

MS Intercession¹

MS Intercession is a set of three foolscap sized sheets (8.5 in. by 13.5 in.), containing a total of twenty “Hymns of Intercession” written on both sides of each sheet. The hymns were likely composed in the 1760s to 1770s. They were later transcribed, in the same order and with few variants, into MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 173–86.

Given the large size of the source pages, we did not try to replicate the original pagination or page breaks in the transcription below. Readers might want to cite by hymn number instead of page number. For reference, the hymns are located as follows in the original manuscript:

- sheet 1, front: Hymn I – Hymn IV
- sheet 1, back: Hymn V – Hymn VIII, st. 1
- sheet 2, front: Hymn VIII, st. 2 – Hymn XII, first four lines
- sheet 2, back: Hymn XII, last two lines – Hymn XVI
- sheet 3, front: Hymn XVII – Hymn XVIII, st. 4, ln. 4
- sheet 3, back: Hymn XVIII, st. 4, ln. 5 – Hymn XX

MS Intercession is part of the collection at the Methodist Archive and Research Centre, accession number DDCW 6/68–70. The transcription below is provided with permission of the Librarian and Director, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.

¹This document was produced by the Duke Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition under the editorial direction of Randy L. Maddox, with the diligent assistance of Aileen F. Maddox. Last updated: August 1, 2010.

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Hymns of Intercession.

I.²

For the Unawakened.

- [1.] Eternal Son of GOD most high,
Whose only voice can wake the dead
Speak to the souls, for whom we cry,
For whom we in thy Spirit plead,
And bring them up from Nature's grave
And now stretch out thine arm to save.
2. The³ dead in trespasses convince,
And turn from Satan's power to GOD,
Reveal thy wrath against their sins,
Orewhelm them with the mountain-load,
Till all that load of guilt and fear
Rolls off—into thy sepulchre.

II.⁴

For the awakened.

Where'er Thou hast thy work begun
And shew'd a soul its want of Thee,
Carry the gracious wonder on,
Set every struggling sinner free,
And bid them feel thy blood applied,
And add them to the Justified.

²Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 173. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:227.

³Ori., "Who Thee."

⁴Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 173. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:227.

III.⁵

For one under the Law.

- [1.] Eternal Sun of righteousness
Arise with healing in thy wings,
On Him, who feels his sore disease,
Yet when thy grace salvation brings,
With abject fear rejects his cure
Nor dares believe his pardon sure.⁶
2. Lift the dejected sinner up,
Who only canst the valley raise,
Begotten to that gospel-hope
That sense of free forgiving grace
In peace dismiss the prostrate soul,
Assur'd his faith hath made him whole.

IV.⁷

For the Tempted.

- [1.] O most compassionate High-priest,
Thy days of flesh recall to mind,
Tempted like us, aggriev'd, opprest,
To all thy tempted Members join'd
Support them, while they drink thy cup,
And fill thine after-sufferings up.⁸
2. Sustain'd by thy sufficient grace
Preserv'd by thy or'eshadowing power,
Let them the hallow'd cross embrace,
And brought thro' the Satanic hour,
Out of the fiery furnace rise,
To share thy glory in the skies.

⁵Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 174. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:228.

⁶Ori., “~~And~~ dares ~~not make~~ his pardon sure.”

⁷Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 174. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:228.

⁸Cf. Colossians 1:24.

V.⁹

Hymn, for those in doubt.

- [1.] O GOD, our refuge in distress,
 Most present when we need Thee most,
Thy pitying eye the sinner sees,
 Who dares not in thy mercy trust,
Tortur'd with doubts, and torn with fears,
And dying—till thy blood appears.
2. Thy death to every heart reveal,
 That trembles at a GOD unknown,
Make manifest thy gracious will,
 The servant change into a Son,
Chase all the clouds of sin away
And shine unto the perfect day.

VI.¹⁰

For one tempted to despair.

- [1.] Jesus, thy vengeful power exert,
 The foul Blasphemer to confound,
Who tells a drooping sinner's heart
 That sin doth more than grace abound,
Threatens, out of thy hands to tear,
And seal him up in sad despair.
2. Lion of Judah's tribe, arise,
 Thy foe to spoil, thy prey to seize,
Display before the captive's eyes
 The blood that signs his soul's release,
And speaks the Penitent forgiven,
A child of GOD, an heir of heaven.

⁹Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 175. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:229.

¹⁰Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 175. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:229.

VII.¹¹
For the Backsliders.

