

WHEN ALL THY MERCIES, O, MY GOD

HYMN STUDY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end.
— Lamentations 3:22

(HYMN)ENEUTICS™

READ. RELATE. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

WHEN ALL THY MERCIES, O, MY GOD

HYMN BACKGROUND

HYMNS AND COFFEE

Joseph Addison, one of England's finest writers and well-known politician started a daily newspaper with his childhood friend, Richard Steele. They called the newspaper The Spectator and they were determined to give more glory to God in that paper than other papers in town.

On August 9, 1712, Addison published an essay on gratitude in The Spectator and wrote, "If gratitude is due from man to man, how much more from man to His Maker."

He then appended the full text to a hymn he wrote called "Thanksgiving to God for His Particular Providence." Today we often call it by the first line, "When All Thy Mercies, O, My God." The original thirteen stanzas trace the hand of God on a life from womb to eternity.

Fun Fact: Addison frequently visited Button's Coffee House in Covent Garden and asked readers to place their submissions to The Spectator in a marble lion head letterbox near the entrance. Isaac Watts is rumored to be one of the contributors of even more hymns included in the daily newspaper.

Considering the popularity of coffee houses at the time as a gathering place to read and discuss newspaper and other literature, it's likely hymns by Addison, Watts and others were the topic of lively discussion.

Today, a Starbucks is located where Button's used to be.

READ

Review the Hymn Background and the Ready Reference Sheet.

REMEMBER

Print and display the last page of this devotional guide to help you remember the truth of this hymn beyond the pew.

Themes to look for as you read:

a timeline of God's gifts from the womb to eternity; God's everlasting mercy and our everlasting response of praise, joy and thanks.

WHEN ALL THY MERCIES, O, MY GOD

READY REFERENCE SHEET

When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.

Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived
From whom those comforts flowed.

When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou
With health renewed my face;
And when in sins and sorrows sunk,
Revived my soul with grace.

Ten thousand, thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart
That tastes those gifts with joy.

Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue
And after death, in distant worlds,
The glorious theme renew.

Through all eternity to Thee
A joyful song I'll raise;
For, oh, eternity's too short
To utter all Thy praise!

Lam. 3:22-23
Ps. 23:6
Eph. 2:4-8
Luke 5:26

2 Cor. 1:3
Ps. 145:9
Gal. 1:15
Ps. 71:6

Jer. 30:17
Ps. 40:2
Ps. 147:3
1 Peter 2:24

Eph. 1:8
1 Thess. 5:18
2 Cor. 9:15
Ps. 34:8
Ps. 16:11

Ps. 104:33
Tim. 2:22
Phil. 3:14
Rev. 5:13

Ps. 113:2
Eph. 3:21
1 John 2:17
Rev. 7:12

by Joseph Addison, 1672 — 1719

Surveys: *observes; examines*
Transported: *thrilled; delighted*
Conceived: *perceived; appreciated*
Revived: *energized; resuscitated*

Employ: *engage; occupy; keeps busy*
Renew: *start over; continue*
Eternity: *afterlife; endlessness; forever*
Utter: *express; proclaim*



Awesome Mercies

Lam. 3:22-23 ; Ps. 23:6 ; Eph. 2:4-8 ; Luke 5:26

When all Thy mercies, O my God,
My rising soul surveys,
Transported with the view, I'm lost
In wonder, love and praise.

READ AND RELATE

- Read the Scripture passages above and underline the phrases in the stanza that relate to each passage. Some parts may be underlined more than once.
- Circle the word that means "delighted."

REFLECT

Write the stanza the way you see it above or paraphrase it using your own speaking style.

RESPOND

Application: Take time to delight in God's mercies toward you.

Pray: Praise the Lord for His abundant mercies toward you. Be specific and list them to Him.

Describe the panoramic view of God's mercies you are seeing right now.

Name the first mercy of God that comes to your mind right now.

Unnumbered Comforts

2 Cor. 1:3 ; Ps. 145:9 ; Gal. 1:15 ; Ps. 71:6

Unnumbered comforts to my soul
Thy tender care bestowed,
Before my infant heart conceived
From whom those comforts flowed.

