

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Almighty ever-living God,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of the universe,  
grant, we pray,  
that the whole creation, set free from slavery,  
may render your majesty service  
and ceaselessly proclaim your praise.  
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, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King  
of the Universe*

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his

right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."



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## 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.

## Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

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

*And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.* How have I been a force for division rather than unity? How do I discern ways to pursue what is good and avoid what is evil?

*Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.* What acts of kindness and mercy have I performed this week? What opportunities for kindness and mercy have I let slip away?

*And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.* How am I preparing my soul to meet the Lord on the day of judgment? How can I increase my longing to live with God forever?

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

## Closing Prayer:

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

Beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.  
He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

*From Psalm 23*

## Living the Word This Week

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

Learn more about Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith:

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/international-religious-freedom.cfm>.

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