

Commissioned by Dr. David Berning for the Westminster Oratorio
Choir and Orchestra, Westminster Presbyterian Church,
Des Moines, Iowa, Randal Buikema, conductor

JESU, THE VERY THOUGHT IS SWEET

For Mixed Choir (SATB) and Organ
(or Two Flutes, Organ and Strings)*

Bernard of Clairvaux (1091–1153)
J.M. Neale (1818–1866), *trans.*

Mack Wilberg

With expression, yet simplicity (♩ = c. 88)

Organ

p (celestes)

7

p (celestes to pedal 8' only)

13

Sopranos *mp*

Je - su, the ve - ry

*This piece may be performed by mixed choir and organ, in which case the organ reads from the part presented in this octavo. If performed with flutes and strings, the organ reads from the separate organ part included in the set of parts accompanying the full score (available on rental).

4

19

(S.)

thought is sweet; in that dear Name all heart - joys meet;

This system contains measures 19 through 24. It features a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs), and a separate bass line in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

25

But O than hon - ey sweet - er far the glimps - ses of his

This system contains measures 25 through 30. It features a vocal line in treble clef with lyrics, a piano accompaniment in grand staff, and a separate bass line in bass clef. The key signature has one flat.

31

Pres - ence are.

(solo flutes)

mp

This system contains measures 31 through 36. The vocal line has lyrics and rests. The piano accompaniment includes a section for solo flutes. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present. The key signature has one flat.

37

Musical score for measures 37-42. The system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42 are indicated above the vocal staff.

43

Tenors

mp

No word is (-solo)

+16'

Musical score for measures 43-48. The system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The vocal line is labeled "Tenors" and has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The lyrics "No word is (-solo)" are written below the vocal staff. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, and 48 are indicated above the vocal staff. A rehearsal mark "+16'" is present at the end of the system.

49

sung more sweet than this; no name is heard more full of

Musical score for measures 49-54. The system includes a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (grand staff). The lyrics "sung more sweet than this; no name is heard more full of" are written below the vocal staff. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. Measure numbers 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, and 54 are indicated above the vocal staff.

6

55

bliss; No thought brings sweet - er com - fort nigh, than Je - sus,

This system contains measures 55 through 60. It features a vocal line in G major with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "bliss; No thought brings sweet - er com - fort nigh, than Je - sus,". The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and moving lines, and a left hand with a steady bass line.

61

Son of God most high.

This system contains measures 61 through 66. The lyrics are: "Son of God most high." The piano accompaniment continues with a right hand featuring arpeggiated chords and a left hand with a simple bass line.

67

Sopranos, Altos *mf*
Je - su, the hope of

Tenors *mf*
Je - su, the hope of

This system contains measures 67 through 72. It includes parts for Sopranos and Altos, Tenors, and Piano. The lyrics for the vocal parts are: "Je - su, the hope of". The piano accompaniment features a right hand with chords and a left hand with a bass line.

73

souls for - lorn! How good to them for

souls for - lorn! How good to them for

77

sin that mourn! To them that seek thee,

sin that mourn! To them that seek thee,

81

O how kind! But what art thou to

O how kind! But what art thou to

85 (S.) **poco rit.** **a tempo** *mf*
 them that find? Je - su, thou sweet - ness, pure and blest,
 (A.)

(T.) *mf*
 them — that find? Je - su, thou sweet - ness, pure — and blest,

(B.) *mf*
 them that find? Je - su, thou sweet - ness, pure — and blest,
 Je - su, thou sweet - ness, pure and blest,

poco rit. **a tempo**

91
 life's Foun-tain, Light of souls dis - tress'd; Sur - pas - sing all that
 life's Foun-tain, Light of souls — dis - tress'd; — Sur - pas - sing all that
 life's Foun-tain, Light of souls — dis - tress'd; — Sur - pas - sing all that
 life's Foun-tain, Light of souls dis - tress'd; Sur - pas - sing all that

97

heart re - quires, ex - ceed - ing all that soul de - sires.

heart re - quires, ex - ceed - ing all that soul de - sires.

heart re - quires, ex - ceed - ing all that soul de - sires.

heart re - quires, ex - ceed - ing all that soul de - sires.

p

103

A few Sopranos *mp*

(S.) No mor - tal can ex - press, nor write its

No tongue of mor - tal can ex - press, no let - ters write its

(A.) No tongue of mor - tal can ex - press, no let - ters write its

(T.) No tongue of mor - tal can ex - press, no let - ters write its

(B.) No tongue of mor - tal can ex - press, no let - ters write its

mp

mp

109

bles - sed - ness; _____ Who hath thee in _____ his heart _

bles - sed - ness; _____ A - lone who hath thee in his heart

bles - sed - ness; _____ A - lone who hath thee in his heart

bles - sed - ness; _____ A - lone who hath thee in his heart

bles - sed - ness; _____ A - lone who hath thee in his heart

mf

mf

115

Je - sus, what thou art. **All Sopranos**

knows, love of Je - sus, what thou art. A-lone who hath thee in his

knows, love of Je - sus, what thou art.

knows, love of Je - sus, what thou art.

knows, love of Je - sus, what thou art.

p

p

poco rit.

heart knows, love of Je - sus, what thou

Knows, love of Je - sus, what — thou —

Knows, love of Je - sus, what — thou

Knows, love of Je - sus, what thou

poco rit.

art.

art.

art.

art.

a tempo

mp

mp