

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for February 11, 2025 Tuesday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time National Marriage Week

We begin our prayer:

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

O God, Creator of all things,
who in the beginning made man and woman
that they might form the marriage bond,
bless and strengthen the union of your servants,
that they may show forth an ever more perfect image
of the union of Christ with his Church.
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, On Anniversaries of Marriage)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Genesis 1:20—2:4a

God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;
in the divine image he created him;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” God also said: “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken. So God blessed the seventh day and



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made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation.

Such is the story of the heavens and the earth at their creation.

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.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

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

God created man in his image;/ in the divine image he created him;/ male and female he created them. When have I found it easiest to recognize that my spouse is made in God's image and likeness? When have I failed to respect my spouse's God-given dignity?

Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. How do I show respect for God's gift of life? How is my marriage life-giving?

So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work he had done in creation. How often do I spend time just relaxing with my spouse? How does my family keep the Sabbath?

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

Closing Prayer:

When I behold your heavens, the work
of your fingers,
the moon and the stars which you
set in place—

What is man that you should be mindful of him,
or the son of man that you should
care for him?

You have made him little less than the angels,
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You have given him rule over the works
of your hands,
putting all things under his feet.

All sheep and oxen,
yes, and the beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fishes of the sea,
and whatever swims the paths of the seas.

(From Psalm 8)

Living the Word This Week

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

Plan a date night: no errands, no commitments — just resting and enjoying time together.

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