

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Third Week of Lent

*We begin our prayer:*

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

May your unfailing compassion, O Lord,  
cleanse and protect your Church,  
and, since without you she cannot stand secure,  
may she be always governed by your grace.  
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, Monday of the Third Week of Lent)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*  
John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace." His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me.* At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered

and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

### 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?

*He ... drove them all out of the temple area.* What things do I need to eliminate from my life so that I can follow Jesus more faithfully? How can I place my faith at the center of my life?

*“What sign can you show us for doing this?”* How has God been present in my life this week? How can I be more attentive to God’s loving presence?

*They came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.* What role does reading and praying with Scripture play in my faith life? How can I listen more attentively to the voice of the Lord?

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

## Closing Prayer:

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye.

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true,  
all of them just.

They are more precious than gold,  
than a heap of purest gold;  
sweeter also than syrup  
or honey from the comb.

(From Psalm 19)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Spend at least thirty minutes each day this week reading and praying with Sacred Scripture.

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