



**Archdiocese of St. Louis  
Office of Sacred Worship  
Lectio Divina**

**Thursday of the Seventh Week in Ordinary Time Year II**

**Lectionary: 344: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/See 1 Thes 2:13/Mk 9:41-50**

Read the following passage four times.

- The first reading, simply read the scripture and pause for a minute.  
Listen to the passage with the ear of the heart. Don't get distracted by intellectual types of questions about the passage. Just listen to what the passage is saying to you, right now.
- The second reading, look for a key word or phrase that draws your attention.  
Notice if any phrase, sentence or word stands out and gently begin to repeat it to yourself, allowing it to touch you deeply. No elaboration. In a group setting, you can share that word/phrase or simply pass.
- The third reading, pause for 2-3 minutes reflecting on "*Where does the content of this reading touch my life today?*"  
Notice what thoughts, feelings, and reflections arise within you. Let the words resound in your heart. What might God be asking of you through the scripture? In a group setting, you can share your reflection or simply pass.
- The fourth reading, pause for 2-3 minutes reflecting on "*I believe that God wants me to . . . . . today/this week.*"  
Notice any prayerful response that arises within you, for example a small prayer of gratitude or praise. In a group setting, you can share your reflection or simply pass.

**Reading**

*Jas 5:1-6*

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you; it will devour your flesh like a fire. You have stored up treasure for the last days. Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter. You have condemned; you have murdered the righteous one; he offers you no resistance.



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**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20*

**R. (Matthew 5:3) Blessed are the poor in spirit; the Kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

This is the way of those whose trust is folly, the end of those contented with their lot: Like sheep they are herded into the nether world; death is their shepherd and the upright rule over them.

**R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the Kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

Quickly their form is consumed; the nether world is their palace. But God will redeem me from the power of the nether world by receiving me.

**R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the Kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

Fear not when a man grows rich, when the wealth of his house becomes great, for when he dies, he shall take none of it; his wealth shall not follow him down.

**R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the Kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

Though in his lifetime he counted himself blessed, "They will praise you for doing well for yourself," He shall join the circle of his forebears who shall never more see light.

**R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the Kingdom of heaven is theirs!**



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**Alleluia**

*See 1 Thes 2:13*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Receive the word of God, not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the word of God.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*Mk 9:41-50*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

"Everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good, but if salt becomes insipid, with what will you restore its flavor? Keep salt in yourselves and you will have peace with one another."