

December 7, 2025  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

(ELW #631) Love Divine, All Loves Excelling, vs. 1

“Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heaven, to earth come down!  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
All thy faithful mercies crown,  
Jesus, thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love thou art,  
Visit us with thy salvation,  
Enter ev’ry trembling heart.”

How do we understand the enormity of what we celebrate at Christmas? A baby is born. But, what a baby! The very enfleshment of God’s nature, eternal, unchanging, unconditional love. The source, the ground, of all other love. Jesus is born to show the world a human being fully living this divine love. This hymn begins with a prayer that this divine love would come down and enter our humble, trembling hearts, that we might more fully live our lives with our Savior’s unbounded mercy and compassion.

Let us pray. Loving Father, send down your Spirit to open our trembling hearts to receive your divine love, and strengthen our wills to love our neighbors as you love us. Amen.

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