### Lectio Divina and Taizé Prayer Service

Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church

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We welcome all of you tonight to our Lectio Divina and Taize prayer service. We invite you to allow the living Word to speak to you through the three guided scripture readings that make up the Lectio Divina. Through Taize Prayer, we work to open our hearts and minds wider to the Word of the Lord through music, scripturally inspired chants, and bold, receptive silence.

After the opening prayer, as the music begins, we will be lighting a candle for your prayer intentions that you have shared with us. You are also welcome to light a candle at home for your personal prayer intentions and for the prayer intentions of our entire community.

Thank you for your presence here tonight. Let us prepare our hearts in prayer together.



Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

Text: Psalm 102; TaizÈ Community, 1982, © 1982, Les Presses de TaizÈ, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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As we listen to the gospel, let us open our ears to the words of Jesus, so that we may know His voice.

First Reading - John 10:11-18		
Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd.		
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.		
A hired man, who is not a shepherd		
and whose sheep are not his own,		
sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,		
and the wolf catches and scatters them.		
This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.		
I am the good shepherd,		
and I know mine and mine know me,		
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;		
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.		
I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.		
These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,		
and there will be one flock, one shepherd.		
This is why the Father loves me,		
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.		
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.		
I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.		
This command I have received from my Father."		

Lord, You are the cornerstone. Please help me to know that my stability, my comfort, and my salvation rest in You alone. Open my heart and my ears so that I may hear and know Your voice. Help me to despise the voices of the false shepherds, and to seek only closeness with You.

### In God alone my soul can find rest, in God, my peace and joy. Only in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace.

Tune: © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: © 1991, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

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**Journal Prompt**: We can be grateful for the fact that Jesus is our King and our Shepherd, and that He seeks our closeness and desires to protect us. All we must do is build our lives around Him and set Him as the cornerstone. When I think of my life as building, who is holding it up? What is my source of security? Is it God? Is it myself- a specific character trait that I've developed- intelligence, endurance, grit? Is it a material state- my health, a comfortable level of wealth? When I rely on these other things, or behave in a way that is contrary to my values as a Christian, am I living with Christ as my cornerstone, or rejecting Him?

## Sectio divina

As we listen again to the gospel, let us imagine ourselves following our Shepherd humbly, knowing that He is our guide. Though we cannot see where He leads us on this earth, we can seek to change ourselves to listen more closely and walk more obediently in the footsteps of our Lord.

Second Reading - John 10:11-18			
Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd.			
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.			
A hired man, who is not a shepherd			
and whose sheep are not his own,			
sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,			
and the wolf catches and scatters them.			
This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.			
I am the good shepherd,			
and I know mine and mine know me,			
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;			
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.			
I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.			
These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,			
and there will be one flock, one shepherd.			
This is why the Father loves me,			
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.			
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.			
I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.			
This command I have received from my Father."			

Lord, you have told us through John that "What we shall be has not yet been revealed." I desire to follow You, knowing that You require me to change, but that all I need is to rely on You, and You will change me. You will not lead me through dangers alone. You are with me in every way. As we are Your beloved children.

# Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. J Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life. J Text: Psalm 103, Taizé Community, © 1998, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent J

**Journal Prompt**: God has a plan for us that includes our transformation. Yet we often try to guess at the ways that God wants to change us, and we try to do it ourselves. Though a repentant heart is necessary, it is God who will provide both the circumstances and the grace to transform us. Often all that is necessary is for us to move closer to Him, and increase our intimacy with our Heavenly Father. During times of strife inside my heart or in the circumstances of my life, do I try to change myself or my circumstances? What would happen if in these times, I went to God for comfort? What would happen if I simply asked God to provide me with Grace, Love, and Encouragement to help me carry my burdens? Do I trust God to provide that for me?

## Sectio divina

As we listen again to the gospel, let us believe in what we are told. That Jesus Christ has laid down His life for us. And not just for you and me alone, but for His great flock of all souls. Help us to hear You loudly Lord, and walk closer to You, so that You may gather Your other sheep.

Third Reading - John 10:11-18			
Jesus said: "I am the good shepherd.			
A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.			
A hired man, who is not a shepherd			
and whose sheep are not his own,			
sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away,			
and the wolf catches and scatters them.			
This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep.			
I am the good shepherd,			
and I know mine and mine know me,			
just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;			
and I will lay down my life for the sheep.			
I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold.			
These also I must lead, and they will hear my voice,			
and there will be one flock, one shepherd.			
This is why the Father loves me,			
because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.			
No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own.			
I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again.			
This command I have received from my Father."			

Lord, we are Yours. There is nothing we should fear. You have the power to lay down Your life for us and You have. Let me remember and revere that. Do not allow me to stray, leading others away as well. Help me to always be listening to You, and calling back to You with my voice, so that others may come to You and join Your flock that You have paid for with Your life.

#### Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.

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Text: St. Teresa of Jesus; TaizÈ Community, 1986, 1991, © 1986, 1991, Les Presses de TaizÈ, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

**Journal Prompt**: God desires the union of all souls to His life-giving flock. He alone can lead us to safety, to peace, and to the promised land. When I imagine God as my shepherd, all I must do with my voice is respond to His commands. This is how I lead others— through my obedience to God, they too will hear His commands when they hear my response to Him. In what times is it difficult for me to hear God? How can I behave or respond toward others the way God has commanded me, and not the way I believe others "deserve"? In what way do I lead myself and others astray when I behave in a way that my feelings or circumstances allow, instead of always behaving the way Jesus has commanded me to behave?



LORD'S PRAYER



Music: Chant; adapt. by Robert J. Snow, 1926–1998.



<b>}</b>	Prayer of St. Francis	1-1
	Sebastian Temple	ل <b>ا</b> ل <sup>2</sup>
	1. Make me a channel of your peace.	
	Where there is hatred, let me bring your love.	
	Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,	
	And where there's doubt, true faith in you.	
	2. Make me a channel of your peace.	
	Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.	
	Where there is darkness only light,	
	And where there's sadness ever joy.	
	3. O Master, grant that I may never seek	
	So much to be consoled, as to console,	
	To be understood, as to understand,	
	To be loved, as to love, with all my soul.	
	4. Make me a channel of your peace.	
	It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,	
	In giving of ourselves that we receive,	
	And in dying that we're born to eternal life.	
	Dedicated to Mrs. Frances Tracy. Text: Based on the prayer traditionally ascr. to St. Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226. Text an music © 1967, OCP. All rights reserved.	d