

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Fourth 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, life of the faithful,  
glory of the humble, blessedness of the just,  
listen kindly to the prayers  
of those who call on you,  
that they who thirst for what you generously  
promise  
may always have their fill of your plenty.  
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, Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Easter*

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own

sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.” Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”

### 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?



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*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.*

## **Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)**

*Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:*

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

*He walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice.* How do I recognize the voice of God? Where is Jesus calling me to follow him?

*But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers.* What strange and divisive voices pull me away from God? How can I mute those voices?

*Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.* Where do I find pasture and rest? What opportunities for rest and restoration are available to me?

*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?*

Pray for the Pope and the bishops who are called to shepherd God's people.

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