

A Novena



to
St. Patrick

By Fr. Neil Xavier O'Donoghue



Breastplate of St. Patrick

I arise today Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through 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.

I arise today Through the strength of the love of the Cherubim, In the obedi-
ence of angels, In the service of archangels, In the hope of the resurrection
to meet with reward, In the prayers of patriarchs, In prediction of prophets,
In preaching of apostles, In faith of confessors, In innocence of holy virgins,
In deeds of righteous men.

I arise today Through the strength of heaven, Light of sun, Radiance of
moon, Splendor of fire, Speed of lightning, Swiftness of wind, Depth of
sea, Stability of earth, Firmness of rock.

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 to me, God's hand to guard me, God's way
to lie before me, God's shield to protect me, God's host to save me, From
snares of devils, From temptation of vices, From every one who shall wish
me ill, Afar and anear, Alone and in a multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and those evils, Against
every cruel, merciless power that may oppose my body and soul, Against
incantations of false prophets, Against black laws of pagandom, Against
false laws of heretics, Against craft of idolatry, Against spells of women,
and smiths, and wizards, Against every knowledge that corrupts man's
body and soul.

Christ to shield me today, Against poisoning, against burning, Against
drowning, against wounding, So there come to me abundance of reward.
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ be-
neath 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 man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every one who
speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that
hears me.

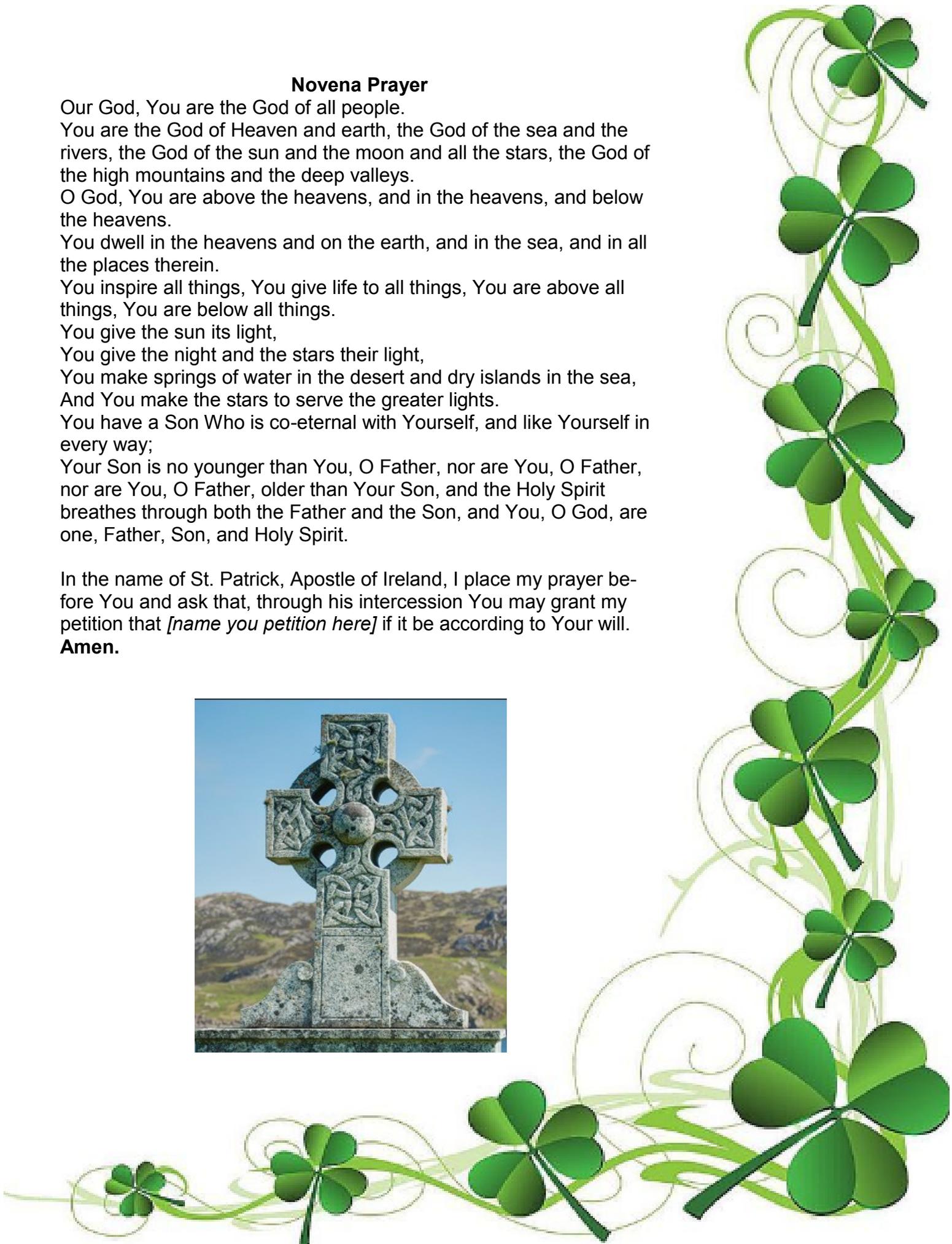
I arise today Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through belief in the threeness, Through confession of the oneness Of the
Creator of Creation. **Amen.**

