

## The Lord's Prayer in Anglo Saxon and Modern English

**Dear Teachers**

**I hope your pupils enjoy singing my version of the Lord's Prayer as much as I've enjoyed writing it.**

The Lord's Prayer is one of the first things ever written down in the English language (Anglo Saxon is the earliest version of English). It is therefore an important record of how the language has developed since the Angles, Saxons and Jutes (and a few others!) turned up on the eastern shores of Britain more than a millenia ago with mischief on their minds...

Even if you're not much of a musician, you and your class can learn how to sing this piece using my six video tutorials. Each video is around 15 minutes in length and you will probably need to repeat most videos at least once when you are planning how much class time to schedule.

The aim is for everyone to learn everything (first 4 videos) and then split into two groups with half singing the Anglo Saxon (Old English) and the other half singing the modern English version (final two videos). I would recommend involving more than one class so there are plenty of voices to cover everything.

I'm not going to tell you what age this piece is for, as you will know your children better than I. However, I will suggest that this is probably a project for the older end of Primary School.

I've made the videos as if I'm there rehearsing with the children.

As a 'rule of thumb', don't move on to the next video until you feel the class is really familiar with what they've done so far. Fifteen minutes is probably as much as you will want to do at a time to get the best out of the children.

In the online folder you'll also find pdfs of the sheet music (piano/vocal). Even if you don't read music, you'll still find it useful to help with the words.

Finally, there are two audio recordings. One is a full demo with the piano part and me singing both parts over the top. There's also a solo piano version which makes an excellent backing for performance.

Of course, if you're lucky enough to have a good pianist and choir leader in school, feel free to simply use the music I've provided as a starting point for rehearsals.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop me a line at [timriley66@gmail.com](mailto:timriley66@gmail.com) I'll be more than willing to answer queries or give you a call back to chat through things.

Kind regards

Tim Riley  
MA (Scriptwriting)  
AC ABRSMS (Piano)

P.S. If you would like to learn a little more about the evolution of the English Language in a Welsh/British context can I recommend listening to (and perhaps learning!) my song, 'We Are What We Speak'. This song covers the importance of German and French in the language we speak today and also makes substantial reference to Welsh and the Celtic languages and their importance. All this in a three minute song!

You'll find it here [We Are What We Speak - Online Resources](#)

### **Video Tutorials List (each around 15 minutes in length).**

1. Learn the Anglo Saxon words and melody. Part A
2. Learn the Anglo Saxon words and melody. Part B
3. Learn the Modern English words and melody on the second verse.
4. Sing through Anglo Saxon and then English on the second verse including the English for the ending.
5. With the class/groups split I'll show them how to split the repeat section so that the Anglo Saxon interweaves with the Modern English (a singer and myself)
6. Continuing to bring the whole thing together and adding on the final section, 'Forever and ever Amen' (a singer and myself)