

## Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee 629

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of thee  
 2 Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame,  
 3 O hope of ev - ery con - trite heart,  
 4 But what to those who find? Ah, this  
 5 Je - sus, our on - ly joy be thou,

with sweet - ness fills my breast. But sweet - er far thy  
 nor can the mind re - call a sweet - er sound than  
 O joy of all the meek, to those who fall, how  
 nor tongue nor pen can show. The love of Je - sus,  
 as thou our prize wilt be. Je - sus, be thou our

face to see, and in thy pres - ence rest.  
 thy blest name, O Sav - ior of us all.  
 kind thou art! How good to those who seek!  
 what it is none but his loved ones know.  
 glo - ry now, and through e - ter - ni - ty.

The sweetness celebrated in this anonymous 12th-century Latin poem is not cloying or sentimental; it is more like an antidote to bitterness and a source of hope and healing. The best-known 19th-century translation is set here to a tune composed especially for these words.

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## Seek Ye First

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
 3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,  
 seek, and you shall find;  
 but by ev - ery word

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4, emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2-3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;

Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

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LAFFERTY  
 Irregular

al - le - lu - ia,

and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
 knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 Busca primero el reino de Dios  
 y su perfecta justicia,  
 que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.  
 Alelu, aleluya.

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와  
 그의를 구하-면  
 이모든것 네게 더하시리라  
 알렐-루 알렐루야