

Lectio DIVINA

***Lectio Divina* for the Fourth Sunday of Easter**

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, life of the faithful,
glory of the humble, blessedness of the just,
listen kindly to the prayers of those who
call on you,
that they who thirst for what you generously promise
may always have their fill of your plenty.
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, Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Easter)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

John 10:1-10

Jesus said: "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever does not enter a sheepfold through the gate but climbs over elsewhere is a thief and a robber. But whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice, as the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks

ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger; they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Although Jesus used this figure of speech, the Pharisees did not realize what he was trying to tell them.

So Jesus said again, "Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

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?

As the shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. To what is God calling me? Where is God leading me?

The sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. Where do I hear the voice of God? How do I recognize Jesus' voice in the tumult of daily life?

I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. How does faith make my life richer? How can I share this abundance with those I meet?

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:

The joyful shout of deliverance
is heard in the tents of the righteous:
"The LORD's right hand works valiantly;
the LORD's right hand is raised;
the LORD's right hand works valiantly."
I shall not die but live
and declare the deeds of the LORD.
The LORD chastised me harshly,
but did not hand me over to death.

(Psalm 118:15-18)

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