

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 119:89**
“Forever, O Lord, Your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.”

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.

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

God the Father works by His Word and Spirit. In the history of the creation this is how God the Father has always worked. His conscious Will creates by a heave of His chest and an utterance of His voice. The Good News of this week is that God the Father is still at work in this creation to create and keep a people of His own possession; you and me, and His Church. He guards and protects us by His strong arm. He gives us life and salvation by the working of His Word and Spirit in the preaching and teaching of His Church and the administration of His Means of Grace.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: **Mark 7:31-37: The Word of God Works**

The Word of God works in the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is on earth to break and hinder every evil plot and purpose of the devil(s), this world, and our sinful nature. In our Mark reading He gives back to a man a major character of God's image within humanity—listening/speech. We must not be misguided. The eye is the lamp of the body, but the ears are the cradle of our soul. God works by His Word to help this man hear and be saved by the Gospel. By grace, He grants him to speak rightly, clearly, concretely once again. The healed man cannot be shut-up from that moment on. He talks and talks along with the rest. *Heavenly Father help me to listen and speak what is good, right and true namely Your Son, Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.*

MON

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 119:89-96 (LAMEDH): The Word of the Lord is Fixed in Creation**

I do not need to be a thoughtful Christian man to argue against the idiotic and confused claims swirling about regarding the created order. The Word of the Lord is fixed in the heavens and upon the earth. What does this look like? Any kid growing up on a farm can tell you. The boy animals mate with the girl animals and have babies. Creation works in a certain way. It has a grain. If you work against that grain, your thought and life will be confused and splintered like poor woodwork. We must not become conceited as if creation can bend to our twisted wills. Rather, we ought to be increasingly thankful and humble that God has given such good gifts to us poor beggars that we work with the Grain of the Universe. *Lord, keep me steadfast in Your Word. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: **2 Corinthians 3:4-11: A Ministry of Death and a Ministry of Life**

There are two Words from God. One kills and the Other makes alive. St. Paul observes this distinction clearly. The ministry of Moses was a ministry of condemnation and death. The Law always accuses. The Law always kills. This is the work of God. The Gospel only gives forgiveness, life and salvation. This is the Work of God. Again, thank God we are in the days of Jesus Christ. We are happy fools walking across a field stumbling headlong onto a vast treasure! Not our work. Not our doing. Not our treasure until it is. The Glories of the Working of God in this Ministry of Life far outweigh the former glories. This is because the Glories of this Ministry are Jesus Christ full of the Spirit. *O Lord, let me Love Your Word and its Glories. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: **Isaiah 29:18, 19: The Holy One of Israel is our Hope and Joy**

It is hard to believe that we enjoy the treasure of another nation, but we do if we are Gentiles. The treasure is Jesus Christ, the Holy One of Israel. He was from Israel and for Israel in the beginning. Sadly, his own countrymen did not love their Treasure. They put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree, but God raised Him and vindicated His identity and authority so that we, who put our trust in Him, are justified by our faith. Jesus made the deaf hear, the mute speak, the demon possessed right-spirited, and because Jesus has done this we are given the gift of Joy and Hope in the midst of gloom and sadness. Our hearts are fixed where true Joys and Hope are found. In Jesus Christ Alone. *Be still my soul. The Lord is on your side. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 12:31-42: It's a Bad Idea to Call Jesus Demon Possessed**

Jesus and the Holy Spirit work together. As the Father and Son are One, so are the Spirit and Jesus. When you see Jesus at work you see the Spirit at work. When you hear Jesus speak you are hearing the Spirit speak. Jesus is driven into this creation by the Father in the Power of the Spirit to break and destroy sin, death and hell from its flimsy grasp. Our hearts are fixed and rest in Jesus Christ. By a Word of Promise God makes our hearts good, and right and true. By this Work of the Word and Spirit we can utter words like, "I believe!" and, "Jesus is Lord!" We are able to hold onto Jesus and the Greater Gift. *O Lord, help those who are confused and twisted in heart and soul, and keep me from such tragedy by the Working of Your Word and Spirit. Amen.*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: **James 3:1-12: When Human Words aren't God's Word**

The heavy-duty moralism of James is not undue. Around Jerusalem, the Christians had become confused about the righteousness that comes from our living trust—Jesus Christ knows better than we. We Western Christians could use reformation in speech, too. However, in the first place James is not speaking to Christians in general but to men who are ordained into, or aspire to, the Preaching Office. Such men are to be controlled in body and mind, which is noticeable by their speech and physique. The Church is destroyed by a pastor who is out of control. James is clearly responding to the unruly and obscene speech and lives of some pastors during his day. He is speaking to many today, as well. *O Lord, make Your pastors holy. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: **Psalms 104: God is God. You are not.**

God is God. You are not. This is perhaps one of the clearest doctrinal positions the Church stands on. We also sin against it the greatest. The Psalmist is reminding himself, and others, that God is the Boss of everything. Keeping this doctrinal position in the frontal lobe and top of our hearts is one of the aims of the church. We live under a Good God and by His graces. This reality, though, is often difficult to believe. Especially when it comes to our sufferings. However, the good theologian is never confused. God is the Boss of Everything. Absolutely everything. Praise Him, for He has dealt with you mercifully. Therefore we fear, love, and trust this God above all things. *O God, thank You for giving me Jesus and bossing me into Your kingdom. Amen.*

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