

5 February 2023

Bible Reading(s) for the week

Feel free to focus on as much or as little makes sense for your practice and discussion. It is recommended that one passage is chosen for the Lectio Divina Practice in the Small Group Setting.

Jesus Presented in the Temple

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and the glory of your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.[d] She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Prayer for Enlightenment (Based on Ephesians 1:17-23)

God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may you give us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know you better. We pray that the eyes of our hearts may

be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which you have called us, the riches of your glorious inheritance, and your great power for us who believe. Lord, you rule far above all authority, power and dominion, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. We pray that you continue to lead us as your church as we study your word, and grow in community with you and one another. Amen.

Lectio Divina (steps to be practiced by Small Group each week)

[History and background of the Lectio Divina](#)

Lectio Reading (Small Group reads the Scripture together)

Meditatio Meditation (Individual time to meditate on the word, may read through again on their own)

Lectio Read through the scripture again.

Oratio Prayer (Individual prayer over the Scripture reading)

Lectio Read through the scripture again.

Contemplatio Communal Contemplation (The group shares their observations, connections, and interpretations of the text as well as their thoughts on the sermon, the reading, and their personal interpretations based on the previous steps.)

Actio The Call to Action (The group applies the scripture to themselves, the church, and the greater community– world).

1. What does this reading mean for me?
2. What does this reading mean for our Church?
3. What does this reading mean for our greater community?

Small Group Communal Prayer