



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

**Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**Lectionary: 633: 1 Jn 4:7-16/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mt 23:9b, 10b/Mt 23:8-12**

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 4:7-16*

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.



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**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14*

***R. Lord, teach me your statutes.***

How can the young keep his way without fault? Only by observing your words.

***R. Lord, teach me your statutes.***

With all my heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.

***R. Lord, teach me your statutes.***

In my heart I treasure your promise that I may not sin against you.

***R. Lord, teach me your statutes.***

Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes.

***R. Lord, teach me your statutes.***

With my lips I recite all the judgments you have spoken.

***R. Lord, teach me your statutes.***

I find joy in the way of your testimonies more than in all riches.



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*R. Lord, teach me your statutes.*



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**Alleluia**

*Mt 23:9b, 10b*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

You have but one Father, in heaven; you have but one master, the Christ.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*Mt 23:8-12*

Jesus spoke to his disciples:

"Do not be called 'Rabbi.' You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called 'Master'; you have but one master, the Messiah. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.