

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Seventeenth 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, protector of those who hope in you,  
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing  
is holy,

bestow in abundance your mercy upon us  
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may use the good things that pass  
in such a way as to hold fast even now  
to those that ever endure.

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, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*  
Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread  
and forgive us our sins

for we ourselves forgive everyone

in debt to us,  
and do not subject us to the final test."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

### Meditation (*Meditatio*)

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



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- 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?

*Lord, teach us to pray.* What types of prayer nurture my soul? When and where do I pray most intently?

*Forgive us our sins/ for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us.* Who do I need to forgive? From whom do I need to ask forgiveness?

*If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?* For what gifts do I need to ask God? How can I be more generous in giving to others?

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

## Closing Prayer:

I will give thanks to you, O LORD,  
with all my heart,  
for you have heard the words of my mouth;  
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;

I will worship at your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name.

Because of your kindness and your truth;  
for you have made great above all things  
your name and your promise.  
When I called you answered me;  
you built up strength within me.

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees,  
and the proud he knows from afar.  
Though I walk amid distress, you preserve me;  
against the anger of my enemies you  
raise your hand.

Your right hand saves me.  
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;  
your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;  
forsake not the work of your hands.

(From Psalm 138)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Schedule time on your calendar to pray each day this week. Consider varying the type of prayer each day: the Liturgy of the Hours, the rosary, Eucharistic adoration, contemplative prayer, etc.

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