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THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

*Daily Devotion at Zion + February 2023 AD + **Epiphany/Transfiguration***

Reading Out Loud

“Faith comes by hearing” (Romans 10:17). So wrote St. Paul, in whose time communication came primarily through the spoken word. By speaking the Word to one another, ancient people shared the message that creates faith.

Reading to one’s self, quietly in one’s own head, was probably rare, perhaps because few people owned personal copies of books or texts. More commonly, texts were held as family or communal property, and someone read aloud to others. St. Augustine, living around 400 A.D., suggests in his *Confessions* that the people of his time considered it rude for someone to read quietly to himself if others were present.

God has no particular rules for this sort of thing. Read out loud, read to yourself—it’s all good! Yet we should not overlook the benefits of reading out loud. At the least, reading aloud can invite others to gather around the Word. Also, we sometimes hear a text differently when it’s read to us (even by our own voice!) than when we read it in our minds. Could there be something to *hearing* the Word that strikes our hearts more effectively?

In your devotion, consider reading the text aloud. Whether by yourself or with someone else, you will share in the tradition of all who have found that “faith comes by hearing.”

About the Cover Art

Artist Elizabeth Wang gave this image the title, “Jesus Heals the Deaf Man as He Raises His Eyes to Heaven in Prayer,” recalling our Lord’s healing of a deaf and mute man in Mark 7:31-37. His touch of the man in both ears and mouth testify to the intimate care our Savior has for the suffering. The senses all matter to Him, as He is their Creator, and He both died and lives for their restoration. Christian devotion confesses this grace by appealing to all the human senses in liturgical prayer and worship.

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 4 (January 29)

S Isaiah 51:9-16
Hebrews 11:8-16
John 7:14-31

M Isaiah 51:17-23
Galatians 4:1-11
Mark 7:24-37

T Isaiah 52:1-12
Galatians 4:12-20
Mark 8:1-10

W Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Galatians 4:21-31
Mark 8:11-26

Th Isaiah 54:1-17
Galatians 5:1-15
Mark 8:27—9:1

F Isaiah 55:1-13
Galatians 5:16-24
Mark 9:2-13

Sa Isaiah 56:1-8
Galatians 5:24—6:10
Mark 9:14-29

These readings correspond to pages 317—348 in Volume I of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 5 (February 5)

S Isaiah 57:1-13
Hebrews 12:1-6
John 7:37-46

M Isaiah 57:14-21
Galatians 6:11-18
Mark 9:30-41

T Isaiah 58:1-12
2 Timothy 1:1-14
Mark 9:42-50

W Isaiah 59:1-21
2 Timothy 1:15—2:13
Mark 10:1-16

Th Isaiah 60:1-22
2 Timothy 2:14-26
Mark 10:17-31

F Isaiah 61:1-9
2 Timothy 3:1-17
Mark 10:32-45

Sa Isaiah 61:10—62:5
2 Timothy 4:1-8
Mark 10:46-52

These readings correspond to pages 349—383 in Volume I of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Epiphany 6 (February 12)

S Isaiah 62:6-12 1 John 2:3-11 John 8:12-19	Th Isaiah 65:1-12 1 Timothy 4:1-16 Mark 12:13-27
M Isaiah 63:1-6 1 Timothy 1:1-17 Mark 11:1-11	F Isaiah 65:17-25 1 Timothy 5:1-25 Mark 12:28-34
T Isaiah 63:7-14 1 Timothy 1:18—2:15 Mark 11:12-26	Sa Isaiah 66:1-6 1 Timothy 6:1-21 Mark 12:35-44
W Isaiah 63:15—64:9 1 Timothy 3:1-16 Mark 11:27—12:12	<i>These readings correspond to pages 383—416 in Volume I of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>

Daily Readings for the Week of The Transfiguration of our Lord (February 19)

S Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 2 Corinthians 3:1-9 John 12:27-36a	Th Deuteronomy 7:6-11 Titus 1:1-16 John 1:29-34
M Deuteronomy 6:1-15 Hebrews 1:1-14 John 1:1-18	F Deuteronomy 7:12-16 Titus 2:1-15 John 1:35-42
T Deuteronomy 6:16-25 Hebrews 2:1-10 John 1:19-28	Sa Deuteronomy 7:17-26 Titus 3:1-15 John 1:43-51
W Jonah 3:1—4:11 Hebrews 12:1-14 Luke 18:9-14	<i>These readings correspond to pages 474—486 (S—T) & pages 771—787 (W—Sa) in Volume I of <u>For All the Saints</u>.</i>