

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 **Isaiah 29:18**

“In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.”

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 life;
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 27-September 2, 2023

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

This week, we will focus on the hearing of the Word. We see how God works through His Word for our benefit and for His own glory. This is begun by the Spirit, but it is lived out in our midst through the Office of the Holy Ministry. Through the Word and Sacrament ministry that happens in our midst, we find that our spiritual life and blessings are directly connected with and flow from Christ.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37 – Joyful Response

“Word of mouth” advertising is powerful. If you have a good experience somewhere, you tell others to go to that place. But if you have a bad experience, you share with others how bad the experience was. Think of how often you see negative reviews of products or places compared to positive ones. Yet in our text today, we see that our Lord Jesus performed such an incredible act by restoring the deaf man, that people couldn’t help but tell others. We have received from the Lord something greater than mere hearing or speaking – we have received faith! This faith hears the Word of God, leads us to speak of Christ to others who will listen, and saves our souls from death. *Almighty God, I thank and praise You for the gift of faith that You have given to me. Bless me that I may share this joy with others. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:89-96 (LAMEDH) – Life by the Word

The opening line of our reading should sound familiar since it is used as a response to the Word of God in Matins. Note how many words in this text refer to God’s Word: word, precepts, testimonies. God created the universe through the Word. He gives us life through His Word. He sustains us in the face our enemies by means of His Word. Truly, God’s Word is powerful. But it isn’t powerful in that it is simply “out there” somewhere in the universe. Its power is experienced when it causes us to believe. As we gather to hear the Word of God, He creates, strengthens, and sustains our salvation. *Almighty God, grant that I would turn to You and Your Word to be sufficient for me in all my needs and not look to myself or the world. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 – Glory in the Word

When Paul speaks of “us” as ministers of the Gospel, he is speaking about himself and his companions, the Apostles and all fellow preachers. Note that these ministers of the Gospel are made. Made by whom? They are made by God. This is what we speak of as ordination. The preaching ministry that Paul was given is carried out in your midst today by your pastor. It is through the pastor that Christ still feeds you with His saving gifts of grace. Yet, the glory does not belong to the pastor, but to Christ. It is Christ who is serving us! What an incredible thing to consider that you are served by the same ministry, the same Lord, as all those who have come before us! *Almighty God, I thank and praise You for the blessings that You lavish upon me through Your Word and Your merciful grace. I pray that You would keep me in this faith to life everlasting. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 29:18, 19 Today is the Day

Today is the day of salvation. That is the message of Jesus. The kingdom of God is at hand. Through Christ, we see the literal fulfillment of these words. They heard the Word of the Word made flesh. Jesus Himself is the book that speaks the truth of God to the world. And through His Word, those who even today are spiritually deaf, blind, and dead are made whole and alive in Him. This is the gift that He has granted to you and to all faithful believers. Praise be to God! *Holy and eternal Father, You have made me Your own through Your Son, the Word made flesh, who died for me. Grant that I may continue to have the ears to hear and the eyes to see Your glory. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:31-42 – We seek the Word, not Signs

In this text, Jesus makes clear the distinction between His perfect Word and our sinful words. Our faithless words can reveal a heart that is dead. But life comes from Christ. He is the One who is the living Word, the living waters that spring up in our hearts to eternal life. Because we have His Word, we do not need to demand signs and wonders from Him. In fact, He warns us that there will come those who can perform signs and wonders only to deceive. This is why we must hang onto the Word that has been revealed to us. *Almighty God, strengthen my faith that I may hear and rejoice only in Your Word, finding comfort where You have promised to be and not look for You where You have not promised to be. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 3:1-12 – The Power of the Tongue

The tongue is one of the strongest muscles in our bodies. But James points out that our tongues can also contain a lot of power that is not just physical. The sting of words can cause real hurts. We try to ignore this and even mock those today who insist upon it, but even Scripture recognizes that we can hurt each other through our words. But it is the Word of God that builds up, restores, and recreates. Let us speak to each other in ways that are good and pleasing to God, speaking His Word to His people rather than seeking to harm others. *Almighty God, forgive me for the times that I have misused the body that You have given me. Help me to rightly care for my neighbor by upholding and encouraging him. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 104 – Glory and Word

This psalm is a wonderful hymn of praise to God for His creation. And it is all connected to His Word. We know from Genesis 1 that God spoke all things into creation. But this psalm speaks of God’s specific acts of setting limits for different things, the trembling of creation at His Word and presence, and in this text we see just how deeply connected God’s Word is with His glory. All of these things that speak of God’s glory are connected with His actions through His Word. In the same way, we give Him glory because of what His Word did for us at the cross and what His Word does for us today through the continued ministry of Word and Sacrament. For all these things, we rightly give our God all glory and praise. *Almighty God, give me the eyes to see the full depth of Your glorious works, especially those works that are to and for my benefit. Amen.*

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