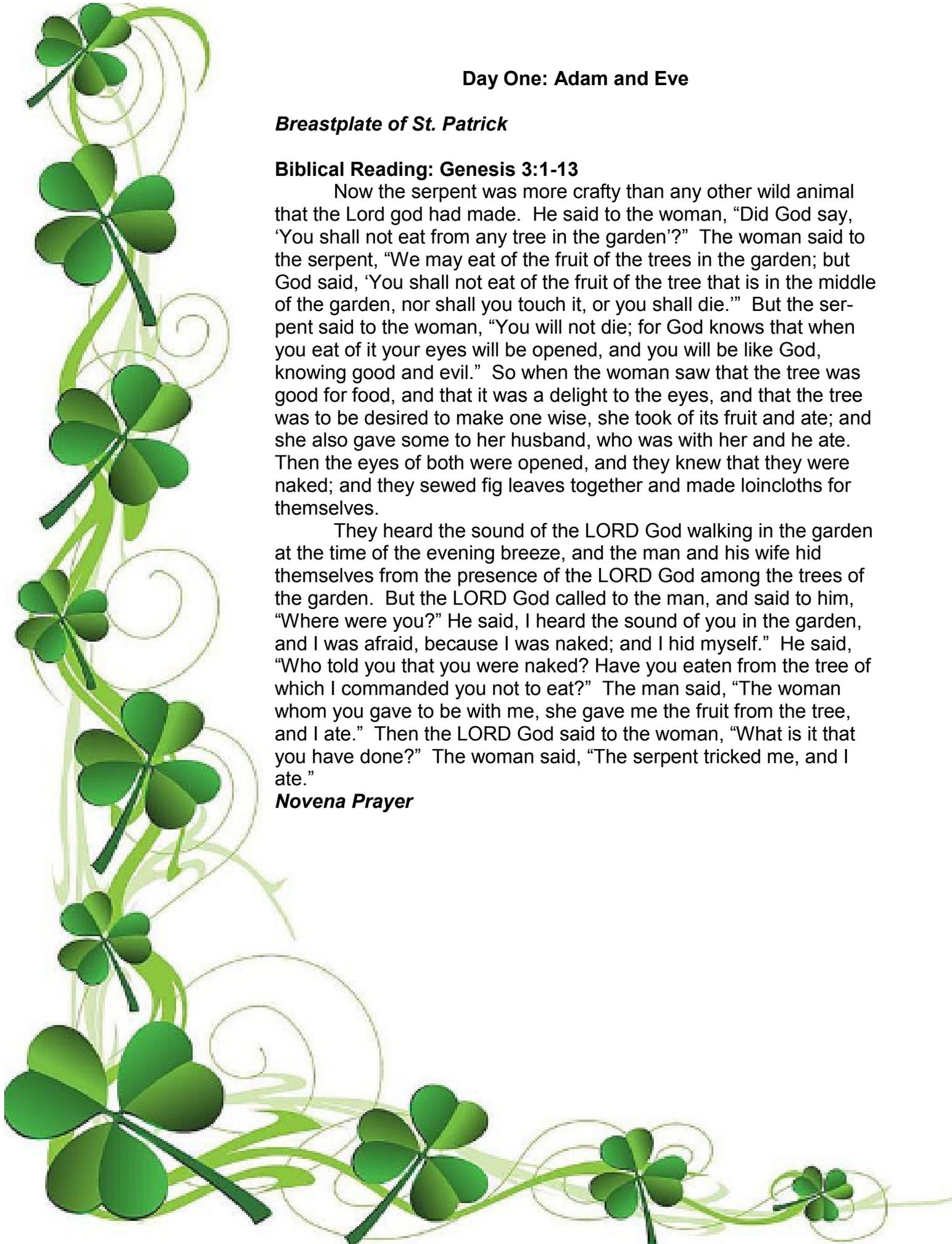


Novena Prayer

Our God, You are the God of all people.
You are the God of Heaven and earth, the God of the sea and the rivers, the God of the sun and the moon and all the stars, the God of the high mountains and the deep valleys.
O God, You are above the heavens, and in the heavens, and below the heavens.
You dwell in the heavens and on the earth, and in the sea, and in all the places therein.
You inspire all things, You give life to all things, You are above all things, You are below all things.
You give the sun its light,
You give the night and the stars their light,
You make springs of water in the desert and dry islands in the sea,
And You make the stars to serve the greater lights.
You have a Son Who is co-eternal with Yourself, and like Yourself in every way;
Your Son is no younger than You, O Father, nor are You, O Father, nor are You, O Father, older than Your Son, and the Holy Spirit breathes through both the Father and the Son, and You, O God, are one, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the name of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland, I place my prayer before You and ask that, through his intercession You may grant my petition that *[name you petition here]* if it be according to Your will.
Amen.





Day One: Adam and Eve

Breastplate of St. Patrick

Biblical Reading: Genesis 3:1-13

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where were you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me the fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is it that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

