# O Dearest Jesus What Law 351

1. dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
that such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession,
what dark transgression?
2. They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
with cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
they give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
they crucify you.
3. What is the source of all your mortal anguish?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
this I do merit.
4. How strange is this great paradox to ponder:
the shepherd dies for sheep who love to wander;
the master pays the debt his servants owe him,
who would not know him.
5. wondrous love, whose depth no heart has sounded,
that brought you here, by foes and thieves surrounded,
conquer my heart, make love its sole endeavor
henceforth forever!

TEXT: Johann Heermann (1630). Tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878), alt.

TUNE: Johann CrŸger (1640)

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