



**Archdiocese of St. Louis
Office of Sacred Worship
Lectio Divina
Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr**

Lectionary: 646: 1 Pt 3:14-17/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 5:10/Mt 10:34-39

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 Pt 3:14-17

Beloved:

Even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.



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Responsorial Psalm

Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

When the LORD restored the captives of Zion, a we thought we were dreaming. Then our mouths were filled with laughter; our tongues sang for joy.

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD had done great things for them." The LORD has done great things for us; Oh, how happy we were!

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

Restore our captives, LORD, like the dry stream beds of the Negeb. Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy.

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

Those who go forth weeping, carrying sacks of seed, Will return with cries of joy, carrying their bundled sheaves.

R. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.



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Alleluia

Mt 5:10

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Mt 10:34-39

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth. I have come to bring not peace but the sword. For I have come to set a man 'against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's enemies will be those of his household.' "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.