- [1.] Thou sinners' Advocate with GOD,
The poor backsliding children save,
Who wandring down the spacious road
Must sink into that hellish grave,
Unless the blood of sprinkling cry
Unless thy Father's heart reply.
2. Bowels of pitying Love divine,
From Adam's fall in Jesus mov'd,
Yearn or'e the souls Thou callest thine,
Sound, and declare their guilt remov'd
Their sickness heal'd, their sin forgiven,
And speak them back from hell to heaven.

VIII.¹²
For those that are shut up.

- [1.] Jesus, our absent Brethren bless,¹³
Absent in body not in heart,
Kept from the channels of thy grace,
Shut up with Thee who pray apart,
And let that Spirit obtain'd for all,
On Eldad and on Medad fall.¹⁴
2. O might they now the blessing find,
The grace on this assembly shed,
While to the living members join'd,
And close united to our Head
One body and one church we rise,
And greet our brethren in the skies.

¹¹Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 176. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:230.

¹²Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 177. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:230.

¹³Ori., "see."

¹⁴Cf. Numbers 11:26–27.

IX.¹⁵

For a disobedient Child.

Jesus, th' essential Power divine,
Thy virtue on this Rebel shew,
His iron-sinew'd neck incline,
His stubborn heart by love subdue,
And glad all heaven with the sound,
The dead's alive, the lost is found.

X.¹⁶

For men in a storm.

- [1.] O Thou, whom winds and seas obey,
Sole Potentate in earth and heaven,
Thy power in their behalf display,
The men by furious tempests driven,
And give the Christless souls to cry
"Save, Lord, or we forever die!"^[2]
2. Soon as to Thee for help they look,
Thy help to the distress afford,
Silence the winds, the flouds rebuke,
That all may own their GOD and Lord,
And find the calm of faith within,
And rest from all the storms of sin.
3. Or if Thou hast the sentence seal'd,
And doom'd them to the watry grave
O let thy love be first reveal'd,
O let them feel thy power to save
Sink calmly down, and find in death
The Everlasting Arms beneath.

¹⁵Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 177. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:231.

¹⁶Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 177. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:231.

XI.¹⁷

For those in the wilderness.

- [1.] Jesus, with thy disciples stay,
Allur'd into the wilderness,
Led thro' a strait unbeaten way
To pleasant paths of lasting peace;
Their former fervent zeal restore,
And make their hearts with joy run o're.¹⁸
2. Beneath the hidings of thy face
With languishing desire they mourn:
The rapt'rous tokens of thy grace
O might they, Lord, with Thee return!
Bright Sun of souls, the clouds remove,
Shine out, and perfect them in love.

XII.¹⁹

For one Persecuted.

Jesus of Nazareth, appear,
To take thy suffering Servant's part,
To scatter all his grief and fear,
To comfort his believing heart,
And let thy glorious Spirit rest
Forever in his peaceful breast.

¹⁷Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 178. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:232.

¹⁸Wesley wrote an alternative to this line in shorthand in the margin: "And fix them that they rove no more."

¹⁹Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 179. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:232.

XIII.²⁰

For a Believer in pain.

O Saviour, sanctify this pain,
And join these sufferings to thine own,
The sharer²¹ of thy griefs sustain
And deeply in thy member groan,
Till on thy cross transfixt and dead,
He lives, he rises with his head.

XIV.²²

For a dying Unbeliever.

The sinner sad, who void of Thee
Is turning to the wall his face,
Save as the Felon on the tree,
To shew forth all thy power of grace,
And bid him from thy cross arise
And reign with Thee in Paradise.

XV.²³

For a dying Believer.

- [1.] Father, into thy hands receive
An happy Spirit on the wing
Who now exults his clay to leave,
To hear the heavenly Convoy sing
Mixt with the Ministerial Quire,
Just mounting on his car of fire.
2. Fill up, and change his faith to sight,
And while the spotless Soul departs,
Shine, O Thou Everlasting Light,
To cheer his old Companions hearts,
Prepare us all thy face to see,
And send the chariot next—for me!

²⁰Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 179. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:232.

²¹“Sharer” has “Partner” written in the margin as an alternative.

²²Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 179. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:233.

²³Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 179. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:233.

XVI.²⁴
For the self-righteous.

- [1.] Saviour, Thou readst what is in man,
Thine eyes his inmost substance see:
Wrapt up in forms and shadows vain
He cannot hide himself from Thee,
Who knowst his deep serpentine art,
And all the windings of his heart.
2. Ev'n now thy searching eye perceives
Thy fugitives among the trees,
Veiling their shame with virtuous leaves,
(The figleaves of self-righteousness)
Willing themselves to justify,
And GOD with his own gifts to buy.
3. Tear from them, Lord, their figleaves tear,
Themselves let the deceivers know
Wretched, and poor, and blind, and bare,
Consign'd to everlasting woe,
Unless thy mercy step between,
And freely save them from all sin.
4. Stop Thou their mouths, confound their pride,
Their souls to endless woe condemn,
Then point them to that open side
Then plunge them in that purple stream,
Which only can for sin atone
And waft the Pardon'd to thy Throne.

