



Lectio Divina for the First Week of Advent

We begin our prayer:

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

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God,
as we await the advent of Christ your Son,
so that, when he comes and knocks,
he may find us watchful in prayer
and exultant in his praise.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Monday of the First Week of Advent)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives

on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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.

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.



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Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

On earth nations will be in dismay. What problems in the world cause me distress? How does my faith have an impact on my response to these problems?

People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world. How does fear keep me from living my faith in courage and love? How can I cultivate the theological virtue of hope?

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness. What distracts me from following God's will? How can I learn to quiet or avoid these distractions?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and
constancy
toward those who keep his covenant and his
decrees.

The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear
him,
and his covenant, for their instruction.

(From Psalm 25)

Living the Word This Week

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

Each day this week, review the front page of the newspaper or your favorite news site and pray for the needs reported there.

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