

December 21, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent

Hymn, Charles Wesley, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" Verse 4.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
Till in Heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

This final version of this familiar hymn eloquently speaks to the present and ultimate reality of God's presence in our humanity. Christ came into our midst as an infant, who would grow into an adult bringing God's healing, justice, and hope into our human reality. When all of the world's brokenness came together to kill him, Easter morning showed us God's power was greater than all of this sin and evil. Struggling humanity has always been sustained by this ultimate power of God's justice and healing. "Till in heaven we take our place" are the words that speak to our ability to endure hardship, persecution, and injustice with "certain hope". The celebration of Christmas is the renewal of the promise that at last, we will be with a loving God and the Christ child.

Prayer Oh Lord who came into our midst, sustain us in our struggles in this imperfect world. Allow us to always look forward to being in your presence. Amen

Submitted by David Howell
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