



Lectio DIVINA

***Lectio Divina* for the First Week of Advent**

We begin our prayer:

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

Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come, that with you to protect us, we may find rescue from the pressing dangers of our sins, and with you to set us free, we may be found worthy of salvation.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(Collect for Friday of the First Week of Advent)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and

one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

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.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:

How does this passage connect with the experience of your daily life?

In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the

day that Noah entered the ark. How do my daily activities reflect my call to Christian discipleship? Do I follow Christ willingly and wholeheartedly? In what ways do I delay taking the steps I need to take to become a missionary disciple?

Therefore, stay awake! What aspects of my life allowed me to be lulled into indifference or laziness? What steps can I take this week to be more attentive to the needs of others and more faithful to God's call?

So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come. How am I preparing for the coming of the Lord—both at Christmas and at the end of time? How can I prepare myself to be a missionary disciple who helps others encounter Christ?

Prayer (Oratio)

Read the scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

After all have had a chance to make their prayer, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

On that day it will be said:

“Behold our God, to whom we looked to
save us!

This is the LORD for whom we looked;
let us rejoice and be glad that he has
saved us!”

(Isaiah 25:9)

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