

## HOPING

## God sent His Son into the world not to condemn the world

*We have turned to the text, we have turned to life and now we turn towards the Lord. Some quiet music may help bring stillness. We take a few quiet moments to be present to what has touched our hearts in the text and in our sharing.*

**We quietly read the text together again. We ponder these things in our heart. Allow spaces for silence between the spoken prayers.**

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 - a word of thanksgiving, sorrow, joy, peace, petition - do you now want to bring to the Lord?

### Closing Prayer:

We gather our prayers  
together as we say with  
the zeal of the Lord,  
"Our Father ...."



***Our deepest prayer is one that rises from the heart  
in response to the realities of life.  
(Michael Casey, OCSO, adapted.)***

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**Hearing**  
**Happening**  
**Hoping**  
**Journey with God's Word this Lent**



## Week 4: John 3:14–21

### The Word that Gives Light

## Before we read, we pray together:

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 blessedness of your Kingdom. Amen.

### John 3: 14—21

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light for their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. For those who do the truth come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

## HEARING ~ *Speak Lord, your servants are listening!*

Read the text 2-3 times. Reflect and share on **some** of the following:

1. What words or phrases in this passage do you like?
2. What images do you notice?
3. What puzzles you in this text?



## HAPPENING ~ *This Scripture mirrors our lives.*

***How is our life in this passage? How is this passage in our life?***

*This is a difficult passage. We are very familiar with the words and images of this passage. This familiarity can make the newness of God's Word hard to hear. Therefore we read the passage again and reflect on **some** of the following:*

1. "For those who do the truth come to the light..." Who is doing the truth in our world?
2. "...come to the light" Who are the beacons of light in the world?
3. "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world?" Who are the Christ-like voices of acceptance in our families, in our community, in our parish, in our church, in our world?
4. "God gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Who in our world is giving of themselves so that others may live a fuller life?
5. The Son of Man was lifted up. Where do we see the cross as a way to healing and life?

