

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Second Week of Advent

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who have shown forth your salvation to all the ends of the earth, grant, we pray,

that we may look forward in joy to the glorious Nativity of Christ.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Collect, Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

*Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill
shall be made low.*

*The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

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?

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan. Where is God calling me to go? To what regions of my neighborhood, parish, workplace can I bring compassion and loving service?

A voice of one crying out in the desert. When have I felt like a voice crying out in the desert? When have I failed to use my voice when I should have?

All flesh shall see the salvation of God. How can I be more open to encountering Jesus? Whom can I help to encounter Jesus?

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

Closing Prayer:

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing.

Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.

From Psalm 126

Living the Word This Week

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

Invite someone to join you at Mass or at a parish Advent class or prayer service.

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