

☞ St. Patrick's Day Prayer Service ☞

Leader: Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God. (pause)

All: I rise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through the belief in the threeness,
Through confession of the oneness
Of the Creator of Creation.

I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with his baptism,
Through the strength of his crucifixion with his burial,
Through the strength of his resurrection with his ascension,
Through the strength of his descent for the judgment of Doom. ♣

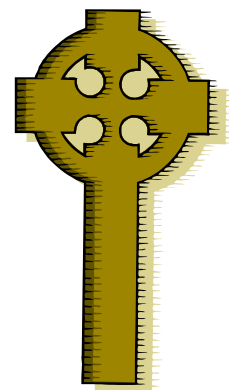
Reader 1:

Patrick was born about the year 400AD - either near what is now the English/Scottish border (in what was then the Province of Britannia in the Roman Empire), or near the River Severn by the present English/Welsh border. Wherever he was born, he was captured by raiders, made a slave and taken to Ireland when he was about 16 years old. There he was forced to work in the fields, looking after sheep and pigs. He managed to escape in a ship which took him to France. Some time later he became a priest and then a bishop. He returned to his birthplace and had a vivid dream or a vision, calling him to return to Ireland and take the Gospel to the people there. It was as a young man (and while he was a captive) that he had much time to think and reflect, and he grew in his relationship with God. Spending days and nights in the open countryside, looking after the animals, he became more and more aware that God was there with him. Patrick learned to live in the Presence of God.

(Brother Nicholas Hutchinson, FSC, *Praying Each Day*)

Response

All: I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me:
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak for me,
God's way to life before me,
God's shield to protect me
From snares of devils
From temptations of vices,
From everyone who shall wish me ill,
Afar and anear
Alone and in multitude. ♣



Reader 2: When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. Mk. 6:34

Leader: Triune God, we confess your mighty strength, and we bring before you our needs on this day when we commemorate your priest and bishop, Patrick. Our response is **Creator of Creation, hear our prayer.**

✠ For our Pope, the Bishop of Rome, for all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may bring the Gospels to all peoples as Patrick did, we pray . . .

✠ In thanksgiving for the gift of faith to Ireland and for the spread of this faith throughout the world, we pray . . .

✠ For our country and its leaders, for the countries of our ancestors, and for all nations that they may devote themselves to peace and the benefit of their citizens, we pray . . .

✠ In thanksgiving for our teachers and for good teachers who will teach their pupils many things, we pray . . .

✠ For all who have been abducted, enslaved by others or by addictions, that they may find genuine freedom and justice, we pray . . .

✠ For (other voiced intentions), we pray . . .

Lord's Prayer

Final Prayer

All: Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every person who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me. ✠ Amen.

Leader: St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland, **All:** Pray for us.

Leader: St. John Baptist de La Salle, **All:** Pray for us.

Leader: Live, Jesus, in our hearts. **All:** Forever!

✠ = From St. Patrick's "Breastplate" Prayer

(Arranged by Brother Paul Fitzgerald)