Novena Prayer

Day Two: The Sacrifice of Isaac

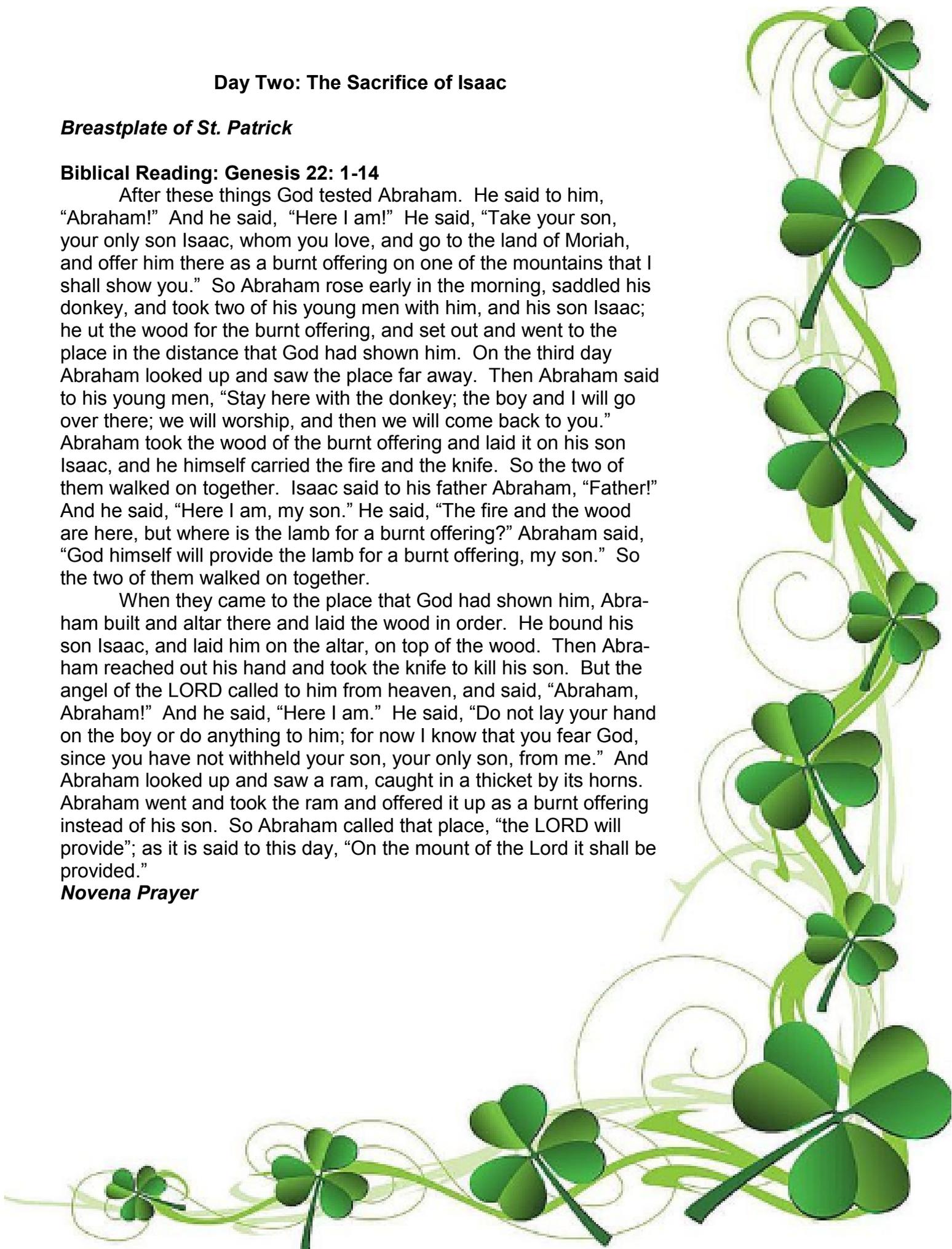
Breastplate of St. Patrick

Biblical Reading: Genesis 22: 1-14

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am!" He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he ut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place, "the LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

Novena Prayer





Day Three: Daniel in the Lions' Den

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Biblical Reading: Daniel 5:31-6: 1-23

Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.

It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred twenty satraps, stationed throughout the whole kingdom, and over them three presidents, including Daniel; to these the satraps gave account so that the king might suffer no loss. Soon Daniel distinguished himself above all the other presidents and satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king planned to appoint him over the whole kingdom. So the presidents and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint or any corruption, because he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption could be found in him. The men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."

So the presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." Therefore King Darius signed the document and the interdict.

Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room opened toward Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?" The king answered, "the thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." Then they responded to the king, "Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day."

When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, "Know O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed."

Then the kings gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!? A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel then said to the king: "O king, live forever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouth so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king. I have done no wrong."

