



Lectio DIVINA

***Lectio Divina* for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

We begin our prayer:

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

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, though in our weakness we fail,
we may be revived through the Passion of
your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Monday of Holy Week)

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many. The centurion and the men with him who were keeping watch over Jesus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, “Truly, this was the Son of God!”

Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.
(Note: Due to the length of today's Gospel, only a portion is reproduced.)*

Matthew 27:45-54

From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Some of the bystanders who heard it said, “This one is calling for Elijah.” Immediately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.” But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his 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.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:

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



“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” In what circumstances have I felt abandoned, even by God? How might I become more aware of God’s abiding presence in my life?

But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. In what ways do I hear the voice of Jesus crying out to me? How does Jesus’ Spirit inspire me to share the Gospel with those I meet? Am I able to hear the voice of Jesus in the cries of my sisters and brothers who clamor for peace, justice, basic necessities, and treatment with the dignity God gave them?

And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. What things of this world divide me from God? From my brothers and sisters? What actions can I take to help remove barriers between people?

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:

Yet it was our pain that he bore,
our sufferings he endured.
We thought of him as stricken,
struck down by God and afflicted,
But he was pierced for our sins,
crushed for our iniquity.
He bore the punishment that makes us
whole,
by his wounds we were healed.

(Isaiah 53:4-5)

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