



## Anglican Prayer Beads

### *A Form of Contemplative Prayer*<sup>1</sup>

Anglican Prayer Beads are a relatively new form of prayer, blending the Orthodox Jesus Prayer Rope and the Roman Catholic Rosary. The thirty-three bead design was created by the Rev. Lynn Bauman in the mid-1980s, through the prayerful exploration and discovery of a contemplative prayer group.

The use of the rosary or prayer beads helps to bring us into contemplative or meditative prayer—really thinking about and being mindful of praying, of being in the presence of God—by use of mind, body, and spirit. The touching of the fingers on each successive bead is an aid in keeping our mind from wandering, and the rhythm of the prayers leads us more readily into stillness.



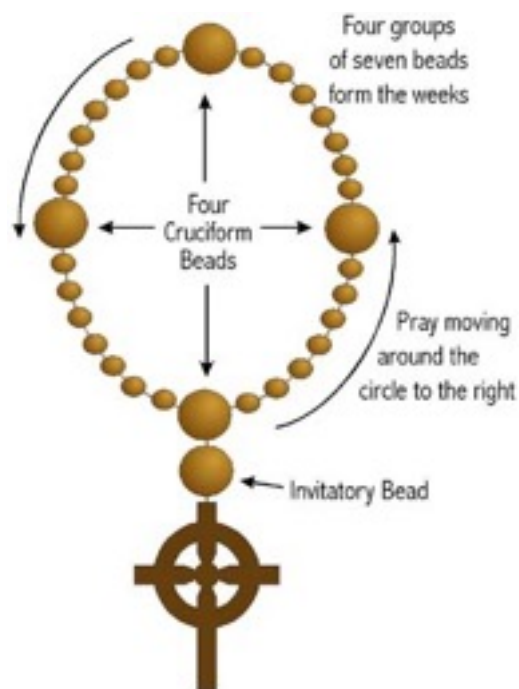
*Since the earliest of times,  
people have used pebbles or a string of knots or beads  
on a cord to keep track of prayers offered to God.  
Virtually every major religious tradition in the world  
uses some form of prayer beads.*

<sup>1</sup> From <http://www.kingofpeace.org/prayerbeads.htm>

### Symbolism of the Beads

The configuration of the Anglican Prayer Beads relate contemplative prayer using the Rosary to many levels of traditional Christian symbolism. Contemplative prayer is enriched by these symbols whose purpose is always to focus and concentrate attention, allowing the one who prays to move more swiftly into the Presence of God.

The prayer beads are made up of twenty-eight beads divided into four groups of seven called weeks. In the Judeo-Christian tradition the number seven represents spiritual perfection and completion. Between each week is a single bead, called a cruciform bead as the four beads form a cross. The invitatory bead between the cross and the wheel of beads brings the total to thirty-three, the number of years in Jesus' earthly life.



### Praying with the beads

To begin, hold the Cross and say the prayer you have assigned to it, then move to the Invitatory Bead. Then enter the circle of the prayer with the first Cruciform Bead, moving to the right, go through the first set of seven beads to the next Cruciform bead, continuing around the circle, saying the prayers for each bead.

It is suggested that you pray around the circle of the beads three times (which signifies the Trinity) in an unhurried pace, allowing the repetition to become a sort of lullaby of love and praise that enables your mind to rest and your heart to become quiet and still.

Praying through the beads three times and adding the crucifix at the beginning or the end, brings the total to one hundred, which is the total of the Orthodox Rosary. A period of silence should follow the prayer, for a time of reflection and listening. Listening is an important part of all prayer.

Begin praying the Anglican Prayer Beads by selecting the prayers you wish to use for the cross and each bead. Practice them until it is clear which prayer goes with which bead, and as far

as possible commit the prayers to memory.

Find a quiet spot and allow your body and mind to become restful and still. After a time of silence, begin praying the prayer beads at an unhurried, intentional pace. Complete the circle of the beads three times.

When you have completed the round of the prayer beads, you should end with a period of silence. This silence allows you to center your being in an extended period of silence. It also invites reflection and listening after you have invoked the Name and Presence of God.

Following are a few different prayers you may choose to pray with the beads.

In addition, Kristin M. Elliott and Betty Kay Seibt have a little book called [Holding Your Prayers in Your Hands; Praying The Anglican Rosary](#). It gives more background as well as a number of lovely prayers.

In truth, any prayer that you can divide into 7 parts (for the weeks) can be used with Anglican Prayer Beads. Adapt your favorites!

Many people make and sell Anglican Prayer Beads. They are also available through Amazon.

## Bless the Lord

### The Cross

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

### The Invitatory

O God make speed to save me (us),  
O Lord make haste to help me (us),  
Glory 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.

### The Cruciforms

Behold now, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord. You that stand in the house of the Lord, lift up your hands in the holy place and bless the Lord.

### The Weeks

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
From where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
The maker of heaven and earth.

### Closing your Prayers

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

#### **Invitatory Bead**

The Lord's Prayer

#### **The Cross**

I bless the Lord.

