

HOPING

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

*Awakened by the Word we turn now towards the Lord.
We pray with the help of one of the following:*

1. What prayer has been stirred in your heart that by this text that you wish to place before God?
2. Everyone lives with fulfilled and unfulfilled expectations. How do we bring these to God? What do we want to say to him about that?
3. John, the great prophet was in the desert. What word about the desert do we now bring to God?

Final Prayer

God of compassion, at your touch
the blind receive their sight,
the deaf hear, the dead are raised,
the lame walk, and lepers are cleansed,
Open our hearts
to receive this good news as we say:
Our Father



“If you want God and long for Him, yet sometimes wonder what that means or whether it can mean anything at all, you are already walking with the God who comes.” Maria Boulding

Hearing Happening Hoping

Journey with God’s Word Third Sunday of Advent

Matthew 11: 2-11



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.

Mt 11: 2-11

In prison, John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing and he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger before your face ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' Amen I say to you, among those born of women none is greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he'.

**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? Is there anything you find confusing or strange?
2. What was Jesus doing and what question did this raise for John?
3. Jesus did not answer John's question directly. How did he respond to John?
4. Who is blessed in Jesus view?
5. Jesus holds John in high esteem? What does he see in John?

**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. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"
Who or what do we wait for/deeply long for?
What it is like to wait for someone or something?
2. "Go and tell John what you see and hear..."
Who like Jesus points to what is happening in our lives?
In our culture? In the world around us? In our Church, etc.
3. "What did you go out in the desert to see?"
What draws us into the desert?
What might we discover there?
4. John is "...more than a prophet".
Whom do we hold in respect?
What is it about them that evokes our respect?

