



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

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Lectionary: 602: 2 Cor 4:1-2, 5-7/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/Mk 4:1-10, 13-20

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 Cor 4:1-2, 5-7

Brothers and sisters:

Since we have this ministry through the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged. Rather, we have renounced shameful, hidden things; not acting deceitfully or falsifying the word of God, but by the open declaration of the truth we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even though our gospel is veiled, it is veiled for those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, so that they may not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus. For God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to bring to light the knowledge of the glory of God on the face of [Jesus] Christ.

But we hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.



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Responsorial Psalm

Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I wait for the LORD; who bends down to me and hears my cry, And puts a new song in my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in fear and they shall trust in the LORD.

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice and offering you do not want; you opened my ears. Holocaust and sin-offering you do not request; so I said, "See; I come".

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

With an inscribed scroll written upon me. I delight to do your will, my God; your law is in my inner being!"

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

When I sing of your righteousness in a great assembly, See, I do not restrain my lips; as you, LORD, know.

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I do not conceal your righteousness within my heart; I speak of your loyalty and your salvation. I do not hide your mercy or faithfulness from a great assembly.

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.



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Alleluia

Cf. Ps 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mk 4:1-10, 13-20

On another occasion he began to teach by the sea. A very large crowd gathered around him so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down. And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land. And he taught them at length in parables, and in the course of his instruction he said to them, "Hear this! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep. And when the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain. And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit. It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." He added, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

And when he was alone, those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables. He answered them, "The mystery of the kingdom of God has been granted to you. But to those outside everything comes in parables, so that 'they may look and see but not perceive, and hear and listen but not understand, in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven.'" Jesus said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand any of the parables?"

The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes away the word sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy. But they have no root; they last only for a time. Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Those sown among



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thorns are another sort. They are the people who hear the word, but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”