#### ***Or, in a group setting:***

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

## Come Lord Jesus Prayer

### The Cross

"Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."—Revelation 7:12

### The invitatory

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble."—Psalm 46:1

### The Cruciforms

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's Holy Name."—Psalm 103:1

### The Weeks

"Come Lord Jesus, draw us to yourself."—John 12:32

### Closing your Prayers

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

#### **Invitatory Bead**

The Lord's Prayer

#### **The Cross**

I bless the Lord.

#### ***Or, in a group setting:***

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

### Trisagion and Jesus Prayer

#### **The Cross**

In the Name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **The Invitatory**

O God make speed to save me (us),

O Lord make haste to help me (us),

Glory 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.

#### **The Cruciforms**

Holy God,

Holy and Mighty,

Holy Immortal One,

Have mercy upon me (us).

#### **The Weeks**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

Have mercy on me, a sinner.

***Or, in a group setting:***

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Have mercy upon us.

#### **Closing your Prayers**

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

##### **Invitatory Bead**

The Lord's Prayer

##### **The Cross**

I bless the Lord.

***Or, in a group setting:***

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

*\*Trisagion means "thrice Holy"*

## Agnus Dei Prayer

### The Cross

The Lord's Prayer

### The Invitatory

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."—Psalm 19:14

### The Cruciforms

Oh, Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world  
have mercy upon us,

Oh, Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world  
have mercy upon us,

Oh, Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world  
give us Thy Peace.

### The Weeks

Almighty and merciful Lord,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless us and keep us.

Amen.

### Closing your Prayers

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

#### Invitatory Bead

The Lord's Prayer

#### The Cross

I bless the Lord.

#### *Or, in a group setting:*

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

*\*Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God"*

## Julian of Norwich Prayer

### **The Cross**

In the Name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **The Invitatory**

O God make speed to save me (us),

O Lord make haste to help me (us),

Glory 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.

### **The Cruciforms**

God of your goodness, give me yourself,

For you are enough to me.

And I can ask for nothing less that is to your glory.

And if I ask for anything less, I shall still be in want, for only in you have I all.

### **The Weeks**

All shall be well, and all shall be well,

And all manner of things shall be well.

*Or*

*In His love He has done His works, and in His love He has made all things beneficial to us.*

### **Closing your Prayers**

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

#### **Invitatory Bead**

The Lord's Prayer

#### **The Cross**

I bless the Lord.

***Or, in a group setting:***

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.



## A Celtic Prayer

### The Cross

In the Name of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

### The Invitatory

O God make speed to save me (us),

O Lord make haste to help me (us),

Glory 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.

### The Cruciforms

Be the eye of God dwelling with me,

The foot of Christ in guidance with me,

The shower of the Spirit pouring on me,

Richly and generously

### The Weeks

*Pray each phrase on a separate bead.*

I bow before the Father who made me,

I bow before the Son who saved me,

I bow before the Spirit who guides me,

In love and adoration.

I praise the Name of the one on high.

I bow before thee Sacred Three,

The ever One, the Trinity.

### Closing your Prayers

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

#### Invitatory Bead

The Lord's Prayer

#### The Cross

I bless the Lord.

#### *Or, in a group setting:*

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God.

## Saint Patrick's Breastplate

### The Cross

I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same, the Three in One, and One in Three.  
Of whom all nature hath creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word:  
praise to the Lord of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord.

### The Invitatory

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

### The Cruciforms

I bind unto myself today  
the strong Name of the Trinity,  
by invocation of the same,  
the Three in One, and One in Three.

### The Weeks

1. I bind this day to me for ever, by power of faith, Christ's Incarnation;
2. his baptism in Jordan river;
3. his death on cross for my salvation;
4. his bursting from the spiced tomb;
5. his riding up the heavenly way;
6. his coming at the day of doom:
7. I bind unto myself today.

1. I bind unto myself the power of the great love of cherubim;
2. the sweet "Well done" in judgment hour;
3. the service of the seraphim;
4. confessors' faith, apostles' word,
5. the patriarchs' prayers, the prophets' scrolls;
6. all good deeds done unto the Lord,
7. and purity of virgin souls.

1. I bind unto myself today the virtues of the starlit heaven,
2. the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
3. the whiteness of the moon at even,
4. the flashing of the lightning free,
5. the whirling of the wind's tempestuous shocks,
6. the stable earth, the deep salt sea,
7. around the old eternal rocks.

1. I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead,
2. his eye to watch, his might to stay,
3. his ear to hearken, to my need;
4. the wisdom of my God to teach,
5. his hand to guide, his shield to ward;
6. the word of God to give me speech,
7. his heavenly host to be my guard.

### Closing your Prayers

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

#### Invitatory Bead

The Lord's Prayer

#### The Cross

I bless the Lord.

***Or, in a group setting:***  
Let us bless the Lord

### An Evening Prayer

#### **The Cross**

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

#### **The Invitatory**

Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim  
Your praise.

#### **The Cruciforms**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping;  
that awake we may watch  
with Christ, and asleep  
we may rest in peace.

#### **The Weeks**

Jesus, lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.

#### **Closing your Prayers**

*After three circuits around the prayer beads, you may finish as follows:*

##### **Invitatory Bead**

The Lord's Prayer

##### **The Cross**

I bless the Lord.

##### ***Or, in a group setting:***

Let us bless the Lord