

Jesus, thou Joy of loving hearts

Iesus, dulcedo cordium

attributed to BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX (1091–1153),

but probably by an English Cistercian monk

translated by RAY PALMER (1808–1887)

Jesus, thou Joy of loving hearts!
Thou Fount of Life! thou Light of men!
From the best bliss that earth imparts,
We turn unfilled to thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on thee call;
To them that seek thee, thou art good,
To them that find thee—All in All!

We taste thee, O thou Living Bread,
And long to feast upon thee still;
We drink of thee, the Fountain Head,
And thirst our souls from thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
Where'er our changeful lot is cast;
Glad, when thy gracious smile we see,
Blest, when our faith can hold thee fast.

O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments calm and bright;
Chase the dark night of sin away,—
Shed o'er the world thy holy light!

The corresponding quatrains translated by
ALFRED EDERSHEIM (1825–1889):

Jesu, joy of hearts, most bright,
Spring of truth and inward light,
Sweetest joy of heaven above,
Far exceeding human love.

Hope of contrite hearts and meek,
Jesu, near to them that seek—
If to those who ask so kind,
Lord, what is it Thee to find!

They who eat will hunger more,
Thirst anew who drank before—
Oh, the longing luxury
Of the heart that pants for Thee!

Though I wander far and wide,
Will I seek Thee by my side;
Oh what joy to find Thee near!
Oh what bliss to hold Thee here!

With us stay, Redeemer dear,
On us shed Thy brightness here;
Chase the darkness of the night,
Fill the world with sweetest light!

Latin text: Quatrains 4, 3, 20, 28, and 10 of “Jesu dulcis memoria” in Herm Adelbert Daniel, *Thesaurus Hymnologicus*, vol. 1 (Lipsiae [Leipzig], 1855), via *Hymnology Archive*.
English text (Palmer): *Sabbath Hymn & Tune Book* (1859), via *Hymnology Archive*.

Original Latin (quatrains 4, 3, 20, 28, and 10):

Iesus, dulcedo cordium,
Fons veri, lumen mentium,
Excedens omne gaudium
Et omne desiderium.

Iesu spes poenitentibus
Quam pius es petentibus
Quam bonus te quaerentibus,
Sed quid invenientibus.

Qui te gustant esuriunt,
Qui bibunt adhuc sitiunt,
Desiderare nesciunt
Nisi Iesum quem cupiunt.

Quocunque loco fuero
Mecum Iesum desidero:
Quam laetus cum invenero,
Quam felix cum tenuero.

Tumbam perfundam fletibus,
Locum replens gemitibus,
Iesu provolver pedibus,
Strictis haerens amplexibus.

English text (Edersheim): Alfred Edersheim, *The Jubilee Rhythm of St. Bernard of Clairvaux* (London: James Nisbet & Co., 1847), via *Hymnology Archive*.