Jerusalem the Golden

By: Bernard of Cluny

Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest— The sight of it refreshes The weary and oppressed: I know not, oh, I know not What joys await us there, What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare: To sing the hymn unending With all the martyr throng, Amidst the halls of Zion Resounding full with song.

Oh, sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
Oh, sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect,
Where they who with their leader Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.
Jesus in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest
Where sings the host of heaven Your glorious name to bless.

The Christ is ever with them; The daylight is serene.
The pastures of the blessed Are ever rich and green.
There is the throne of David; And there from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, The song of them that feast.
To God enthroned in glory The Church's voices blend,
The Lamb forever blessed, The Light that knows no end.

Notes:

Hymn # 728 from Christian Worship Supplement

Author: Bernard of Cluny

Tune: Thaxted

The hymn paints a beautiful, idyllic scene of the joys of heaven. It's based on an incredibly long poem that was written in the 12th century AD. Over the years, versions of it have been used in a number of different hymn settings. This version is set to the "Jupiter Theme" from Gustav Holst's great composition, "The Planets."

We'll sing this hymn in worship on Sunday, April 28th. Until then, consider using it as a bedtime or afterdinner hymn with your family. The music you'll find online includes music for all three verses of the hymn, with one verse of introduction.