

## Communal Lectio Divina: Companions for our Advent Journey Joseph's Dream

### **Opening prayer**

"Jesus, you are the Way, I want to walk in your steps.  
You are the Truth, enlighten me.  
You are the Life, give me your grace." (Alberione)

( Scripture can be found on the next page)

**Lectio** (Reading) – Read the Gospel passage slowly and reflectively – respecting the pauses the passage presents. After a moment of silence, read the Gospel passage again. (In a group, read the passage aloud).

Silence (approx. 3 min) – Spend this time reflecting: "What is the Scripture saying?"

**Meditatio** (Meditation) - Read the Gospel passage slowly and reflectively again. As we listen to the Word this time, we allow the words we are reading to move from our mind to our heart.

Silence (approx. 3 min) – "What is the Scripture saying to my heart?"

Prayerfully "echo" the Word by choosing a word or phrase that resonates in your heart at this time.

**Oratio** (Prayer) – What do you wish to say to the Lord in response to the Word he has spoken to you? Silently offer a

simple prayer of response to the Lord related to the Word you are pondering. (approx. 1-2 min)

**Contemplatio** (Contemplate) – We rest in the Word we have received, savoring it, waiting with it. (approx. 3-5 min)

**Collatio** (Sharing) – In your heart, gather the fruits of this Meditation. One of the following questions may help facilitate your reflection:

- What Wisdom is the Lord offering to me? (Truth)
- What is the Word saying to my heart? (Life)
- What is the Word inviting me to do? (Way)

In a group, each person is invited to share briefly (approx. 1-2 min) what the Word is saying to them.

**Closing Prayer:** The Our Father

## Joseph's Dream

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

The Angel announces Jesus' birth to Joseph

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

