

## Hoping

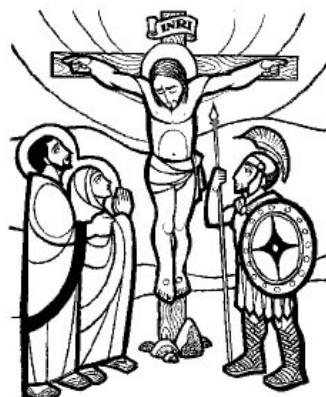
The voice of God echoes in the depths of the human heart

(Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, 16)

*We have turned to the text and then to life. Awakened by the Word we turn again towards the Lord*

1. What prayer has this story stirred in your heart? What do you want to say to the Lord about this?
2. What word about your life—be it a word of gratitude, sorrow, joy, peace, petition—do you now bring to the Lord?
3. In what Word or phrase can you now rest?

**Closing prayer:** God has given us Jesus to be our Way, our Truth and our Life. With the abandoned Jesus we pray, Our Father...



**“The Gospel is the book of the Lord’s life. It is meant to become the book of our life too.” ~ Madeline Delbrêl**

Prepared by: Jane Mellett (Dublin) • Maureen Kelly and Marie McNamara (Killaloe) • Séamus O’Connell & Jessie Rogers (Maynooth) • Philip Carder (Armagh)

## Hearing

## Happening

## Hoping

**Meeting God in the Word**

**Lent 2020**

**Week 6 ~ Matthew 27:45-56**



**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.

#### **Matthew 27:45-56**

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “This man is calling Elijah.” And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and gave up [his] spirit. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him; among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

#### **Hearing**

**“The word of God comes to us to open the heart.” (A. Louf)**

1. What words and phrases stand out for you as you read this text?
2. Who are the different people in the story? How do they relate to each other?
3. Read the text again and *imagine* that you are standing with the women, looking on from a distance: What do you hear? What do you see?



#### **HAPPENING**

**“The Bible is a book you read with all your life” (M. Delbrêl)**

We look at our lives in the light of God’s word.

1. “*My God, my God why have you forsaken me?*” When have you felt that God had forsaken us or our world? In what ways do people express their anguish or despair?
2. “*Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him!*” Only God alone can save! In whom or in what organisations do we hope for salvation?
3. “*When the Centurion saw ....*” What have we seen that has awakened our faith? What experience or person has brought us to faith?
4. “*Many women were also there...*” Who has quietly walked with us at moments of fear, grief or despair? When have we accompanied someone at a time of crisis – even if only at a distance?

