

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. 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 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.)***

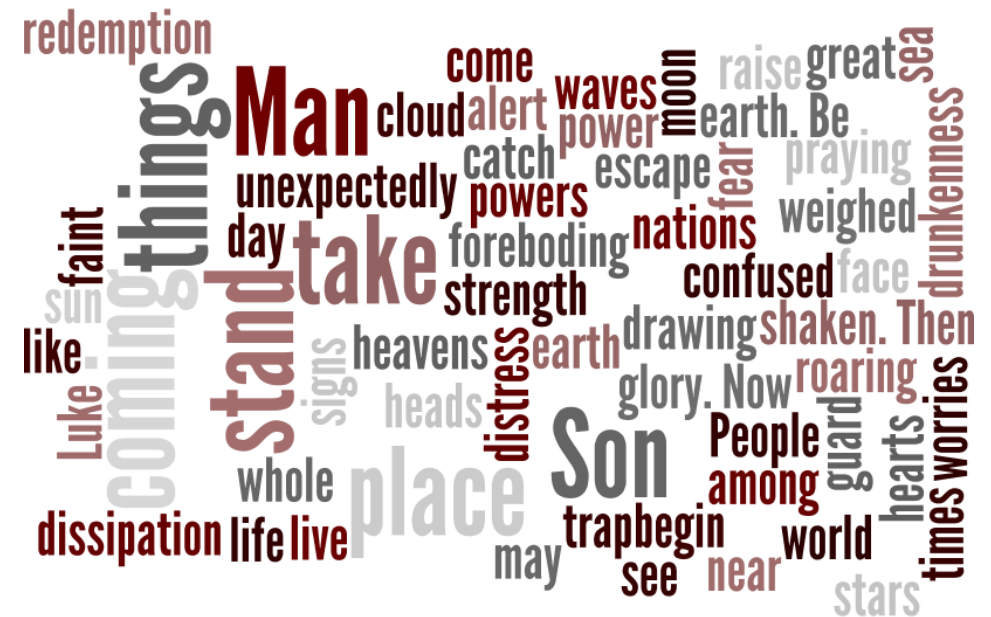
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Hearing Happening Hoping

Journey with God's Word

First Sunday of Advent

Luke 21:25-29, 34-36



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.

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

ADVENT

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 or phrases in this passage do you like? What strikes a chord with you?
2. What do you find disturbing or frightening in this passage?
3. What words do you find consoling?
4. How would you describe Jesus here? Is he fearful or hopeful?



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. “Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads...” How do we react to what is taking place in our world today?
2. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down...” What weighs us down? What lifts that weight from us?
3. What signs of hope do you see in the world around you? Where do we see God drawing close to us?
4. “Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Where do we see these signs of God drawing close to us?



“The coming of God in Christ still continues today...” Maria Boudling