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.

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.

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 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.
THEME OF THE WEEK: The Hearing and Speaking Wrought by the Spirit

God works among His creation to work salvation. He does not sit in the heavens divorced from what He made. He sends His incarnate Son to reveal His glory on the cross. He physically rises from the dead, destroying death. He sends the Spirit to work through tangible means among His creation to save. Each of these things has a cost He paid on the cross for us. Christians look beyond creation to see why God works within it, to give forgiveness, life, and salvation to you. Seeing this greater truth, we approach this creation in greater expectation, knowing it is not the end, but rather the place God works to bring us to the true prize.

SCORIPTURE: Mark 7:31-37 It's going to be okay because Jesus died and rose for you

We say “it’s going to be okay” a lot. We mean well, but we know it doesn’t make people feel better. Everything wrong here is too visible. We ascribe it to see why God works within it, to give forgiveness, life, and salvation to you. See-things has a cost He paid on the cross for us. Christians look beyond creation to see why God works within it, to give forgiveness, life, and salvation to you. Lord Jesus, point us to Your works, that we poor sinners might find joy in the wealth of Your mercy. Amen.

SCORIPTURE: Matthew 12:31-42 You are what God has made you: Holy

If God makes you a good tree, you'll bear good fruit. Holiness does what it says. You are what the Spirit has made you: Baptized. Holy. The sign of Jonah isn't dependent on Jonah's heart, but God's mercy. He insisted Jonah preach so that Nineveh would be made holy. It took three days in the belly of the fish to accomplish it, but God's word accomplishes what it demands. It took three days in the grave, but God works holiness in you that produces the fruit necessary to justify and sanctify you. You receive holiness in Word and Sacrament, so you are holy. O LORD, send us Your Holy Spirit in Your Word and Sacraments, that we may be made to be the good trees, justified by the death and resurrection of the new Jonah, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SCORIPTURE: Psalm 19:89-96 (LAMEDH) God insists on your salvation

"If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished." That same Law establishes the earth and holds it fast. That same Law is a faithfulness that endures to all generations. We don't mingle Law and Gospel. We recognize that God insists things be a certain way. That is a comfort to us. God gave the Law. It insists upon perfection. The same God fulfills it for you. The LORD says, "Thou shalt endure to all generations." The earth shall stand fast. We shall be saved. This word is firmly fixed in the heavens. God insists that you live, and His will is done. O LORD, fix our eyes upon Your perfect word, which endures to all generations, and give us life. Amen.

SCORIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11 Glory comes from God

Glory always comes from God, not you. When you insist glory comes from your works, the Law kills. We can't fulfill the Law. The Law kills, but the Spirit gives life. This is God's will. The law of Moses is fulfilled in Jesus. The glory of the Law paints a picture of Jesus. He is the glory behind the Law, and the hope of salvation for Moses and the people of the old ministry. They looked forward to what we see fulfilled. God was glorified on a cross for sinners. Behold the greater glory, Jesus crucified for you. Fix our eyes upon the ministry of righteousness, O LORD, that we may find our sufficiency in You. Amen.

SCORIPTURE: James 3:1-12 We are little boats

We are little boats in a big ocean. We get tossed about. We are wild horses, so we buck, we stumble, and we sin. Despite our size, we work great evil. The tongue, though it is small, boasts great things. No human can tame it. So God puts in our mouths His body and blood to guide and steady us. He sends His Spirit, a wind that blows where it wishes, to direct our paths. He preaches with words potent enough to create and sustain faith. You are a fig tree. You produce what God creates in you. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me, that I may be directed in Your paths of righteousness, safe from the dangers of this world and the poison of sin. Amen.

SCORIPTURE: Psalm 104 – Christians see more than a Creator; We see a Father

The Psalmist finds joy where most people find reason to complain. The Lord orders creation according to His will, and it's not fair. “You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.” But sometimes food is short, and they starve. Things aren't fair around here, but still the Psalmist finds reason to praise the Lord. God is more than a Creator. He is a Redeemer and Sanctifier. What we have in this world is only part of God's manifold work. He has ordered things in greater wisdom, not just for this life but to bring us to the next. O LORD, work amidst Your creation and reveal Your glory, that we may turn to You as children to their Father, expecting love, mercy, and salvation. Amen.