

# *The Chaplet of the Bridegroom's Merciful Love*

To be prayed on regular Rosary beads



*“Return, return, O maid of Shulam. Return to My Merciful Love.”  
The Song of Songs 6:13*

## *Opening Prayer*

My Beloved Jesus, You are the ever-faithful and merciful Bridegroom of my soul. You look with patience and compassion upon my wandering heart and in Your Merciful Love, You call me to return again and again to the safety of Your Sacred Heart. Blessed Mary, Mother and Bride, teach me to open my desires and my weaknesses to Jesus. Help me to see temptations and even my falls and sins as opportunities to cry out for His saving hand, to receive His healing love, and to trust in His Mercy. Take me by the hand, Mother Mary, and lead me back to His Most Compassionate Heart each and every time I wander astray.  
Amen.

# *First Reflection: Tending My Garden Heart*

The Bride: “I am black but lovely... take no notice of my swarthy skin, it is the sun that has burned me. My mother’s sons turned against me, they made me look after their vineyards, had I only looked after my own.”

*The Song of Songs 1:5-6*

My Jesus, I am sorry for the times I have neglected my own heart, my spiritual needs, my inner sanctuary where You abide and wait for me. Amen.

***Mary, Unblemished Bride, teach me to trust in the  
Bridegroom’s Merciful Love. (10 times)***

The Bridegroom Responds: “Come then my love, my lovely one come. For see, winter has past, the rains are over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth.”

*The Song of Songs 2:10*

Thank You, Jesus, for Your healing gaze of love that restores the loveliness of my soul from the ugliness of my sin and neglect. Tend my garden heart, Lord. Amen.



## *Second Reflection: Staying With the Good Shepherd*

The Bride: “Tell me then, you whom my heart loves, where will you lead your flock to graze, where will you rest it at noon? That I may not wander like a vagabond beside the flocks of your companions.”

The Song of Songs 1:7

My Jesus, I am sorry for straying from Your flock and wandering after wolves disguised as shepherds. Good Shepherd, King and Bridegroom, lead my wandering heart back to You. Amen.

***Mary, Unblemished Bride, teach me to trust in the  
Bridegroom’s Merciful Love. (10 times)***

The Bridegroom Responds: “My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock, in the coverts of the cliff show Me your face, let Me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful.”

The Song of Songs 2:14

Thank You, Jesus, my rock and my salvation for opening the cleft in Your Side and drawing me into Your Merciful Heart. Amen.



# Third Reflection: Awaken My Love

The Bride: “I sleep, but my heart is awake. I hear my Beloved knocking, ‘Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove...’ I have taken off my tunic, am I to put it on again.? I have washed my feet, am I to dirty them again?”

The Song of Songs 5:2-3

My Jesus, I am sorry for making excuses and not opening the door of my heart when You knock. I realize now that to not open to You is to refuse Love and wounds Your Heart. Amen.

**Mary, Unblemished Bride, teach me to trust in the Bridegroom’s Merciful Love. (10 times)**

The Bridegroom responds: “Catch the foxes for us, the little foxes that made havoc of the vineyards, for our vineyards are in flower.”

The Song of Songs 2:15

Thank You, Jesus, for being patient with me as I learn to catch the foxes of spiritual sleepiness and apathy. I resolve to heighten my awareness of Your gentle knocking and awaken, arise, and open to You, my Beloved. Amen.



# *Fourth Reflection: The Perfect Gentleman*

The Bride: “My Beloved thrust his hand through the hole in the door; I trembled to the core of my being. Then I rose to open to my Beloved but he had turned his back and gone!  
My soul failed at his flight.”

The Song of Songs 5:4-5

My Jesus, I am sorry for the times I have taken Your Merciful Love for granted and not responded with a sincere gift of my love. Amen.

***Mary, Unblemished Bride, teach me to trust in the Bridegroom’s Merciful Love. (10 times)***

The Bridegroom Responds: “I charge you, daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles, by the hinds of the field, not to stir my love, nor rouse it, until it pleases to awake.”

The Song of Songs 3:5

Thank You, Jesus, for Your Merciful Love that never violates or forces. You are the Perfect Gentleman, always desiring the union of our hearts but waiting for me to open to You. Amen.



# *Fifth Reflection: I Am My Beloved's*

The Bride: "I sought him but did not find him, I called to him but he did not answer. The watchmen came upon me as they made their rounds in the city. They beat me, they wounded me, they took away my cloak, they who guard the ramparts."

The Song of Songs 5:7

My Jesus, I am sorry for my willfulness and obstinance that turned You away and led me into the enemy's traps. Amen.

***Mary, Unblemished Bride, teach me to trust in the  
Bridegroom's Merciful Love. (10 times)***

The Bridegroom responds: "She is a garden enclosed, my sister, my promised bride; a garden enclosed, a sealed fountain. The rarest essences are yours."

The Song of Songs 4:12

Thank You, Jesus, for Your Merciful Love, that forgives and re-creates me. In Your eyes, I am always Your Love and my heart is Your beautiful garden. I am my Beloved's and my Beloved is mine.

Amen.



# *Ending Prayer: An Act of Contrition*

My Beloved Jesus, You are my joy and my gladness and  
Your love is to be praised above wine.

You are all good and deserving of all my love;  
how right it is to love You.

Forgive me, Lord for the moments when I made pathetic  
excuses to not open the door of my heart to You;  
for the words, thoughts, deeds, and intentions that betrayed  
our love, and offended Your Heart or the hearts  
of those You entrusted to me.

I place my trust and hope in Your Merciful Love and  
leaving all my infidelities of this day in Your loving hands,  
I renew my promise to be faithful to You in all I think, say,  
and do; to submit to Your Holy Will;  
and to live our love from this moment on.

Amen.



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