

**LENT**

**2021**

Listening to God  
with the Gospel of Matthew

Week 5

## ***Introduction***

Welcome to our Lent material for 2021.

During the 40 days before Easter we often give something up or take something on as a sign of our devotion to God. This year we would like to encourage you to spend time with the gospel of Matthew. Through “Lectio Divina”, an ancient spiritual practice that comes from the Christian monastic tradition, we have the opportunity to experience the presence of God. These simple and easy to learn spiritual practices are designed to slow life down and allow God to speak to us through his word.

For Lectio Divina we use a short reading each day from the gospel of Matthew. We have prepared a reading each day for you to use. As an option, there is the reference for a longer reading each day as well. You could read this reading at a different time from the Lectio Divina time and it would guide you to read through Matthew in Lent.

You might like to use your own bible for the readings and you might like to write down your thoughts or feelings in this booklet or somewhere else like your notebook or journal.

## ***Opening***

Sit comfortably and quietly and take a few deep breaths to quieten yourself. Repeat the name of Jesus in your heart to allow yourself to focus on him.

Through a prayer ask God to fill you and be with you.

## ***Lectio Divina Rhythm explained***

**Read** (“Lectio”) the Scripture passage for the first time.

Listen with the “ear of your heart.” What word or phrase or sentence stands out to you? Underline it, circle around it, colour it in. Focus on that word, phrase or sentence over and over, allowing it to settle deeply in you heart.

**Reflect** (“Meditatio”), relish the words. Let them resound in your heart. Let an attitude of quiet reflection penetrate the prayer time. Listen to what speaks to your heart.

**Respond** (“Oratio”) spontaneously as you continue to listen to the word, phrase or sentence. Speak out a prayer of praise, thanksgiving or petition and return to repeating the words in your heart.

**Rest** (“Contemplatio”) in God. Simply “be with” God’s presence as you open yourself to a deeper hearing of the Word of God.

Repeat if desired. Different words, phrases or sentences might stand out to you each time, or the same words keep drawing you in. Let the Holy Spirit lead you through this exercise.

## ***Closing prayer***

Take a moment to pray. Talk to God and offer what you have heard and felt back to Him.

## ***Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March***

**Prayer: God of grace, thank you for your love for us, may we be one with you and with your love. Amen**

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astounded and said, "Then who can be saved?" (Matthew 19:23-25)

Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest

Reading through Matthew in Lent: Matthew 19:1-30

## ***Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March***

**Prayer: King Jesus, we come to you with our ears and hearts opened, help us to know you more. Amen**

But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

(Matthew 20:13-16)

Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest

Reading through Matthew in Lent: Matthew 20:1-34

## ***Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March***

**Prayer: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people with the fire of your love. Amen.**

Then Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer'; but you are making it a den of robbers."

(Matthew 21:12-13)

Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest

Reading through Matthew in Lent: Matthew 21:1-22

## ***Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March***

**Prayer: Loving God, we long to know more of your love and goodness, speak to us we pray. Amen**

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.

(Matthew 21:28-31)

Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest

Reading through Matthew in Lent: Matthew 21:23-46

## ***Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March***

**Prayer: Come, Lord Jesus come, speak to us all and fill us with your love and grace. Amen**

Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:19-21)

Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest

Reading through Matthew in Lent: Matthew 22:1-22

## ***Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March***

**Prayer: Holy Spirit, we invite you into our hearts and minds again, guide us into your love. Amen**

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:36-39)

Read, Reflect, Respond, Rest

Reading through Matthew in Lent: Matthew 22:23-46

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