



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

I • Barrind's Story

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

Prelude

"Barrind's Story"

(from The Voyage of Saint Brendan, translated by John J. O'Meara)

The legendary journey of Saint Brendan, who came to be known as 'The Navigator', begins with an amazing story told one evening by a visitor to the saint's abbey.

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;
you are a well to those in the desert.

Community Leader	<p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Christ Jesus,</p> <p>you are eyes to those who are blind;</p> <p>you are ears to those who are deaf;</p> <p>you are health to those who are ailing.</p> <p>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</p>
Community Leader	<p>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</p> <p>Lord Jesus,</p> <p>you are the joy of all joyous things;</p> <p>you are the beam of the sun in the day;</p> <p>you are the guiding star in the night.</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.

Jesus left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ).

"When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her,
"I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

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 19, Verses 1 through 14.

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Community

**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

Leader

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

Community

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

Leader

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom
from his wedding canopy,

Community

and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Leader

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;

Community

and nothing is hid from its heat.

Leader

The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;

Community

**the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple.**

Leader

The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;

Community

**the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes.**

Leader

The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;

Community

**the ordinances of the Lord are true
righteous altogether.**

Leader

More to be desired are they than gold,

	even much fine gold;
Community	sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
Leader	Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.
Community	But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.
Leader	Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me.
Community	Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
Leader	Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you,
Community	O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

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

Reflection	"Walking with the Celtic Saints" 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.
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
Leader

Amen.

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
Leader

For ever and for ever more. Amen.

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

Community
Leader

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.

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.