

*Salve caput cruentatum*

## **O Sacred Head, Surrounded**

Henry W. Baker

1. O Sacred Head, surrounded  
by crown of piercing thorn!  
O bleeding Head, so wounded,  
reviled and put to scorn!  
Death's pallid hue comes o'er you,  
the glow of life decays,  
yet angel hosts adore you  
and tremble as they gaze.
2. I see your strength and vigour  
all fading in the strife,  
and death with cruel rigour,  
bereaving you of life;  
O agony and dying!  
O love to sinners free!  
Jesus, all grace supplying,  
O turn your face on me.
3. In this, your bitter passion,  
Good Shepherd, think of me  
with your most sweet compassion,  
unworthy though I be:  
beneath your cross abiding  
for ever would I rest,  
in your dear love confiding,  
and with your presence blest.

Inspiration: "Salve caput cruentatum"; attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux, c. 1091-1152.  
Lyrics: 76.76 D; Henry Williams Baker, 1821-1877, in "Hymns Ancient and Modern", 1861.