



# Lectio DIVINA

## ***Lectio Divina* for the Third Week of Advent**

*We begin our prayer:*

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

May your grace, almighty God,  
always go before us and follow after,  
so that we, who await with heartfelt desire  
the coming of your Only Begotten Son,  
may receive your help both now and in the  
life to come.

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.  
Amen.

(Collect for Friday of the Third Week  
of Advent)

### **Reading (*Lectio*)**

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

*Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of  
you;  
he will prepare your way before you.*

Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

### **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?

*Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?* What am I looking for in life? How can I turn my attention and effort to seeking the Lord more wholeheartedly?

*Go and tell . . . what you hear and see.* Whose witness helps me grow in my faith? Why? How can I share the Good News of God's love and mercy with those I meet?

*What did you go out to the desert to see?* Where do I go to be in the presence of God? How do I encounter Christ in my daily life?

## 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:

Thus says the LORD:

Observe what is right, do what is just;  
for my salvation is about to come,  
my justice, about to be revealed.

(Isaiah 56:1)

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