



Gather, Grow, Go!  
Weekly Sermon Notes & Devotional

## Sermon Notes - April 7, 2024

### Gather, Grow, Go Opportunities

- ✓ **Worship with us next week as we continue in our sermon series, "Holy Surprises!"** Next week we are talking about a surprising friendship that transformed the world.
- ✓ **Interested in children's ministry?** Talk to LuAnn Berkhof about ways to get involved.
- ✓ **Serve with our Banquet Teams.** We serve the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Talk to Pastor Jordan or Gary Healy to get signed up.

## Prayer for the Week

*Almighty God, lead us forward in faith as we seek to be a sanctuary of Christian hope, love, and encouragement, now and for generations to come. Amen.*

## Grow Through Bible Study

- Day One – Acts 5:27-32
- Day Two – Psalm 23
- Day Three – Luke 1:68-79
- Day Four – Psalm 146
- Day Five – Luke 19:1-10

## Spiritual Practice — Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina, or "divine reading," is a practice of reading Scripture in a more prayerful way. The practice has four phases detailed below. Use the Scripture readings above for each day. The intention is drawing closer to God through the words of Scripture.

1. **Lectio:** Read the Scripture slowly at least twice, listening for words that stand out. When a word stands out, sit with it. Repeat it a few times, allowing it to marinate in your mind.
2. **Meditatio:** As you continue reflecting on the word, what feelings or thoughts does this word evoke for you? What images or memories does it recall? Ask God to continue speaking to you through this word.
3. **Oratio:** At some point, you may find yourself wanting to respond to God. What do you want to say? Are you seeking help or a change in your life? Pray to God whatever it is.
4. **Contemplatio:** Rest in silence after your prayer. Allow your mind to settle. When you feel that your prayer has come to an end, express gratitude to God and end with a simple "Amen" or "Thank you."

