

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Almighty ever-living God,  
we humbly implore your majesty  
that, just as your Only Begotten Son  
was presented on this day in the Temple  
in the substance of our flesh,  
so, by your grace,  
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.  
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, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*  
Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy

Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

“Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and glory for your people Israel.”

The child’s father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted -- and you yourself a sword will pierce -- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.



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When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## 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.*

## Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

*Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:*

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

*This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. For what am I waiting? What consolation do I need?*

*You yourself a sword will pierce -- so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. What parts of my heart do I hide from others? What pain and struggle do I need to bring to the Lord?*

*She gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. With whom have I shared the joy of the Gospel? How do I share this joy?*

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

## Closing Prayer:

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;  
reach up, you ancient portals,  
that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory?  
The LORD, strong and mighty,  
the LORD, mighty in battle.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;  
reach up, you ancient portals,  
that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory?  
The LORD of hosts; he is the king of glory.

(From Psalm 24)

## Living the Word This Week

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

On this World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, pray for those who are discerning their vocation.

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