

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Feast of the Baptism 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,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River
Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
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, Baptism of the Lord)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened for him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming upon him. And a voice came from the

heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

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?

John tried to prevent him. What obstacles prevent me from growing in my faith? When have I been an obstacle to others growing in faith?

Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. What one righteous act can I perform this week? How can I support my parish's/community's efforts to build a more just and inclusive community?

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. How can I please the Lord through my thoughts, words, and actions? How can I grow in my love for Jesus?

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

Closing Prayer

Give to the LORD, you sons of God,
give to the LORD glory and praise,
Give to the LORD the glory due his name;
adore the LORD in holy attire.

The voice of the LORD is over the waters,
the LORD, over vast waters.
The voice of the LORD is mighty;
the voice of the LORD is majestic.

The God of glory thunders,
and in his temple all say, "Glory!"
The LORD is enthroned above the flood;
the LORD is enthroned as king forever.

(From Psalm 29)

Living the Word This Week

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

Recall your baptism by praying and meditating on the Apostles' Creed.

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