



## *Lectio Divina* for the Thirty-Second Week in Ordinary Time

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Almighty and merciful God,  
graciously keep from us all adversity,  
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,  
we may pursue in freedom of heart  
the things that are yours.

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, Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

### **Reading (*Lectio*)**

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Mark 12: 38-44

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.

Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

### **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.*



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## Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

*Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:*

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

*“They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers.”* How do I put my faith into practice in my daily life? Is my life a faithful witness to the Gospel?

*He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.* In what ways has the Gospel shaped how I spend my money? What moral values are part of my financial decisions?

*“She, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”* How do I share my time, treasure, and talent for the common good? How can I give my life to God more completely?

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

## Closing Prayer:

The LORD keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets captives free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind;  
the LORD raises up those who were bowed  
down;  
The LORD loves the just;  
the LORD protects strangers.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,  
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.  
The LORD shall reign forever;  
your God, O Zion, through all generations.  
Alleluia.

(From Psalm 146)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Review your charitable giving for the year and identify ways that you can be more generous in sharing your time, talent, and treasure.

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