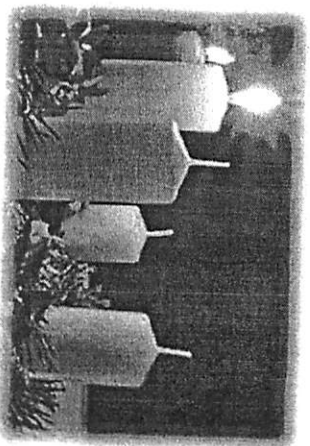


To hope is not to lose touch with reality but to trust that what seems impossible may be possible!

1. (a) What regrets and what hopes does this passage awaken in you? (b) What do you say to the Lord about this?



2. (a) What needs to be awoken in your life? (b) What do you say to the Lord about this?
3. (a) What needs to be awoken in the church? (b) What do you say to the Lord about this?
4. (a) How do we thank the Lord who hopes so much in us? (b) What do you say to the Lord about this?

“People see the Gospel in our lives; let them read our

Hearing Happening Hoping

Keeping **AWAKE** with
Scripture this Advent

Week 1 ~ Mark 13:33-37

keep
 know
 Beware
 commands
 alert
 journey
 watch
 asleep
 puts
 doorkeeper
 midnight
 leaves
 time
 man
 Keep
 cockcrow
 Therefore
 suddenly
 And
 slaves
 work
 charge
 come
 find
 else
 house
 master
 like
 comes
 home
 going
 evening
 AWAKE

Mark 13:33-37

Look out! Wake up! For you do not know when the time will be! It is like a man going abroad, when he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.

Stay awake therefore—for you do not know when the lord of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—in case he comes suddenly and finds *you* asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"

HEARING ~ Waking Up

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

1. What words resonate with you or strike you in the passage?
2. What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
3. Jesus tells the story of the man going abroad—a simple parable. Who would welcome this parable? Who would be afraid of this parable?

alive
awake
aware

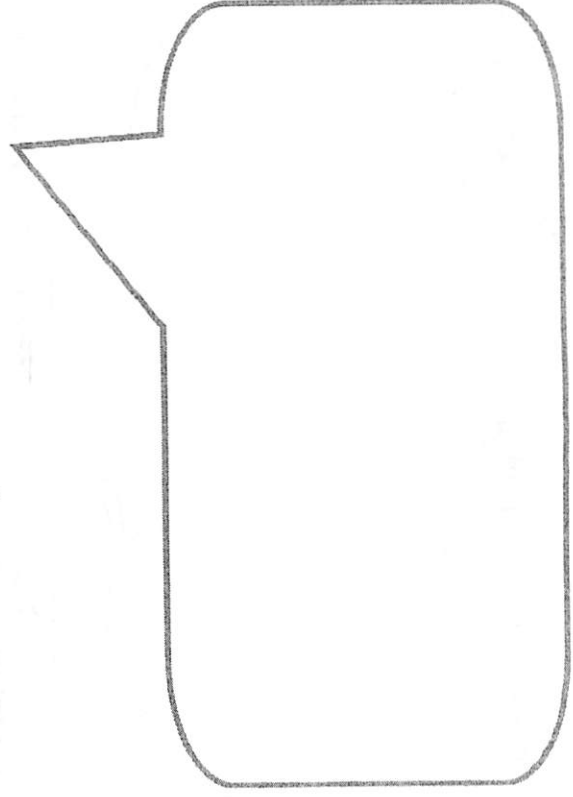
HAPPENING ~ Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing

This Scripture happens in our own lives and in the world around us.

Reflect and share on some of the following:



1. Where do you see this text happening—in your life, in the world around you?
2. Who trusts us with tasks that are important?
3. Whom do we trust with tasks that are important?
4. What wake up calls are we hearing about our world today, our church, our parish, or our own lives?
5. Who in the world today is calling us to 'Stay Awake'?

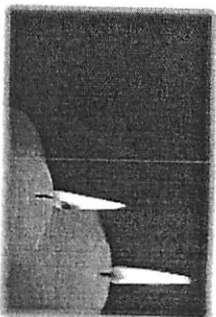


HOPING

God's Word calls us to hope. To hope is not to lose touch with reality but to trust that what seems impossible may be possible!

