



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

**The Memorial of the Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist**

**Lectionary: 634: Jer 1:17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17/Mt 5:10/Mk 6:17-29**

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**

Jer 1:17-19

The word of the Lord came to me thus:

Prepare yourself; stand up and tell them all that I command you. Do not be terrified on account of them, or I will terrify you before them; For I am the one who today makes you a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of bronze, against the whole land: Against Judah's kings and princes, its priests and the people of the land. They will fight against you, but not prevail over you, for I am with you to deliver you—oracle of the LORD.



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**Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17*

***R. I will sing your salvation.***

In you, LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In your justice rescue and deliver me; listen to me and save me!

***R. I will sing your salvation.***

Be my rock of refuge, my stronghold to give me safety; for you are my rock and fortress. My God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

***R. I will sing your salvation.***

You are my hope, Lord; my trust, GOD, from my youth. On you I have depended since birth; from my mother's womb you are my strength; my hope in you never wavers.

***R. I will sing your salvation.***

My mouth shall proclaim your just deeds, day after day your acts of deliverance. God, you have taught me from my youth; to this day I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

***R. I will sing your salvation***



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**Alleluia**

*Mt 5:10*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel**

*Mk 6:17-29*

Herod was the one who had John the Baptist arrested and bound in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, whom he had married. John had said to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." Herodias harbored a grudge against him and wanted to kill him but was unable to do so. Herod feared John, knowing him to be a righteous and holy man, and kept him in custody. When he heard him speak he was very much perplexed, yet he liked to listen to him. She had an opportunity one day when Herod, on his birthday, gave a banquet for his courtiers, his military officers, and the leading men of Galilee. Herodias' own daughter came in and performed a dance that delighted Herod and his guests. The king said to the girl, "Ask of me whatever you wish and I will grant it to you." He even swore many things to her, "I will grant you whatever you ask of me, even to half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What shall I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the Baptist." The girl hurried back to the king's presence and made her request, "I want you to give me at once on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was deeply distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her. So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in the prison. He brought in the head on a platter and gave it to the girl. The girl in turn gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb.