

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Twentieth 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, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished! Do you

think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a mother against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law."

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.



CATHOLIC.BIBLE

Contemplation (Contemplatio)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

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

I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! What in my life needs to be purified by the Lord's healing fire? How can I share the light of Christ and the fire of the Spirit with those I encounter?

There is a baptism with which I must be baptized. To what does my baptismal commitment call me? What challenges do I face in living my baptismal call?

Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From what worldly values and practices must I separate myself? How can I stand for the truth of God's Word with integrity and love?

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

Closing Prayer:

I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped toward me.

The LORD heard my cry.
He drew me out of the pit of destruction,

out of the mud of the swamp;
he set my feet upon a crag;
he made firm my steps.

And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.
Many shall look on in awe
and trust in the LORD.

Though I am afflicted and poor,
yet the LORD thinks of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
O my God, hold not back!

(From Psalm 40)

Living the Word This Week

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

Get involved with the advocacy efforts sponsored by your diocese or state Catholic conference.

Excerpts from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



CATHOLIC.BIBLE