

Formation Session

Prayer and Images of God

Opening Prayer:

Compassionate God, I offer you the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in reparation for my sins, and for the reconciliation of the whole world.

Amen

(Sr. Carol Orf)

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is a form of meditation rooted in liturgical celebration that dates to early monastic communities in their daily encounter with Scripture, both as they prepared for the Eucharist and as they prayed the Liturgy of the Hours. Lectio Divina consists of four distinct steps: reading, meditation, prayer, and contemplation. Scripture is encountered in a reflective and prayerful manner.



Visio Divina

Visio Divina is translated as “divine seeing”. It is related to the prayer form Lectio Divina (divine reading), but instead of Scripture, this form of prayer uses visual elements to help set your mind on prayer. It allows God to speak into your heart through the image.



Precious Blood Prayers

Litany of the Most Precious Blood

The blood of the poor

... is precious to you

The blood of the martyrs

The blood of the unborn

The blood of the accused

The blood of the innocent

The blood of the enemy

The blood of the lost

The blood of the lonely

The blood of the old

The blood of the young

The blood of the hopeless

The blood of the oppressed

The blood of the oppressor

The blood of the prisoner

The blood of the dying

The blood of the death row inmate

Litany of the Blood of Jesus

Blood of Jesus, crying out to God from the ground, ...save us.
Blood of Jesus, poured out in holocaust after holocaust,
Blood of Jesus, shed in assassinations,
Blood of Jesus, victims of the slaughter of war,
Blood of Jesus, spilled by death squads,
Blood of Jesus, flowing forth in persecutions,
Blood of Jesus, shed most profanely in "religious" wars,
Blood of Jesus, staining yet the land of your birth,
Blood of Jesus, flowing forth in persecutions,
Blood of Jesus, running cold in those who fear,
Blood of Jesus, hope in time of terror,
Blood of Jesus, wellspring of justice,
Blood of Jesus, new wine of compassion,
Blood of Jesus, triumphal song of liberation,
Blood of Jesus, reflection of universal love,
Blood of Jesus, solidarity of our world.
Blood of Jesus, the new creation,
Blood of Jesus, wasted in abortions,
Blood of Jesus, afflicted with leukemia,
Blood of Jesus, inheriting sickle-cell anemia,
Blood of Jesus, plagued by HIV and AIDS,
Blood of Jesus, growing weak with age,
Blood of Jesus, poured out on the highways,
Blood of Jesus, springing to new life in a mother's womb,
Blood of Jesus, pulsing in the bodies of youth,
Blood of Jesus, warming the hearts of lovers,
Blood of Jesus, flowing in the veins of every race and people,
Blood of Jesus, bringing us together in baptism,
Blood of Jesus, cleansing us in reconciliation,
Blood of Jesus, nourishing us in the Eucharist,
Blood of Jesus, healing us in anointing,
Blood of Jesus, strengthening us in our vocation,
Blood of Jesus, consecrated in celibacy,
Blood of Jesus, banner of our congregation
Blood of Jesus, bond of our community.

Loving God, we are truly devoted to the most precious blood of your Son when we value the life of each person and consider his or her blood precious. We ask you to enable us to do this through the merits of the blood of Jesus. Amen

IMAGES OF GOD

"We will not move very far or very deep unless we recover the wondrous image of the invisible God that Jesus first offered us. It is not we who loved God; it is God who loved us first."
(Richard Rohr)

Isaiah 66:11, 12:



"Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk of her comfort, that you may nurse with delight of her abundant breasts! As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms and fondled in her lap; as a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you; in Jerusalem, you shall find your comfort."

Isaiah 49:15:

"Can a mother forget her infant, be without tenderness for the child of her womb? Even should she forget, I will never forget you?"

Wisdom 7:25-26:

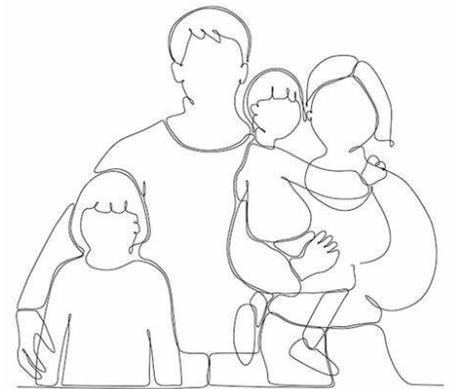
"For she is a breath of God's power and a stream of pure of glory of the Almighty. This is why nothing polluted enters her. For she radiates the everlasting light. She mirrors God's energy completely, and she images God's goodness."

Matthew 23:27:

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings..."

Julian of Norwich:

"As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother... to the property of motherhood belongs nature, love, wisdom and knowledge, and this is God...the mother can give her child a suck of milk, but only precious Mother Jesus can feed us with himself and does..."

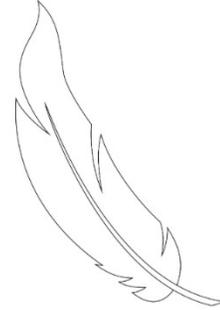


Mechtild of Magdeburg:

“God is not only fatherly, God is also mother who lifts her loved child from the ground to her knee. The Trinity is like a mother’s cloak wherein the child finds a home and lays its head on the maternal breast.”



Hildegard of Bingen: “You are a feather on the breath of God.”



HEBREW POETRY

IN HEBREW, “RA’HAMIN” IS COMPASSION - A FEMINE WORD

GOD AS MIDWIFE AND MOTHER

DEUTERONOMY 32:18

PSALM 22:9-11

ISAIAH 66:13; 49:15-16 44:24

GOD AS KINDNESS

PSALM 88:11-17

EXODUS 34:6

ISAIAH 49:15-16

GOD AS FATHER

JEREMIAH 31:20

JEREMIAHS 30:18-22

ISAIAH 44:1-5

GOD AS RESCUER

JOEL 2:13

ISAIAH 43:15-21

PSALM 23: 1-6

PSALM 62: 2-3, 6-9

NAMING GOD: DO YOU MIND? (Joe Nassal, CPPS)

Great and Gracious God, my language is so limited to attempt to address You, who are so powerful, so generous, so loving.

I rely on certain images to help me grasp the mystery of Your Divine Presence.

So, do you mind if at times I call you Father when I remember your forgiveness while I was practicing pitching and threw the baseball through the basement window.

Do you mind if I call you Dad when I recall the times you took me to the game and we sat in the bleachers and cheered, win or lose?

So, you mind if I call you Mother when I remember your mercy, your compassion, your creativity, of being able to take hand-me-down clothes and make them my own?

Do you mind if I call you Mom when I recall your gentle breath upon my skinned knee, your gentle touch upon my bruised ego?

When I am lost and lonely, may I call you Grandpa -- for you are the one who stands at the fence and calls until all the cows and all the children are home?

When I am hungry and cold, may I call you Gram -- and smell the aroma of home in the cinnamon bread and rolls waiting for me in the warm kitchen?

When I am hurting or helpless, may I call on you by any old name and know that you are forever young?

When I am confused and uncertain, may I just call on you and know that you claim me as your own.

O Divine One, do you really mind what I call you? For you know me, you know when I sit and when I stand, when I sin and when I win, when I lose and when I gain, when I am in pain and when I am filled with joy. You know me, and that is all that matters. Do you really mind what I call You?