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 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.

Closing Prayer: We gather our prayer together as we say, Our Father…

"We absorb the word of other books. The words of the Gospel knead us, change us and so to speak absorb us into their own being." Madeline Delbrêl

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Hearing
Happening
Hoping

Meeting God in the Word
Lent 2020

Week 4 ~ The Man Born Blind: John 9

Lord, open our hearts as we read your word...

John 9 (adapted)

Jesus saw a man blind from birth. … and he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" —which means Sent. So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought *him* to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet…

So ….they said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is what's amazing: you do not know where he is from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him… If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered and said to him, "You were born a total sinner, and would you teach us?" And they threw him out.

HEARING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!
You have the words of eternal life!

1. There are many people in this story. Who are you drawn towards? Who would you move away from?

2. Many people in this story speak with great certainty. Who claims to 'know' what? And on what basis?

HAPPENING ~ Speak Lord, your servants are listening!
In the Light of the Word we look at our lives

1."*We know that this man is a sinner* …" When have our certainties blinded us? When have our strong convictions about God's ways been rattled? Who or what helped open our eyes?

2. "….one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." When have you begun to realize what was actually happening in your life? When have you begun to see where God has been at work?

3. "There was division among them… they threw him out…" When has a new experience about life or about God created conflict for us, or for people we know? How do we deal with such situations in a way that is life-giving for everyone?