

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 want to say to the Lord about what you have heard?
2. What hope or prayer has this text stirred 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.

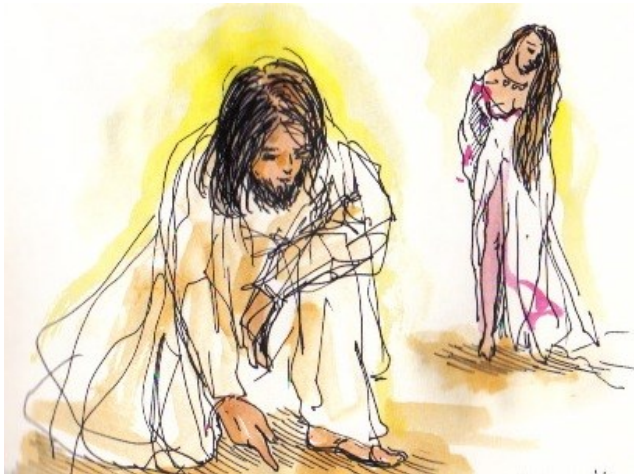
**Closing Prayer: We gather our prayer together with the words of
Psalm 125,**

Deliver us, Lord, from the bondage,
of all that oppresses us.

Then will our mouths be filled with laughter.

And there will be songs on our lips.

Amen.



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Hearing Happening Hoping

**Walking with God's Word
Through Lent 2016
Sunday 5 ~ John 8:1-11**



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.

John 8: 1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him.

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

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

We read the passage 2-3 times. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What is happening in this story?
2. What is at stake for the Scribes and Pharisees?
3. How do they try to achieve their goals?
4. How does Jesus respond?
5. What is happening for the woman in the story?



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. "*Making her stand before all of them...*"
Where do we see people used for the ends of others?
Who in particular is taken advantage of in this way?
2. "*Neither do I condemn you...*"
Who like Jesus liberates people from the mistakes they have made?
3. "*Now what do you say?*"
Where do we see the truth being used to entrap others?
4. "*Let anyone among you who is without sin ...*"
Who opens our eyes to our own game playing or hypocrisy?

