

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of

Blessed Mary

bestowed on the human race

the grace of eternal salvation,

grant, we pray,

that we may experience the intercession of her,

through whom we were found worthy

to receive the author of life,

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, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 2:16-21.

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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.



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Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

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

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem. Where is God calling me to go? How can I hasten to do God's will?

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. How can I let amazement break through my cynicism and weariness? When have God's actions aroused my sense of wonder and awe?

Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. What time do I dedicate to prayer and reflection? What do I need to tune out in order to focus on God?

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

Closing Prayer:

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth
fear him

From Psalm 67

Living the Word This Week

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

Before bed each night, reflect on how God was present to you during the day and give God thanks and praise for this gift.

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