

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*We begin our prayer:*

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

O God, protector of those who hope in you,  
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing  
is holy,

bestow in abundance your mercy upon us  
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may use the good things that pass  
in such a way as to hold fast even now  
to those that ever endure.

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, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to his disciples: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and

hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

“Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.”

### 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.*



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## 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?

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. What am I searching for? How do I decide what is truly of value?*

*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. How do I treat those who are different from me? How can I learn to see Jesus in everyone I meet?*

*Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old. How do I show respect for tradition and the things of the past? How do I remain open to what the Holy Spirit is doing in the Church and in the world?*

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

## Closing Prayer:

I have said, O LORD, that my part  
is to keep your words.

The law of your mouth is to me more precious  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

Let your kindness comfort me  
according to your promise to your servants.

Let your compassion come to me that I may live,  
for your law is my delight.

For I love your command  
more than gold, however fine.  
For in all your precepts I go forward;  
every false way I hate.

Wonderful are your decrees;  
therefore I observe them.  
The revelation of your words sheds light,  
giving understanding to the simple.

*From Psalm 119*

## Living the Word This Week

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

Commit to some time for spiritual reading (the Bible, the lives of the Saints, the Catechism, papal documents, etc.) each day for the next month.

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