

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you
command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
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, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary
Time)

Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three
times.*

Luke 13:22-30

Jesus passed through towns and villages,
teaching as he went and making his way to
Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will
only a few people be saved?" He answered
them, "Strive to enter through the narrow
gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to

enter but will not be strong enough. After
the master of the house has arisen and
locked the door, then will you stand outside
knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door
for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not
know where you are from. And you will say,
'We ate and drank in your company and you
taught in our streets.' Then he will say to
you, 'I do not know where you are from.
Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And
there will be wailing and grinding of teeth
when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
and all the prophets in the kingdom of God
and you yourselves cast out. And people will
come from the east and the west and from
the north and the south and will recline at
table in the kingdom of God. For behold,
some are last who will be first, and some are
first who will be last."

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?



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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?

Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. What things keep me from entering through the narrow gate and living according to God's will? How can I strengthen my faith and my commitment to living according to God's will?

Lord, open the door for us. What doors do I need the Lord to open for me? How can I help other people find and pass through the doors the Lord has opened?

For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last. How attentive am I to those that society views as "last"? How can I put forward the interests of those who are last?

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

Closing Prayer:

Praise the LORD all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures
forever.

(From Psalm 117)

Living the Word This Week

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

Invite someone to attend Mass or to pray with you.

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