

## Communal Lectio Divina

### The Healing of the Official's Son

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#### Opening prayer:

Prayer to Witness to Your Gospel

Jesus, our Master, the Good News you came to bring us has the power to enlighten, to heal and to save. May I always witness to Gospel values by what I think, say, and do. In whatever ways I can, I want to spread your Good News to as many persons as possible. May everyone come to know you, love you, and follow you, Lord. Amen.

#### The Scripture Passage:

John 4: 43-54 (NRSV)

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<sup>46</sup>Then he came again to Cana in Galilee where he had changed the water into wine. Now there was a royal official whose son lay ill in Capernaum. <sup>47</sup>When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went and begged him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death. <sup>48</sup>Then Jesus said to him, "Unless you<sup>[a]</sup> see signs and wonders you will not believe." <sup>49</sup>The official said to him, "Sir, come down before my little boy dies." <sup>50</sup>Jesus said to him, "Go; your son will live." The man believed the word that Jesus spoke to him and started on his way. <sup>51</sup>As he was going down, his slaves met him and told him that his child was alive. <sup>52</sup>So he asked them the hour when he began to recover, and they said to him, "Yesterday at one in the afternoon the fever left him." <sup>53</sup>The father realized that this was the hour when Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he himself believed, along with his whole household. <sup>54</sup>Now this was the second sign that Jesus did after coming from Judea to Galilee.

**Lectio** (Reader 1) – Read the Gospel passage out loud 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 mins) – Spend this time reflecting: "What is the Scripture itself saying?"

**Meditatio** (Reader 2) --- Read the Gospel passage slowly and reflectively again. As we listen to the Word this time, we allow the words we are reading to mind to our heart.

Silence (approx. 3 mins) – "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 (i.e., praise, thanks, petition) related to the Word you are pondering. (approx. 1---2 mins)

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

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

- What truth is the Lord presenting to my mind? (Truth)
- What is the Word saying to my heart? (Life)
- What is the Word saying to me about my actions, my service, my choices? (Way)

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

**Closing prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we bring to you the hopes, joys, and anxieties of the world to intercede for all and to discern how the Spirit opens the way for the Word. Make us servants who communicate the mystery of Christ to all peoples. We unite ourselves to the Mission of Jesus, your Son, in total availability to your designs. Amen.