

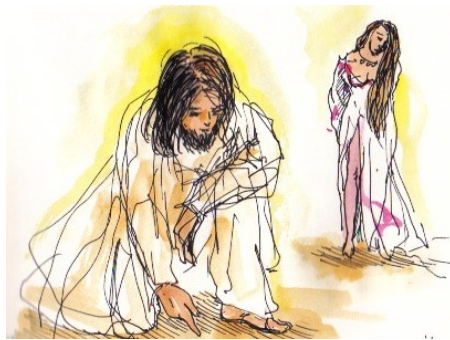
## HOPING

*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.

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Lord, we ask that our hearts may be changed.  
Teach us your way of mercy and compassion.  
Help us to see beyond appearances  
and discover your image in those we meet.  
This we ask, this we seek  
in Jesus name. Amen



**“Mercy, the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life.”  
(Pope Francis< The Face of Mercy #2)”.**

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# Hearing Happening Hoping

## Journey with God’s Word Through Lent 2019

### Sunday 5: John 8: 1-11



**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.

### **John 8: 1-11**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

## **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's my honest reaction to this story? What encourages me, challenges me, inspires me?
2. Notice the way Jesus is present in the story, the tone of his words, the movement of his body, his eye contact. What is this conveying?
3. Now look at the woman? What's your sense of how she is feeling?
4. What about the others? What do you think is going on in them?
5. What is the real issue in the story?

## **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. "What have you to say?..." Jesus was put on the spot, trapped between black and white answers with no room for nuance. Where have you seen that dynamic in action? Have there been times when you or your community have felt caught in such a bind?
2. "If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her?" Have there been times when I, or my group, came to an awareness, in a graced moment, that I/we were in no position to throw a stone?
3. Jesus shows the new way of mercy, breaking the cycle of retribution and revenge? Where in our world have we seen that cycle of retribution and revenge at work and where have we seen the breaking of that cycle?

