

HOPING

Our hearts are made for you, O God and we shall not rest until we find our home in you. (St Augustine)

We have turned to the text and then to life. Now we turn towards the Lord. We take a few moments to be present to what has touched our hearts in the word and in our sharing.

The 'hour' comes close! We read the text together again—gently, slowly. We allow spaces for silence between the spoken prayers.

1. Which words or phrases or memories bring you peace or consolation or rest? What do you say to the Lord about what his word is bringing about in you?
2. What hope or prayer has this text stirred in your heart?
3. What word about your life - a word of thanksgiving, sorrow, joy, peace, petition - do you now bring to the Lord?

Closing Prayer:

We gather our prayers together as we say with the hope of the Lord Jesus, "Our Father"



***Our deepest prayer is one that rises from the heart in response to the realities of life.
(Michael Casey, OCSO, adapted.)***

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Hearing Happening Hoping

**Journey with God's Word
this Lent**

**Week 5: John 12:20-33
Seeking The Word**



Before we read, we pray together:

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.

John 12:20–33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, Amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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. What words or phrases in this passage do you like? What strikes a chord with you?
2. What images do you notice?
3. What puzzles you in this text?



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

*This is a difficult passage. We are very familiar with its words and images of this passage. This familiarity can make the newness of God's Word hard to hear. Therefore we read the passage again and reflect on **some** of the following:*

1. “*We want to see Jesus...*” The Greek pilgrims to Jerusalem have heard about Jesus and wish to see him. Where, in our world, are there people who have heard about Christ, but still don't know him? Who around us helps people come to know the Living Lord?
2. “*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain*” What in our lives needs to ‘fall into the earth’? What do we need to let go of? Where do we see old forms dying so that new expressions can emerge?
4. “*What shall I say, God save me from this hour?*” Jesus' prayer grows in honesty and realism. How has our prayer become more honest and more real? Who has helped us on this journey?
5. “*the ruler of this world will be driven out*” Who do we see as the ‘ruler of the world’ today? Where do we see the light arriving?

