

St. Luke's Adult Forum Fall 2013
Going to Hell
(...and beyond!)
Dante's *Divine Comedy*

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This series of weekly lectures and discussions explores Dante Alighieri's fourteenth-century epic poem about a spiritual journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. Discussions focus on spiritual questions raised by the weekly reading, while lectures fill in helpful information about Dante, his world, and his work.

Participants have two optional reading schedules available: the basic (the essential selections) and intensive (for those who want to read the whole of the *Divine Comedy*).

9/15 Introduction to Dante and the *Divine Comedy*

This session will explore Dante's life and historical context and introduce his masterwork, the *Divine Comedy*.

Basic: read *Inferno*, Cantos 1-3, 5, and 10 for 9/22

Intensive: read *Inferno*, Cantos 1-11 for 9/22

9/22 *Inferno*: Cantos 1-11

In Dante's Dark Wood his pilgrim begins his journey back onto the "right path," as his guide, the first-century Roman poet Virgil, leads him through the Gateway to Hell and the circles of lust, gluttony, avarice, wrath, and heresy.

Basic: read *Inferno*, Cantos 12, 13, 19, and 23

Intensive: read *Inferno*, Cantos 12-23

9/29 *Inferno*: Cantos 12-23

Dante's pilgrim and Virgil continue through the circles of violence and fraud.

Basic: read *Inferno*, Cantos 28, 32-34

Intensive: read *Inferno*, Cantos 24-34

10/6 *Inferno*: Cantos 24-34

Dante's pilgrim and Virgil continue through the circles of fraud and treachery and finally exit Hell.

Basic: read *Purgatorio*, Cantos 1, 5, 10, and 12

Intensive: read *Purgatorio*, Cantos 1-12

10/13 *Purgatorio*: Cantos 1–12

Dante's pilgrim has emerged from Hell, and Virgil continues to guide him up the mountain of Purgatory past the Valley of Rulers and the terrace of pride.

Basic: read *Purgatorio*, Cantos 15, 18, 20, and 22

Intensive: read *Purgatorio*, Cantos 13–24

10/20 *Purgatorio*: Cantos 13–24

Dante's pilgrim continues to the terraces of envy, wrath, sloth, avarice, and gluttony.

Basic: read *Purgatorio*, Cantos 27, 30, and 33

Intensive: read *Purgatorio*, Cantos 25–33

10/27 *Purgatorio*: Cantos 25–33

Dante's pilgrim continues to the terrace of lust and, purged of his sins, gains entry to the earthly paradise.

Basic: read *Paradiso*, Cantos 2, 7, 11–12

Intensive: read *Paradiso*, Cantos 1–12

11/3 *Paradiso*: Cantos 1–12

Dante's pilgrim reaches Heaven, with Beatrice as his new guide, and travels to the spheres of the moon (the inconstant souls), Mercury (the ambitious), Venus (the amorous), and the sun (the wise).

Basic: read *Paradiso*, Cantos 15, 18, 20, and 22

Intensive: read *Paradiso*, Cantos 13–22

11/10 *Paradiso*: Cantos 13–22

Dante's pilgrim visits the spheres of Mars (the warriors), Jupiter (the just), and Saturn (the contemplative).

Basic: read *Paradiso*, Cantos 26, 30, and 33

Intensive: read *Paradiso*, Cantos 23–33

11/17 *Paradiso*: Cantos 23–33

Dante's pilgrim finally makes it to the fixed stars (faith, hope, and love), Primum Mobile (the angels), and the Empyrean, the abode of God, where he emerges with a new vision.

11/24 Conclusion

A Note on Translations:

Many English translations of the *Divine Comedy* are available, but Dr. Lampert recommends *The Divine Comedy: Inferno, Purgatorio, Paradiso* (Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition, ISBN 978-0143107194), as it is a clear translation, includes helpful illustrations and notes, and is among the more affordable versions (under \$20 on Amazon.com).

More information is available online at stlukesadultforum.com.