



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

**Monday of the Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time Year II**

**Lectionary: 425: 2 Thes1:1-5, 11-12/Ps. 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Jn 10:27/Mt 23:13-22**

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**

*2 Thes1:1-5, 11-12*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the Church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We ought to thank God always for you, brothers and sisters, as is fitting, because your faith flourishes ever more, and the love of every one of you for one another grows ever greater. Accordingly, we ourselves boast of you in the churches of God regarding your endurance and faith in all your persecutions and the afflictions you endure.

This is evidence of the just judgment of God, so that you may be considered worthy of the Kingdom of God for which you are suffering.

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith, that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ.



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**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps. 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5*

**R. (3) Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all you lands. Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised; awesome is he, beyond all gods. For all the gods of the nations are things of naught, but the LORD made the heavens.

**R. Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.**



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**Alleluia**

*Jn 10:27*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*Mt 23:13-22*

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You lock the Kingdom of heaven before men. You do not enter yourselves, nor do you allow entrance to those trying to enter.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You traverse sea and land to make one convert, and when that happens you make him a child of Gehenna twice as much as yourselves.

"Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If one swears by the temple, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gold of the temple, one is obligated.' Blind fools, which is greater, the gold, or the temple that made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If one swears by the altar, it means nothing, but if one swears by the gift on the altar, one is obligated.' You blind ones, which is greater, the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? One who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is upon it; one who swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it; one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who is seated on it."