

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (ELW 631)

1

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, 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, 2025 ADVENT
DEVOTIONS
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3

Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

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 heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788.
Music: Rowland H. Prichard; Public Domain



2025 ADVENT DEVOTIONS

The theme this year is "Joy of Heaven, Here on Earth". Our Advent hymn...that recurs during the month's devotions is "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" (ELW 631).

St. Matthew Evangelism & Communication Team



When we sing during Advent, “Love divine, all loves excelling / Joy of heav’n, to earth come down!” we proclaim a powerful truth. Love can and is embodied in us as people. At the birth of Jesus, divine love is embodied in human form. Yet, this doesn’t end at the Advent story and certainly does not end after Jesus’ earthly ministry is complete. We too are given divine love as a gift of faith through the power of the Holy Spirit to carry within us and to share with others. The hymn continues, “Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit / into ev’ry troubled breast; / let us all in thee inherit.” As we journey together through Advent and consider Scripture and the hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” let’s listen for how that divine love speaks to our hearts and how we are called to live out that love.

On Christmas morning we are greeted with love: a “love divine, all loves excelling.” The love of Christ surpasses any kind of love we can give, receive, or imagine ourselves. As the Word made flesh, Jesus takes on human life and experiences all that it means to be human: to rejoice, to weep, to suffer, to delight, to die. Yet Jesus is not limited by his humanity. As the one who is fully human and fully God, Jesus offers us unending grace beyond all human capacity.

The hymn reminds us that as we celebrate the birth of Jesus each year, we also proclaim our sure and certain hope that Jesus will receive us into God’s kingdom, where we may praise God forever. We think of those who have gone before us, who have already cast their crowns at Jesus’ feet and serve him with joy. Thanks be to God that each Christmas we can experience a taste of heaven’s joy come down to earth, until “in heav’n we take our place.”

“Come, Almighty, to deliver, let us all thy life receive!” Enter our hearts this Christmas. Call us, teach us, remind us, and breathe your love into our troubled hearts. Give us the courage and joy to serve our neighbors with compassion—and keep us ever mindful of your unlimited love. Amen.

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