GOD, BE MERCIFUL TO ME

Hymn Devotion-July 26

Scripture: Psalm 51:1, 4

This is a very long hymn – 6 stanzas – based on Psalm 51 NIV. This is going to be a different exercise – the hymn is in one column the Psalm is in the other column - identify the agreeing phrases; although the wording is different the meaning is there. The source of the hymn was The Psalter, 1912.

God, be merciful to me,  
On Thy grace I rest my plea;  
Plenteous in compassion Thou,  
Blot out my transgressions now;  
Wash me, make me pure within,  
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

My transgressions I confess,  
Grief and guilt my soul oppress;  
I have sinned against Thy grace  
And provoked Thee to Thy face;  
I confess Thy judgment just,  
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

I am evil, born in sin;  
Thou desirest truth within.  
Thou alone my Savior art,  
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;  
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,  
Wash me whiter than the snow.

Broken, humbled to the dust  
By Thy wrath and judgment just,  
Let my contrite heart rejoice  
And in gladness hear Thy voice;  
From my sins O hide Thy face,  
Blot them out in boundless grace.

Gracious God, my heart renew,  
Make my spirit right and true;  
Cast me not away from Thee,  
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;  
Thy salvation’s joy impart,  
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Sinners then shall learn from me  
And return, O God, to Thee;  
Savior, all my guilt remove,  
And my tongue shall sing Thy love;  
Touch my silent lips, O Lord,  
And my mouth shall praise accord.

1Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your unfailing love: according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. 2Wash away all my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.  3For I know my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. 4Against you and you only, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak, and be justified when you judge. 5 Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.6 Surely you desire truth in the inmost parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place. 7Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. 9Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquity. 10Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. 12Restore to me the joy of your salvation; and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.  13Then will I teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you.    14Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. 15O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

We have all been at this point sometime, when we just want to pull into ourselves and disappear because of our sins but God is there for us, merciful, gracious and forgiving. Go to Him in prayer. The joy of our salvation will be restored to us and the Holy Spirit will keep us.

WE PRAISE THEE, O GOD

Hymn Devotion -July 27

Scripture: I Chronicles 16:23-24, 28-29

Psalm 30:4

We praise Thee, O God, our Redeemer, Creator,  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;  
We lay it before Thee, we kneel and adore Thee,  
We bless Thy holy Name, glad praises we sing.

We worship Thee, God of our fathers, we bless Thee;  
Through life’s storm and tempest our guide have Thou been;  
When perils overtake us, escape Thou will make us,  
And with Thy help, O Lord, our battles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer,  
To Thee, great Jehovah, glad anthems we raise.  
Thy strong arm will guide us, our God is beside us,  
To Thee, our great Redeemer, forever be praise.

Julia Cady Cory (1882-1963)

We unite our voices in the praise we offer, to Thee – great Jehovah – another name for God – glad, happy anthems – hymns of praise we raise. With His strong arm He will guide us, He will be beside us – We will praise Thee forever our great Redeemer.

It has been said and that if God did not do another thing for us – our praise and thanksgiving is due Him because of all that He has already done – But as we know He is always by our sides to guide us through whatever life throws our way – FOREVER PRAISE HIM!

1. How is God described?
2. How is our devotion described?
3. What are we bringing?
4. When our tribute is laid before the Lord – What do we do?
5. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thy holy Name

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we sing.

1. Verse 2: How is Thee described?
2. What are the two “we” phrases?
3. What thru?
4. What has God been?
5. What overtake us?
6. What will He make?
7. What do we need to win our battles?
8. Verse 3: How are our voices?
9. How is God described?
10. What do we raise?
11. What will God’s strong arm do?
12. Where is God?
13. How is God described?
14. How long will He be praised?

STAND UP AND BLESS THE LORD

Hymn Devotion – July 28

Scripture: Nehemiah 9:5-6

Stand up and bless the Lord  
Ye people of His choice;  
Stand up and bless the Lord your God  
With heart and soul and voice.

Though high above all praise,  
Above all blessing high,  
Who would not fear His holy Name,  
And laud and magnify?

O for the living flame  
From His own altar brought,  
To touch our lips, our minds inspire,  
And wing to heaven our thought!

God is our Strength and Song,  
And His salvation ours;  
Then be His love in Christ proclaimed  
With all our ransomed powers.

Stand up and bless the Lord;  
The Lord your God adore;  
Stand up and bless His glorious Name;  
Henceforth forevermore.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

O living flame from His own altar brought brings to mind Isaiah 6:6 when Isaiah was commissioned and the angel brought a coal and touched Isaiah’s mouth – the Holy Spirit is our living flame, which also came from God’s own altar – the Holy Spirit also touches our lips, inspires our minds and wings our thoughts to heaven.

This hymn is a call to take the Name of Jesus beyond the walls of the church building – into our homes, work places and wherever our paths lead – Take a stand – Proclaim His glorious holy Name!

1. What are we to do?
2. Who are to do this?
3. What is different than the first line?
4. What three things are we to engage?
5. Verse 2: What are the “above all” statements?
6. What are we to fear?
7. What do we do in that fear?
8. Verse 3: What was brought from His own altar?
9. What is this used for? (list all)
10. Verse 4: What is God to us?
11. What is ours?
12. What is to be proclaimed?
13. How are we to proclaim it?
14. Verse 5: What is repeated?
15. Who are we to adore?
16. What are we to stand up and bless?
17. A definition of henceforth is from this time onward.

