Litany No. 1

This tune and Litany No. 2 by Sullivan appeared in the 1875 edition of “Church Hymns with Tunes”, replacing tunes to the same words by C. C. Schofield and F. Clay given in the first edition.

1 Jesu, we are far away
   From the light of heavenly day,
   Lost in paths of sin we stray
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

2 Deeper has the darkness grown;
   Saviour, come to seek Thine own,
   Leave, O leave us not alone:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

3 Thou our great Example art,
   Thou canst needful grace impart
   To the wayward earth-bound heart:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

4 Foolish, weak, and sad we lie;
   Guard us with Thy loving eye,
   Be our helper, always nigh:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

5 Help us to bewail our sin,
   And, in heavenly strength, begin
   Daily victories to win:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

6 Keep us lowly that we may,
   Ever watchful, turn away
   From the snares our tempters lay:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

7 On our darkness shed Thy light,
   Lead our wills to what is right,
   Wash our evil nature white:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

8 May Thy wisdom be our guide,
   Comfort, rest, and peace provide
   Near to Thy protecting side:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

9 May the world seem only dross,
   May we welcome shame and loss,
   Willingly endure the cross:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

10 When oppressed with trouble sore,
    Teach our hearts to feel the more
    For the pangs our Saviour bore:
    Lord, in mercy hear us.
11 May we true devotion feel
To our God, and holy zeal
For our fellow creatures’ weal:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

12 May we selfishness deny,
   And the body mortify,
   Doing deeds of charity:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

13 Make us earnest when we pray,
   Diligent from day to day,
   Meaning, doing, what we say:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

14 Fix our hearts on things on high,
   Let no evil thoughts come nigh,
   Purge from sin our memory:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

15 May Thy grace within the soul
   Nature’s waywardness control,
   Guiding towards the heavenly goal:
   Lord, in mercy hear us.

16 So at last, from sin set free,
   What we long for, may we see,
   And for ever blessèd be:
   Lord, in mercy hear us. Amen.

Thomas Benson Pollock, 1836 - 96.