PRAY THE PSALM OF THE WEEK  Psalm 70:1-2, 4, 5

Make haste, O God, to deliver me!*  
Make haste to help me, O Lord!  
Let them be ashamed and confounded*  
who seek my life.  
Let them be turned back and confused*  
who desire 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 deliverer; O Lord, do not delay.

BLESS YOURSELF WITH THE HOLY CROSS AND SAY:
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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.

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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.

PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER
Morning: 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.

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.

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 unforgivable 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.

Around the Word Devotions are produced by Around the Word Journal and are brought to you by Worldview Everlasting (www.worldvieweverlasting.com). Visit www.whatdoesthismean.org to sign up for these free devotions. These devotions are free for individual and family use. Questions? Please email bryan@aroundthewordjournal.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 author is Rev. Matthew Rasmussen, pastor of Community Lutheran Church, in South Burlington, Vermont. He and his wife, Adrienne, are blessed to have been given two daughters, Makenna and Chloe.