

# for REFLECTION

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

*We begin our prayer:*

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

O God, who through your Only Begotten Son  
have made us a new creation,  
look kindly, we pray,  
on the handiwork of your mercy,  
and at your Son's coming  
cleanse us from every stain of the old way  
of life.  
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, Tuesday of the Third Week  
of Advent)

### Reading (*Lectio*)

*Read the following Scripture two or three times.*

Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He

answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

### 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?

“*What should we do?*” When I have to make an important decision, how do I discern God’s will for me? How am I shaping my life so as to share Christ’s mercy with others?

*Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.* In what ways do my purchases and possessions reflect the Gospel? How do they fail to reflect the Gospel? What steps can I take this week to be a better steward of my time, treasure, and talent?

*The people were filled with expectation.* What physical and spiritual preparations are you making for the Lord’s coming? What are you doing to combat the commercialism and stress of the season so as to keep your heart centered on God?

## 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:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
for he has come to his people and set them  
free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father  
Abraham:

to set us free from the hand of our  
enemies,

free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days  
of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet  
of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare  
his way,

to give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon  
us,

to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,

and to guide our feet into the way of  
peace.”

(The *Benedictus*, Luke 1:68-79)

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