

HOPING

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

Awakened by the Word we turn now towards the Lord.

We pray with the help of one of the following:

1. What do you want to say to the Lord about what you have heard and realised in the light of this Word?
2. What hope or prayer has this stirred in your heart? Have you a word of thanksgiving or repentance, of joy or of peace or a prayer of petition to bring to the Lord now?
3. What do you want to say to the Lord about our world and its deserts, its rough places; those who bring us hope; the rulers and powers of our world?

*We sum up all our prayers and petitions in the prayer that Jesus taught us: **Our Father***



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

Prepared by: Jane Mellett (Dublin) • Maureen Kelly and Marie McNamara
(Killaloe) • Séamus O'Connell (Maynooth)

Hearing Happening Hoping

**Journey with God's Word
Second Sunday of Advent**

Luke 3: 1-6



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 3: 1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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 the passage strike you, or console you or call you?
2. To whom and where did the Word of God come and where did it not arrive?
3. How did John respond when the word of God came to him?
4. What Scripture text helped Luke grasp what is happening to John? How does this text throw light on what’s going on?

HAPPENING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening! The coming of God continues today.

Read the text again and reflect and share on some of the following:

1. “*In the fifteenth year of the reign of the Word of God came to John*”. What Word of God is Pope Francis proclaiming in the third year of his papacy?
2. “*The crooked ways shall be made straight and the rough made smooth.*” Who are the people who smooth out our rough paths?
3. “*All flesh shall see the salvation of God.*” Where do we see traces of God at work through people, saving, healing and rescuing?”



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