



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

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,

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.

Community Leader	<p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Christ Jesus,</p> <p>Guard and secure us behind the strength of your shield,</p> <p>There is no life, in the sea or river, in air or on land,</p> <p>that does not proclaim your goodness.</p> <p>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</p>
Community Leader	<p>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus,</p> <p>Help and teach us to trust in your constant care.</p> <p>There is nothing in the firmament,</p> <p>nor beneath sun and moon,</p> <p>that is not full of your blessing.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p>
Community Leader	<p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus Christ,</p> <p>with the Father who created us</p> <p>and the Spirit that cleansed us,</p> <p>Purify our hearts, make holy our souls</p> <p>and confirm our faith,</p> <p>keep safe our minds and compass our bodies all about.</p> <p>Enfold us...</p>
Community Leader	<p>... and surround us.</p> <p>Guide our speech...</p>
Community Leader	<p>... and our thoughts.</p> <p>Guard us in our sleeping...</p>
Community Leader	<p>... and in our waking.</p> <p>Nurture us in our watching...</p>
Community Leader	<p>... and in our hoping.</p> <p>Shield us in our lives...</p>
Community Leader	<p>... and grant us peace in eternity.</p> <p>Holy God,</p> <p>Father, Son and Spirit,</p> <p>pour down upon us from heaven</p> <p>the rich blessing of your forgiveness.</p> <p>Be patient with us and grant to us</p> <p>the fear of God, the love of God, and your affection</p> <p>so we may do your will on earth at all times ...</p>
Community Leader	<p>... as the angels and saints do in heaven.</p> <p>Holy God,</p>

	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.
Community	May it possess us and protect us all.

[After questioning Jesus in private], Pilate went out to the Jews and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate 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,

Community 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.

Leader Psalm 22, Verses 1 through 11 and 23 through 31.

Community 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.**

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

Community **In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

Leader To you they cried, and were saved;
Community **in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**

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

Community **All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;**

Leader "Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver:
Community **let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"**

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

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

Leader Do not be far from me,
Community **for trouble is near and there is no one to help.**

Leader You who fear the Lord, praise him!
 All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
Community **stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!**

Leader For he did not despise or abhor
 the affliction of the afflicted;

Community **he did not hide his face from me,
but heard when I cried to him.**

Leader From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
 my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

Community **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;**

those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

Leader

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord;

Community

**and all the families of the nations
shall worship before him.**

Leader

For dominion belongs to the Lord,

Community

and he rules over the nations.

Leader

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

Community

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

Leader

Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,

Community

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

Community

Leader

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

... arouse holy ambitions.

Leader

In our repose...

Community

... strengthen us for your service.

Leader

In our hearts...

Community

... nurture love for all your creatures.

Leader

In our minds...

Community

... implant saintly thoughts.

Leader

In our deeds...

Community

... may others see your kindness.

Leader

In our words...

Community

... may others hear your mercy.

Leader

In our wishes...

Community

... may others feel your compassion.

Leader	In our reason...
Community	... may others discern your wisdom.
Leader	Divine Majesty, fill us with your goodness, shield us with your shade, and change us with your grace.
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 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	May the three in one bring us to the peace of eternity. Amen.
Leader	Praise to the Father, praise to the Son, praise to the Spirit.
Community	The three in one.
Leader	<i>(making the sign of the cross)</i>

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.