Read the text yet another time. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. (a) John points to one coming after him. To whom do people point today? (b) What can we say to the Lord about these people?

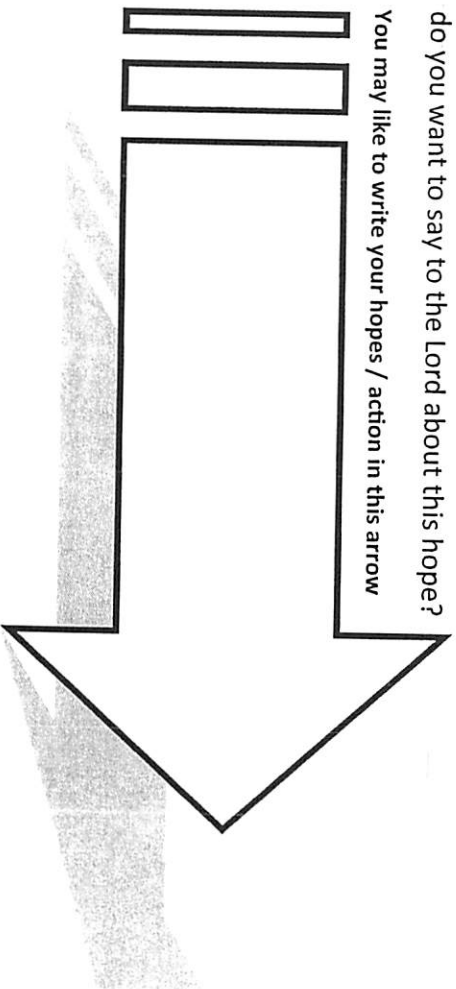


2. (a) Who are the voices crying out in our communities, in our church, in our world today? (b) What can we say to the Lord about these people?

3. (a) What are the hopes of the prophets today? (b) What can we say to the Lord about these hopes?

4. (a) What hope does this passage awaken in you today? (b) What do you want to say to the Lord about this hope?

You may like to write your hopes / action in this arrow



Remember: You may be the only Gospel that people ever read.

Hearing Happening Hoping

Keeping **AWAKE** with
Scripture this Advent

Week 2 ~ Mark 1:1-18



Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is stronger than I am is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

HEARING

Read the text 2-3 times, then reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What words resonate with you?
2. What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
3. According to Mark, what are the two things the messenger does?
4. How did the people respond to John?

5. Why do you think they responded in this way?

6. What is John's task? How does John see his task?

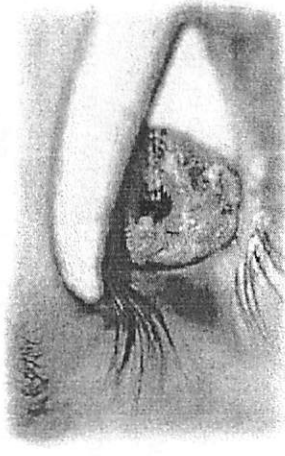
HAPPENING ~ Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.

This Scripture happens in our own lives and in the world around us

1. Who is preparing the way of the Lord in our world today?

2. What are the wildernesses of our world today?

3. Who is crying out in those wildernesses? What are they saying?



HOPING ~ God's Word calls us to hope. To hope is not to lose touch with reality but to trust that what seems impossible may be possible!

Read the text a third time. Then reflect and share on some of the following:

