



Lectio DIVINA

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

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, who renew the world
through mysteries beyond all telling,
grant, we pray,
that your Church may be guided by your
eternal design
and not be deprived of your help in this
present age.

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, Monday of the Fourth Week
of Lent)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one

who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him.

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?

So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

From what sins and failing do I need to be cleansed?

What people, things, attitudes, etc. keep me from clearly seeing God's will for me?

"What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" How has Jesus opened my eyes to his actions in the world and to the needs of others? How do my words and actions speak to what I believe about Jesus?

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" How does my faith in Christ sustain me through trials and difficulties? What actions can I take in the coming days to offer spiritual or material assistance to Christians facing persecution?

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 Lord GOD has given me
a well-trained tongue,
That I might know how to answer the
weary
a word that will waken them.
Morning after morning
he wakens my ear to hear as disciples do;
The Lord GOD opened my ear;
I did not refuse,
did not turn away.

(Isaiah 50:4-5)

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