

## HOPING ~ Our hearts are made for you, O God and we shall not rest until we find our home in you. (St Augustine)



*Awakened by the Word we turn now towards the Lord. One of the following may help us begin: our prayer flows—in thanksgiving, or seeking or asking or hoping.*

1. What do you want to say to the Lord about what you have heard and realised in the light of this word?
2. What hope or prayer has this stirred in your heart? Have you a word of thanksgiving or repentance, of joy or of peace or a prayer of petition to bring to the Lord now?
3. What question about your life do you now bring to the Lord? What hope do you bring to the Lord at this time? What do you hope from him?



*We gather our prayers and petitions together in the prayer that Jesus teaches us: "Our Father ..."*



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Further HHH resources on the Maynooth College Mission Portal at [www.maynoothcollege.ie/hearing-happening-hoping](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie/hearing-happening-hoping)

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## HEARING · HAPPENING · HOPING

### A Journey with God's Word

Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3:10–18



*In Advent we wait in hope. "The longer we wait, the more we hear about the One for whom we are waiting." (Henri Nouwen)*

**The Word of God comes to us to awaken our hearts. (André Louf)**  
**We seek to hear God's Word, so we ask for God's Spirit:**

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.

**Luke 3:10-18**

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What then should we do?"  
In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."  
Even tax collectors came to be baptised, and they asked him,  
"Teacher, what should we do?"  
He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."  
Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?"  
He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."  
As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying,  
"I baptise you with water;  
but one who is more powerful than I is coming;  
I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals.  
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.  
His winnowing fork is in his hand,  
to clear his threshing floor  
and to gather the wheat into his granary;  
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."  
So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**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 or phrases in the passage catch you, touch you, console you, or call you?
2. Who is coming to John in this passage?
3. What response does John give to each of them?

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

1. "Teacher, what should we do?"  
To whom do we turn in our search? Who guides us?
2. "...the people were filled with expectation..."  
In whom do we mistakenly place our hopes? Who like John points us to the one who is coming?
3. "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none..."  
What surplus coats are people sharing?

*"As you listen, you recognise your own story. You listen from the inside; you have the key." Maria Boulding OSB*