

# for REFLECTION

## Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy *Lectio Divina* for the Second Week of Advent

*We begin our prayer:*

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

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,  
to make ready the paths  
of your Only Begotten Son,  
that through his coming,  
we may be found worthy to serve you  
with minds made pure.  
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.  
Amen.

(Collect, Thursday of the Second Week  
of Advent)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for

the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

*A voice of one crying out in the desert:*

*“Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight his paths.*

*Every valley shall be filled  
and every mountain and hill shall  
be made low.*

*The winding roads shall be made  
straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth,  
and all flesh shall see the salvation of  
God.”*

### 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.*

### Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

*Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:*

How does this passage connect with the experience of your daily life?

*John went . . . proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Do I honestly examine my*

conscience regularly and seek the Lord's merciful welcome in the Sacrament of Penance? Do I treat Christ's mercy as a gift? How do I continue to experience conversion away from sin and to Christ?

*Prepare the way of the Lord.* What have I done this week to share Christ's merciful love with those around me? How am I preparing my heart for the Lord through prayer and action?

*The rough ways made smooth.* What obstacles keep me from being the person God calls me to be? How might my words and deeds be an obstacle to others? How can my acts of mercy remove obstacles from others' paths?

## Prayer (*Oratio*)

*Read the scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.*

*After all have had a chance to make their prayer:*

## Closing Prayer:

The desert and the parched land will exult;  
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.  
They will bloom with abundant flowers,  
and rejoice with joyful song.  
The glory of Lebanon will be given to  
them,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
They will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.  
Strengthen the hands that are feeble,  
make firm the knees that are weak,  
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:  
Be strong, fear not!  
Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;  
With divine recompense  
he comes to save you.

(Isaiah 35:1-4)