

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who through the fruitful virginity of Blessed Mary bestowed on the human race the grace of eternal salvation, grant, we pray, that we may experience the intercession of her, through whom we were found worthy to receive the author of life, 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 Mary, Mother of God)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for

all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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?

The shepherds went in haste to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. How eager am I to grow closer to God? What steps can I take to strengthen that relationship?

They made known the message that had been told them about this child. How often do I share my faith with others? How can I share that faith through my words and actions?

Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Where do I go to pray? How do I foster a listening heart?

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

Closing Prayer

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation.

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide.

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him

(From Psalm 67)

Living the Word This Week

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

Research the evangelization efforts in your parish or diocese and prayerfully discern how you might become involved this year.

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