

**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 **Matthew 12:37**

“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

**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



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| <p>1. Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth,<br/>To Thy Word I now give heed;<br/>Life and spirit Thy Word beareth,<br/>All Thy Word is true indeed.<br/>Death's dread power in me is rife;<br/>Jesus, may Thy Word of Life<br/>Fill my soul with love's strong fervor<br/>That I cling to Thee forever.</p> <p>3. Lord, Thy words are waters living<br/>Where I quench my thirsty need;<br/>Lord, Thy words are bread life-giving,<br/>On Thy words my Soul doth feed.</p> | <p>Lord, Thy words shall be my light<br/>Through death's vale and dreary night;<br/>Yea, they are my sword prevailing<br/>And my cup of joy unfailling.</p> <p>4. Precious Jesus, I beseech Thee,<br/>May Thy words take root in me;<br/>May this gift from heaven enrich me<br/>So that I bear fruit for Thee!<br/>Take them never from my heart<br/>Till I see Thee as Thou art,<br/>When in heavenly bliss and glory<br/>I shall greet Thee and adore Thee.</p> |
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“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 30-September 5, 2020

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

The Creator uses His creation for His purposes of life and salvation for the sinner. He is not a divine watchmaker who wound up creation and leaves it to itself. Rather, He sent His Son, born of woman, to suffer, to die upon the cross, and to rise again to restore His creation. He sends the Holy Spirit with that recreating Word of the cross to open our ears to faith. He opens our eyes to see that creation has a Creator Who loves us and gives us all that we need “to support this body and life.” These gifts are not the ends in themselves, but the means.

The ends having ears opened, tongues loosed and eyes that see Him in His glory in eternity.

SUN

### SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37 Ears Opened and Tongues Loosed

Luther uses our Gospel today to talk about Infant Baptism. Here, in this deaf man, we see an example of what happens in the Sacrament. The Church brings infants who cannot come to the Lord by themselves. Babies don't have the strength to present themselves. So, just like the man in our reading, infants are carried to Jesus to be embraced by our Lord. He places His fingers in their ears to hear His Word. He cries “Ephphatha”. He looses their tongues to sing His praises. Jesus does all things well, even opening your ears to hear and your tongue to rejoice in His salvation. *Lord, keep our ears open to hear Your Word and our tongues able to sing Your praise. Amen.*

MON

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:89-96 (LAMEDH) The Word exceeds Creation's Limits

“Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly fixed in the heavens.” Forever. The Word is everlasting, like the heavens. It endures for generations. This is the creative Word which governs all that it makes. This is a Word which also gives life. It gave life to the Psalmist, who rejoices in it. We, likewise, rejoice because God uses this Word to preserve our lives. There are no limits to this Word. Creation has limits put in place by God. This Word which the Spirit uses to give life is unparalleled in its broadness. *Lord, help us to rejoice in this Word which the Spirit uses for our salvation. Amen.*

TUE

### SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 The Word is our Confidence

The Spirit gives life. It is the Spirit who opens our ears to hear the Word, which declares our salvation and relies not upon ourselves but upon Jesus. The Spirit gives us faith in Jesus Who fulfilled the Law in His perfect life and sacrificial death upon the cross. This is our confidence: that Jesus' death is for me. His resurrection is for me. We have confidence in this because the Word has been declared to us. In that confidence, our glory does not fade because we have the Word which gives life. *Lord, help us rejoice in Your Word, our confidence. Amen.*

WED

### SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 29:18, 19 The Day of Restoration is Yours

The deaf do not hear stories. The blind live in a world of darkness. Yet, in that day — in the day of Jesus, this is reversed. In Jesus the deaf hear the words of salvation. In Jesus the blind see. In Jesus the poor are exalted. All three receive salvation and are transformed. In the same way the meek and the poor are exalted and rejoice in the Lord. The day has come for you in your baptism. The Holy Spirit opened your ears to the Word, your eyes to the marvelous light of Christ. Exalted, you rejoice.

*Lord, keep us in Your restoration. Amen.*

THU

### SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:31-42 Sin Against the Spirit

Unbelievers demonstrate their lack of faith by their actions. Christians are also known by their actions. Sinful actions of clogging ears to others' confessions and holding tongues from proclaiming forgiveness. We sin against the Holy Spirit by denying the forgiveness one has received. Denial of forgiveness is to put yourself in the place of the Holy Spirit, judging others' hearts. But Jesus, Who is greater than Solomon, is here. His three days and nights in the earth are your salvation. He proclaims the Words of repentance and uses His members for righteous reasons; ears that hear His Words, tongues that praise His name.

*Lord, help us use our ears and tongues righteously. Amen.*

FRI

### SCRIPTURE: James 3:1-12 Tongues of Flames

The tongue is a fire which cannot be tamed. Either the flames destroy and kill, or they give life and forgiveness and salvation. With the same tongue we destroy with curses and bless with the proclamation of the Word of Life. This little body part causes so much damage to the whole body, leading to destruction in the fires of hell. This should not be so. What is the solution? The Spirit comes to us. He breathes His Word upon us and purifies our tongues with His flaming Pentecost tongues of the Word of Christ crucified.

*Lord, purify our tongues to speak Your truth. Amen.*

SAT

### SCRIPTURE: Psalm 104 Creator before Creation

God alone is the Creator. However, without God being revealed to us, we misuse the creation from its lights and clouds to its earthly foundations and mountains. We can even turn the animals, seasons, and other men into god-replacers. In our “original sin” state we worshiped the creation and not the Creator. But the Lord has revealed Himself to us in the Spirit that re-creates us in the Word and Water, opening the gates of heaven where we will “Praise the Lord!” for eternity.

*Lord, help us focus upon You, the Creator, above Your creation. Amen.*

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