

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Charles Wesley · 1747 · Tune: Beecher (John Zundel)
Meter: 8.7.8.7.D

Verse 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 every trembling heart.

Verse 2

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Verse 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.

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.

History

Published in Wesley's 'Hymns for Those That Seek and Those That Have Redemption' (1747). The hymn expresses the Wesleyan doctrine of Christian perfection — God's love progressively transforming the believer until faith becomes sight. The tune 'Beecher' was composed by John Zundel in 1870 and named for Henry Ward Beecher, Zundel's pastor at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn.

Scripture References (KJV)

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.