

Communal Lectio Divina: Companions for our Advent Journey

Advent Lectio: John the Baptist

Opening prayer

“Jesus, true light, you enlighten everyone who comes into the world. Grant that we may learn your unfathomable riches and the mysteries of the kingdom. Show us the treasures of the wisdom and knowledge of God that are hidden in your Word.”
(Blessed Alberione)

(The 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:

Heavenly Father, we pray that through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, we too may be filled with the Holy Spirit as we announce the Good News of your son, Jesus, to the world.

Glory Be...

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Scripture Reading: Luke 1:13-17

The Angel announces John's birth to Zechariah

But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of [the] Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."

