

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Eleventh 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, strength of those who hope in you,  
graciously hear our pleas,  
and, since without you mortal frailty can do  
nothing,  
grant us always the help of your grace,  
that in following your commands  
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.  
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, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Matthew 9:36—10:8

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved  
with pity for them because they were

troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."



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## 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.*

## Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

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

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

*Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.* When have I felt troubled and abandoned? How can I be more attentive to those on the margins who feel as though no one cares?

*The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few.* What fruits do I reap from the practice of my faith? How can I better serve God and my neighbors?

*Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.* What gifts has God given to me? How can I express my gratitude for these gifts?

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

## Closing Prayer:

Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;  
serve the LORD with gladness;  
come before him with joyful song.

Know that the LORD is God;  
he made us, his we are;  
his people, the flock he tends.

The LORD is good:  
his kindness endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

*From Psalm 100*

## Living the Word This Week

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

Pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life.

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