

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

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?

We gather our prayers together as we say with the hope of the Lord Jesus,
"Our Father"

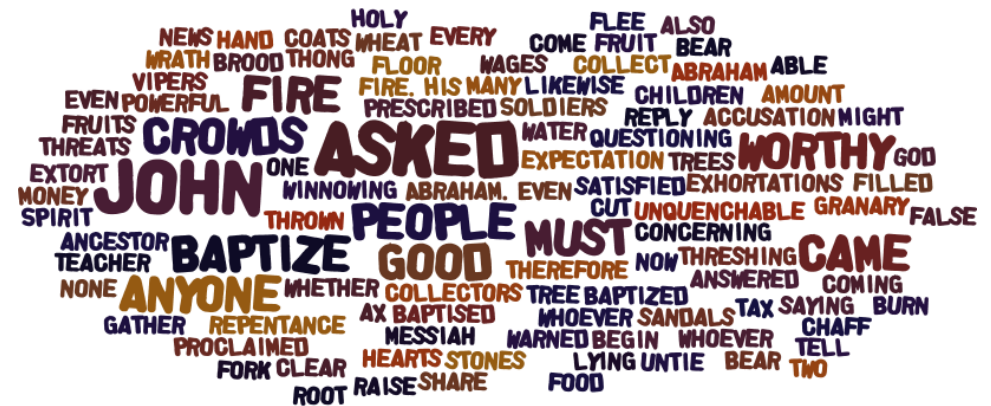


***Our deepest prayer is one that rises from the heart
in response to the realities of life.
(Michael Casey, OCSO, adapted.)***

Journey with God's Word

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10-18



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: 10-18

The crowds said to John, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptise you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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 words disturb or console you?
2. Who is coming to John in this passage?
3. What response does John give to each of them?



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. "Teacher, what should we do?"
To whom do we turn in our search?
Who guides us?
2. "...the people were filled with expectation..."
In whom do we mistakenly place our hopes? Who like John points us to the one who is coming?
3. "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none..."
What surplus coat are people sharing? What makes us resistant to sharing our surplus coat?



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