



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

**Saint Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr**

**Lectionary: 596: 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Jas  
1:12/Jn 12:24-26**

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 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20*

Brothers and sisters:

The body, however, is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take Christ's members and make them the members of a prostitute? Of course not! [Or] do you not know that anyone who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For "the two," it says, "will become one flesh." But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.



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**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17*

***R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.***

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to save me. For you are my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me.

***R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.***

Into your hands I commend my spirit; you will redeem me, LORD, God of truth. I will rejoice and be glad in your mercy, once you have seen my misery, [and] gotten to know the distress of my soul.

***R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.***

My destiny is in your hands; rescue me from my enemies, from the hands of my pursuers. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your mercy.

***R. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.***



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**Alleluia**

*Jas 1:12*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*Jn 12:24-26*

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me."