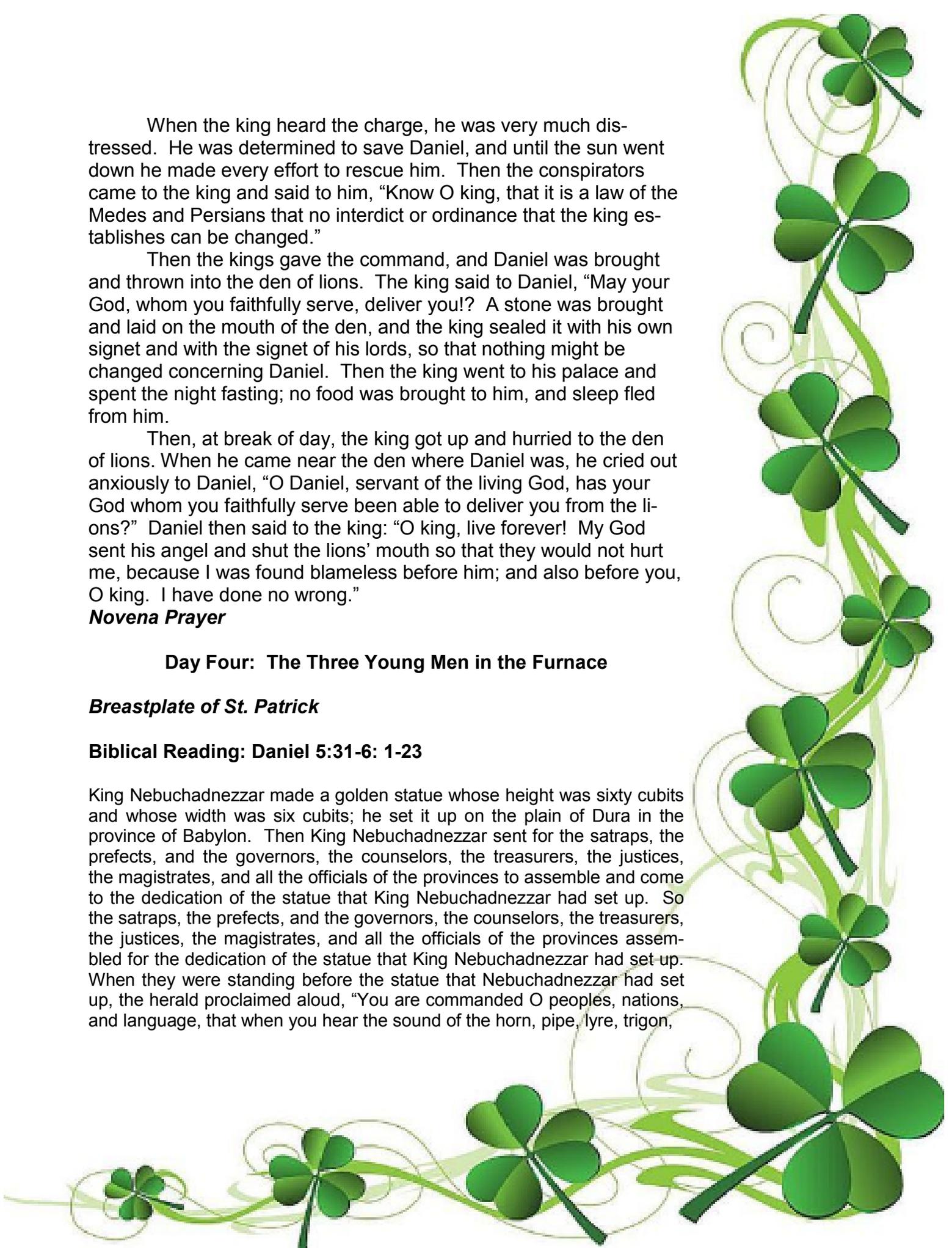
Novena Prayer

Day Four: The Three Young Men in the Furnace

Breastplate of St. Patrick

Biblical Reading: Daniel 5:31-6: 1-23

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded O peoples, nations, and language, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon,





harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O King. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar in a furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us! But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue you have set up.”

Then Nebuchadnezzar was so filled with rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that his face was distorted. He ordered the furnace heated up seven times more than was customary, and ordered some of the strongest guards in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to throw them into the furnace of blazing fire. Because the king’s command was urgent and the furnace was so overheated, the raging flames killed the men who lifted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But the three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down, bound, into the furnace of blazing fire.

Hearing them sing and amazed at seeing them alive, King Nebuchadnezzar rose up quickly. He said to his counselors, “Was it not three men that we threw bound in to the fire?” They answered the king, “True, O king.”

He replied, "But I see four men unbound, walking in the middle of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the fourth has the appearance of a god." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the door of the furnace of blazing fire and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men; the hair of their heads was not singed, their tunics were not harmed, and not even the smell of fire came from them. Nebuchadnezzar said: "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who trusted in him. They disobeyed the king's command and yielded up their bodies rather than worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that utters blasphemy against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