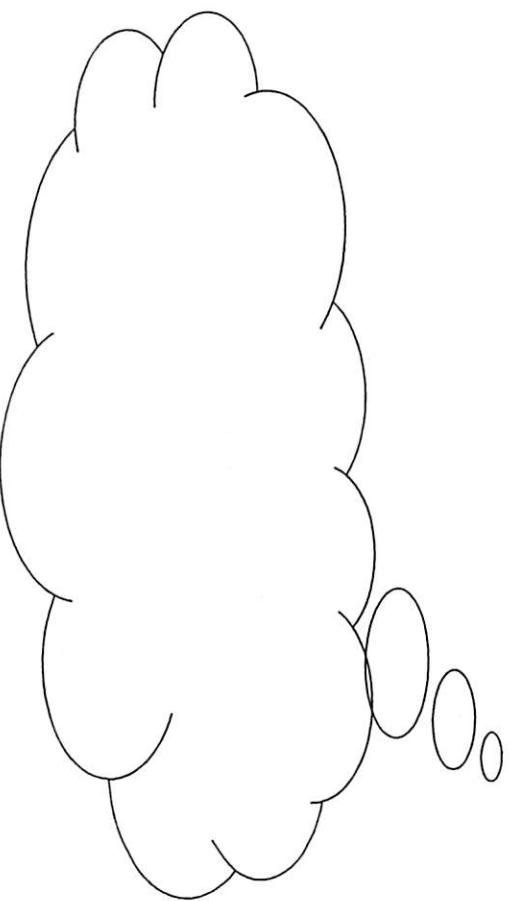
1. (a) This text from Isaiah is built upon confidence in God, his hope. Having looked at the world in light of Isaiah, what shoots of hope do you see around you?



(b) What do you want to say to the Lord about these hopes?

2. (a) Who inspires hope in you in this world of ours? (b) What do you want to say to the Lord about these people?

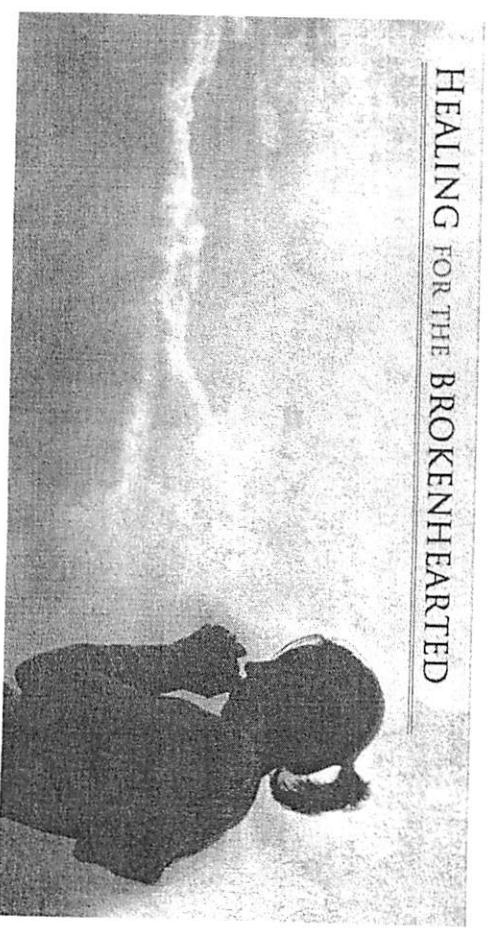
3. (a) What are your hopes in these closing weeks of 2014? (b) What do you want to say to the Lord about these hopes?



Hearing Happening Hoping

Keeping AWAKE with
Scripture this Advent

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



Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

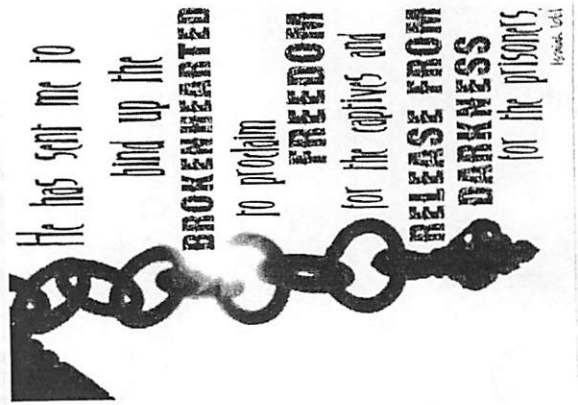
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord God has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our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

Read the text 2-3 times, then reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What words resonate with you?
2. What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
3. Why does God anoint this person?
4. How does this person respond to this anointing?



5. On whose side is God in this passage?

6. 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



1. Who are the oppressed today, in Ireland and elsewhere?

2. Who is bringing good news to the oppressed today?

3. What breaks people's hearts today?

4. Who binds up the broken-hearted?

5. Where do we see the earth bringing forth its shoots, even when people try to stop it?

6. What imprisons people in our world today?

7. Who liberates the prisoners?

