

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is

a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

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?

How I wish it were already blazing! Who in my life is on fire with faith? What inspires me to grow in my spiritual life?

How great is my anguish until it is accomplished! What in my life is causing emotional pain and suffering? What things have I left undone?

From now on a household of five will be divided. When has my family or other community suffered from division? With whom do I need to reconcile?

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

Closing Prayer:

I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped toward me.

The LORD heard my cry.
He drew me out of the pit of destruction,
out of the mud of the swamp;
he set my feet upon a crag;
he made firm my steps.

And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.
Many shall look on in awe
and trust in the LORD.

Though I am afflicted and poor,
yet the LORD thinks of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
O my God, hold not back!

From Psalm 40

Living the Word This Week

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

Seek reconciliation with a friend or family member.

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