Novena Prayer

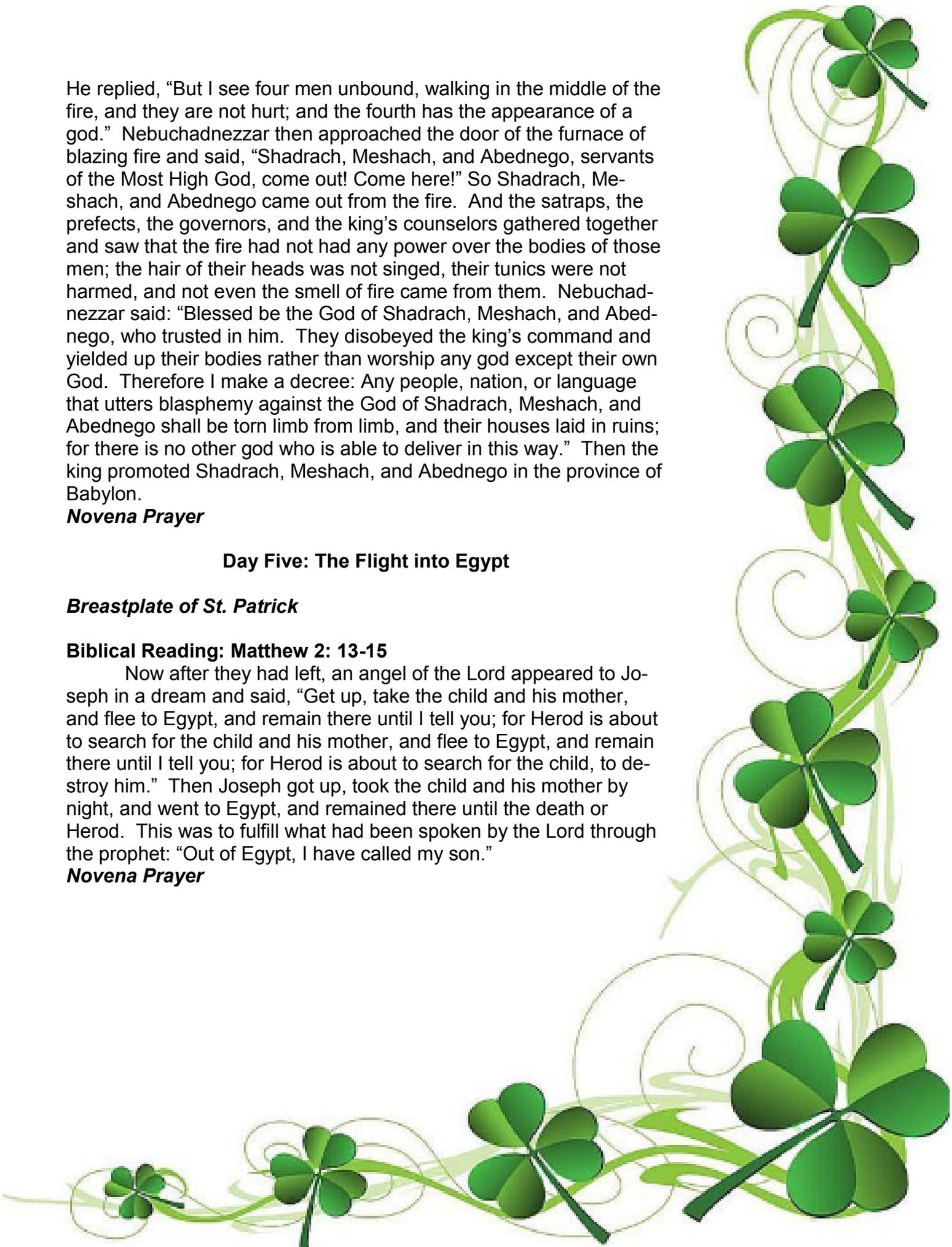
Day Five: The Flight into Egypt

Breastplate of St. Patrick

Biblical Reading: Matthew 2: 13-15

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Out of Egypt, I have called my son."

Novena Prayer





Day Six: The Twelve Apostles

Breastplate of St. Patrick

Biblical Reading: Matthew 10: 1-13

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon the Cananean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for the laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.

