

FATHER of mercies, bow Thine ear,
Attentive to our earnest prayer;
We plead for those who plead for Thee;
Successful pleaders may they be!

- 2 Clothe them with energy divine,
And let their words be truly Thine;
To them Thy sacred Truth reveal;
Suppress their fear, increase their zeal.
- 3 Teach them to sow the precious seed:
Teach them Thy chosen flock to feed;
Teach them immortal souls to gain,
Nor let them labour, Lord, in vain.
- 4 Let thronging multitudes around
Hear from their lips the joyful sound,
In humble strains Thy grace implore,
And feel Thy new-creating power.
- 5 Break, Lord, the sinners' massive chains,
Make souls distressed forget their pains;
Let light through distant realms be spread,
And converts praise their glorious Head.

Benjamin Beddome, 1717-95†