



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

Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Lectionary: 573: Is 61:9-11/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 2:19/Lk 2:41-51

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.

Reading

Is 61:9-11

Thus says the Lord:

Their offspring shall be renowned among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; All who see them shall acknowledge them: "They are offspring the LORD has blessed."

I will rejoice heartily in the LORD, my being exults in my God; For he has clothed me with garments of salvation, and wrapped me in a robe of justice, Like a bridegroom adorned with a diadem, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. As the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden makes its seeds spring up, So will the Lord GOD make justice spring up, and praise before all the nations.



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Responsorial Psalm

1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd

R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

"My heart exults in the LORD, my horn is exalted by my God. I have swallowed up my enemies.

R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

"The bows of the mighty are broken, while the tottering gird on strength. The well-fed hire themselves out for bread, while the hungry no longer have to toil. The barren wife bears seven sons, while the mother of many languishes.

R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

"The LORD puts to death and gives life, casts down to Sheol and brings up again. The LORD makes poor and makes rich, humbles, and also exalts.

R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.

He raises the needy from the dust; from the ash heap lifts up the poor, to seat them with nobles and make a glorious throne their heritage. "For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and he has set the world upon them.

R. My heart exults in the Lord, my Savior.



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Alleluia

Lk 2:19

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word of God and pondered it in her heart.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Lk 2:41-51

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.