

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Solemnity of Pentecost

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation,

pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth

and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

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, Pentecost, Mass during the Day)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

John 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

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?

Peace be with you. What people or places bring me a sense of peace? How can I be a force for peace instead of division?

He showed them his hands and his side. How can I come to know Jesus better? How can I share my heart and life with him?

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained. Who do I need to forgive? From whom do I need to seek forgiveness?

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

Closing Prayer

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
How manifold are your works, O LORD!
the earth is full of your creatures;

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD be glad in his works!
Pleasing to him be my theme;
I will be glad in the LORD.

If you take away their breath, they perish
and return to their dust.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

(From Psalm 104)

Living the Word This Week

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

Discern how you can share the gifts that the spirit has given you with your parish, your community, and with those in need.

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