

## 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...



**“So, faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)**

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# Hearing Happening Hoping

Meeting God in the Word  
Ecumenical Bible Week 2017  
John 20:19-23



**BIBLE WEEK** 2017  
4<sup>TH</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

Faith comes from hearing  
the Word of Christ

*Rom 10:17*

**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 20:19-23**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked because of fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

**"The Gospel is the book of the Lord's life. It is meant to become the book of our life too." ~ Madeline Delbrêl**

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

1. Read the text for the first time. What words strike you? What words do you like?
2. Read the text a second time. What feelings does this text evoke in you?
3. According to this text, why does Jesus come to the disciples?



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

*Reflect on some of the following:*

1. *"...the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked because of fear..."* What fears cause us to batten down the hatches? How do people imprison themselves?
2. *"he showed them his hands and his side..."* Jesus' wounds show us who he is. When have our wounds shown us who we truly are?
3. *"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them..."*  
What holds us back from forgiving? Who or what has helped us to choose forgiveness?
4. *"Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you...'"*  
Who enters our lives and brings peace or hope or resolution or joy or acceptance?

