

HOPING

The voice of God echoes in the depths of the human heart

(Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, 16)

*We have turned to the text and then to life. Awakened by the Word
we turn again towards the Lord*

1. What do you now want to say to the Lord about what you have come to realise?
2. What prayer does this text stir in your heart?
3. What word about your life—be it a word of thanksgiving, sorrow, joy, peace, petition—do you now bring to the Lord?

Closing Prayer: We gather our prayer together with the words from Psalm 33,

Lord we look towards you,
Let your face shine on us,
In our poverty we call to you,
Hear us and rescue us from all our distress, Amen.



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Hearing Happening Hoping

Walking with God's Word
Through Lent 2019
Sunday 4 ~ Luke 15:25-32

A word cloud where the words are arranged in a shape. The most prominent words are "father", "came", "back", "brother", "son", "celebrate", "never", "calf", "killed", "brother", "son", "fatted", "heard", "lost", "gave", "brother", "son", "celebrate", "never", "calf", "killed", "brother", "son", "fatted", "heard", "lost", "gave". Other visible words include: safe, dead, yours, But, found, mine, going, Now, working, devoured, slave, calf, never, celebrate, son, brother, killed, dancing, He, approached, friends, But, property, always, one, angry, years, sound, Then, field, disobeyed, elder on, He, got, back, life, come, Son, might, goat, asked, safe, dead, yours, But, found, mine, going, Now, working, devoured, slave, calf, never, celebrate, son, brother, killed, dancing, He, approached, friends, But, property, always, one, angry, years, sound, Then, field, disobeyed, elder on, He, got, back, life, come, Son, might, goat, asked.

The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. We begin by praying: God our Father, source of all light, you have sent your Son into the world, to reveal yourself to all your children. Send your Spirit upon us now, that we may meet Jesus in the Word that comes from you. May we come to know him, may we come to love him more deeply and so be drawn closer to the happiness of your Kingdom. Amen.

The Other Lost Son (Luke 15:25-32)

Now the Father's elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in.

His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours is dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'



HEARING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening! You have the words of eternal life!

For the sake of freshness we are focusing here on the end of this parable. We read the passage 2-3 times. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What strikes you about this text?
2. What is happening to the elder brother in this text? What gives rise to these feelings?
3. How does the father respond to his elder son?

HAPPENING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening! In the Light of the Word we look at our lives

We read the passage again and reflect on some of the following:

1. "he became angry and refused to go in..."
What makes us so angry that we exclude ourselves?
2. "...you are always with me and all that is mine is yours..."
What blinds us from seeing who is with us?
What helps us to see who is with us?
3. "His father ...began to plead with him."
What is so important that people will plead for it?
Who, like the Father, does this in our world today?
4. "I have been working like a slave for you..."
How do we respond when our work seems invisible?

