

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*

Read the text again. Reflect and share on some of the following:

1. What do you now want to say to the Lord about what you have come to realise?
 2. What prayer does this text stir 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?

Closing Prayer: We gather our prayer together as we say:

Our Father . . .



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Hearing Happening Hoping

Keeping AWAKE with Scripture this Advent

Week 1 ~ Mark 13:33-37



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.

Mark 13:33-37

Look out! Wake up! For you do not know when the time will be! It is like a man going abroad, when he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.

Stay awake therefore—for you do not know when the lord of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning—in case he comes suddenly and finds you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"

alive
awake
aware

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 resonate with you or strike you in the passage?
2. What puzzles you? What disturbs you?
3. Jesus tells the story of the man going abroad—a simple parable. Who would welcome this parable? Who would be afraid of this parable?
4. What feelings are evoked in you by this text?



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. "...in case he comes suddenly and finds you asleep." What needs to be awoken in your life? What keeps you asleep or dulled to the reality around you?
2. "Look out! Wake Up!" What wake up calls are we hearing as a Church today or about our world?
3. "what I say to you I say to all: Stay Awake!"
Who in the world today is calling us to 'Stay Awake'?

