

Fairest Lord Jesus

Anonymous (German, 17th century) · 1677 · Tune: Crusader's Hymn / St. Elizabeth (Silesian folk melody)
Meter: 5.6.8.5.5.8

Verse 1

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

Verse 2

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Verse 3

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling, starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Verse 4

Beautiful Saviour! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

History

First published in the German Münster Gesangbuch (1677). The familiar Silesian folk tune was collected in 1842 by August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben. Popularly — but inaccurately — linked to medieval Crusaders, hence the alternate tune name 'Crusader's Hymn.' The English translation appeared in Richard Storrs Willis's Church Chorals (1850).

Scripture References (KJV)

Song of Solomon 5:16

His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Psalms 45:2

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into thy lips: therefore God hath blessed thee for ever.