

# **LECTIO DIVINA**

## **LENT WEEK 5**

### **1. Opening Prayer**

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

***Come Holy Spirit, open our hearts and minds to receive the word of God. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen***

Prayer from the Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent:



***Let us pray for the courage to embrace the world in the name of Christ: Father in heaven, the love of your Son led him to accept the suffering of the cross that his brothers and sisters might glory in new life. Change our selfishness into self-giving. Help us to embrace the world you have given us, that we may transform the darkness of its pain into the life and joy of Easter. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

***2. Reading the text: Ask someone to read the gospel. Allow time for silent reflection, then ask another person to read the same gospel (preferably a male if the first reader was female or vice versa).***

A reading from the Gospel of St. John 8:1-11

**Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.**

**The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who have been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this**

they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

### 3. Reflecting on the text

- Ponder the words and phrases in silence
- What kind of text is this? (parable, miracle, encounter, healing, teaching etc.)
- Look at the people and events in the story
- Speak out any words or phrases that strike you (without having to say why)

**4. Participation:** Moving from in that time (*in illo tempore*) to in this time (*in hoc tempore*), share your thoughts on:

- *What is the Lord saying to me through the text?*
- *What is the Lord saying in relation to issues in the Church, in the world, and in my life?*
- *Does the text inspire, console, question, direct?*

**5. Finish the sentence:** *In this passage God is...*

**6. Praying out of the text:** *Lord, in the light of this text...*

**7. Conclude by praying the *Our Father***

