

The Prayer of St. Patrick (or the Breastplate of St. Patrick)

I

**For my shield this day
A mighty power:
The Holy Trinity!
Affirming threeness,
Confessing oneness,
In the making of all
Through love...*

II

*For my shield this day I call;
Christ's power in his dying
On the cross, his arising
From the tomb, his ascending:
Christ's power in his coming
For judgment and ending.*

III

*For my shield this day I call:
Strong power of the seraphim,
With angels obeying,
and archangels attending, in the glorious company
of the holy and risen ones,
in the prayers of the fathers,
in visions prophetic
and commands apostolic,
in the annals of witness,
in virginal innocence,
to the deeds of steadfast men.*

IV

*For my shield this day I call:
Heaven's might,
Moon's whiteness, Fire's glory,
Lightning's swiftness,
Wind's wildness,
Ocean's depth,
Earth's solidity,
Rock's immobility*

V

*This day I call to me; G
od's strength to direct me,
God's power to sustain me.
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's vision to light me,
God's ear to my hearing,*

*God's word to my speaking,
God's hand to uphold me,
God's pathway before me,
God's shield to protect me,
God's legions to save me:
From snares of the demons,
from evil enticements,
from failings of nature,
from one man or many
that seek to destroy me,
anear or afar.*

VI

*Around me I gather:
these forces to save
my soul and my body
from dark powers that assail me:
against false prophesyings,
against heretical lying
and false gods all around me.
Against spells cast by women,
By blacksmiths, by Druids,
Against knowledge unlawful
That injures the body,
That injures the spirit.*

VII

*Be Christ this day my strong protector:
Against poison and burning
Against drowning and wounding,
Through reward wide and plenty
Christ beside me, Christ before me;
Christ behind me, Christ within me;
Christ beneath me, Christ above me;
Christ to the right of me, Christ to left of me;
Christ in my lying, my sitting, my rising;
Christ in heart of all who know me,
Christ on tongue of all who meet me,
Christ in eye of all who see me
Christ in ear of all who hear me.*

VIII

*For my shield this day I call:
A mighty power:
The Holy Trinity!
Affirming threeness,
Confessing oneness*

In the making of all__ through love...

IX

*For to the Lord belongs salvation,
And to the Lord belongs salvation
and to Christ belongs salvation.*

May your salvation, Lord, be

With us always,

(Domine est salus, Domini est salus, Christi est salus, Salus tua, Domine, sit semper nobiscum).