

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Show favor, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

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, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*  
Mark 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them

leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

### 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?

*Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.* Where can I go to pray? How can I make space for holy leisure in my life?

*They had no opportunity even to eat.* How can I learn to discipline my will? What worldly concerns distract me from God?

*They were like sheep without a shepherd.* When have I felt lost? Who helped me find God?

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

## Closing Prayer:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
with your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

(From Psalm 23)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Fast and pray for the Holy Father's monthly prayer intention.

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