

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for Holy Week

We begin our prayer:

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

May your mercy, O God,
cleanse the people that are subject to you
from all seduction of former ways
and make them capable of new holiness.
Through Christ our Lord.

(Prayer over the People, Tuesday of Holy Week)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Mark 11:1-10

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, 'Why are you doing this?' reply, 'The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.'" So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?"

They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

"Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David
that is to come!

Hosanna in the highest!"

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?

Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem. How can I draw near to Jesus in these final days of Lent? How can I maintain this nearness once Lent is over?

The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once. How can I express gratitude for the gifts that God has given me? How can I place my gifts in the Lord's service?

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! How can I help to build God's kingdom? How can I learn to long for the coming of God's kingdom?

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

Closing Prayer:

All who see me scoff at me;
they mock me with parted lips, they wag their heads:
"He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,
let him rescue him, if he loves him."

Indeed, many dogs surround me,
a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
They have pierced my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

They divide my garments among them,
and for my vesture they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
O my help, hasten to aid me.

I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
"You who fear the LORD, praise him;
all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

(From Psalm 22)

Living the Word This Week

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

As much as possible, participate in your parish's celebration of the Paschal Triduum.

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