

Liturgy of the Word 21st Sunday Ordinary Time

Lectio Divina – Holy Listening

Lectio Divina, or Holy Listening is promoted as a way of hearing God's Word. It is listening with the heart.

- 1. Listen attentively as the Word is read, or as you read it.*
- 2. Notice any word or phrase that seems to stand out or makes you think or feel something. Hold on to it mentally.*
- 3. When the reading is finished, steadily repeat that word or phrase in your mind, almost as if you are taking it for a walk.*
- 4. When that time of prayer is ended, just let the words go.*

In this prayer, we come to meet our God who walks with us. When we encounter the Word of God, we are changed.. Spend a little time in Lectio Divina – Holy Listening at the end of the readings.

SONG: Bring forth the Kingdom of God <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwXACTlp-RY>

SIGN OF THE CROSS: In name of the Father... OR **Ki te ingoa...** *Extend a warm welcome anyone else with you.* Tēnā Koutou Katoa – Good morning! A warm welcome. Today is the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time and we gather here now as the Body of Christ, the People of God. We come hungry, to be fed at the table of God's Word.

Reader: Let's remember God's rich mercy and turn to God in prayer.

For times we have lost hope; Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

For times we have let the world's turbulence overshadow Christ's redeeming light; Christ have mercy

(All) Christ have mercy

For times we have forgotten the incarnate presence; Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

'The Crossroads' © by Sviatlana Vetrava

Spend some time looking at the artwork. Then consider the questions; 'What are the long and dark shadows in today's world, and as people of the Kingdom of God, how do we keep the flame of hope burning brightly?'



READER: God is incarnate, eternally present and eternally loving within all that we see and all that we are.

READER: In these times of doubt, we remember

ALL: Lord your love is eternal.

READER: In these times of pandemic, we remember

ALL: Lord your love is eternal.

READER: In these times of climate change, we remember

ALL: Lord your love is eternal.

READER: In these times of unjust discrimination, we remember

ALL: Lord your love is eternal.

READER: In these times of economic hardship

ALL: Lord your love is eternal.

READER: In these times faltering hope for the future, we remember

ALL: Lord your love is eternal.

READER: For the ourselves and our world, we pray

ALL: Amen

Pause for a time to reflect.

COLLECT/OPENING PRAYER: Let us bring to mind all we want to pray for. *(Allow silence, 1 minute)*

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true gladness is found. Through our Lord. **All: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19-23 *Allow a time of silence after the reading. (1-2 minutes).*

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace:

"I will thrust you from your office

and pull you down from your station.

On that day I will summon my servant

Eliakim, son of Hilkiah;

I will clothe him with your robe,

and gird him with your sash,

and give over to him your authority.

He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem,

and to the house of Judah.

I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder;

when he opens, no one shall shut

when he shuts, no one shall open.

I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot,

to be a place of honour for his family."

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Silence: *Consider, what emotion do you hear in this reading?*

PSALM: Psalm 138 Lord you love is eternal. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUHuJgtfgyo>

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33-36 *Allow a time of silence after the reading (1-2 minutes).*

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!

For who has known the mind of the Lord

or who has been his counselor?

Or who has given the Lord anything

that he may be repaid?

For from him and through him and for him are all things.

To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Silence: *What do these questions in the reading, stir within me?*

GOSPEL: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and

he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah,

still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply,

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply,

"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah.

For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter,

and upon this rock I will build my church,

and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.
The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

SILENT REFLECTION: Recall a few words from the readings that seemed to stand out as you read or listened. Sit quietly and let these words go over and over in your mind – Lectio Divina.
Then, discuss: When you hear the word 'church' what do you think of? What similarities exist among the people of God, and what differences? When is my tolerance stretched?
End with a little more time in silence.

Prayer of the Faithful – we pray for the needs of the world.

For the Church – that all people who together are the Church, work industriously to bring freedom to those oppressed by abuse, discrimination or neglect.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For world leaders – that they ensure their citizens are able to practice their religion, without fear of discrimination or violence.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For all who have been victims of violence and terror – that through the kind and loving actions of people around them, their hope will be renewed, and they will learn again to trust people.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For people whose violent actions have caused harm – that they seek help to end their violent behaviour and that they will be supported in this endeavour by communities and health professionals.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For all people who have been sexually abused – that they be set free from the grief that shadows them, and that through the support and care of community, they are able to live dignified lives, free from fear of further harassment.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For our nation as we approach the coming election – that people take time to be well informed about the referenda and use this opportunity to express care and build a nation that is compassionate and just.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For all of us present now – that we discover anew the wonder of God in our midst and open ourselves to the Holy Spirit who enlivens within us the mission of Jesus.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

Eternal Father, you have revealed Jesus your Son to us. May we be blessed with the riches of your wisdom and knowledge. To you be glory for ever through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord ... Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER: We pray the prayer Jesus gave us.

COLLECTION: Part of our commitment as Christian is to give to those in need. Think about what you might like to make a donation to or offer to help in another way. Below are some ideas.

Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your participation. Let us go in peace to love and serve God –
All: Thanks be to God.

- **Your Parish:** your parish and presbytery still have operating costs.
- **The Caring Foundation Covid-19 appeal** to donate, click [here](#)
- **Catholic Social Services Auckland** to donate, click [here](#)
- **The Catholic aid agency Caritas** to support their work, click [here](#)
- **St Vincent de Paul** contact your parish or click [here](#)

SONG: We sing again the song we sang at the start - Bring forth the Kingdom of God © Marty Haugen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bwXAcTlp-RY>