How long?

JESUS! THE NAME HIGH OVER ALL

Hymn Devotion - July 29

Scripture: Philippians 2:9-11

Jesus! the Name high over all,  
In hell or earth or sky;  
Angels and men before it fall,  
And devils fear and fly.

Jesus! the Name to sinners dear,  
The Name to sinners giv’n;  
It scatters all their guilty fear,  
It turns their hell to Heav’n.

O that the world might taste and see  
The riches of His grace!  
The arms of love that compass me  
Would all the mankind embrace.

.

Thee I shall constantly proclaim,  
Though earth and hell oppose;  
Bold to confess Thy glorious Name  
Before a world of foes.

His only righteousness I show,  
His saving grace proclaim;  
’Tis all my business here below  
To cry “Behold the Lamb!”

Happy, if with my latest breath  
I may but gasp His Name,  
Preach Him to all and cry in death,  
“Behold, behold the Lamb!”

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

This is a very moving hymn – very convicting - challenging us to constantly proclaim the Name of Jesus – even if all of earth and hell oppose – to be bold to confess, declare His glorious Name – before the world full of those against Him – We need strength and courage to cry – “Behold, behold the Lamb!”

1. How is the Name of Jesus described here?
2. What are the places listed?
3. Who fall before Jesus’ Name?
4. Who fear and fly?
5. Verse 2: Who is Jesus’ Name dear to?
6. Who is given His Name?
7. What is scattered?
8. What is changed?
9. Verse 3: What is asked for the world to do?
10. What compasses us?
11. What would be the ultimate?
12. Verse 4: What are we saying we will do?
13. What does earth and hell do?
14. What are we saying we will do before a world of foes?
15. Verse 5: What do we only show?
16. What do we say we will proclaim?
17. What is all our business here below?
18. Verse 6: What would make us happy?
19. Who do we want to preach Him to?
20. What would be our cry in death?

JOYFUL, JOYFUL, WE ADORE THEE

Hymn Devotion -July 30

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7

Psalm 71:23

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,

God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,

Opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,

Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,

Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain,

Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,

Ever blessing, ever blessed,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,

Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,

All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,

Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,

Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o’er us,

Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,

Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us Sunward

In the triumph song of life.

Henry van Dyke (1852-1933)

Just about every area of nature is mentioned here – the nature of God is love – When we love God, love one another we are ever singing, ever joyful as we march onward– Victors in the midst of strife! Make the triumph song our song of life!

1. How do we adore God?
2. How are God and the Lord described?
3. List all the things in nature:
4. What is He the giver of?
5. What are we asking to be filled with?
6. Verse 2: What do His works do?
7. List the earth and heaven things and what they do:
8. What are they?
9. List the things of nature in the next lines:
10. What do they call us to do?
11. Verse 3: List all what God is:
12. What are God and Christ to us?
13. How do we need to live to be His?
14. What do we want to be taught?
15. What do we want to be lifted to?
16. Verse 4: Who are to join the happy chorus?
17. List what Father love and Brother Love do:
18. What are we to do ever singing?
19. What are we victors in?
20. What does joyful music do?
21. What kind of song?

WHEN MORNING GILDS THE SKIES

Hymn Devotion -July 31

Scripture: I Corinthians 10:31-11:1.

Job 1:21

When morning gilds the skies,

My heart awaking cries,   
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer,

To Jesus I repair,   
May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day,

When from the heart we say,   
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
The powers of darkness fear,

When this sweet chant they hear,   
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Ye nations of mankind,

In this your concord find,

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around

Ring joyous with the sound

May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,

My canticle divine,   
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Sing this eternal song

Through all the ages long,   
May Jesus Christ be praised!

German Hymn 19th century

Translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

And Robert Seymour Bridges (1844-1930)

We are to praise God from the very moment that there is light in the sky, when our heart is awakened we should be praising Jesus! At work or in prayer to Jesus we are to be in repair, making our human nature right in tune with the nature of God to do that Jesus must be praised.

The word “may” suggests possibility – but with the ideas and reasoning of this hymn there is a necessity to praise God from the first light of morning – at work or in prayer, to repair our broken lives to the example of Jesus – no matter what, our praise, our thanksgiving is due to Jesus Christ – He is to be praised – He deserves our praise -Have you praised Jesus Christ today?

1. A definition of gild is to tinge with gold color or light.

When what guilds the sky?

1. What awakens and cries?
2. What are we to do?
3. Where?
4. A definition of repair is to make right.

To whom are we to be made right?

1. Verse 2: When does night become as day?
2. Who becomes fearful?
3. When do they become fearful?
4. Verse 3: A definition of concord is agreement.

Who in concord find?

1. What do they find?
2. Who are to ring joyous with sound?
3. Verse 4: What do we still need to have?
4. A definition of canticle is a song or chant with a Biblical text.

What is our canticle divine?

1. What kind of song is this?
2. How long will it last?
3. How many times is the phrase “May Jesus Christ be praised!” repeated?