

Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent:

Opening Prayer: We ask you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to join us and lead us in this scripture meditation. May Jesus, through His Word, lead us to Our Father. May we rest in Our Father's presence and be inspired by the Holy Spirit as we read, reflect, respond, and rest.

Introduction to the Text (Matthew 23: 1-2)

Jesus and his disciples have left Galilee for Jerusalem. Along the way, Jesus predicts his passion, death, and resurrection. After being hailed as the Son of David when he enters Jerusalem, he cleanses the Temple and takes issue with many of the teachings of the Scribes and Pharisees. He also challenges Jews and Gentiles to prepare for the messianic banquet. Chapter 23 begins with a denunciation of the Scribes and Pharisees.

Lectio Divina Process: Read (*Lectio*), Reflect (*Meditatio*), Respond (*Oratio*), Rest (*Contemplatio*)

1. First Reading: We begin as we read (*Lectio*) Matthew 23:1-12. During the reading, focus on question #1 below. We will pause for 2 to 3 minutes after the reading for you to reflect (*Meditatio*) and share a word or phrase from the reading. You may write the word or phrase in the space below the question. In the quiet, it will help to repeat it in your mind and to reflect on it.

2. Question 1: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.

3. First Response: You are now invited to share your word or phrase. We will reflect on the shared word or phrase without explanation or commentary. It may help to circle the words or phrases shared to see the group's focus.

4. Second Reading: We will now read (*Lectio*) our scripture passage a second time. As we read the scripture, focus on question #2 below. Imagine yourself there in the scripture. We will pause for 2 to 3 minutes of silence, then you will be invited to share your feelings and/or a short personal prayer (*Oratio*), your response to the Word. You may write your response in the space provided.

5. Question 2: What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates to the scripture or to the word or phrase you have chosen.? Write down your feelings, how the scripture relates to you and/or a prayer.

6. Second Response: You are now invited to share your response to question #2. Group members may express words of support without judgment. Advice and reassurance are left to God in silence.

7. Third Reading: We will now read (*Lectio*) our scripture passage a third time. During the reading, we focus on question #3 below. In 2 to 3 minutes of silent rest and quiet (*Contemplatio*) after the reading, you can write down what you sense God may be saying to you and/or offer a prayer of thanks for what God is showing you. Imagine resting in God's presence and repeating your word or phrase seeking meaning. Ending the silence: *In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

8. Question 3: What is God's personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you and/or a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit's presence.

9. Third Response: You are now invited to share your response to question #3. We listen with prayerful empathy without needing to give judgment, advice, or assurance.

10. Closing Prayer: Praise, thanksgiving, petitions

11. Announcements: Catholic Answer Bible, Answers alphabetical on www.semperaltius.com website. **USCCB Daily Readings** dailyreadings@usccb.org; **Lectio for Lent**: <https://catholicdotbible.files.wordpress.com/2021/02/lect-2.pdf> **STM lectio handouts**: <https://stmfaithformation.godaddysites.com/adult-formation> **Deon's Lectio video**: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n2NCqQwGTntxLd4hll1aGHAtaG78PEb/view?usp=drive_web

MATTHEW 23

1 Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples,

2 saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses.

3 Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice.

4 They tie up heavy burdens [hard to carry] and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them.

5 All their works are performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and lengthen their tassels.

6 They love places of honor at banquets, seats of honor in synagogues,

7 greetings in marketplaces, and the salutation 'Rabbi.'

8 As for you, do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers.

9 Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven.

10 Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah.

11 The greatest among you must be your servant.

12 Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

From: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/23>

This approach to *Lectio Divina* is based on <https://www.soulshepherding.org/lectio-divina-groups/>