



**Archdiocese of St. Louis**

**Office of Sacred Worship**

**Lectio Divina**

**Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest**

**Lectionary: 631: 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 or 1 Cor 13:4-13/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11/Jn 15:9b, 5b/Mt 18:1-5**

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 12:31-13:13*

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. The Way of Love. But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.



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*or 1 Cor 13:4-13*

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**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11*

***R. I will bless the Lord at all times.***

***R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be always in my mouth. My soul will glory in the LORD; let the poor hear and be glad.

***R. I will bless the Lord at all times.***

***R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

Magnify the LORD with me; and let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me, delivered me from all my fears.

***R. I will bless the Lord at all times.***

***R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

Look to him and be radiant, and your faces may not blush for shame. This poor one cried out and the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.

***R. I will bless the Lord at all times.***

***R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he saves them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the stalwart one who takes refuge in him.



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***R. I will bless the Lord at all times.***

***R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***

Fear the LORD, you his holy ones; nothing is lacking to those who fear him. The rich grow poor and go hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

***R. I will bless the Lord at all times.***

***R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.***



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**Alleluia**

*Jn 15:9b, 5b*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Remain in my love, says the Lord; whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*Mt 18:1-5*

At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.