

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 51:15**
“O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.”

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 18-24, 2024

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

In this week's Collect of the Day we pray for God to "help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain Your heavenly glory." But how can we live this life when we are by nature like the man deaf to God's Word, which endures forever? Christ comes to us. He places His finger, the Finger of God, the Holy Spirit, into our ears. With ears open we hear the Word of God and are brought to faith. We are new creations, and we are not dependent on the carved letters of stone for salvation. Now, the Words of Jesus sustain our faith and loose our tongues to sing God's praise.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37 — Jesus opens ears and tongues

No matter how hard he tries, the deaf man cannot make himself hear. He needs a miracle. For a miracle, he needs Jesus. Sinful man has no power to make himself better or to improve himself spiritually. Only the Gospel of Christ Jesus spiritually resurrects us. He has recreated you in the waters of Holy Baptism. Jesus placed the finger of God into your ears to hear and believe the gospel and loosened your tongues to confess. He has done all things well for you. Your ears now hear His Good Friday message of salvation. Your tongues are now used to sing His praise.

Help keep our ears open to hear Your Word. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:89-96 (LAMEDH) — The Word Endures

God's Word endures forever like the heavens will endure. No matter how wild the world becomes, He is still in control. He has not left His creation nor you alone as orphans. Rather, God stands fast providing for every generation through His Word. By the same Word, He saves you from the wicked. For the wicked, like all things apart from the Word, no matter how perfect they may be, are temporary. God's Word makes something eternal and by it we are forgiven and made new.

Lord, help us meditate correctly upon Your enduring Word. Amen.

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Old vs New

Old Covenant, New Covenant. Both are important. Yet, the Gospel is greater than the Law. For by the Gospel, we are saved. The Law shows our need for salvation. The Law can never provide salvation. No Christian is reborn upon Sinai's "carved letters of stone." We still need these words of Law to crush us of our sins and reveal our need for a Savior. Then, hearing that our sins have been nailed to the Good Friday cross of Jesus, we have forgiveness and life. We are reborn in the One who rose and conquered death for us.

Lord, remind us that we are saved by Christ keeping the Law for us. Amen.

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 29:18, 19 — Words of a Book

What words will the deaf hear? Not ordinary words. Rather, the words of a book — the words of the Prophet. God grants hearing to perceive His message. The eyes of our hearts will not be in gloom and darkness but will see the incomparable beauty of the Messiah. In Jesus, the Prophet, the Messiah, all sins and defects caused by sin are removed. The beggars of salvation know with the sight of faith that they will see Jesus face to face.

Open our ears to hear the Words of Your Book. Amen.

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:31-42 Blasphemy against the Spirit.

Blasphemy, the malicious slander against another, will be forgiven because of the blood of Jesus. The blasphemy against the Spirit, the rejecting the Great Good News of Salvation after one has received it, will not. It is to intentionally harden one's ears to the preaching of the Spirit. This sin manifests by withholding forgiveness from others. This is despising the Spirit of mercy and peace who teaches that God wants all to hear and be saved. Therefore, we should pray the Spirit grants us strength and joy to free the burdens of others even as we hear we have been freed by grace.

Help us forgive as we have been forgiven. Amen.

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 3:1-12 Tongues need taming

How can I control my tongue? It acts as if it has a mind of its own. We use our tongues to hurt and harm, to spread rumors, slander, and kill. Then the Holy Spirit comes to us daily so that a new man in Christ may emerge. The Holy Spirit re-enlivens our tongues and uses them for His purpose — the proclaiming of His Word to pray, praise, give thanks, confess our sins, and forgive the sins of others. Instead of hurting our neighbors, we bless them with the good news.

Lord, our tongues have minds of their own. Help us control them and use them for Your praise. Amen.

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22:24-30 Who is the Greatest

The question of who is greater is something unbelievers argue over. In the Church, we should be occupied with the question of service. Jesus served. How can we likewise be of service? First, we receive. After receiving then know what it means to serve others. What do we receive? The forgiveness of sins in the very body and blood of Jesus in His Supper. He reclines with us. He serves us. He strengthens us so we can imitate Him and serve others as He has served us.

Your greatness is seen in humbleness. Help us be humble as You are humble. Amen.

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