I love thee, Lord, but not because Hymnal 1982 no. 682 Melody: St Fulbert C.M.



I love thee, Lord, but not because

I hope for heaven thereby,

nor yet for fear that loving not

I might for ever die;

but for that thou didst all the world

upon the cross embrace;

for us didst bear the nails and spear,

and manifold disgrace,

and griefs and torments numberless,

and sweat of agony;

e’en death itself; and all for one

who was thine enemy.

Then why, most loving Jesus Christ,

should I not love thee well,

not for the sake of winning heaven,

nor any fear of hell;

not with the hope of gaining aught,

not seeking a reward;

but as thyself hast lovèd me,

O ever loving Lord!

E’en so I love thee, and will love,

and in thy praise will sing,

solely because thou art my God

and my eternal King.

Words: Latin, 17th century, translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878), adapted by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876)