

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer,
Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be Thine.

Written by German Jesuits as *Schönster Herr Jesu* in the 17th century.
Translated by Joseph A. Seiss in 1873.
Music: [Crusader's Hymn](#), a Silesian folk song, 1842.

The lyrics above are the ones shown in most hymnals. However, Seiss' original translation is somewhat different; he titled it "Beautiful Savior." It is found under this name in many Lutheran hymnals.

Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in the flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration
Now and forevermore be Thine!

Written by German Jesuits as *Schönster Herr Jesu* in the 17th century.
Translated by Joseph A. Seiss in 1873.
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This version is missing a stanza, which corresponds to the second in the German and fourth in the common translation. Both versions replace the fifth German stanza with a variation of the first stanza. The revision below repairs these alterations and others.

Fairest Lord Jesus

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nations,
Thou of God and Mary the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

All fairest beauty, heavenly and earthly,
Wondrously, Jesus, is found in Thee;
None can be nearer, fairer or dearer,
Than Thou, my Savior, art to me.

Fair is the sunshine, Fairer still the moonlight,
And all the countless starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Truly He's present here in the holy Sacrament;
Jesus, have mercy on our souls.
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

Words: 17th century, revised by R. Gillmann, 2010

The first stanza has “nations” instead of “nature” or “creation”, which is closer to the original German and matches the final stanzas above. It also restores “Mary” per the original replacing the generic “man”, which is weak paired with God as the parents of Jesus. The second stanza is moved from the fourth stanza above to match the original order. The countless” stars of the third stanza is closer to the original and more impressive than the nursery-rhyme “twinkling”. The fourth stanza is moved from the second stanza above to match the original order. The reference to the Sacrament in the original is retained in the final stanza. The hymn moves from the general to the local, from Ruler of all, to heaven and earth, to the sun and moon, to the meadows and woodlands, and then to the communal Sacrament, which is the climax so that Jesus is not seen as someone ethereal but as One who is present here and now.