

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Second Week of Advent

We begin our prayer:

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

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to make ready the paths
of your Only Begotten Son,
that through his coming,
we may be found worthy to serve you
with minds made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Thursday of the Second Week of Advent)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.*

*Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be
made low.*

*The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of
God.”*

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?

The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. Where am I most attentive to the voice of God? What distracts me from the Word of God?

Proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. What message is God asking me to share through my words and actions? From what sins do I need to repent?

The winding roads shall be made straight, / and the rough ways made smooth. What people, places, or things entice me to veer away from God's path? How can I help to ease others paths?

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

Closing Prayer:

When the LORD brought back the captives of Zion,
we were like men dreaming.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with rejoicing.

Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."
The LORD has done great things for us;
we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the torrents in the southern desert.
Those who sow in tears
shall reap rejoicing.

Although they go forth weeping,
carrying the seed to be sown,
They shall come back rejoicing,
carrying their sheaves.

(From Psalm 126)

Living the Word This Week

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

Spend time diligently examining your conscience and then receive the Sacrament of Penance.

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