



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

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,

you are shade to those in the heat;

you are shelter to those in the cold;

Community	you are a well to those in the desert.
Leader	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us. 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	Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.
Leader	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	Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.
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	... and surround us.
Leader	Guide our speech...
Community	... and our thoughts.
Leader	Guard us in our sleeping...
Community	... and in our waking.
Leader	Nurture us in our watching...
Community	... and in our hoping.
Leader	Shield us in our lives...
Community	... and grant us peace in eternity.
Leader	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	... as the angels and saints do in heaven.

Leader	Holy God, Father, Son and Spirit, pour down upon us from heaven the rich blessing of your peace. Peace between nations ...
Community	... peace between neighbors.
Leader	Peace between kindred ...
Community	... peace between lovers.
Leader	Peace between persons injured ...
Community	... 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 ...
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.
Leader	The peace of the Father of Joy, the peace of Christ the Lamb, the peace of the Spirit of Grace, be with you.
Community	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.
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Community

May it possess us and protect us all.

Reader

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

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.

Community

May it be a mantle to our bodies.

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

Leader

Psalm 27, Verses 1 through 14.

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

Community

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

Leader

When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh —

Community

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

Leader

Though an army encamp against me,

Community	my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.
Leader	One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the Lord
Community	all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.
Leader	For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
Community	he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.
Leader	Now my head is lifted up my enemies all around me,
Community	and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
Leader	Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
Community	be gracious to me and answer me!
Leader	"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Community	Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.
Leader	Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!
Community	If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.
Leader	Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.
Community	Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.
Leader	I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Community	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.

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 Eucharistic Prayer after the optional hymn.

Hymn (optional)

Eucharistic Prayer

If the community wishes to share the Eucharist, the table is prepared during the hymn. If there is no hymn, the table should be prepared in silence — slowly and deliberately. Then, the leader begins the Eucharistic Prayer.

Leader Thanks be to you, Holy Father of Glory,
father-kind, ever-loving, ever-powerful,
because of all the abundance, favor and deliverance
that you bestow on us in our need.

Community **May your name be praised forever,
in the heavens above and here on earth.**

Leader Whatever Providence befalls us as your children,
in our portion, in our lot, in our path,
give to us with it the riches of your hand
and the joyous blessing of your mouth.

Community **May your kingdom be seen to flourish
through the joy of your people, always grateful.**

Leader In the steep common path of our calling,
be it easy or uneasy to our flesh,
be it bright or dark for us to follow,
your perfect guidance will be upon us.

Community **Provide for us in all our needs,
material and spiritual, this day and every day.**

Leader Be a shield to us from the wiles of the deceiver,
from the arch-destroyer with his arrows pursuing us,

and in each secret thought our minds get to weave,
guide and protect us.

Community

**Do not allow us to be tossed about by temptations
and protect us from all evils that would do us harm.**

Leader

O Loving Christ, who was hanged upon a tree,
each day and each night we remember your covenant;
in our lying down and rising up, we yield ourselves to your cross,
in our lives and our deaths, we seek in you our peace.
Each day, may we remember the source of the mercies
you bestowed on us, gently and generously;
each day, may we become fuller in love with you.

My brothers and sisters, with St. Paul, I say to you:
“I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord
Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and
when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that
is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took
the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in
my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’
For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the
Lord's death until he comes.” (1 Corinthians 11: 23-26)

O Gracious God, (making the sign of the cross)
may your Spirit come upon us, and upon this bread and wine,
so that it might illumine our understanding, kindle our will,
incite our love, strengthen our weakness, and enfold our desires.

Community

**O Generous Lord,
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.**

Leader

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.
Community	Encompass the beginning and the end of our race, give us courage to sing in glory, in peace, in rest, in reconciliation.
Leader	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.
Community	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, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit.
Community	The three in one.

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

... and sheltering us under the mantle of your care.

Leader

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

May we all find refuge in the fellowship of Christ.

Leader

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.

Community

May we all find companionship in the fellowship of Christ.

Leader

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

May we all hear the gentle voice welcoming us into the fellowship of Christ.

Leader

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

May we all be guided into the fellowship of Christ.

Leader

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 despair.

Community

May we all find forgiveness in the fellowship of Christ.

Leader

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

May we all find consolation in the fellowship of Christ.

Leader

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

Amen.

Leader

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."

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 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 **For ever and for ever more. Amen.**

Leader Praise to the Father,
 praise to the Son,
 praise to the Spirit.

Community **The three in one.**

Leader *(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.

Community **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.