

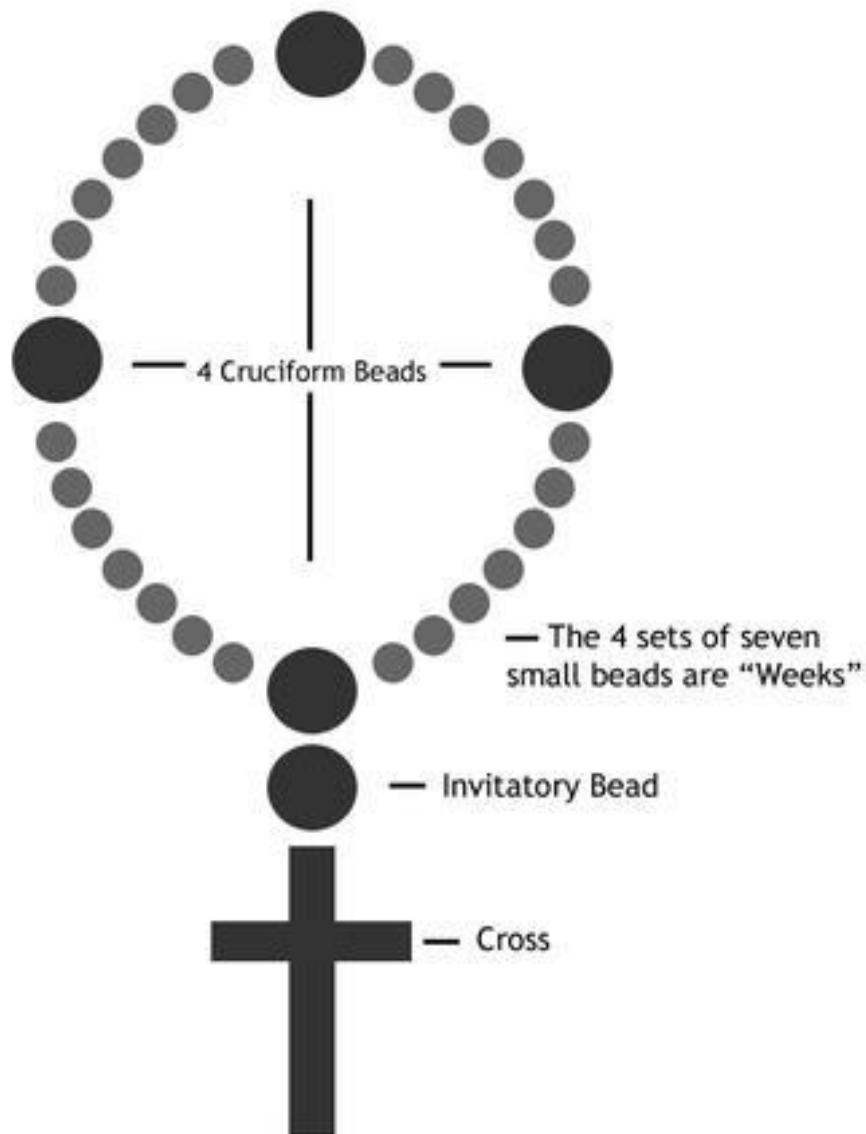


Practicing the Presence of God: Learning to Pray the Anglican Rosary

Workshop #4 - Beatitudes. Praying the Psalms as the Body of Christ. Psalm 34:1-8.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

(1 Corinthians 12:27 ESV)





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The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:2-10)

Cross

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

Invitatory / Intention

O God make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Week #1

Blessed are the poor in spirit, /
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (x7)

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:



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Week #2

Blessed are those who mourn, /
for they shall be comforted. (x7)

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Week #3

Blessed are the meek, /
for they shall inherit the earth. (x7)

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Week #4

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, /
for they shall be satisfied. (x7)

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:



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Week #1

Blessed are the merciful, /
for they shall receive mercy. (x7)

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Week #2

Blessed are the pure in heart, /
for they shall see God. (x7)

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Week #3

Blessed are the peacemakers, /
for they shall be called children of God. (x7)

Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:



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Week #4

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, /
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (x7)

Final Cruciform

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

Dismissal (on the Invitatory bead)

