

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for Holy Week

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 as an example of humility for the human race
to follow
caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the
Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of
patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.

(Collect, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Mark 11:1-10

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately on entering it, you will find a colt tethered on which

no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone should say to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ reply, ‘The Master has need of it and will send it back here at once.’” So they went off and found a colt tethered at a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” They answered them just as Jesus had told them to, and they permitted them to do it. So they brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks over it. And he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

“Hosanna!

Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord!

Blessed is the kingdom of our father David
that is to come!

Hosanna in the highest!”

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?



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- 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 passage again, followed by this reflection:

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

He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you." Where is Jesus sending me? How can I bring Christ to those who may disagree with me?

Why are you doing this? How do I seek to calm my doubts and find answers to questions that I might have? How can I identify reliable and authoritative sources of teaching?

Many people spread their cloaks on the road. How can I make myself more available to those in need? How can I be welcoming to those seeking Christ?

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

Closing Prayer:

All who see me scoff at me;
 they mock me with parted lips, they wag
 their heads:
 "He relied on the LORD; let him deliver him,
 let him rescue him, if he loves him."
 Indeed, many dogs surround me,
 a pack of evildoers closes in upon me;
 They have pierced my hands and my feet;
 I can count all my bones.
 They divide my garments among them,
 and for my vesture they cast lots.
 But you, O LORD, be not far from me;
 O my help, hasten to aid me.
 I will proclaim your name to my brethren;
 in the midst of the assembly I will praise you:
 "You who fear the LORD, praise him;
 all you descendants of Jacob, give glory to him;
 revere him, all you descendants of Israel!"

Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24

Living the Word This Week

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

Identify one or two reliable books (such as the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* or *The Joy of the Gospel*) or classes that will help you to learn more about the faith and put them on your calendar during the Easter season.

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