

2026-03-15 Hymn: God of Mercy and Compassion

The words for today's hymn were written by Father Edmund Vaughan, a member of the Congregatio Sanctissimi Redemptoris (the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer). Vaughan spent his life as a missionary in England, Scotland, Australia, and New Zealand. We will be listening to a setting of his hymn text published in 1854, "God of mercy and compassion."

Verse one has allusions to the parable about the prodigal son, who returned to his father and said, "I am no longer worthy to be called your son," words sometimes heard during the Lenten season.

Verse two takes us into the world of believers who worry that their misdeeds deserve serious punishment, and in verse three, like the prodigal son, we have no "right and claim to Heav'n above". Verse four offers the solution: Salvation through the death of our Saviour on the cross of Calvary.

I have chosen this recording because we seldom hear any music composed in Ghana. Not only will we hear this sung by wonderful soloists and choir in Ghana, but the last two verses are sung to music by the Ghanaian composer, Isaac Daniel Riverson.

2026-03-15 Meditation for the Fourth Sunday of Lent is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

Theme song (7th-century hymn for Advent):

Creator of the stars of night
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call

In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe

God of Mercy and Compassion

Lyrics: Father Edmund Vaughan, C.S.S.R. (1827-1908; pub. 1854)
Music: Giovanni Pergolesi (1710-1736) and Isaac Daniel Riverson (1901-1967)
Artists: Harmonious Chorale Ghana
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dd8ddCFmyNc&list=RDdd8ddCFmyNc&start_radio=1

[Music after Giovanni Pergolesi, Italy]

- 1 God of mercy and compassion,
Look with pity upon me.
Father, let me call Thee Father,
'Tis Thy child returns to Thee.

Refrain:

Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy;
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins—I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.

- 2 By my sins I have deserved
Death and endless misery;
Hell, with all its pains and torments,
And for all eternity. [Refrain]

[Music by Isaac Daniel Riverson, Ghana]

- 3 By my sins I have abandoned
Right and claim to Heav'n above,
Where the saints rejoice forever,
In a boundless sea of love. [Refrain]
- 4 See our Savior, bleeding, dying,
On the cross of Calvary;
To that cross my sins have nailed Him,
Yet He bleeds and dies for me. [Refrain]

[Closing words to our theme song:]

O! dass diess jeder Sünder wüsste,
O! that every sinner would know this,

Sein Herz wohl bald dich lieben müsste.
His heart must soon surely love You.

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