

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Twenty-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.

God of might, giver of every good gift,  
put into our hearts the love of your name,  
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,  
you may nurture in us what is good  
and, by your watchful care,  
keep safe what you have nurtured.  
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-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*  
Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

### 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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your right hand upholds me.

(From Psalm 63)

## Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

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

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

*Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly.* How can I grow in gratitude for Jesus' suffering and the salvation it brought? What daily difficulties or struggles can I offer to the Lord?

*You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.* When do I place the world's values above God's commandments? How can I learn to discern what God wants from me?

*Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.* What cross do I need to bear? How can I give of myself to help others bear their crosses?

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

## Closing Prayer:

O God, you are my God whom I seek;  
for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts  
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary  
to see your power and your glory,  
For your kindness is a greater good than life;  
my lips shall glorify you.

Thus will I bless you while I live;  
lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.  
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be  
satisfied,  
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

You are my help,  
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.  
My soul clings fast to you;

## Living the Word This Week

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

Learn more about Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/international-religious-freedom.cfm>.

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