

Cor Gathering
15 March 2025
Lectio Devina
The Transfiguration

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us take a few minutes in silence to remind ourselves that we are in the presence of God. Focus on your breathing and allow the distractions in your mind to pass away. Remember that where 2 or 3 are gathered in the name of Jesus he is there in our midst.

Spend 2-3 minutes in silence being mindful that God is present with you.

After this time of silence, the Leader begins:

Leader: Let us ask the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire our time of prayer.

Reader 1: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

All: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Reader 1: O God, who, by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy his consolations through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

All: Holy Spirit, make my heart open to the word of God, make my heart open to goodness, make my heart open to the beauty of God every day.

Leader: Let us now turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary and ask her to be present here with us and guide us to her son, Jesus Christ.

Reader 2: Mary, Mother of the Word Incarnate, we turn to you as we begin this time of prayer.

Open our hearts to encounter your Son in the words of Sacred Scripture. Bring us to him and help us to hear his voice as he speaks to us. May this time spent with the Word of God lead us to more closely follow your Son, Jesus Christ. Let us pray together:

All: We fly to thy protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

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Lectio - Reading

Leader: Let us now turn to Scripture and read from the book of Genesis. This is the first step of lectio divina. Listen attentively and ask yourself what the Biblical text is saying in itself.

Reader 3: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark [be sure to read slowly and clearly]

[Read Mark 9:2-11]

Allow a minute of silence

Leader: Let us listen to the passage one more time. Continue to ask what the Biblical text is saying in itself, but pay attention to any word or phrase that sticks out to you.

Reader 3: [Reader 3 rereads Mark 9:2-11]

Allow a minute of silence

Meditatio – Meditation

Leader: We now turn to the second step of lectio divina, called Meditatio. We will spend the next 5 minutes in silence allowing God to speak to us through the passage of Scripture. Ask God and yourself, "what does the biblical text say to me?" Spend time focusing on the words or phrases that stuck out to you when reading and allow them to speak into your life. Allow the text to move you or challenge you. If necessary, reread the passage for yourself. Feel free to write or make notes on the page if that helps you.

Spend approximately 5 minutes in silent prayer

Oratio – Prayer

Leader: Let us now turn to the third step of lectio divina, called Oratio. In silent prayer, respond to what God has said to you. This may mean words of petition, intercession, thanksgiving, or praise. It may mean a dialogue back and forth. Speak your mind to God with what you are actually thinking and feeling, not what you think God wants to hear.

Contemplatio – Contemplation

Leader: Finally, in the last step of lectio divina, Contemplatio, be attentive to the presence of God and allow him to transform your heart and show you how he sees reality and yourself. You may want to ask yourself, "What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?" Or you may simply wish to sit in the silent presence of God who is with us. It may be helpful to repeat a short, simple prayer silently, possibly using a

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phrase from the passage of Scripture or a simple prayer like "Jesus, I trust in you" or "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me a sinner."

Spend approximately 5 minutes in silent prayer

Leader; As we end this time of Lectio Devina, let us say together:

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, a world without end, Amen.

Discussion topics

- In your own words, describe the Gospel passage
- From the perspective of Peter, James and John, what was really happening?
- From your perspective, what was Jesus trying to accomplish with his apostles?

Other Transfiguration Gospel Passages

Let us review some phrases from the Gospels of Luke and Matthew that differ from Mark's edition. How do you interpret these minor differences?

From Matthew (17:1-8):

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid."

From Luke (9: 28-36)

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

What about John?

Interesting that John, a witness to this event, did not write about the transfiguration in his Gospel. Why do think he did not write about it?