READ AND RELATE

- Read the Scripture passages above and underline the phrases in the above stanza that relate to each passage. Some parts may be underlined more than once.
- Circle the word that describes God's heart toward us.

REFLECT

Write the stanza the way you see it above or paraphrase it using your own speaking style.

RESPOND

Application: To acknowledge God's care for you before you were aware He existed.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for caring for you and having a purpose for your life before you even knew who He was.

In what ways did God start caring for you before you were born?

How old were you when you first began to recognize God's hand in your life?

Reviving Grace

Jer. 30:17; Ps. 40:2; Ps. 147:3; 1 Peter 2:24

When worn with sickness, oft hast Thou
With health renewed my face;
And when in sins and sorrows sunk,
Revived my soul with grace.

READ AND RELATE

- Read the Scripture passages above and underline the phrases in the above stanza that relate to each passage. Some parts may be underlined more than once.
- Circle the words that convey healing and resuscitation.

REFLECT

Write the stanza the way you see it above or paraphrase it using your own speaking style.

RESPOND

Application: To trust and thank the Lord for His spiritual and physical healing.

Prayer: Bring both your physical and spiritual need before the Father and ask for His healing and thank Him for how He has healed in the past.

Name a spiritual lesson God has taught you through a time of physical illness.

Describe a time when God's grace has brought you out of a spiritually discouraging period of time.

Daily Thanks

Eph. 1:8; 1 Thess. 5:18; 2 Cor. 9:15; Ps. 34:8; Ps. 16:11

Ten thousand, thousand precious gifts
My daily thanks employ;
Nor is the least a cheerful heart
That tastes those gifts with joy.

READ AND RELATE

- Read the Scripture passages above and underline the phrases in the above stanza that relate to each passage. Some parts may be underlined more than once.
- Circle the words that describe the state of our hearts when we're grateful.

REFLECT

Write the stanza the way you see it above or paraphrase it using your own speaking style.

RESPOND

Application: Joyfully thank the Lord on a daily basis.

Prayer: Thank the Lord for His many gifts and let Him know how delighted you in Him as the Giver. Ask Him to help you stay grateful on a daily basis.

Why should God's gifts to us bring us joy?

What does it look like to "taste" a gift from God?

Faithful Goodness

Ps. 104:33; Tim. 2:22; Phil. 3:14; Rev. 5:13

Through every period of my life
Thy goodness I'll pursue
And after death, in distant worlds,
The glorious theme renew.

READ AND RELATE

- Read the Scripture passages above and underline the phrases in the above stanza that relate to each passage. Some parts may be underlined more than once.
- Circle the word that is at the heart of "the glorious theme."

REFLECT

Write the stanza the way you see it above or paraphrase it using your own speaking style.

RESPOND

Application: To look for God's goodness all around us in everyday life.

Prayer: Praise the Lord for specific evidence of His goodness in your life. Ask Him to help you see it all around you.

What does it look like to pursue God's goodness here on earth?

What does it look like to pursue God's goodness in eternity?

Joyful Eternity

Ps. 113:2; Eph. 3:21; 1 John 2:17; Rev. 7:12

Through all eternity to Thee
A joyful song I'll raise;
For, oh, eternity's too short
To utter all Thy praise!

READ AND RELATE

- Read the Scripture passages above and underline the phrases in the above stanza that relate to each passage. Some parts may be underlined more than once.
- Circle your favorite phrase in this stanza.

REFLECT

Write the stanza the way you see it above or paraphrase it using your own speaking style.

RESPOND

Application: To sing to the Lord like we mean it.

Prayer: Smile as you tell the Lord how praiseworthy He is and thank Him for His unnumbered gifts to you.

Why will our song in eternity be so joyful?

Why is God so praise-worthy?

TEN THOUSAND
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GIFTS MY DAILY
THANKS EMPLOY.

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HIS MERCIES NEVER COME TO AN END.
— LAMENTATIONS 3:22

by Joseph Addison, 1672 — 1719