

Lectio DIVINA

***Lectio Divina* for the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord**

We begin our prayer:

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

Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God,
and make us rejoice with devout
thanksgiving,
for the Ascension of Christ your Son
is our exaltation,
and, where the Head has gone before in
glory,
the Body is called to follow in hope.
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, Solemnity of the Ascension of
the Lord)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them

to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

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?

They worshiped, but they doubted. What worship experiences have given me strength and encouragement? When have I experienced doubt?

Make disciples of all nations. What does it mean to live as a disciple? Who am I called to serve as a missionary disciple?

I am with you always, until the end of the age. How do I experience the abiding presence of God? When am I most in need of God's presence?

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:

God has gone up with a shout;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.

Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

For God is king over all the earth;
sing hymns of praise.

God rules over the nations;
God sits upon his holy throne.

(Psalm 47:6-9)

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