



HYMN PREVIEW

Lord, Have Mercy

Note to Worship Planners:

For June 19: The newly released Musician's Resource provides resources for two suggested hymns: 575, 640. Find the Musician's Resource here: online.nph.net/musicians-resource. Note that the current content is a "soft launch" focusing primarily on public domain tunes. Much more content is coming! And for June 26: 711, 695/696.

For July 10: The Year C Planner notes that this was an option for Ash Wednesday. The text also fits well with the July 10 Gospel. It could be the opening hymn or incorporated into the Confession section of the service.

This Hymnal Highlight is coming a full month before potential use of the hymn to give musicians time to order and prepare the music. Here's an idea for the final piece of preservice music. Either two minutes before the service begins (if length is a concern) or right at the beginning the pastor says:

Before we begin worship today, I call your attention to a new hymn: #652. Please turn to that hymn [on page ## of the worship folder.] Notice about halfway through the first verse these words: "For envy and pride, for closing our eyes; for scorning our very neighbor." These are powerful words to think about today as we hear the parable of the Good Samaritan. For our final preservice music now—and to help you to become familiar with the tune—we hear this new hymn.

Alternatively, comments such as these can appear in the worship folder. The pastor then simply calls attention to them before the music plays.

The music can be the solo'd organ setting from the hymns accompaniment volume. Or if the piano version is used, a solo instrument can play the melody line. In either case an abbreviated option can be used.

Even with this instrumental option for introducing the hymn, it's still good to give at least the first verse and refrain to a soloist or choir.

An additional musical setting for organ is available in: online.nph.net/the-extraordinary-ordinary.html. This could be played during the offering or communion distribution. Listeners won't likely miss the composer's clever combination of the tune for the new hymn with the familiar Kyrie from page 15 in both CW93 and The Lutheran Hymnal (1941).

An interesting detail about this hymn: It comes from modern hymn writers Matt Boswell and Matt Papa (partners at Getty Music). They drew inspiration from the Kyrie and from a prayer in the 1662 *Book of Common Prayer*. Similar language is found in the prayer on page 279 of CW21: "In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved others as you command." This hymn reflects contemporary interest in texts with rich content, sometimes from very old sources. Another example is #867, a "modern" hymn that combines verses from the 18th century with a refrain from 1960, 200 years later.