²⁴Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 180–81. Published posthumously in *Representative Verse*, 249–50; and *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:233–34.

XVII.²⁵
For the Pretenders²⁶ **to Forgiveness.**

- [1.] With pity, Lord, the men behold
 Lull'd in a false presumptuous peace,
Thro' pride secure, thro' error bold
 To claim thy unfelt promises,
To boast of grace they have not known,
As GOD and heaven were all their own.

2. The foretasts of alluring love
 If for the gospel-faith they take,
Their hearts of unbelief reprove,
 Their fond deluded souls awake,
Where in the mouth of hell they lie,
The fancied portal of the sky.

3. When wounded by thy Spirit's sword
 Their vain pretensions they forego,
Jesus, pronounce the healing word,
 The true substantial faith bestow,
The evidence of things unseen,
The power divine, that saves from sin.

4. Strength from the Lord, and righteousness
 The proof of their acceptance be,
And lowly fear, and ruling peace,
 And restless hungriings after Thee,
Declare thy dying love reveal'd
And clearly speak their pardon seal'd.

²⁵Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 182. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:234–35.

²⁶Ori., “the false Pretenders.”

XVIII.²⁷
For the Pretenders²⁸ **to Perfections.**

- [1.] Arise, Thou jealous GOD, arise,
 Whose word doth soul and spirit part,
Look with thy all-discerning eyes
 And sound the *most deceitful* heart
Of those, whom erring men approve
False witnesses of perfect love.

2. Thou knowst, the Fiend hath set them up,
 Hath on the sacred summit plac'd,
That falling from their towering hope,
 From highest heaven to hell debas'd
Their souls may prove his wretched thrall,
And stumble thousands by their fall.

3. Ah! do not, Lord, the tempted leave
 A prey to Luciferian pride,
Ah! do not let thy foe deceive
 The souls for whom Thyself hast died,
Or shake our faith who dare profess
Our faith in perfect holiness.

4. Whoever stands or falls, the word
 The one foundation must endure,
True²⁹ is the promise of our Lord,
 The oath divine hath made it sure,
And we, when Christ the power imparts,
Shall love our GOD with all our hearts.

5. Now, Saviour, now our hearts prepare
 Thy gracious fulness to receive:
But pluck our brethren from the snare
 Beguil'd like vain aspiring Eve,
Deliverance to the Captives send,
And let the strong Delusion end.

²⁷Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 183–84. Published posthumously in *Representative Verse*, 250–51; and *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:235–36.

²⁸Ori., “the false Pretenders.”

²⁹“True” has “Sure” written in the margin as an alternative.

6. Gently into the valley lead,
And give them then themselves to know,
Till to themselves intirely dead
Their grace they by their silence shew,
Thee only good and perfect *call*,
And sink, and into Nothing fall.

[XIX.]³⁰

For one in a Decline.

- [1.] Physician, Friend of sinsick man,
Our weak declining Brother save
Broken by sickness, shook by Pain
Whose Flesh is hastening to the grave:
His Spirit of thy Love assure
And keep, till Thou compleat the Cure.
- [2.] The more his outward man decays
His inward by thy Love renew,
And perfected in a short space
Admit Him to the Blisful View,
The Grace to Saints Triumphant given,
The Sight that makes an Heaven of Heaven.

³⁰Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 185. Published posthumously in *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:236–37.

[XX.]³¹
For the Prime Minister.

- [1.] Father, we praise thy guardian Care,
Which hath on us a man bestow'd
(Brittannia's Refuge in despair)
A man to seek our Nation's good,
Resolv'd our sinking Land to save,
Or rush into his Country's Grave.
2. His Talents take into thy Hand,
And bless them for the Public Weal,
His Spirit bow to thy Command
His Heart with heavenly Fervor fill,
And fix the Patriot's noblest aim,
To act for GOD in Jesus name.
3. As One whom Heaven delights to bless
As Daniel prosperous and wise,
Restorer of true righteousness
By Him, by Him let Jacob rise,
Virtue revisit Albion's Coast,
And Piety for ages lost.
4. [Incomplete]

³¹Appears also in MS Miscellaneous Hymns, 185–86. Published posthumously in *Representative Verse*, 361; and *Unpublished Poetry*, 3:237. The Prime Minister is Lord North, who served from 1770–82.