

# SOUL OF MY SAVIOR

## HYMN 245-246 - COMMUNION

### WHY THIS HYMN ENDURES

- Timeless theology – nothing tied to changing translations
- Personal devotion – speaks in the first person
- Eucharistic focus – perfectly suited to Communion
- Ecumenical reach – used by Catholics worldwide, across centuries

### WHERE THIS HYMN LIVES IN THE HYMNAL

“Soul of My Savior” appears as Hymns 245–246 in A Catholic Book of Hymns, precisely because it:

- Functions as both hymn and prayer
- Requires no seasonal limitation
- Serves choirs, cantors, and congregations equally well

### SUPPORTING THE HYMN MUSICALLY

- Calm, meditative tempo
- Simple melodic range (ideal for congregations)
- Frequently sung a cappella, with organ, or softly accompanied
- Two commonly sung tunes are included
- A chorale prelude on this hymn tune is available in the Organ Chorale Preludes companion volume for A Catholic Book of Hymns.
- Organ Support: Chorale Prelude (PDF)

### LITURGICAL AND HISTORICAL ROOTS

- Text: The *Anima Christi* dates to the 14th century and possibly associated with Thomas Aquinas.
- Devotional use: The prayer focuses on union with Christ’s Body and Blood.
- The English verses were widely used in English-speaking parishes in the 19th–20th centuries.
- Sung at by the First Communion classes at the Mass until the 1960’s\*

*\* The classes were permitted to sing hymns in English during the Latin Mass*

### THE ROLE OF THE HYMNAL

*A parish hymnal is more than a songbook; it provides a stable foundation for communal singing across generations. Hymnals capture texts and tunes that have proven liturgical, theological, and musical value—ensuring continuity and shared identity in sung worship.*

*A Catholic Book of Hymns is designed to fulfill this role by offering a curated collection of hymns that are durable in liturgical use and rooted in the Church’s tradition.*