PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK Psalm 70:1-2, 4, 5
Make haste, O God, to deliver me!*
Make haste to help me, O Lord!
Let them be ashamed and confounded* who seek my life.
Let them be turned back and confused* who desire my hurt.
But I am poor and needy; make haste to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

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

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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 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.

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.”

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

PRAY FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS
PRAYER FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS
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.

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 296, LSB 589
Speak, O Lord, Thy Servant Heareth

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.

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 unfailing.

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.
SMs praise. Jesus does all things well, even opening your ears to hear and your
tongues to sing His praise. Amen.

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

**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.

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**SCRIPTURE:** Psalm 19:89-96 (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 cre-
ative 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.

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**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 sacrifi-
cial 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.

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**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 re-
ceive 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.**

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**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 Spir-
it 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.

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**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.

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**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 Crea-
tor. 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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