The Lord's Prayer

Cross

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

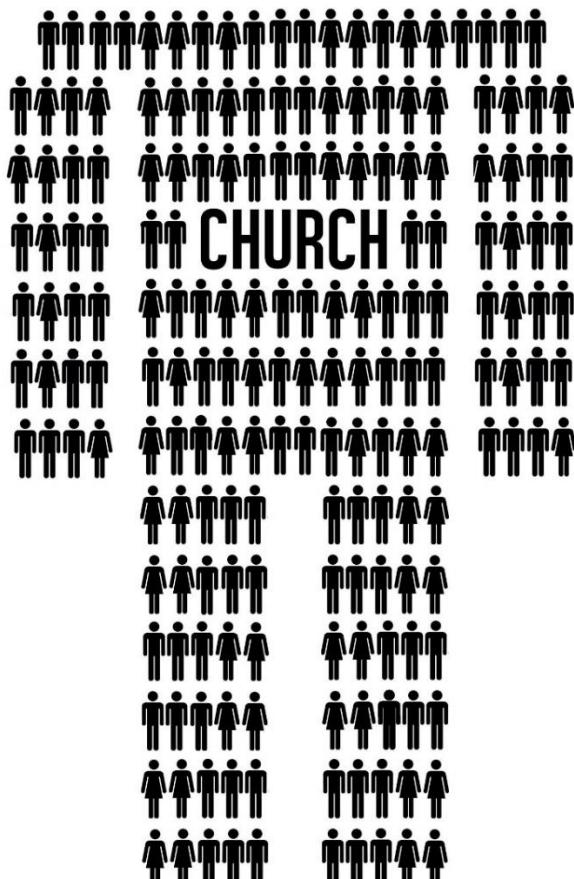
[Reflection on the past week of praying the rosary]



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ONE HEAD. ONE BODY.



And He is the Head of the body, the church. (Colossians 1:18)

There is one body and one Spirit. (Ephesians 4:4)



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Praying the Psalms as the Body of Christ

'Christ prayed the Psalms – the Christian community was early convinced that He continues praying them through us as we pray them: 'we recite this prayer of the Psalm in Him and He recites it in us.'

Eugene Peterson, Answering God: the Psalms as tools for prayer

'No greater gift could God have given to men than in making His Word, by which He created all things, their Head, and joining them to Him as His members: that the Son of God might become also the Son of man, one God with the Father, one Man with men; so that when we speak to God in prayer for mercy, we do not separate the Son from Him; and when the Body of the Son prays, it separates not its Head from itself: and it is one Saviour of His Body, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who both prays for us, and prays in us, and is prayed to by us. He prays for us, as our Priest; He prays in us, as our Head; He is prayed to by us, as our God. Let us therefore recognise in Him our words, and His words in us. [...]

He is prayed to in the form of God, in the form of a servant He prays; there the Creator, here created; assuming unchanged the creature, that it might be changed, and making us with Himself one Man, Head and Body. Therefore we pray to Him, through Him, in Him; and we speak with Him, and He speaks with us; we speak in Him, He speaks in us the prayer of this Psalm, [...] Let no one then, when he hears



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these words, say, Christ speaks not; nor again say, I speak not; nay rather, if he own himself to be in the Body of Christ, let him say both, Christ speaks, and I speak. Be thou unwilling to say anything without Him, and He says nothing without you.'

St. Augustine, Exposition on Psalm 86

Summary

We pray to Jesus because He is our God. He prays for us because He is our Priest. But what is perhaps most remarkable is that when we pray the Psalms, Jesus also prays in us as our Head.

Jesus is our spiritual Head and we are the 'living members of His mystical Body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people.' So when we pray the Psalms (the prayer book of Jesus), it is Christ our Head who gives voice to our prayers. We connect to Him in voice and spirit, His words become our words, our desires and longings become one with His, we are shaped and formed to become more like Him.



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Psalm 34:1–8

Week #1

I will bless the LORD at all times; /
his praise shall continually be in my mouth. (x7)

Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)

Week #2

My soul makes its boast in the LORD; /
let the humble hear and be glad. (x7)

Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)



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Week #3

Oh, magnify the LORD with me, /
and let us exalt his name together! (x7)

Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)

Week #4

I sought the LORD, and he answered me /
and delivered me from all my fears. (x7)

Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)

Week #1

Those who look to him are radiant, /
and their faces shall never be ashamed. (x7)



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Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)

Week #2

This poor soul cried, and was heard by the Lord, /
and was saved from every trouble. (x7)

Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)

Week #3

The angel of the LORD encamps /
around those who fear him, and delivers them. (x7)

Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)



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Week #4

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! /

Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him!

Final Cruciform

We are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter us with his presence. (from Revelation 7:15)

Dismissal (on the Invitatory bead)

Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the mystical Body of your Son, grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Cross

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.