This African American spiritual quite possibly reflects the circumstances of slaves attending early morning communion services in colonial Anglican churches, but its combination of hope ("rising sun") and supplication ("Lord, have mercy") speaks to many worshipers' experience.

**TEXT:** African American spiritual

**MUSIC:** African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1988

Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

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**Refrain**

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,

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O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)