My God, I love thee; not because AMNS 65 Melody: St. Francis Xavier C.M.



My God, I love thee; not because

I hope for heaven thereby,

nor yet because who love thee not

are lost eternally.

Thou, O my Jesus, thou didst me

upon the cross embrace;

for me didst bear the nails and spear,

and manifold disgrace,

and griefs and torments numberless,

and sweat of agony;

yea, death itself – and all for me

who was thine enemy.

Then why, O blessèd Jesu Christ,

should I not love thee well?

not for the sake of winning heaven,

nor of escaping hell;

not from the hope of gaining aught,

not seeking a reward;

but as thyself hast lovèd me,

O ever-loving Lord.

So would I love thee, dearest Lord,

and in thy praise will sing;

solely because thou art my God,

and my most loving King.

Words: Latin, 17th century, translated by Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Music: John Stainer (1840-1901)