

# Lectio Divina



## Lectio Divina for February 14, 2025 Memorial of Sts. Cyril and Methodius 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 3:1-8

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?” The woman answered the serpent: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman: “You

certainly will not die! No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is evil.” The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

When they heard the sound of the LORD God moving about in the garden at the breezy time of the day, the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

### 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*)



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*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?

*Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. What people or circumstances try to draw me away from the Lord? How can God's grace help me to fight these temptations?*

*The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. When have I desired things that I know are bad for me? How can I set my heart more fully on the things of God?*

*Then the eyes of both of them were opened. What keeps me from looking at my life honestly, in light of God's will for me? How can I more faithfully discern God's will for my marriage and family life?*

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

## **Closing Prayer:**

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away,  
whose sin is covered.

Blessed the man to whom the LORD  
imputes not guilt,  
in whose spirit there is no guile.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
my guilt I covered not.  
I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD,"  
and you took away the guilt  
of my sin.

For this shall every faithful man pray to you  
in time of stress.  
Though deep waters overflow,  
they shall not reach him.

You are my shelter; from distress you will  
preserve me;  
with glad cries of freedom you will  
ring me round.

(From Psalm 32)

## **Living the Word This Week**

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

Make a good examination of conscience and celebrate the gift of God's mercy in the Sacrament of Penance.