



## A Journey to the Land of the Saints

### IX • The Promised Land of Saints & The Return Home

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

#### Prelude

“The Promised Land of the Saints & The Return Home”  
*(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O’Meara)*

After leaving the island of Paul the Hermit, Saint Brendan and his companions sail to the south and return to some of the places they had visited before. After celebrating Easter and Pentecost, Saint Brendan and his brothers are guided to the Promised Land of the Saints — and then commanded to return home.

*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.

Community

**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.

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.**

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 Leader	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.	
	<b>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</b>	Community Leader
Community Leader	Christ Jesus,	
	Guard and secure us behind the strength of your shield, There is no life, in the sea or river, in air or on land, that does not proclaim your goodness.	Community Leader
Community Leader	Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.	
	<b>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</b>	Community Leader
Community Leader	Lord Jesus,	
	Help and teach us to trust in your constant care. There is nothing in the firmament, nor beneath sun and moon, that is not full of your blessing.	Community Leader
Community Leader	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.	
	<b>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</b>	Community Leader
Community Leader	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
Community Leader	<b>... and surround us.</b>	
	Guide our speech...	Community Leader
Community Leader	<b>... and our thoughts.</b>	
	Guard us in our sleeping...	Community Leader
Community Leader	<b>... and in our waking.</b>	
	Nurture us in our watching...	Community Leader
Community Leader	<b>... and in our hoping.</b>	
	Shield us in our lives...	Community Leader
Community Leader	<b>... and grant us peace in eternity.</b>	
	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
Community Leader	<b>... as the angels and saints do in heaven.</b>	
	Holy God, Father, Son and Spirit, pour down upon us from heaven	Community Leader

Community Leader	... <b>may others see your kindness.</b>	
	In our words...	Community Leader
Community Leader	... <b>may others hear your mercy.</b>	
	In our wishes...	Community Leader
Community Leader	... <b>may others feel your compassion.</b>	
	In our reason...	Community Leader
Community Leader	... <b>may others discern your wisdom.</b>	
	Divine Majesty, fill us with your goodness, shield us with your shade, and change us with your grace.	Community Leader
Community Leader	<b>Amen.</b>	
	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

*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.*

Leader	May God our Creator	
	guard you from hurt and protect you from harm in the nearness of his love.	
	May Christ our Savior	
	shield you from mischance and shelter you from grief in the nearness of his love.	
	May the Guiding Spirit	
	keep you from ill and 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.	
Community Leader	<b>May the three in one bring us to the peace of eternity. Amen.</b>	
	Praise to the Father, praise to the Son,	

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

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 ...

Community

Leader

**... 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,  
protect us with your strength.  
In our dreams...

Community

Leader

**... arouse holy ambitions.**

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...

the rich blessing of your peace.

Peace between nations ...

**... peace between neighbors.**

Peace between kindred ...

**... peace between lovers.**

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

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.

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias;

and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

The gospel of Jesus Christ, source of strength,  
Source of salvation, source of healing grace.

Community

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

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

Leader

Psalms 116, Verses 1 through 19.

I love the Lord, because he has heard  
my voice and my supplications.

Community

**Because he inclined his ear to me,  
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.

Leader

**Then I called on the name of the Lord:**

**“O Lord, I pray, save my life!”**

Leader

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous;

our God is merciful.

Community

**The Lord protects the simple;**

**when I was brought low, he saved me.**

Leader

Return, O my soul, to your rest,  
for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.

Community

**For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,**

**my feet from stumbling.**

Leader

I walk before the Lord  
in the land of the living.

I kept my faith, even when I said,  
“I am greatly afflicted”;

Community

**I said in my consternation,  
“Everyone is a liar.”**

Leader

What shall I return to the Lord  
for all his bounty to me?

Community

**I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the Lord,**

Leader

I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.

Community

**Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful ones.**

Leader

O Lord, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.  
You have loosed my bonds.

Community

**I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice  
and call on the name of the Lord.**

Leader

I will pay my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,

Community

**in the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

**Praise the Lord!**

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

Reflection

“Treasuring the Gifts of Pilgrimage”  
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.*