

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
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, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Luke 13:22-30

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching
as he went and making his way to Jerusalem.
Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few people
be saved?” He answered them, “Strive to enter
through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will
attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After

the master of the house has arisen and locked the
door, then will you stand outside knocking and
saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ He will say to
you in reply, ‘I do not know where you are from.
And you will say, ‘We ate and drank in your
company and you taught in our streets.’ Then he
will say to you, ‘I do not know where you are from.
Depart from me, all you evildoers!’ And there will
be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in
the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out.
And people will come from the east and the west
and from the north and the south and will recline at
table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are
last who will be first, and some are first who will be
last.”

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.*



CATHOLIC.BIBLE

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Living the Word This Week

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

Take some time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, opening your heart to the Lord and asking him to make you his instrument in the world.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

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

Strive to enter through the narrow gate. What sinful behaviors keep me from entering through the narrow gate? How can I change these behaviors?

Lord, open the door for us. How can I more fully open my heart to the Lord? Who am I called to welcome in God's name?

For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last. Who is last in my community? How can I help to lift them up?

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

Closing Prayer:

Praise the LORD all you nations;
glorify him, all you peoples!

For steadfast is his kindness toward us,
and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.

(From Psalm 117)

Excerpts from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.