

Pilgrim's Prayer of St. James, Patron of Pilgrim Travelers



St. James the Apostle is known as the patron of pilgrim travelers because, during medieval times, his sanctuary in Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain was one of the most traveled pilgrim routes in Christendom (known through the centuries as the Camino de Compostela). Whether on a journey to a distant shrine or to a local place of veneration and importance, it is good to pray with St. James for his protection during the journey. St. James was also one of the three disciples chosen by Christ to journey with him up Mount Tabor for the Transfiguration; with this in mind, we pray with him that we, too, might have a transformative experience on pilgrimage. This medieval prayer (origin unknown) has been said many times through the centuries by travelers.

O God, who brought your servant Abraham out of the land of the Chaldeans,
protecting him in his wandering across the desert,
we ask that you watch over us, your servants,
as we walk in the love of your name in the footsteps of Jesus,
in the land where He was born, lived, died, and was resurrected.

Be for us our companion on the walk,
Our guide at the crossroads,
Our breath in our weariness,
Our protection in danger,
Our home on the Camino,
Our shade in the heat,
Our light in the darkness,
Our consolation in our discouragements,
And our strength in our intentions.

So that with your guidance we may arrive safe and sound
at the end of the road and enriched with grace and virtue
we return safely to our homes filled with joy.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Saint James the Apostle, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us.