Novena Prayer

Day Seven: The Loaves and the Fishes

Breastplate of St. Patrick

Biblical Reading: Matthew 14: 14-21

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion from them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Novena Prayer



Day Eight: The Crucifixion

Breastplate of St. Patrick

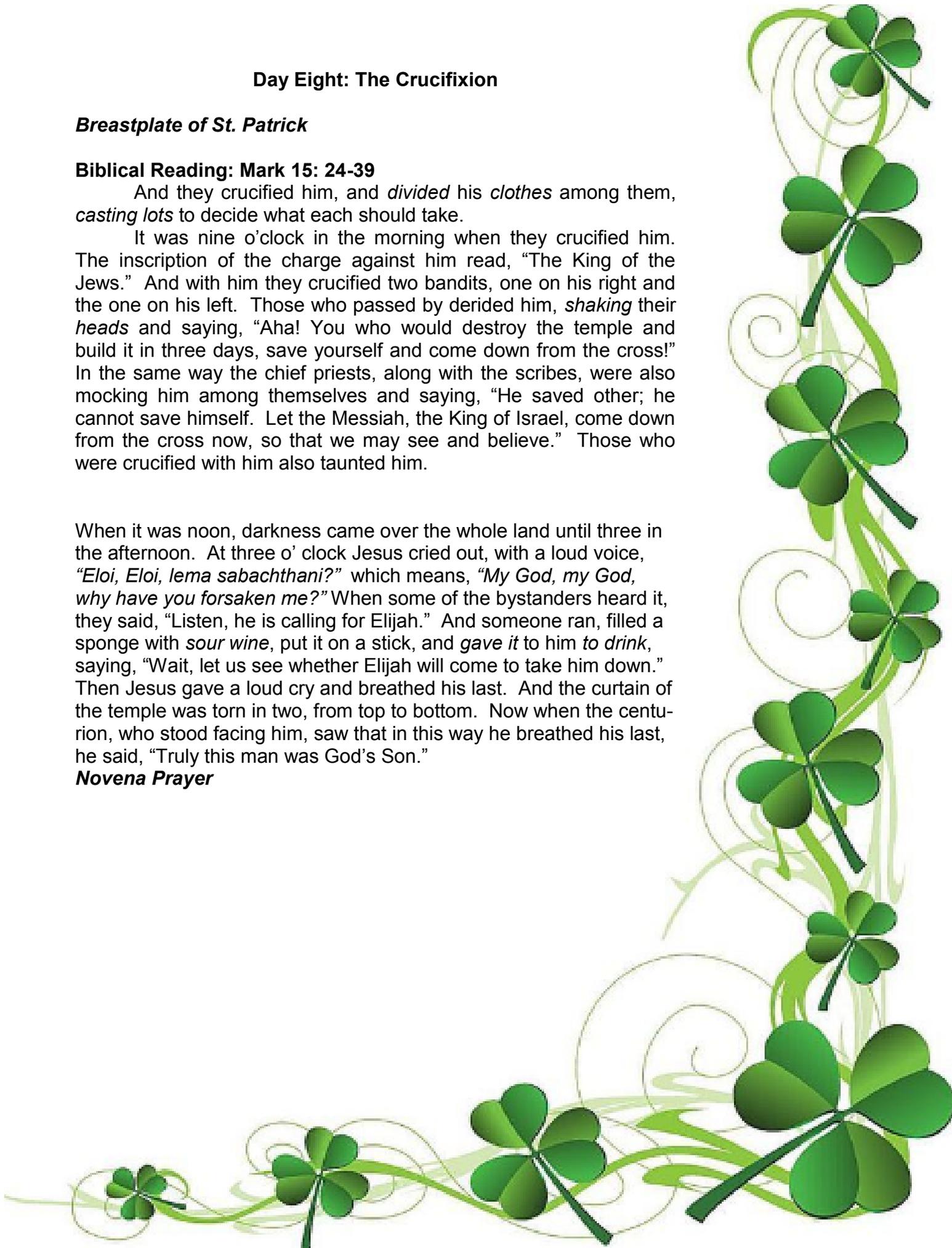
Biblical Reading: Mark 15: 24-39

And they crucified him, and *divided* his *clothes* among them, *casting lots* to decide what each should take.

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and the one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, *shaking* their *heads* and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved other; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out, with a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with *sour wine*, put it on a stick, and *gave it* to him *to drink*, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son."

Novena Prayer





Day Nine: The Crucifixion

Breastplate of St. Patrick

Biblical Reading: John 19: 17-30

And, carrying the cross, by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews.' but, 'This man said, I am the King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,

And for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Novena Prayer

