

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 104:1

"Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord My God, you are very great!"

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 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.



Around the Word Devotions + August 23-29, 2026

"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 23-29, 2026

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 Making Us Hear and Speak

Jesus heals the lame, the blind, and the sick. He makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak. His Word that is heard also brings the faith that saves (Romans 10:17). His Spirit is not separated from His Word, but comes with His Word and brings about the glorious mystery of faith. Jesus does not heal in order to receive attention (Mark 7:36). Jesus heals so that faith would spread, so that salvation would be wrought by the Word He speaks and the Spirit He gives. This salvation comes to us at so great a cost: the body and blood of Him who died on the cross and gives His Spirit in His Word. Our ears are opened to hear His truth, and to speak His praise, to the glory of His name. *Jesus, continue causing us to hear Your Word and speak by Your Spirit. Amen.*

MON

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

The Word of the Lord is a forever Word. It does not pass away. It does not get outdated. It does not change. Both the world and man do change. Cultures shift and sway. Man is like a flower that grows and then fades away, like a sand foundation that cannot stand, nor endure. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides (v. 90). The Word of the Lord, whether it condemns our sins and kills our pride, or lifts us up in salvation, is our only sure and certain hope, that which we are called to love. "Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction" (v. 92).

His precepts have given us life. *Lord, keep us in the love of Your word of condemnation and Your word of forgiveness. Amen.*

TUE

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

Self-sufficiency is a 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 Israel Restored

Isaiah 29 describes Jerusalem in full rebellion against God. As result, they are surrounded and besieged. Nevertheless, they are deaf to the Word and walk in spiritual blindness. God's Word of judgment is not the final Word for them. In fact, in verse 14 God says, "I will again do wonderful things with this people." We see this in our reading where the Lord will redeem and restore His people. They will hear the Words of a Book, which are ancient promises of deliverance from sin. Then they will see. The Lord will restore their joy. They will exult in the Holy One of Israel.

Lord, we rejoice in the words of Your Book, for You have opened our ears and eyes! Amen.

THU

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

Sinners against the Spirit is willful rejection of the saving gift of faith. Can you tell if a person has committed this sin? We can't see the heart, but we know the tree based on its fruit. Blasphemy is openly denying God, His Son, and rejecting His gifts. Such persons reject the sign of Jonah, Jesus dying and rising again on Easter. To die in this sin is eternal death. Therefore, pray for your brothers and sisters while there is yet time. Even blasphemers like Simon Peter and Saul were restored. Though they sinned against the Son of Man for a time, when the Spirit returned to work faith in their hearts, they received him with humble joy. *Lord, keep us steadfast in faith. Amen*

FRI

SCRIPTURE: James 3:1-12 Redeemed Tongues

Tongues are dangerous things. James says, "So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things." "It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison." "From the same mouth come blessing and cursing." God be praised that our tongues were bought with a price. They were redeemed and claimed by Jesus for His purposes. He who used the tongue to proclaim that "It is finished!" has claimed your tongue to cry out "Amen!" That's why and how we can use our tongues to call upon God "in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks" (Small Catechism 2nd Commandment). *Keep me from saying words that later need recalling; guard me lest idle speech may from my lips be falling; but when within my place I must and ought to speak, then to my words give grace lest I offend the weak. Amen. (LSB 766 st 3)*

SAT

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 104 Glory and Word

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.*

To support the work of these devotions please visit www.whatdoesthismean.org/support

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal. Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email aroundtheworddevotions@gmail.com. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Thank you to sanctus.org and lutheran-hymnal.com for the Collects and Hymns. This week's authors are Pastor Cundiff, Pastor Grieve, Pastor Maanum, and Pastor Rasmussen.