

2026-04-01 Meditation for Wednesday in Holy Week is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

[The opening theme song with a poetic paraphrase begins:]

*Ich bete an die Macht der Liebe,*  
O Pow'r of love, all else transcending,  
*Die sich in Jesu offenbart;*  
In Jesus present evermore,  
*Ich geb' mich hin dem freien Triebe,*  
I worship thee, in homage bending,

### ***Jesu, mercy, how may this be***

Lyrics: Anon. 15<sup>th</sup>-c. devotional song

Music: John Browne (flourished c. 1490)

Artists: Stile Antico

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6cx16X04Uo&list=RDz6cx16X04Uo&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6cx16X04Uo&list=RDz6cx16X04Uo&start_radio=1)

[The music is different in each verse, and after each verse we hear only the final line of the Burden (in bold.)]

[Burden, choir]

Jesu, mercy, how may this be,  
That God himself for his sole mankind  
Would take on Him humanity?  
My wit nor reason may it well find:  
**Jesu, mercy, how may this be?**

[Verse 1, we marvel at Christ's willingness to give up divinity in order to accept mortality]

Christ that was of infinite might,  
Egall to the Father in deity,  
Immortal, impassible [incapable of suffering], the worldes light,  
And would so take mortality!  
**Jesu, mercy, how may this be?**

[Verse 2, we marvel that Christ, who created all, agreed to suffer like any mortal]

He that wrought this world of nought,  
That made both paines and joy also,  
And suffer would pain as sorrowful thought  
With weeping, wailing, swooning [swooning] for woe.  
**Jesu, mercy, how may this be?**

[Verse 3, we ask Jesu how he could possibly have agreed to being crucified]

Ah, Jesu! [three held chords, music's equivalent to a halo in a painting]  
Why suffered thou such entreating [treatment],  
As beating, bobbing [buffeting], yea, spitting on thy face?  
Drawn like a thief, and for a pain sweating  
Both water and blood, crucified, an heavy case?  
**Jesu, mercy, how may this be?**

[Verse 4, a dialogue between Jesu and the believer]

[Jesu:]

Lo, man, for thee, that were unkind,  
Gladly suffered I all this.

[The believer:]

And why, good Lord?

Express thy mind!

[Jesu's reply]

Thee to purchase both joy and bliss.

**Jesu, mercy, how may this be?**

[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.

Evan

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