**CHAPTER** **2**

*Christ caresses his spouse: he invites her to him.*

**1** I am the flower of the field, and the lily of the valleys.

**2** As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

**3** As the apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow, whom I desired: and his fruit was sweet to my palate.

**4** He brought me into the cellar of wine, he set in order charity in me.

**5** Stay me up with flowers, compass me about with apples: because I languish with love.

**6** His left hand is under my head, and his right hand shall embrace me.

**7** I adjure you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and the harts of the field, that you stir not up, nor make the beloved to awake, till she please.

**8** The voice of my beloved, behold he cometh leaping upon the mountains, skipping over the hills.

**9** My beloved is like a roe, or a young hart. Behold he standeth behind our wall, looking through the windows, looking through the lattices.

**10** Behold my beloved speaketh to me: Arise, make haste, my love, my dove, my beautiful one, and come.

**11** For winter is now past, the rain is over and gone.

**12** The flowers have appeared in our land, the time of pruning is come: the voice of the turtle is heard in our land:

**13** The fig tree hath put forth her green figs: the vines in flower yield their sweet smell. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come:

**14** My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the hollow places of the wall, shew me thy face, let thy voice sound in my ears: for thy voice is sweet, and thy face comely.

**15** Catch us the little foxes that destroy the vines: for our vineyard hath flourished.

**16** My beloved to me, and I to him who feedeth among the lilies,

**17** Till the day break, and the shadows retire. Return: be like, my beloved, to a roe, or to a young hart upon the mountains of Bether.