

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Seventeenth Week 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,  
one 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?

*The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. What do I treasure most about my faith? When have I buried my faith?*

*When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. What have I had to sacrifice for my faith? How can I become a better steward of God's gifts?*

*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. What faith traditions are most meaningful to me? What steps can I take to stay abreast of what is happening in the Church?*

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

## Closing Prayer

You, O LORD, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in kindness to all who call upon you.  
Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer  
and attend to the sound of my pleading.

All the nations you have made shall come  
and worship you, O LORD,  
and glorify your name.  
For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds;  
you alone are God.

You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in kindness  
and fidelity.

Turn toward me, and have pity on me;  
give your strength to your servant.

(From Psalm 86)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Look into your parish and diocesan offerings for adult faith formation and prayerfully consider participating.

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