



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

II • The Brothers Visit Holy Enda & An Uninhabited House

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

Prelude

“The Brothers Visit Holy Enda & An Uninhabited House”
(from *The Voyage of Saint Brendan*, translated by John J. O’Meara)

Inspired by Barrind’s story, Saint Brendan decides to make his own pilgrimage to the Land of the Saints. So, he gathers some of his brother monks and begins his journey.

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.

John (called the Baptist) was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi, where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

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 139, Verses 1 through 17 and 23 through 24.
Community	O Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.
Leader	You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.
Community	Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.
Leader	You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.
Community	Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.
Leader	Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
Community	If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
Leader	If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
Community	even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.
Leader	If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night,"
Community	even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.
Leader	For it was you who formed my inward parts;
Community	you knit me together in my mother's womb.
Leader	I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Community	Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
Leader	My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Community	Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
Leader	In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.

Community	How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
	How vast is the sum of them!
Leader	Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
Community	See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

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

Reflection	"Finding Christ in All Things" by Timothy J. Ray
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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

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
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.