

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might-y to de-liv-er, let us all your life re-ceive;
 4 Fin-ish, then, your new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith-ful mer-cies crown;
 Let us all in you in-her-it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and ne-ver, ne-ver-more your tem-ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in you;



Je-sus, you are all com-pas-sion; pure, un-bound-ed love im-part.
 Take a-way our love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 You we would be al-ways bless-ing, love you as your an-gels love,
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis-it us with your sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-ery trem-bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 Pray and praise for your un-fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a-bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev-er shall be lost in won-der, love, and praise.



This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.
 John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL
 For another harmonization, see 368, 495

Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows

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Henry W. Baker, 1868; alt.

Ps. 23

1 Such per - fect love my Shep - herd shows, whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3 When vain and fool - ish oft I strayed, you,
 4 I do not fear death's shad - owed vale when

good - ness fails me nev - er, Whose hand all things I
 lov - ing Shep-herd leads me, And where the ver - dant
 faith - ful Shep-herd, sought me, And on your shoul - der
 you are here be - side me; Your rod and staff and

need be - stows and watch - es me for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow with food from heav - en feeds me.
 gent - ly laid, then home re - joic - ing brought me.
 strength pre - vail to com - fort and to guide me.

5 You spread a ta-ble in my sight,
 your gifts of grace be-stow-ing;
 And from your chal-ice I de-light
 to taste your mer-cy flow-ing.

6 And so through all the length of days
 your good-ness fails me nev-er;
 Good Shep-herd, may I sing your praise
 with-in your house for-ev-er.

English clergyman Henry Baker greatly influenced hymnody in England and the United States through his leadership in preparing Hymns Ancient and Modern (1861). Baker's hymn is a recast of a George Herbert poem.

Tune: DOMINUS REGIT ME 8.7.8.7.
 John B. Dykes, 1868
 Alternate tune: ST. COLUMBA

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
 2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
 3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
 for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
 and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer-ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
 our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
 to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

At Andover Seminary, fellow students asked Ernest W. Shurtleff to write a hymn for their graduation. This is the result. Shurtleff became a Congregational minister and in his last years established churches in Europe and did relief work during World War I.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836