

Thumbs Up Jesus

by Gary Hardaway

My boss is a rah-rah fellowship Christian.
He decorates his monitor
with a twenty-first century Jesus-

all smiles, pointing to us, with a big thumbs up
and a friendly wink. Good buddy Jesus.
Life coach Jesus. Enthusiastic

and optimistic Jesus, no cross
or crown of thorns in sight.
No beatific melancholy

of spirit become suffering flesh face
anywhere around. No pieta Jesus.
Just this welcoming and cheerful

visage on the screen
to reassure my boss
that all his trials, Lord,

will be rewarded
now and in the Kingdom to come,
now and at the hour of his death.

