

# Lectio Divina

## Lectio Divina: Reconciliation Session 2

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Be merciful to your people, O Lord,  
and absolve them from all sins,  
So that what we deserve by our offenses  
may be avoided by your pardon.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the  
Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

(Collect for Various Occasions, For the Forgiveness of Sins)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture and just focus on what the passage is saying. Take notice of any word, phrase, thought or image that catches your attention.*

He entered a boat, made the crossing, and came into his own town. And there people brought to him a paralytic lying on a stretcher. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven."

At that, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." Jesus knew what they were thinking, and said, "Why do you harbor evil thoughts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he then said to the paralytic, "Rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He rose and went home.

When the crowds saw this they were struck with awe and glorified God who had given such authority to human beings.

(Matt 9:1-8)

***What word or phrase caught your attention or what thought came to mind as you heard God's Word proclaimed?***

### Meditation (*Meditatio*)

*Read the passage again, and this time focus on what the text says to you. After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:*

***What word, phrase, image or thought in this passage caught your attention? Why?***

***Who in your life might need you to carry them to Jesus?***

***Are there areas in your life where you seek healing, but may need to first confront sin or ask for forgiveness?***

***How do you respond to Jesus' words: "Courage, child, your sins are forgiven?"***

***The crowd glorified God in response to the healing of the paralytic. How do you respond when you see God at work in your life – in the life of others?***

*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. What do you want to say to the Lord? Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.*

## Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

*Read the Scripture a final time, then rest in God's presence. Simply be with Him and listen for His voice. Allow His love and grace to fill you.*

*After a period of silent reflection conclude your time of prayer with the closing prayer below:*

## Closing Prayer

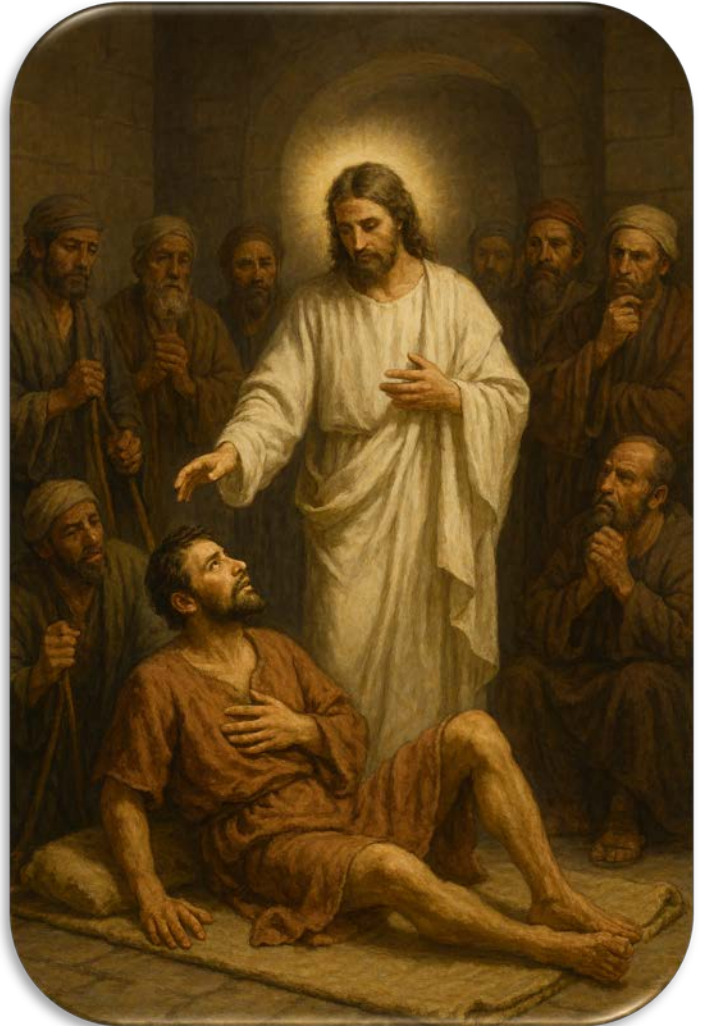
O God Creator and Ruler of all light,  
who so loved this world that for our salvation you  
handed over your Only Begotten Son,  
by whose Cross we have been redeemed,  
by whose Death we have been brought to life,  
by whose Passion we have been saved,  
by whose Resurrection we have been glorified,  
through him we humbly beseech you:  
graciously be with this family of yours in all things.  
May we have a holy fear of you in our  
understanding, faith in our hearts,  
justice in our works, filial devotion in our actions,  
truth on our lips, discipline in our conduct,  
and so worthily and rightly receive the reward of  
immortality. Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Living the Word (*Actio*)

*Think of someone who needs Christ's mercy, who is in need conversion and pray from that individual daily this week that he or she may come to know the love and peace of Christ and be healed of any sin that may be preventing them from growing in holiness.*

*Take time also to think of yourself. Is there anyone in your life who is need of your mercy and forgiveness? Is there anyone in your life from whom you need to seek forgiveness? Take this to prayer and ask for grace to be able to forgive or to seek forgiveness as needed so that the Lord may lift you up too.*

*As you conclude this prayer, contemplate Jesus in his role as the Divine Physician seeking to cure what ails our hearts, minds, and bodies. Give the Lord the permission to heal what ails you.*



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