



A Journey to the Land of the Saints

VI • The Crystal Pillar & The Island of Smiths

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

Prelude

“The Crystal Pillar & The Island of Smiths”

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

After visiting the Community of Ailbe, holy Brendan and his brethren set sail once again and encounter two wondrous sights while upon the ocean — one awe-inspiring and the other terrifying.

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,

keep the eye of God between us and every other eye;

keep the purpose of God between us

and every other purpose;
keep the desire of God between us and every other desire;
and no mouth can curse us.

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

Community
Leader

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

Christ Jesus,
keep your pain between us and every other pain;
keep your love between us and every other love;
keep your dearness between us and every other dearness;
and no venom can wound us.

Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

Community
Leader

Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.

Lord Jesus,
keep the desire of God between us and every other desire;
keep the might of God between us and every other might;
keep the right of God between us and every other right;
and no ill thing can touch us.

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

Community
Leader

Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.

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

... and surround us.

Guide our speech...

Community
Leader

... and our thoughts.

Guard us in our sleeping...

Community
Leader

... and in our waking.

Nurture us in our watching...

Community
Leader

... and in our hoping.

Shield us in our lives...

Community
Leader

... and grant us peace in eternity.

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.

Community **May it possess us and protect us all.**

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Saint John.

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill."

But when Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what he had done.

Community The gospel of Jesus Christ, source of strength,
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 40, Verses 1 through 17.

Community I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.

Leader He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,

Community **and set my feet upon a rock,**
making my steps secure.

Leader He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.

Community **Many will see and fear,**
and put their trust in the Lord.

Leader Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust,

Community **who do not turn to the proud,**
to those who go astray after false gods.

Leader You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;

Community **none can compare with you.**
Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

Leader Sacrifice and offering you do not desire,
but you have given me an open ear.

Community **Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.**

Leader Then I said, "Here I am;
in the scroll of the book it is written of me.

Community **I delight to do your will, O my God;**
your law is within my heart."

Leader I have told the glad news of deliverance
in the great congregation;

Community **see, I have not restrained my lips,**
as you know, O Lord.

Leader I have not hidden your saving help within my heart,

Community	I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.
Leader	Do not, O Lord, withhold your mercy from me;
Community	let your steadfast love and your faithfulness keep me safe forever.
Leader	For evils have encompassed me without number;
Community	my iniquities have overtaken me, until I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails me.
Leader	Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.
Community	Let all those be put to shame and confusion who seek to snatch away my life;
Leader	let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt.
Community	Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"
Leader	But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
Community	may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"
Leader	As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me.
Community	You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.

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

Reflection	"Learning The Patterns of God's Presence" 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 holy God, be a smooth path before us,
a guiding star above us, a keen eye behind us,
this day, this night, forever.

We are weary and forlorn, O God,
lead us to your house, to the peace of heaven.

Community **Lead us to your house, to the peace of heaven.**

Leader Help us do your will...

Community **... and bridle our own.**

Leader Help us give you your due...

Community **... and put aside our entitlement.**

Leader Help us travel your path...

Community **... and leave behind our own.**

Leader Help us ponder Christ's death...

Community	... and find hope in our own.
Leader	Help us meditate on Christ agony...
Community	... and strengthen our love for you.
Leader	Help us carry Christ's cross...
Community	... and forget our own burdens.
Leader	Help us embrace repentance...
Community	... and accept your forgiveness.
Leader	O holy God, help us to control our tongues and our thoughts, so we may trust your wisdom, embrace Christ's redemptive love, and accept the Spirit's gentle graces. For we are weary and forlorn ...
Community	... and ask you lead us to your house, to the peace of heaven. 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 the God of life encompass you, protecting your form and your frame. May the Christ of love encompass you, shielding you from hatred and from harm. May the spirit of grace encompass you, guiding you towards goodness and away from ill. The blessings of the Triune God surround you ...
Community	... abiding in us forever and eternally. 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.