



***Lectio Divina* for the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles**

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul
give us the noble and holy joy of this day,
grant, we pray, that your Church
may in all things follow the teaching
of those through whom she received
the beginnings of right religion.
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, Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Mass
During the Day)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Matthew 16:13-19

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my

heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

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?

But who do you say that I am? Who do I believe that Jesus is? How did I come to this belief?

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. How was I brought to faith in Jesus? How does God reveal himself to me?

Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. By what sins am I bound? How can my faith free me from this bondage?

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

Closing Prayer:

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the LORD is;
blessed the man who takes refuge in him.
(Psalm 34)

Living the Word This Week

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

Pray for the Pope and the bishops in communion with him who are called to lead and serve the Church.

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