

***Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
Arvada, Colorado  
Sunday Family Devotion in Absence  
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity - August 30, 2020  
The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH)***

**OPENING HYMN** *TLH 30 “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”*

**INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

**INTROIT** *Psalm 70:1-2, 4a, 5b*

Make haste, O God, to deliver me!

O LORD, make haste to help me!

Let them be put to shame and confusion  
who seek my life!

Let them be turned back  
and brought to dishonor who desire my hurt!

May all who seek you rejoice  
and be glad in you!

You are my help and my deliverer;  
O LORD, do not delay!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Almighty and merciful God, by Your gift alone Your faithful people render true and laudable service. Help us steadfastly to live in this life according to Your promises and finally attain 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.

**OLD TESTAMENT** *Isaiah 29:17-24*

<sup>17</sup> Is it not yet a very little while until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest? <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD, and the poor among mankind shall exult in the Holy One of Israel. <sup>20</sup> For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off, <sup>21</sup> who by a word make a man out to be an offender, and lay a snare for him who reproves in the gate, and with an empty plea turn aside him who is in the right. <sup>22</sup> Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: “Jacob shall no more be ashamed, no more shall his face grow pale. <sup>23</sup> For when he sees his children, the work of my hands, in his midst, they will sanctify my name; they will sanctify the Holy One of Jacob and will stand in awe of the

God of Israel. <sup>24</sup> And those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding, and those who murmur will accept instruction.” (ESV)

**GRADUAL** *Psalm 34:1-2*

I will bless the LORD at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.  
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;  
let the humble hear and be glad.

**EPISTLE** *Romans 10:9-17*

<sup>9</sup> If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. <sup>11</sup> For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” <sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. (ESV)

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Mark 7:31-37*

<sup>31</sup> Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. <sup>34</sup> And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” <sup>35</sup> And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. <sup>36</sup> And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. <sup>37</sup> And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” (ESV)

**SERMON HYMN** *TLH 364 “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”*

**SERMON**

The theme of the readings for today is about the importance of hearing and speaking, yes, physical hearing and speaking, but more importantly Spiritual hearing and Spiritual speaking or confessing. In anticipation of the promised Messiah, the Old Testament for today mentions the deaf being able to hear “the words of the scroll,” God’s Word. Then, the Gospel reading tells of one of the fulfillments of the Old Testament prophecy when Jesus, the Messiah, healed a deaf and mute man. In the Epistle reading, St. Paul gives a wonderful exposition of the relation of hearing the Word of Christ resulting in our justification and the confession of Jesus as Lord unto salvation. There is an inseparable connection between hearing the Gospel of Christ and the faith created and sustained in us by the Holy Spirit. There is also an interconnection between speaking or confessing the Christian faith from a believing heart and our salvation. As Paul says,

“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” And the Lord “richly blesses those who call on him.”

In the Gospel reading, we see a type of the Church and Christian people working on behalf of other people. A man is in need of healing. People bring him to Jesus and beg Jesus to heal him; they call on his name and ask for his blessing. In his own time and in his own way, which is different from the way the people expected it to happen, Jesus heals the man so he can both hear and speak. Overwhelmed with gratitude and amazement, the people speak of Jesus’ help and confess, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” As Christian people, we bring people in need to Jesus both physically as well as Spiritually through our prayers. We beg our Lord to help our family, our friends, our coworkers, and others, especially those who are Spiritually deaf to God’s Word and who do not confess him as their Lord. We request our Savior to bless our fellow Christians, especially the members of Risen Christ Lutheran Church, in their physical, mental, emotional, and Spiritual lives. Then seeing our Lord’s blessing in people’s lives, especially for their justification and salvation, we are overwhelmed with gratitude and amazement; and we confess the greatness of God’s love to each other in the Divine Service and to others with whom we interact.

Dear friends in Christ, you believe and are justified. You have a right relationship, a communion relationship, in which you are now one with God the Father in Christ the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the Word of Christ, the Holy Spirit has created faith in your heart to receive from the heavenly Father all that he bestows upon you through your Baptism, Absolution, and Holy Communion, namely, remission of your sins and eternal life. God has opened the ears of your heart to hear his powerful Word and to believe it; and he has opened your mouth to confess his name both to your fellow Christians and to those who do not yet know him. Jesus says, “If you confess me before men, I will confess you before my Father who is in heaven (Mt 10:32).” Are there people that you know who are in desperate need of God’s help? I’m sure there is someone. Wouldn’t it be great to see the Lord’s blessing in their lives and to be able to rejoice with them together in his presence both now in the Divine Service and hereafter for all eternity? Our Father has done everything good for us in Christ by the Holy Spirit. Let us love and serve others in a similar way to how God has loved and served us. Amen!

## **NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism

for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER HYMN** *TLH 243 “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”*

**COLLECT FOR THE WORD**

Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**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.

**BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace. Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN** *TLH 39 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** 2 Chronicles 28:8-15; Galatians 3:15-22; Luke 10:23-37.

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