

5 PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 70:1-2, 4, 5

Make haste, O God, to de- / liver me!*
Make haste to help / me, O Lord!
Let them be ashamed and con- / founded*
who / seek my life.
Let them be turned back / and confused*
who de- / sire my hurt.
Let all those who seek / You rejoice*
and be / glad in You.
But I am poor and / needy;*
make haste to / me, O God!
You are my help and my de- / liverer;*
O Lord, do / not delay.

6 SAY TOGETHER THE VERSE OF THE WEEK Psalm 104:1
“Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord my God, you are very great!”

7 READ THE SCRIPTURE AND DEVOTION (OTHER SIDE OF THE PAGE)

8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Almighty and merciful God, whose gift it is that Your faithful possess all things pertaining to faith and life, we implore You that we may so faithfully cling to Your promises in this life that we fail not finally to attain to Your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

9 PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

10 SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK
Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

TLH 296, LSB 589
Anna Sophia of Hesse



1. Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth,
To Thy Word I now give heed;
Life and spirit Thy Word beareth,
All Thy Word is true indeed.
Death's dread power in me is rife;
Jesus, may Thy Word of Life
Fill my soul with love's strong fervor
That I cling to Thee forever.

3. Lord, Thy words are waters living
Where I quench my thirsty need;
Lord, Thy words are bread life-giving,
On Thy words my Soul doth feed.
Lord, Thy words shall be my light
Through death's vale and dreary night;
Yea, they are my sword prevailing
And my cup of joy unfailling.

4. Precious Jesus, I beseech Thee,
May Thy words take root in me;
May this gift from heaven enrich me
So that I bear fruit for Thee!
Take them never from my heart
Till I see Thee as Thou art,
When in heavenly bliss and glory
I shall greet Thee and adore Thee.



“The Hearing and Speaking Wrought by the Spirit”

1 BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

2 SAY THE APOSTLES' CREED
I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died
and was buried. He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the
dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at
the right hand of God, the Father
Almighty. From thence He will come to
judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy
Christian church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.

3 PRAY THE LORD'S PRAYER
Our Father, who art in
heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it
is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily
bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who
trespass against us;
and lead us not into
temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

4 PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning. I thank You, my
heavenly Father, through Jesus
Christ, Your dear Son, that You
have kept me this night from all
harm and danger; and I pray that
You would keep me this day also
from sin and every evil, that all my
doings and life may please You.
For into Your hands I commend
myself, my body and soul, and all
things. Let Your holy angel be with
me, that the evil foe may have no
power over me. Amen.

Evening. I thank you, my
heavenly Father, through Jesus
Christ, Your dear Son, that You
have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive
me all my sins where I have done
wrong, and graciously keep me this
night. For into Your hands, I
commend myself, my body and
soul, and all things. Let Your holy
angel be with me, that the evil foe
may have no power over me. Amen.

Around the Word Devotions + the week of August 22-28, 2021

THEME OF THE WEEK: The Hearing and Speaking Wrought by the Spirit

This week is about the tongue. Our tongues are sinful. Our tongues express the evil and the desires that lurk inside of us. We try to hide behind masks of care, concern, and friendliness, but boy, oh boy, do our tongues betray us. Though we often use them to hurt, they're also able to heal and comfort. Our tongues can be used to express love, admiration, and gratitude. Tongues sing our praise and thanksgiving to God because He heals them. God opens our ears to hear His Word. He makes it so that we can hear, learn, mark, and inwardly digest both the Law and Gospel. With ears open, our tongues call upon God in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37—Ephphatha! Be Opened!

This morning Isaiah 29 is fulfilled. Jesus takes the man aside. He removes the man from the land of dead ears and tongues to the kingdom of restored creation. Jesus put His fingers in the man's ears and spittle upon the man's Tongue. "Ephphatha". "Be opened," Jesus says. The man hears the Word of Jesus which saves his soul from unbelief and death. With renewed mouth, the man zealously proclaims what Jesus has done. He has done the same for you in Baptism where He opened your ears and loosed your tongues to hear and share His Word. *Lord, You have opened our ears and loosed our tongues. Help us hear and rejoice aright. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:89-96 (LAMEDH) Your Precepts Give Me Life

God's Word brought creation into existence. It established the earth. God's Word endures forever. This same Word is the psalmist's delight. Through the Word, the psalmist cries, "I will never forget your precepts by them You have given me life. I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts." The wicked have no such thoughts concerning God's Word. Rather, they seek to destroy those who listen and obey God's commandments and precepts. God be praised that He protects us and preserves His Word! *I am Yours, O Lord, save me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-30 — St Bartholomew

Today the church remembers Saint Bartholomew, also referred to as Nathanael. He was one of the first disciples called by Jesus. Philip invited him to come and see the Prophet proclaimed by Moses. Bartholomew asked, "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Despite his reservations, Jesus knew him. He promised that Bartholomew would see greater things than that. In his sin, he argued with the others about who was greatest. He soon learned that worldly greatness doesn't matter. Belonging to Christ's kingdom through baptism and faith matters. Tradition says that Bartholomew brought the good news of being in that kingdom to Armenia. *Thank you for Saint Bartholomew. May he be an example to us of Your faithfulness. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 29:18, 19 — Israel Restored

Isaiah 29 describes Jerusalem in full rebellion against God. As result, they are surrounded and besieged. Nevertheless, they are deaf to the Word and walk in spiritual blindness. God's Word of judgment is not the final Word for them. In fact, in verse 14 God says, "I will again do wonderful things with this people." We see this in our reading where the Lord will redeem and restore His people. They will hear the Words of a Book, which are ancient promises of deliverance from sin. Then they will see. The Lord will restore their joy. They will exult in the Holy One of Israel.

Lord, we rejoice in the words of Your Book, for You have opened our ears and eyes! Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:31-42 — Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

Sinners against the Spirit is willful rejection of the saving gift of faith. Can you tell if a person has committed this sin? We can't see the heart, but we know the tree based on its fruit. Blasphemy is openly denying God, His Son, and rejecting His gifts. Such persons reject the sign of Jonah, Jesus dying and rising again on Easter. To die in this sin is eternal death. Therefore, pray for your brothers and sisters while there is yet time. Even blasphemers like Simon Peter and Saul were restored. Though they sinned against the Son of Man for a time, when the Spirit returned to work faith in their hearts, they received him with humble joy. *Lord, keep us steadfast in faith. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 3:1-12 — Redeemed Tongues

Tongues are dangerous things. James says, "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things." "It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." "From the same mouth come blessing and cursing." God be praised that our tongues were bought with a price. They were redeemed and claimed by Jesus for His purposes. He who used the tongue to proclaim that "It is finished!" has claimed your tongue to cry out "Amen!" That's why and how we can use our tongues to call upon God "in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks" (Small Catechism 2nd Commandment). *Keep me from saying words that later need recalling; guard me lest idle speech may from my lips be falling; but when within my place I must and ought to speak, then to my words give grace lest I offend the weak. Amen. (LSB 766 st 3)*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 104 — Creation Blesses the Lord

Creation is "very good". God is "very great!" All of creation praises God for who He is because He is better than His creation! He can control the forces of His creation. If creation, which is created by, controlled by, and cared for by God sings His praises, then what about us? Should we not also praise God? All faithful Christians say "yes." We sing His praises for He is glorious and gracious. We rejoice in Him. Unbelievers do not, for they reject the Creator and they will be "consumed from the earth." But for those who have belong to the redeemed creation through water and the Word, we cannot help but sing and shout aloud the Savior's praises. *Bless the Lord, O my soul! Amen.*

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