

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Third Week of Advent

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Incline a merciful ear to our cry, we pray, O Lord, and, casting light on the darkness of our hearts, visit us with the grace of your Son.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Monday of the Third Week of Advent)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*  
Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, “What should we do?” He said to them in reply, “Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He answered them, “Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.” Soldiers also asked him, “And what is it that we should do?” He told them, “Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, “I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is

coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

### 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?

*The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?"* How can I discern God's will for me? How does my faith influence the decisions in my daily life?

*Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.* How can I be more generous with my time, talent, and treasure? How can I encounter and accompany those who are in need?

*Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.* Through what channels do I hear the good news? How can I share the good news in word and action?

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

## Closing Prayer:

God indeed is my savior;  
I am confident and unafraid.  
My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.  
With joy you will draw water  
at the fountain of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;  
among the nations make known his deeds,  
proclaim how exalted is his name.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious  
achievement;  
let this be known throughout all the earth.  
Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,  
for great in your midst  
is the Holy One of Israel!

(From Isaiah 12)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Donate food, clothing, or money to a local food pantry, homeless shelter, or other agency that aids those in need.

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