

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

### 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.**

Community

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,  
Guard and secure us behind the strength of your shield,





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.**

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

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

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

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

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

**In you our ancestors trusted;**

**they trusted, and you delivered them.**

To you they cried, and were saved;

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

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

**All who see me mock at me;**

**they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;**

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

**let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”**

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

**On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**

Do not be far from me,

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

You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

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

For he did not despise or abhor

the affliction of the afflicted;

**he did not hide his face from me,**

**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.

**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;

**and all the families of the nations**

**shall worship before him.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

**and he rules over the nations.**

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

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

Posterity will serve him;

future generations will be told about the Lord,

**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.*