



**Archdiocese of St. Louis  
Office of Sacred Worship  
Lectio Divina  
Saint Elizabeth of Portugal**

**Lectionary: 594: 1 Jn 3:14-18/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9/Jn 13:34/Mt 25:31-46 or Mt 25:31-40**

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**

*1 Jn 3:14-18*

Beloved:

We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Whoever does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. The way we came to know love was that he laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.



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**Responsorial Psalm**

***R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.***

*Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9*  
***Or Alleluia.***

Blessed the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in his commands. His descendants shall be mighty in the land, a generation of the upright will be blessed.

***R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.***

***Or Alleluia.***

Wealth and riches shall be in his house; his righteousness shall endure forever. Light shines through the darkness for the upright; gracious, compassionate, and righteous.

***R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.***

***Or Alleluia.***

It is good for the man gracious in lending, who conducts his affairs with justice. For he shall never be shaken; the righteous shall be remembered forever.

***R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.***

***Or Alleluia.***

He shall not fear an ill report; his heart is steadfast, trusting the LORD. His heart is tranquil, without fear, till at last he looks down on his foes.

***R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.***

***Or Alleluia.***



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Lavishly he gives to the poor; his righteousness shall endure forever; his horn shall be exalted in honor.

*R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.*

*Or Alleluia.*



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**Alleluia**

*Jn 13:34*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*Mt 25:31-46*

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.' Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.' <sup>1</sup>And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."



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*Or*

*Mt 25:31-40*

Jesus said to his disciples:

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”