O God, be merciful to me
Because your love is strong;
Now wash me from iniquity
And cleanse me from all wrong.

These words are old, but still they live
Within our hearts today.
We cry to you: "O God, forgive!"
And "Wash our sins away!"

My sin has kept me far from you;
Your wrath is justified.
Why is it, Lord? -- The things I do
Have crushed my bones inside!

I try to make it on my own
As if I'm all I need,
Until I find I'm all alone,
Wrapped up in pride and greed.

Yet this is not the final word,
For you forgive our sin!
When we return to you, O Lord,
You give us joy again.

A Hymn Inspired by Psalm 51

CRIMOND  CM


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This hymn was inspired by Psalm 51 - the Psalm for the Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year B), Ash Wednesday (Years A, B, C) and Proper 19/24 (Year C). Val Fizzel of the St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Lakemba, Australia requested the hymn be composed.
O God, Be Merciful to Me

1. O God, be merciful to me because your love is strong; now wash me from iniquity and cleanse me from all wrong.

2. These words are old, but still they live within our hearts to-day. We cry to you: "O God, forgive!" and "Wash our sins away!"

3. My sin has kept me far from you; your wrath is justifièd. Why is it, Lord? The God, I do have crushed my bones inside!

4. I try to make it on my own as if I'm all alone, wrapped up in pride and greed.

5. Yet this is not the final word, for you for-I'm I need, until I find I'm give our sin! When we return to you, O Lord, you give us joy again.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2006.
Music: Jessie Seymour Irvine, 1872


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