



Lectio DIVINA

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

We begin our prayer:

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

Come quickly, we pray, Lord Jesus,
and do not delay,
that those who trust in your compassion
may find solace and relief in your coming.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Collect for December 24)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you

are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*

which means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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?

Do not be afraid. What fears and anxieties keep me from living my call to be a missionary disciple? How can I help others live their calls without fear?

God is with us. How am I aware of God's presence in my daily life? How do I make God present to others?

He did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. How do I discern God's plan for my life? What steps can I take to help me follow the Lord more closely?

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:

Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a mighty savior;
He will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in his love,
He will sing joyfully because of you,
as one sings at festivals.

(Zephaniah 3:16b-18)

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