

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 **Isaiah 29:18**

“In that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.”

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

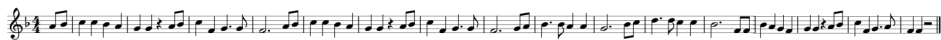
8 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

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



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| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</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.

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

“No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit.” Our faith comes from God. “The Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel.” God has invaded us. His Spirit, working through the living Word, has entered our ears and opened our hearts and minds to receive the gifts of our Lord. Just as the deaf and the blind can do nothing to restore their senses, we can do nothing to restore our souls. We thank God for the work of His Son, credited to us through the merciful action of His Spirit, and we pray that he might use even us to speak His Word of Truth that the ears of the world may be opened to receive the riches of His Kingdom.

SUN

SCRIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37 “Be Opened.”

A deaf man with a speech impediment is brought to Jesus. Jesus touches the man’s tongue and speaks one word, “ephphatha,” meaning “be opened.” The man’s ears are opened, his tongue released, and he spoke plainly. Consequently, “ephphatha” was a word used in early baptismal services signifying that the Holy Spirit was at work opening the ears of the baptized to the saving message of the Gospel. Indeed, the deaf man was “brought” to Jesus. So we bring our little ones, who depend upon us, to the baptismal font where Jesus touches them, even as He has touched us, opening our ears to receive His life-saving gifts.

Heavenly Father, we pray that all might be brought to You that the ears of the world be opened to the joy of Your salvation. Amen.

MON

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 119:89-96 (LAMEDH) “I am Yours, Save Me.”

When Martin Luther was in great distress, his father-confessor gave him these words to pray—“I am Yours, save me.” These words bring comfort because they remind us that we are not our own. We were bought with a price, ransomed by the blood of the Son. It’s truly the Lord who holds the world and us too. The earth stands fast for the Lord is faithful. By the precepts, that is, the command of the Lord, we are given life. It’s all gift! We are the creation and possession of our Lord. He is faithful and He will deliver us from every evil. Still, we are quick to forget and too often rely on our own reason and strength, so we pray: *Heavenly Father, when our reason and strength fail us may Your Holy Spirit comfort us with the Truth—I am Yours. You have saved me. Amen.*

TUE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 “Our Sufficiency is from God.”

Self-sufficiency is hot trend. Many do not like the idea of relying on others. When things are going well, we can easily become proud of our abilities and forget that our abilities are gifts from God. Our sufficiency in both temporal and eternal matters comes not from ourselves; it is from God. No matter how hard we might try, our efforts to please God are insufficient, “for the letter kills.” Our sufficiency, our value, our life, is given us by the Spirit of God. The Spirit opens our ears to hear and understand that our competence and sufficiency comes from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord, and is given to us as a gift. *Lord, grant me the humility to confess that my sufficiency comes not from within but is a gift from You. Amen.*

WED

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 29:18, 19 “In that Day, the Deaf Shall Hear.”

“In that day the deaf shall hear...and the eyes of the blind shall see.” The deaf and the blind understand that there is nothing that they can do to recover their lost senses, therefore someone or something must be coming that can. Isaiah gives a clue, “the meek shall obtain fresh joy in the Lord.” The day of exultation is the Day of the Lord. Sure enough, when John the Baptist was wasting away in prison wondering if Jesus was really the Lord, the source of fresh joy, Jesus, sent back word to John which included these verses from Isaiah. *Heavenly Father, may Your Holy Spirit deliver unto us, as He did to John, the words of fulfillment that open our eyes and set us free, that we might obtain fresh joy in You. Amen.*

THU

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 12:31-42 Blasphemy—Forgivable or Unforgivable?

The penalty for blasphemy against God was death. This was the accusation that led to Jesus’ crucifixion. Jesus spent “three days and three nights in the heart of the earth” that every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people. But wait. There’s seems to be an exception—“blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.” This single verse produces a lot of hand wringing. Have I committed the unforgiveable sin? To speak against the Holy Spirit is to assign to God the work of Satan. The accusation of the scribes, “He is possessed by Beelzebul,” would certainly qualify. *Heavenly Father, by the power of Your Spirit, quiet my soul and protect me from the Evil One, that I may rest secure in the forgiveness of my sins through Christ Jesus, my Lord. Amen.*

FRI

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

The quest for greatness is age-old. How is greatness measured? One way to measure greatness is to consider how much service is rendered to you. If you are in a position to exercise lordship you must be pretty great. Jesus counters this mindset, and says to His disciples, “not so with you.” In the kingdom of God, the tables are turned. The one who serves is the greatest. Jesus, Himself, demonstrates the order, “I am among you as One Who serves.” The King of Creation laid down His life that we may have life. Jesus humbled Himself unto death on a cross and was lifted to the right hand of God—the greatest possible honor. *Lord, enable us to follow Your humble example and give of ourselves, as You have given Your life for us, to the glory of God, the Father. Amen.*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 104 “O Lord My God, You are Very Great!”

Most talk of creation occurs without mention of the Creator. It is said that over millions and millions of years mountains and valleys and the creatures that inhabit them, including us, came to be through happenstance for no apparent reason or purpose. This view is hopeless, meaningless, and untrue. The truth is glorious! God brought forth all of creation according to His good pleasure. Everything works together to serve His purpose. The psalmist surveys creation and praises God for His splendor and majesty. What a beautiful gift! *Heavenly Father, by the power of Your Spirit, loose our tongues that we may join the psalmist in proclaiming the truth that the earth and everything in it is created and sustained by the power of Your hand. Praise the Lord! Amen.*

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