

The Jesus Prayer/La Prière de Jésus

O Lord Jesus Christ
Son of God
Have mercy on me a sinner
O Lord Jesus Christ

Ô Seigneur Jésus Christ
Fils de Dieu
Prends pitié de moi, pécheur
Ô Seigneur Jésus Christ

Music composed by Bernard Leclerc
March 2020

Origin

The prayer's origin is most likely the Egyptian desert, which was settled by the monastic Desert Fathers and Desert Mothers in the 5th century.

Scriptural roots

The Jesus Prayer combines three Bible verses: the Christological hymn of the Pauline epistle Philippians 2:6–11 (verse 11: "Jesus Christ is Lord"), the Annunciation of Luke 1:31–35 (verse 35: "Son of God"), and the Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican of Luke 18:9–14, in which the Pharisee demonstrates the improper way to pray (verse 11: "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican"), whereas the Publican prays correctly in humility (verse 13: "God be merciful to me a sinner").