

HOT CROSS BUNS

I

When summer's heat still burns the sky,¹
the Hot Cross buns appear
so merchants can condition us
that Easter time is near.

Easter is the oldest
Christian festival of all,
its origins go almost back
to Peter, Luke and Paul.

They recollected Jesus' death
with fasting and with prayer,
they grieved with godly sorrow
for the anguish suffered there.

The Cross embraced their vision
as they focused on God's Son—
our cross is just a marking
on a spicy baker's bun.

Chorus

A Hot Cross bun
is not for fun;
(enormous cost
to save the lost);
Sin overcome,
the race is run.
It was no loss—
that Roman Cross—
the battle's done;
the field is won.
from Calvary
to Pentecost.

¹ For northern hemisphere application use this alternative first line: When winter's cold still
chills the stars...

II

Ingredients are mixed and
pounded—flour, spices, yeast—
and baked in blazing heat so we
can celebrate the feast.

Without demur the Saviour faced
the wrath of heaven above;
he passed through fires...of judgement,
the epitome of love.

Chorus

A Hot Cross bun
is not for fun;
(enormous cost
to save the lost);
Sin overcome,
the race is run.
It was no loss—
that Roman Cross—
the battle's done;
the field is won.
from Calvary
to Pentecost.

III

An Easter pastry's nice to eat,
but like the apostle's scroll,
it may be sweet between the lips
yet bitter to the soul.

Chorus

A Hot Cross bun
is not for fun;
(enormous cost
to save the lost);
Sin overcome,
the race is run.
It was no loss—
that Roman Cross—
the battle's done;
the field is won.

from Calvary
to Pentecost.

IV

The Saviour gave us broken bread
and ordinary wine
to bring to our remembrance
God's unparalleled design

to use the Cross to bear our sins—
the ugliness, the pain—
to offer us forgiveness
and the chance to hope again.

So eat up, friends, enjoy the bun,
Its piping is a guide

...to...

think wistfully of Jesus
whom we call the Crucified.
Remember how he suffered
and how willingly he died.
How in the Cross the law's demands
were fully satisfied.
Come lowly in humility
and sacrifice your pride.

Chorus

It's just a bun, a pleasant snack,
a simple thing to bake;
but it signifies the Saviour,
and the amnesty he makes.

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