# Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting (MULOA)

## 'Lectio divina' exercise: 'Our calling

**Objective:** Reflected on Mothers' Union's calling and purpose at this time

**Question:** *What might God be saying to Mothers' Union through this passage?*

### Esther 4: 6- 16 Esther rises to her calling

So Hathak went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate. [7] Mordecai told him everything that had happened to him, including the exact amount of money Haman had promised to pay into the royal treasury for the destruction of the Jews. [8] He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict for their annihilation, which had been published in Susa, to show to Esther and explain it to her, and he told him to instruct her to go into the king's presence to beg for mercy and plead with him for her people.

[9] Hathak went back and reported to Esther what Mordecai had said. [10] Then she instructed him to say to Mordecai, [11] "All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold sceptre to them and spares their lives. But thirty days have passed since I was called to go to the king."

[12] When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, [13] he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. [14] For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

[15] Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: [16] "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

1. **Reading**: Someone prays for us to be open to the passage with our mind, heart and emotions and for his Holy Spirit to guide us. Read the passage slowly and prayerfully out loud. Read the passage again individually in our heads. Have a time of silence for 1-2 minutes.
2. **Meditation**: Each person reflects on the passage. Go for a walk or find a place to sit. Be attentive to words, phrases and ideas that come to mind. Linger on them, ponder them in your hearts and listen to what God might be saying to us and to Mothers' Union.
3. **Prayer:** Join up with one or two others to share your thoughts and feelings and to offer them together to God in prayer. Ask God to show you how he wants Mothers' Union to respond to and act on those.
4. **Contemplation:** Come together as a group to sit or stand together in silence for a few minutes in the presence of God, allowing time just to be with God.
5. **Living:** Share the thoughts and ideas that have emerged and what God might be saying to Mothers' Union through them and calling us to do. Pray together that we would respond in action individually and together.