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

SAY THE APOSTLES’ CREED
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

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.

SING OR SAY THE HYMN OF THE WEEK TLH 103
Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above

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: **He is Risen to Carry the Prayers of Believers to God**

Rogate is the Sunday of prayer. Prayer marked the disciples’ days before the ascension and especially after, awaiting the Holy Spirit’s miraculous advent on Pentecost. It marks our entire existence as we stand between Christ’s first and second coming. It is the exercise of faith. Our conviction—that Jesus lives, that He has destroyed our sin and death, that He has reconciled us to a gracious Father—this is the source of our prayers. The very same Jesus has told us to pray and promised that we will be heard. In His Name, then, through the Spirit’s intercession, we will call to our Father.

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**SCRIEPTURE:** John 16:23-30—**In Jesus’ Name**

There will be a day when we no longer ask for anything. Until that day, we ask for everything. We pray. The promise Jesus gives is that the Father listens. The Father loves us because we have loved and believed in Christ His Son, who came into this world at His incarnation and has gone to Him as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. It is through Jesus, then, that we ask confidently, that is, pray to the Father. The Name of Jesus is the Name of salvation and life. It is the Name of confidence, for by this Name we are saved. *Father, hear me for the sake of Jesus, Your Son, my Lord. Amen.*

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**SCRIEPTURE:** Psalm 84—**The Way to God**

Have the way to Zion in your heart. The Psalmist means to know and remember fondly the walk up to the Temple in Jerusalem, the house of God, where the Lord meets graciously with His people. When we ask God to give ear to our prayer, we say just what David did: “Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your Anointed.” The anointed one is the Christ, Jesus our Savior. His righteousness grants us access to God. Whenever we pray to God, we ask it in Christ’s Name, and thus know we are heard. *Look upon Christ, Lord, for He has redeemed us, and in Him we trust. Amen.*

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**SCRIEPTURE:** James 1:22-27—**Prayers and Conviction**

We are not saved for our prayers. Some Christians boast that they pray every day. That is certainly great. But the person who prays one way and lives another is a fool. It is the same as the person who hears God’s Word idly without any conviction. When one is convicted by God’s Word—of sin, of Christ’s righteousness, and of the Devil’s defeat—they make a beginning in acting accordingly. Faith convicts the whole life, not only the ears or the mind or the desires a person pours out to God. Heart, tongue, and hand should act in harmony. *Lord, make me effective for the good of my neighbor. Amen.*

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**SCRIEPTURE:** Romans 8:24-28—**The Good Kind of Groaning**

Of course you don’t know what or how to pray. Who knows what is best but God? What a comfort, then, that the Holy Spirit—who has access to the inner council of the Holy Trinity—intercedes for us and prays always according to God’s perfect will! This gives us courage to offer our prayers, weak as they may be. It gives us confidence that we may add “Amen” to them, since the Spirit, as the apostles preached, it was the Lord—not them—who worked with them and confirmed their message. Ascension is not the feast of our Lord’s absence from us: it is the celebration of His great coronation and exaltation at the right hand of God’s majesty. Christ, risen as a man, is elevated to authority with the Father. As a result, He is able to be with His Church in all places. His presence is not seen as it was in Galilee; it is heard in His Word and tasted in His Supper. *Ascended Lord, rule Your Church! Amen.*

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**SCRIEPTURE:** Psalm 124—**An Impossible “If”**

Everyone must join in this Psalm. Do you see it? “Let Israel now say...” Imagine all of the things that could have happened to you. Usually we imagine, instead, all of the things that might or will happen to us. But the Psalm is a sort of correction for our worry. It places all of these under that ridiculous category, “if the Lord were not on our side.” If the Lord didn’t work all things together for our good. There is no such “if.” He made heaven and earth. He redeemed us. Christ is proof that He is on our side. He is our Help, let all now say it. *Blessed be Your Name, Lord, for You have spared us. Amen.*