

Hope

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Look

Hope is an optimistic attitude of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes related to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large (according to Wikipedia, anyway).

1. Does this definition of 'hope' resonate with you? Why or why not?
2. What role does hope play in your life? Do you generally have a hopeful attitude?
3. Describe a time in your life when you had hope for something.

Book Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

Just after the territories of Zebulun and Naphtali were conquered by the Assyrians, the prophet Isaiah writes these words of hope to the people of Israel – promising that a light will shine in the darkness.

1. What does the prophet Isaiah tell the people of Israel as they are living in exile after being conquered by the Assyrians?
2. Why might it be important for the people of Israel to hear this message of hope?
3. What does the gospel writer say about Jesus moving to the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali? How does this move by Jesus relate to the prophet's words of hope?
4. What does Jesus do while he is in Galilee?
5. How do Jesus' actions bring light to the darkness?

Took

The prophet Isaiah reminds the people of Israel that, even in the midst of their anguish, there is hope. And Jesus is the fulfillment of that hope – Jesus is the light in the darkness, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom.

1. What is the good news that Jesus brings?
2. Do you find hope in your relationship with Jesus? What does that look like for you?
3. What are you hoping for now?