

**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 **2 Corinthians 3:4-5**

“Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God.”

**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 Ghost, ever one God, world without end. 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 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.



**“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 September 3-9, 2017

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

God works among His creation to work salvation. He does not sit in the heavens divorced from what He made. He sends His incarnate Son to reveal His glory on the cross. He physically rises from the dead, destroying death. He sends the Spirit to work through tangible means among His creation to save. Each of these things has a cost He paid on the cross for us. Christians look beyond creation to see why God works within it, to give forgiveness, life, and salvation to you. Seeing this greater truth, we approach this creation in greater expectation, knowing it is not the end, but rather the place God works to bring us to the true prize.

SUN

**SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37 It's going to be okay because Jesus died and rose for you**

We say "it's going to be okay" a lot. We mean well, but we know it doesn't make people feel better. Everything wrong here is too visible. We ascribe it to sin, but even if you reject the word, you can see things aren't okay. Jesus doesn't just promise us it's going to be okay. He does something to back up the words. "Be opened." He sighs under the weight of those words. They have a cost; blood. He bears the weight of that man's weakness even as He bears our sin on the cross. "Ephphatha." Our healing cost Jesus His life. *Lord Jesus Christ, as you bore the weight of sin upon the cross to open to us the resurrection of the Body and the Life everlasting, comfort us in this world in Your victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil. Amen.*

MON

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:89-96 (LAMEDH) God insists on your salvation**

"If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished." That same Law established the earth and holds it fast. That same Law is a faithfulness that endures to all generations. We don't mingle Law and Gospel. We recognize that God insists things be a certain way. That is a comfort to us. God gave the Law. It insists upon perfection. The same God fulfills it for you. The LORD says, "Thou shalt endure to all generations." The earth shall stand fast. We shall be saved. This word is firmly fixed in the heavens. God insists that you live, and His will is done. *O LORD, fix our eyes upon Your perfect word, which endures to all generations, and give us life. Amen.*

TUE

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Glory comes from God**

Glory always comes from God, not you. When you insist glory comes from your works, the Law kills. We can't fulfill the Law. The Law kills, but the Spirit gives life. This is God's will. The law of Moses is fulfilled in Jesus. The glory of the Law paints a picture of Jesus. He is the glory behind the Law, and the hope of salvation for Moses and the people of the old ministry. They looked forward to what we see fulfilled. God was glorified on a cross for sinners. Behold the greater glory, Jesus crucified for you. *Fix our eyes upon the ministry of righteousness, O LORD, that we may find our sufficiency in You. Amen.*

WED

**SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 29:18, 19 The Bible is about Jesus for you**

I believe in the perspicuity of the Scriptures. The Scriptures paint a clear picture of salvation. I also see a lot of folks fighting over what the Bible means. Whenever we make the Scriptures about us, we become blind to the truth. The Bible is not about you. It is about Jesus for you. The book that speaks a message even the deaf can hear and the blind can see cannot be about us. This Jesus who dies that we might live grants joy even to the poor. Jesus saves even the poor, the meek, the sinner, and you. *Lord Jesus, point us to Your works, that we poor sinners might find joy in the wealth of Your mercy. Amen.*

THU

**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:31-42 You are what God has made you: Holy**

If God makes you a good tree, you'll bear good fruit. Holiness does what it says. You are what the Spirit has made you: Baptized. Holy. The sign of Jonah isn't dependent on Jonah's heart, but God's mercy. He insisted Jonah preach so that Nineveh would be made holy. It took three days in the belly of the fish to accomplish it, but God's word accomplishes what it demands. It took three days in the grave, but God works holiness in you that produces the fruit necessary to justify and sanctify you. You receive holiness in Word and Sacrament, so you are holy. *O LORD, send us Your Holy Spirit in Your Word and Sacraments, that we may be made to be the good trees, justified by the death and resurrection of the new Jonah, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

FRI

**SCRIPTURE: James 3:1-12 We are little boats**

We are little boats in a big ocean. We get tossed about. We are wild horses, so we buck, we stumble, and we sin. Despite our size, we work great evil. The tongue, though it is small, boasts great things. No human can tame it. So God puts in our mouths His body and blood to guide and steady us. He sends His Spirit, a wind that blows where it wishes, to direct our paths. He preaches with words potent enough to create and sustain faith. You are a fig tree. You produce what God creates in you. *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me, that I may be directed in Your paths of righteousness, safe from the dangers of this world and the poison of sin. Amen.*

SAT

**SCRIPTURE: Psalm 104 – Christians see more than a Creator; We see a Father**

The Psalmist finds joy where most people find reason to complain. The Lord orders creation according to His will, and it's not fair. "You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing." But sometimes food is short, and they starve. Things aren't fair around here, but still the Psalmist finds reason to praise the Lord. God is more than a Creator. He is a Redeemer and Sanctifier. What we have in this world is only part of God's manifold work. He has ordered things in greater wisdom, not just for this life but to bring us to the next. *O LORD, work amidst Your creation and reveal Your glory, that we may turn to You as children to their Father, expecting love, mercy, and salvation. Amen.*