

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Thirty-second Week in Ordinary Time

We begin our prayer:

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

Almighty and merciful God,
graciously keep from us all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Mark 12:38-44

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed

how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

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?

Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. How often am I more concerned about the externals of my faith instead of growing closer to God in my heart? How can I practice my faith with greater humility and selflessness?

They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers. In what ways has my prayer life become stale and dry? How can I learn to pray with greater fullness of heart?

Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. How often do I judge people because of their economic status? How can I reach out to those who are in need in a way that recognizes their dignity?

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

Closing Prayer:

The LORD keeps faith forever,
secures justice for the oppressed,
gives food to the hungry.
The LORD sets captives free.

The LORD gives sight to the blind.
The LORD raises up those who were bowed down;
the LORD loves the just.
The LORD protects strangers.

The fatherless and the widow he sustains,
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.
The LORD shall reign forever;
your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia.

(From Psalm 146)

Living the Word This Week

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

Research your parish and diocesan social justice efforts (e.g., Catholic Charities, Saint Vincent dePaul Society, Legislative Action Network, etc.) and prayerfully discern how you are called to be engaged.

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