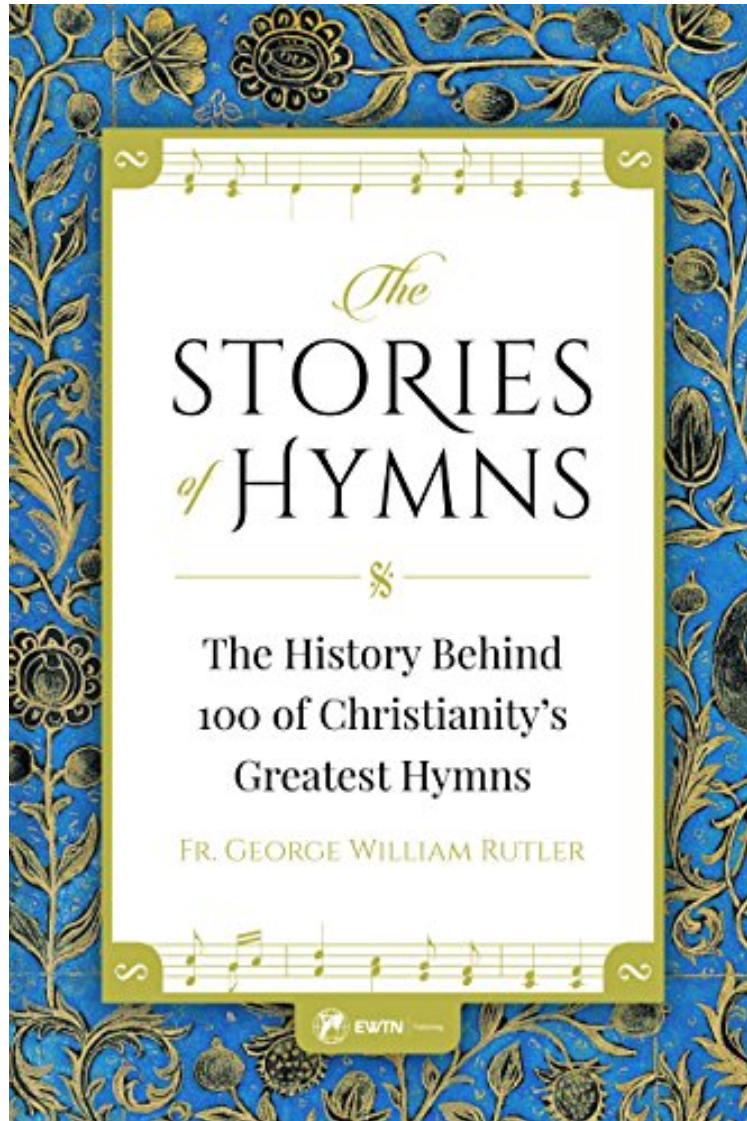


## The Stories of Hymns

*Fr. George William Rutler*

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**Fr. George William Rutler : The Stories of Hymns** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Stories of Hymns:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Fr. Geo. Rutler writes another wonderful bookBy L. HooksI have sung most of these hymns for years. Sometimes noticing the names, years, composers, but never thought about their history. This book by Fr. Rutler gives a lot of detail and history. I am enjoying reading, especially my favorites!0 of 0

people found the following review helpful. Fr. George Rutler on hymns, and a whole lot moreBy Phyllis CoryHaving read most of Fr. Rutler's books, I know that he does not know how to write a bad book. In his list of 100 of the Christianity's greatest hymns, he provides information about the composer, sometimes with relevant theological insights. His dry wit is employed to make devastating albeit well deserved comments about contemporary church hymns. I also appreciated several informative asides to English history. Fr. Rutler's writing is simply elegant--terse sentences that infer far more than he explains. He seems to chat with his reader, which makes for a civilized evening.

even0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great insight into the world's most beautiful hymnsBy Susan of So CalA fabulous read for anyone who loves the world's best hymns. Fr. Rutler provides context for the composition and his dry sense of humor makes the histories come alive. Bought a copy for a friend who also loves it.

Hymns are more than beautiful musical compositions; they provide us with a heightened language for praising and speaking to God, all while teaching us theology that reflects both the depth and complexity of Our Lord. Sacred hymns in our day have given way to fifth-rate poetry set to fourth-rate music, as C.S. Lewis once remarked. At times, the music used in worship can make us feel as though the culture is usurping the Church rather than being transfigured by it. There is a clear and present need to resurrect those distinctively different songs with a distinctively different vocabulary for people who want to live distinctive lives as followers of Christ. In these pages, Fr. George William Rutler introduces and reflects upon dozens of the greatest hymns written from the earliest years of the Church through the Twentieth Century. The text and composition of each hymn is included, as well as inspiring accounts of their authors and composers, fascinating stories and historical events connected with them, and notes on the significant contributions each one made to theology and music. Fr. Rutler has recovered here a rich musical legacy that will help us to give glory to our God who is Lord of all.

Father Rutler here considers nearly 100 hymns of fine artistic and theological quality, giving interesting information about the texts, the music, and the composers. With hymns assuming so large a role in today's worship, Fr. Rutler proposes to enrich both the selection and the understanding of an ancient form that still has a great deal of life in it. Msgr. Richard SchulerFormer Editor, Sacred Music Father Rutler's ecumenical selection of hymns and his illuminating comments on the history of each are a great restorative to the liturgical devastation of the past decades. As usual, Father Rutler not only entertains, but instructs. Robert ReillyMusic Critic This is a classy book with the hymns and the marvelous scholarly annotations by the inimitable Father Rutler. Indispensable to every library. William F. Buckley, Jr. --Personal EndorsementsFrom the Inside FlapHymns are more than beautiful musical compositions; they provide us with a heightened language for praising and speaking to God, all while teaching us theology that reflects both the depth and complexity of Our Lord. Sacred hymns in our day have given way to "fifth-rate poetry set to fourth-rate music," as C.S. Lewis once remarked. At times, the music used in worship can make us feel as though the culture is usurping the Church rather than being transfigured by it. There is a clear and present need to resurrect those distinctively different songs with a distinctively different vocabulary for people who want to live distinctive lives as followers of Christ. In these pages, Fr. George William Rutler introduces and reflects upon dozens of the greatest hymns written from the earliest years of the Church through the Twentieth Century. The text and composition of each hymn is included, as well as inspiring accounts of their authors and composers, fascinating stories and historical events connected with them, and notes on the significant contributions each one made to theology and music. Fr. Rutler has recovered here a rich musical legacy that will help us to give glory to our God who is Lord of all.