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: We gather our prayer together as we say, 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

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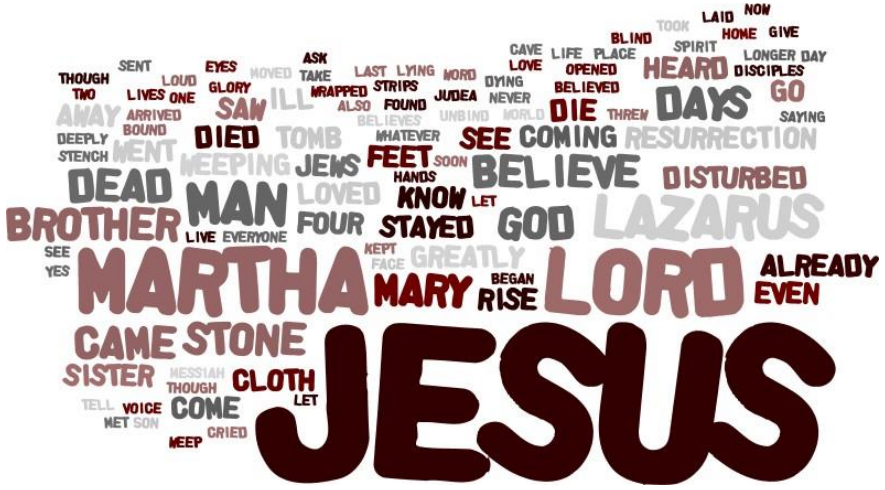
Hearing
Happening
Hoping

Meeting God in the Word
Lent 2020
Week 5 ~ John 11



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

John 11: 1-41 (adapted)

Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' Though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

Mary went to Jesus and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet saying, "Lord if you had been here my brother would not have died". When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

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

1. Read the text for the first time. What strikes you in this text? What stands out for you?

2. Read the text a second time and notice the different people with whom Jesus interacts / converses.

3. Read the text a third time and listen for the different emotions in the text.

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

1. "If you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When have our reasonable expectations led to disappointment? When have we felt let down either by people or by the Lord?

2. "When Jesus saw her weeping…"

Who, like Christ, has truly met us in our time of distress?

3. "Unbind him and let him go."

What binds people; what stops people from being fully alive?

When have we felt called to help release our sisters or brothers?