

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

1. What do you now want to say to the Lord about what you have come to realise?
2. What word about your life—be it a word of thanksgiving, sorrow, joy, peace, petition—do you now bring to the Lord?
3. What are your hopes in these closing weeks of 2017? What do you want to say to the Lord about these hopes?

Closing Prayer:

We gather our prayer together
as we say: Our Father . . .



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Hearing Happening Hoping

Keeping AWAKE with
Scripture this Advent

Week 3 ~ Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11



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.

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD God has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of justice, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause justice and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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 words resonate with you? What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
2. Why does God anoint this person? How does this person respond to this anointing?
3. On whose side is God in this passage?
4. What does God want in this passage?



HAPPENING ~ *Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.* This Scripture happens in our own lives and in the world around us

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

1. "...he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed..." Who are the oppressed today? Who is bringing good news to the oppressed today?
2. What breaks people's hearts today? Who binds up the broken-hearted?
3. "For as the earth brings forth its shoots..." Where do we see new life springing up?
4. "my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation". When have we experienced God's saving love, bringing us through a time of difficulty or pain? Who do we know who radiates God's saving love?

