



## A Journey to the Land of the Saints

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### 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><b>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</b></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><b>Christ Jesus, have mercy on us.</b></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><b>Lord Jesus, have mercy on us.</b></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><b>... and surround us.</b></p> <p>Guide our speech...</p>
Community Leader	<p><b>... and our thoughts.</b></p> <p>Guard us in our sleeping...</p>
Community Leader	<p><b>... and in our waking.</b></p> <p>Nurture us in our watching...</p>
Community Leader	<p><b>... and in our hoping.</b></p> <p>Shield us in our lives...</p>
Community Leader	<p><b>... and grant us peace in eternity.</b></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><b>... as the angels and saints do in heaven.</b></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	<b>... peace between neighbors.</b>
Leader	Peace between kindred ...
Community	<b>... peace between lovers.</b>
Leader	Peace between persons injured ...
Community	<b>... peace between foes.</b>
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	<b>... 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.</b>
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	<b>The peace of the Father of Joy, of Christ the Lamb, and of the Spirit of Grace, be with us all.</b>
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	<b>May it possess us and protect us all.</b>

[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;

Community future generations will be told about the Lord,  
**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 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  
Leader

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

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  
Leader

**... arouse holy ambitions.**

In our repose...

Community  
Leader

**... strengthen us for your service.**

In our hearts...

Community  
Leader

**... nurture love for all your creatures.**

In our minds...

Community  
Leader

**... implant saintly thoughts.**

In our deeds...

Community  
Leader

**... may others see your kindness.**

In our words...

Community  
Leader

**... may others hear your mercy.**

In our wishes...

Community  
Leader

**... may others feel your compassion.**

In our reason...

Community  
Leader

**... may others discern your wisdom.**

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 *(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.*