are blind; you are ears to those who are deaf; you are health to those who are ailing. Christ Jesus, have mercy on us. | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | Christ Jesus, have mercy on us. Lord Jesus, you are the joy of all joyous things; you are the beam of the sun in the day; you are the guiding star in the night. Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. 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... | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | ... and surround us. Guide our speech... | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | ... and our thoughts. Guard us in our sleeping... | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | ... and in our waking. Nurture us in our watching... | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | ... and in our hoping. Shield us in our lives... | Community Leader |
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| 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 ... | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | ... as the angels and saints do in heaven. Holy God, Father, Son and Spirit, pour down upon us from heaven the rich blessing of your peace. Peace between nations ... | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | despair. May we all find forgiveness in the fellowship of Christ. O God, guard us from distress and protect us from misfortune. Help us also to remember those feeling battered by the turbulence of their lives, whether through their own choices or the actions of others. | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | May we all find consolation in the fellowship of Christ. O God, shelter us from harm and aid us in life's struggles, protect us under your shield and guard us from harm, guide us in your ways and clear the paths before us. Be by our knees, by our backs and by our sides in every step we take in this stormy world. | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | Amen. 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." | Community Leader |
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Members of the community offer their particular prayers. The community's response to these individual petitions is:

May God's blessing be yours, and well may it befall you.
When these personal prayers are finished, the leader offers the final blessing.

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| Leader | May God our Father be with you lying down, be with you rising up. May Christ our Brother be with you sleeping, be with you waking. May the Spirit our Guide be with you resting, be with you acting. May God the Father be with you, protecting; may Christ our Lord be with you, directing; may the Spirit of Grace be with you, strengthening. | Community Leader |
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| Community Leader | For ever and for ever more. Amen. Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit. The three in one. <i>(making the sign of the cross)</i> | Community Leader |
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| Leader | Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit. The three in one. | Community Leader | ... peace between neighbors. Peace between kindred ... |
| Community | | Community Leader | ... peace between lovers. Peace between persons injured ... |
| <i>All stand.</i> | | 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. |
| Leader | Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom, in the words our Lord taught us: | | Let us share your peace with our fellow creatures at all times, living as signs of forgiveness and reconciliation on the earth ... |
| 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) | 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. The peace of the Father of Joy, the peace of Christ the Lamb, the peace of the Spirit of Grace, be with you. |
| Leader | Thanks be to you, Eternal Father, for you have enwrapped our bodies and our souls, safeguarding us in the sanctuary of your love ... | Leader | 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. |
| Community Leader | ... and sheltering us under the mantle of your care. O God, bless our homesteads and care for all therein. Help us also to remember those without home or refuge, especially those displaced by war and poverty. | Community Leader | |
| Community Leader | May we all find refuge in the fellowship of Christ. O God, bless our kindred and protect those who are close to us. Help us also to remember those who are alone, without family or friends. | | <i>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.</i> |
| Community Leader | May we all find companionship in the fellowship of Christ. O God, bless our words and help them bring joy and comfort to others. Help us also to remember those who are harmed by unkind words and verbal abuse. | Community Leader | The Word of God |
| Community | May we all hear the gentle voice welcoming us into the fellowship of Christ. O God, bless us in our errands and protect us in our travels. Help us also to remember those who are lost, walking through life without direction or hope. | Community Leader | 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. |
| Community Leader | May we all be guided into the fellowship of Christ. O God, lessen our sins and increase our trust in you. Help us also to remember those burdened by guilt and shame, especially those deep in | | There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to |

me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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.

Psalm 27, Verses 1 through 14.

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh —

**my adversaries and foes —
they shall stumble and fall.**

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;

**though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.**

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:

to live in the house of the Lord

all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord,

and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;

he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up
my enemies all around me,

and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,

be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”

Your face, Lord, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger,

you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,

O God of my salvation!

If my father and mother forsake me,

the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord,

and lead me on a level path

because of my enemies.

Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,

for false witnesses have risen against me,

and they are breathing out violence.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord

in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;

be strong, and let your heart take courage,

wait for the Lord!

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

“Sharing in the Love of the Trinity”

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