

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Fifth Week of Easter

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, grant your people constancy in faith and hope, that we may never doubt the promises of which we have learned from you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Tuesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
John 15:1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a

branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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?

Every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. What parts of my life need to be pruned away? What fruit has God brought to bear in my life?

Without me you can do nothing. When have I most relied on God? What is God calling me to do?

By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. How does my life glorify God? How can I follow the path of discipleship more closely?

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

Closing Prayer:

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear the LORD.

The lowly shall eat their fill;
they who seek the LORD shall praise him:
"May your hearts live forever!"

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the LORD;
all the families of the nations
shall bow down before him.

To him alone shall bow down
all who sleep in the earth;
before him shall bend
all who go down into the dust.

And to him my soul shall live;
my descendants shall serve him.
Let the coming generation be told of the LORD
that they may proclaim to a people yet to be born
the justice he has shown.

(From Psalm 22)

Living the Word This Week

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

Review your stewardship commitments of time, talent and treasure to share in gratitude the fruit that God has brought to bear in your life.

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