

Love and Serve God • Love and Serve One Another 5057 Cottage Way, Carmichael, CA 95608 ~ www.olaparish.net

# Lectio Divina and Taizé Prayer Service

## Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.



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

**^**\_

## LECTIO DIVINA

As we listen to the gospel, let us reflect on the power and virtue of our own humility in the presence of our powerful Savior. Lord, we pray that your Holy Spirit fills us with faith and trust in You, so that you can teach us to see and serve those around us.

## First Reading – John 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

*Father, all good things come from You. So, in order for our works to be made good, we must offer them to You. Teach us how to offer our daily works to You, so that you can use them to advance Your will.* 

5

## Holy Spirit, come to us, kindle in us the fire of your love. Holy Spirit, come to us, Holy Spirit, come to us.

♪\_\_

Copyright © 1998 by Les Presses de Taizé. Published and distributed in North America by GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

**Journal Prompt**: Saint Josémaria Escriva said, "The sanctification of ordinary work is the hinge of true spirituality for people who, like us, have decided to come close to God while being at the same time fully involved in temporal affairs." Not all of us can be priests and nuns. Most of us must live and work in the world. But that does not mean that we do not live a holy vocation. God has created us inside of our communities and our professions so that we can learn to serve those around us, and to be His agents in all parts of life and the world. And, just as we tithe, we can offer all of our daily tasks to God, so that He can use them to do His miraculous will. When I am at my job, is my identity as a Christian still my primary focus? How would that change how I viewed my day, if each small task could be an offering to God? Would I be more careful, more gentle, more present? When I drive through my neighborhood, or my community, do I feel called to serve those people who God has placed in my life?

## LECTIO DIVINA

As we listen again to the gospel, let us focus again on humble service. Lord, you have created us with intention. You have placed us in this world to serve those who gather around us. Please soften our hearts to those who sit at the table with us.

### Second Reading – John 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

Lord, You have given us family. You have brought us to dine at your table, and surrounded us with our brothers and sisters in You. You have also borne us to our natural families, as sons, daughters, brothers and sisters. Lord, we ask that you fill us with love and a desire to serve those in our homes and our parish.

1

## Live in charity and steadfast love, live in charity; God will dwell with you.

5

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; Where charity and love are found, God is there; TaizÈ Community, 1978, © 1979, Les Presses de TaizÈ, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

**Journal Prompt**: The idea of vocation is central to the Christian belief that God has created each person with gifts and talents oriented toward specific purposes and a way of life. In the broadest sense, as stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being" (CCC 2392). To love and serve those in our families is our first vocation. Service can be through physical works, but it can also be through prayer. When I come to the table of the Lord, how do I view those who come here with me (at my parish)? Do I pray for them? Do I treat them with love? Do I see them as my Christian Family? What about by natural family? How can I ask God to help me love and serve my parents, siblings, or children? If there are family members that I cannot serve through works, can I serve them through acts of love? Can I pray for them?

## LECTIO DIVINA

As we listen again to the gospel, let us ask that the Lord draw us close to Him, and teach us to serve Him and praise Him. Father, teach us to love You with all our heart, all our soul and all our strength.

## Third Reading – John 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

Lord, to be Your servant and to seek Your spiritual food is the most important thing we can do. Lord, we ask that you fill us with a deep need for closeness to You, and a great desire to serve and praise You above all other desires.

5

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

**^**]

Text: Psalm 103, Taizé Community, © 1998, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

**Journal Prompt**: We know that the "golden rule" is to "Love your neighbor as yourself." But in Matthew 22:37, Jesus tells us that the greatest and first commandment is "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Is God at the center of my life? What personal devotions bring be close to God? If I do not have daily devotions, or I do not feel like I am living a Christ-centered life, how could I add devotions to my day? Is there a book of the Bible that I am drawn to, or a type of worship music that inspires me? In areas that we struggle, we can humble ourselves and demonstrate our faith by praying for the Holy Spirit to guide us. If I do not have a devotion that makes me feel close to God, do I pray for one?

## **CLOSING PRAYER and CONCLUDING SONG**

LORD'S PRAYER



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

5

# How Great Thou Art

#### Stuart K. Hine

 O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made, I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder, Thy pow'r thruout the universe displayed!

#### Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, how great Thou art! Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee; How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!