

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Thirtieth 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 ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else. "Two people went up to the temple area to pray; one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector. The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself, 'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity -- greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, and I

pay tithes on my whole income.' But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

### 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?

*Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.* How often do I judge my spiritual progress against other people's? What prejudices or biases do I need to purge from my heart?

*I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.* How can I deepen the devotion of my religious practice? What religious practices draw me closer to God?

*But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven but beat his breast and prayed, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner."* How can I be more attentive to my own sinfulness and need for God's mercy? How can I share God's message of love and forgiveness?

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

### Closing Prayer:

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the LORD;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

The LORD confronts the evildoers,  
to destroy remembrance of them from the earth.

When the just cry out, the Lord hears them,  
and from all their distress he rescues them.

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted;  
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.

The LORD redeems the lives of his servants;  
no one incurs guilt who takes refuge in him.

(From Psalm 34)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Pray the "Jesus Prayer" ("O God, be merciful to me a sinner.") for five minutes each day.

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