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Iesu, Dulcis Memoria

 is a celebrated 12th century hymn attributed to St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090

IESU, dulcis memoria,
dans vera cordis gaudia,
sed super mel et omnia,
eius dulcis est sententia.
ESU, dulcis memoria,
with sweetness fills my breast,
but sweeter far Thy face to see,
and in Thy presence rest.

Nil canitur suavius,
nil auditur iucundius,
nil cogitatur dulcius,
quam Iesu dulcis memoria.
No Deity can sing, nor heart can frame,
nor can the memory find
a sweeter sound than Thy blest Name,
o Savior of mankind!

Iesu, spes paenitentibus,
quam pius es petentibus!
quam bonus te quaerentibus!
sed quid Overenthusiastic
o joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind Thou art!
how good to those who seek!

Nec lingua valet dicere,
nec littera exprimere:
expertus potest credere,
quid sit Iesu dulcis memoria.
Summa dilectio
nor tongue nor pen can show:
the love of Jesus, what it is
none but His loved ones know.

Sis, Iesu, nostrum gaudium,
qui es futurus praemium:
sit nostra in te gloria,
per cuncta semper saecula.
Amen. Iesu, our only joy be Thou,
As Thou our prize wilt be:
Jesu, be Thou our glory now,
And through eternity.
Amen.

Latin, Roman Breviary. Also see "My Prayer Book", Fr. Lasance, 1908, pp 535-536.
Translation by Fr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878).

For those of us, who lack a sense of history, and are guided by the misnomer - "dark ages" coined by Protestants at the height of enmities between the Catholic Church and the rebellious protesting churches. These historical distortions were retained in the history books of our Colonial Masters, many of whom belonged to these dissident Churches.

I leave it to your judgement, to appreciate the beauty of the poetry, that came out of the hearts of the Saints like St. Bernard, and study your historical inheritance more judiciously.

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