

# Lectio DIVINA

## ***Lectio Divina* for Easter and the Octave of Easter**

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Almighty ever-living God,  
who gave us the Paschal Mystery  
in the covenant you established  
for reconciling the human race,  
so dispose our minds, we pray,  
that what we celebrate by professing the  
faith  
we may express in deeds.  
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, Friday in the Octave of Easter)

### **Reading (*Lectio*)**

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and

became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid.

Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

### **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?

*I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. Where do I seek Jesus? What do I expect to find? How does Jesus fulfill or confound my expectations?*

*He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. What does the promise of the Resurrection mean to me? How do I know that Jesus is faithful to his promises?*

*Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead." What is the message that Jesus calls me to share with others? How can I participate in the Church's mission of evangelization?*

## 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:

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
his mercy endures forever.

Let Israel say:

his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Aaron say,  
his mercy endures forever.

Let those who fear the LORD say,  
his mercy endures forever.

(Psalm 118:1-4)

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