

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken

1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
2 They crown Thy head with thorns, they smite, they scourge Thee;
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!
5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness;

That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
With cru - el mock - ings to the cross they urge Thee;
It is my sins for which Thou, Lord, must lan - guish;
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;
The sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;

Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
They give Thee gall to drink, they still de -
Yea, all the wrath, the woe, Thou dost in -
The Mas - ter pays the debt His ser - vants
Man for - feit - ed his life and is ac -

fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
cry Thee; They cru - ci - fy - Thee.
her - it, This I do mer - it.
owe Him, Who would not know Him.
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

HERZLIEBSTER JESU
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