

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Solemnity of the Assumption

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Almighty ever-living God,
who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary,
the Mother of your Son,
body and soul into heavenly glory,
grant, we pray,
that, always attentive to the things
that are above,
we may merit to be sharers of her glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Solemnity of the Assumption)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how

does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."

And Mary said:

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever."



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Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. What has brought me joy this week? How can I bear joy instead of criticism?

Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled. What words of the Lord do I struggle to believe? What steps can I take to strengthen my faith?

For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. How has God shown favor to me? How can I see others with God's caring eyes?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

The queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir.

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, forget your people and your father's house. So shall the king desire your beauty; for he is your lord.

They are borne in with gladness and joy; they enter the palace of the king.

(From Psalm 45)

Living the Word This Week

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

Donate to or volunteer with a food bank or soup kitchen to help ensure that the hungry are filled with good things.

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