

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, whose Son today ascended to the heavens as the Apostles looked on,
grant, we pray, that, in accordance with his promise, we may be worthy for him to live with us always on earth,
and we with him in heaven.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Ascension, Vigil Mass)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Mark 16:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to them, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God. But they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs.

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?

Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Where am I being called to share my faith? How can I support the Church's mission to preach the Gospel to all peoples?

They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. What parts of my life require the Lord's healing? With whom do I need to share God's healing presence?

The Lord worked with them and confirmed the word through accompanying signs. What signs has God worked in my life? How can I work with the Lord to help build up his kingdom?

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

Closing Prayer:

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness,
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne.

(From Psalm 47)

Living the Word This Week

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

Research ways to become involved in the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

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