



Archdiocese of St. Louis
Office of Sacred Worship
Lectio Divina
Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
Lectionary: 576: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 5:3/Mt 5:1-12a

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.

First Reading

2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14

It also happened that seven brothers with their mother were arrested and tortured with whips and scourges by the king to force them to eat pork in violation of God's law. One of the brothers, speaking for the others, said: "What do you expect to learn by questioning us? We are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our ancestors."

With his last breath he said: "You accursed fiend, you are depriving us of this present life, but the King of the universe will raise us up to live again forever, because we are dying for his laws."

After him the third suffered their cruel sport. He put forth his tongue at once when told to do so, and bravely stretched out his hands, as he spoke these noble words: "It was from Heaven that I received these; for the sake of his laws I disregard them; from him I hope to receive them again." Even the king and his attendants marveled at the young man's spirit, because he regarded his sufferings as nothing.

After he had died, they tortured and maltreated the fourth brother in the same way. When he was near death, he said, "It is my choice to die at the hands of mortals with the hope that God will restore me to life; but for you, there will be no resurrection to life."



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Responsorial Psalm

Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8

R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.

Had not the LORD been with us, when people rose against us, Then they would have swallowed us alive, for their fury blazed against us.

R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.

Then the waters would have engulfed us, the torrent overwhelmed us; then seething water would have drowned us.

R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.

We escaped with our lives like a bird from the fowler's snare; the snare was broken, and we escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.

R. Our soul has been rescued like a bird from the fowler's snare.



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Alleluia

Mt 5:3

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 5:1-12a

When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.