



# 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  
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,  
keep the eye of God between us and every other eye;  
keep the purpose of God between us  
and every other purpose;  
keep the desire of God between us and every other desire;  
and no mouth can curse us.  
Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

praise to the Son,  
praise to the Spirit.  
**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.  
**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  
Leader

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.



Leader

As for me, I am poor and needy,  
but the Lord takes thought for me.  
**You are my help and my deliverer;  
do not delay, O my God.**

Community

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

Reflection

“Learning The Patterns of God’s Presence”  
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.**

Community

All stand.

Leader

All

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom,  
in the words our Lord taught us:  
**“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, 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.

Community

Leader

Leader

Peace between kindred ...  
**... peace between lovers.**

Community

Peace between persons injured ...  
**... peace between foes.**

Leader

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.**

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

Community

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 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.

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

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

Psalm 40, Verses 1 through 17.

I waited patiently for the Lord;  
**he inclined to me and heard my cry.**  
He drew me up from the desolate pit,  
out of the miry bog,

**and set my feet upon a rock,  
making my steps secure.**

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

**Many will see and fear,  
and put their trust in the Lord.**

Happy are those who make

the Lord their trust,

**who do not turn to the proud,  
to those who go astray after false gods.**

You have multiplied, O Lord my God,  
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;  
**none can compare with you.**

**Were I to proclaim and tell of them,  
they would be more than can be counted.**

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,  
but you have given me an open ear.

**Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

Then I said, “Here I am;  
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

**I delight to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart.”**

I have told the glad news of deliverance  
in the great congregation;

**see, I have not restrained my lips,  
as you know, O Lord.**

I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

**I have not concealed your steadfast love  
and your faithfulness**

**from the great congregation.**

Do not, O Lord,

withhold your mercy from me;

**let your steadfast love and your faithfulness**

**keep me safe forever.**

For evils have encompassed me  
without number;

**my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see;  
they are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails me.**

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me;

O Lord, make haste to help me.

**Let all those be put to shame and confusion**

**who seek to snatch away my life;**

let those be turned back and brought to dishonor  
who desire my hurt.

**Let those be appalled because of their shame**

**who say to me, “Aha, Aha!”**

But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;

**may those who love your salvation  
say continually, “Great is the Lord!”**

Leader

Community  
Leader

Community

Leader

Community

Leader