

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for the Second Week of Advent

*We begin our prayer:*

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

May the splendor of your glory dawn in our hearts, we pray, almighty God, that all shadows of the night may be scattered and we may be shown to be children of light by the advent of your Only Begotten Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Saturday of the Second Week of Advent)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:  
*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;  
he will prepare your way.  
A voice of one crying out in the desert:  
“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.”*

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the

inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

### 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?

*I am sending my messenger ahead of you.* How do I learn about my faith? How do my actions reflect what I believe?

*One mightier than I is coming after me.* How have I seen/experienced God's power? How can I help to prepare the way of the Lord?

*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.* What gifts of the Spirit am I called to share? What gifts of the Spirit do I need to cultivate?

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

## Closing Prayer:

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,  
glory dwelling in our land.

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;  
our land shall yield its increase.  
Justice shall walk before him,  
and prepare the way of his steps.

(From Psalm 85)

## Living the Word This Week

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

Recall your Baptism by praying and reflecting on the Apostles' Creed.

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