

HOPING

Speak Lord, your servants are listening! You are our Hope!

Some quiet music or a lighted candle may help bring the group/yourself to stillness. Take a few quiet moments to be present to what has touched your heart in the text or in our sharing.

Read the text (together) again.

1. What do you want to say to the Lord? What hope or prayer FLOWS from your heart? What prayer is coming out of your life?

2. We are invited to speak our hope or our prayer aloud.

Allow spaces for silence in between the spoken prayers.

Closing Prayer:

May the Lord bless us and keep us;

May the Lord make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us;

May the Lord give us his peace. Amen.



Our deepest prayer is one that arises from the heart in response to the realities of life.

(Michael Casey OCSO, adapted)

Hearing Happening Hoping Journey with God's Word this Lent

**Week 1: Mark 1:12-15
The Word in the Wilderness**



As we begin to read, we ask the Lord to bring this text to life for us:

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.

Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit immediately cast Jesus out into the desert. And he was in the desert forty days, tested by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels served him.

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has drawn near; repent and believe in the gospel.

HEARING

Speak Lord, your servants are listening!

You have the words of eternal life!

Read the text 2-3 times. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. Which words in this passage do you notice? Which words strike you? Which do you like?
2. What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
3. What surprises you in the story? Why is it a surprise?

HAPPENING

**Speak Lord, your servants are listening!
Make your word alive for us today!**

This Scripture mirrors our lives.

How is our life in this passage? How is this passage in our life?

Read the text again. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. Where are the deserts (the wildernesses) in our communities, in our church, in our society today?
2. Where do we see people driven into the wilderness today?
3. '*The kingdom of God has drawn near*'. In the Scriptures God was especially close when people were in the wilderness. Have you ever experienced God close to you, especially at difficult times?
4. Gospel means good news. Who proclaims the "*good news of God*" in our world? What are they saying?

