

VISIO DIVINA THE RESURRECTION

Lectio Divina is a way we pray the scriptures with words. **Visio Divina** (holy seeing) is a way to pray with the eyes. The church for centuries has used the cross, stained glass, art, statues as invitations to pray with the eyes. As we invite the Holy Spirit, this practice of savoring a piece of art can be imaginative, refreshing and stirs in us the desire to worship God in the beauty of created things.

Practice Includes:

- Entering the door of praise through the beauty of creation
- Allowing the creativity of others to open a path to worship
- Using your senses to pray
- Asking God to guide your meditation on images, art, nature and opens your heart to prayer
- Hearing God in new ways
- Surprises



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See:

What do you see in this artwork?

Some things to notice:

- The shadowy back of the risen Jesus, not his face.
- The blues of his cloak blend with the blues of the background, making it hard to tell where the human form starts and ends.
- Mary Magdalene is lit up by the intense, fiery red in her cloak, dress and face.
- Mary's hand reaches out to touch Jesus in an intimate act—it's almost translucent.
- A piece of her cloak overlaps Jesus' cloak and some of Mary's red is reflected onto Jesus' blue.
- The letters next to her shoulder spell out "Master!" in Aramaic.
- There are 3 crosses in the background on the left.
- The empty tomb is guarded by the two angels to the right of Mary.
- Down the right side of the illumination, there are four blocks of intense golden light. Bits of that light spark in various other parts of the blue paint, particularly around the three crosses and in the pattern on Jesus' cloak.
- Arising from the ground are two stalks of wheat, one by the tomb and one at Mary's feet.
- The lacy pattern on Jesus' cloak also runs around the border of the illumination, broken up in places by the blocks of gold.
- Two stalks of wheat, one by the tomb and one at Mary's feet arise from the ground.
- The lacy pattern on Jesus' cloak also runs around the border of the illumination, broken up in places by the blocks of gold.
- The top of the image bears the words, "Do not hold on to me because I have not yet ascended to my Father". This overlaps Jesus' halo.



Think:

What does the artwork make you think about?

Some things to notice:

- How do you see Jesus glory in another?
- How is Jesus' resurrection power reflected?
- Where is the golden light coming from Jesus going?
- Why the look on Mary's face?
- What does the movement of the golden light and blue shadow create for you?
- Why is Mary's hand stopped in midair?
- How did seeing Jesus change Mary?
- Jesus' risen glory is first reflected in a woman.
- Mary stands out amidst all the blue. Her red intermingles with Jesus' blue.
- What part does the wheat play in the picture?
- We imagine what happens when Mary comes face to face with Jesus. What happens to you?

Wonder:

What does the artwork make you wonder?

Some things to notice:

- Not only is Mary the first to see the risen Christ, but she enables us to see the resurrection through her eyes — the eyes of a woman who is powerless, and to some a prostitute.
- Jesus' shadowy back points us to the world, especially the marginalized. "Don't look at me," he seems to suggest. "Look at them!"
- Whose face should you study?
- Who in your world is reflecting the risen Christ?
- Where have you seen Jesus' love radiating lately? Where is it unexpected and where has it shown up as a fiery red beacon at the center of your life's picture?

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