

Amazing Love Praise and Worship

by Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer

In this youth lead service, our worship focuses on the theme of the 2013 National Youth Gathering, LiveLove(d). We remember Christ's amazing love in His suffering and dying on the cross. We continue to celebrate the glory of God made manifest in Christ's resurrection. "What kind of love is this?" Extravagant. Amazing. Inclusive. The greatest. We celebrate Christ and His generous love.

Hymn suggestions are taken from Lutheran Service Book. Hymn numbers are indicated in parentheses. The final song, "Brothers and Sisters in Christ," can be found in *All God's People Sing*. Both collections are from Concordia Publishing House.

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by Your name.

ALL: Do not leave us. (Jeremiah 14:9)

Leader: Let us pray...Lord God, loving Father, You show us Your love through Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true love and joy are found; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "When I Behold Jesus Christ" (LSB 542)

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When I behold Jesus Christ, True God who died for me,
I wonder much at His love As He hung on the tree.

Chorus: What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.

For me You gave all Your love, For me You suffered pain;
I find no words, nothing can Your selflessness explain. (Chorus)

You had no sin, holy Lord, But You were tortured, tried;
On Golgotha there for all My sins You bled and died. (Chorus)

What love is this? Great love No one has ever known.
My life with God—this I owe To You and You alone. (Chorus)

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

ALL: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the

name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: As forgiven people of God, let us welcome one another and share God's peace.

(Worshippers are invited to greet one another with "The peace of the Lord." When the music begins playing, worshippers should return to their seats for the next hymn.)

HYMN: "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia" (LSB 466)

Text: Bernard Kyamanya, tr. Howard S. Olson. Text Copyright © 1977 Howard S. Olson

Christ has arisen, Alleluia. Rejoice and praise Him, Alleluia.

For our Redeemer burst from the tomb, Even from death, dispelling its gloom.

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving. Alleluia! Jesus is living. Alleluia!

PSALMODY: An paraphrased arrangement of Psalm 136, vs 1-8, 23-26

Paraphrased and Arranged by Terry K. Dittmer. Copyright © 2010 by the author.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

ALL: His love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, He is God of gods!

ALL: His love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, He is Lord of lords!

ALL: His love endures forever.

Leader: To Him who alone does wonders great!

WOMEN: His love endures forever.

Leader: To God, who heavens and waters made!

MEN: His love endures forever.

Leader: The sun and the moon and the stars displayed.

RIGHT SIDE: His love endures forever.

Leader: He is God who remembers our low estate.

LEFT SIDE: His love endures forever.

Leader: He is God and foes cannot escape.

MEN: His love endures forever.

Leader: He provides for all creatures, small and great.

WOMEN: His love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

ALL: His love endures forever.

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord, FOR HE IS GOOD!

ALL: HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!

HYMN RESPONSE: "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

For three long days the grave did its worst Until its strength by God was dispersed.
He who lives life did death undergo And in its conquest His might did show.

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving. Alleluia! Jesus is living. Alleluia!

THE FIRST LESSON: 1 Corinthians 13:4-13

1 Corinthians 13 will be read in a reader's theatre format. The multi-generational speakers shall be designated as follows:

Reader 1 – Teen aged boy

Reader 2 – Middle aged woman

Reader 3 – Middle aged man

Reader 4 – Older adult woman

Reader 5 – Older adult man

Reader 6 - 9-11-year-old girl.

Leader: My friends, tell me about love.

Reader 1: Love is patient

Reader 2: And kind;

Reader 3: Love does not envy

Reader 4: Or boast;

Reader 5: It is not arrogant

Reader 6: Or rude.

Reader 1: It does not insist on its own way;

Reader 2: It is not irritable

Reader 3: Or resentful;

Reader 4: It does not rejoice at wrongdoing,

Reader 5: But rejoices with the truth.

Reader 6: Love bears all things,

Reader 1: Believes all things,

Reader 2: Hopes all things,

Reader 3: Endures all things.

Reader 4: Love never ends.

Reader 5: As for prophecies, they will pass away;

Reader 6: As for tongues, they will cease;

Reader 1: As for knowledge, it will pass away.

Reader 2: For we know in part

Reader 3: And we prophesy in part,

Reader 4: But when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.

Reader 5: When I was a child,

Reader 6: I spoke like a child,

Reader 1: I thought like a child,

Reader 2: I reasoned like a child.

Reader 3: When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.

Reader 4: For now we see in a mirror dimly,

Reader 5: But then face to face.

Reader 6: Now I know in part;

Reader 1: Then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Leader: So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;

ALL: But, the greatest of these is love.

HYMN RESPONSE: "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia!"

The angel said to them, "Do not fear! You look for Jesus who is not here."
See for yourselves, the tomb is all bare; Only the grave clothes are lying there.

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving. Alleluia! Jesus is living. Alleluia!

THE SECOND LESSON: I John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

ALL: In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

HYMN RESPONSE: "Christ Has Arisen. Alleluia."

"Go spread the news. He's not in the grave. He has arisen, this world to save.
Jesus' redeeming labors are done; Even the battle with sin is won."

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving. Alleluia! Jesus is living. Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:12-17

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

HYMN RESPONSE: "Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"

Christ has arisen. He sets us free. Alleluia! To Him praises be.
Jesus is living. Let us all sing. He reigns triumphant, heavenly King.

Refrain: Let us sing praise to Him with endless joy;
Death's fearful sting He has come to destroy.
Our sin forgiving. Alleluia! Jesus is living. Alleluia!

SERMON

SONG: "O Savior, Precious Savior" (LSB 527, vs. 1,2,3, public domain)

O Savior, precious Savior, whom yet unseen we love;
O name of might and favor, All other names above,
We worship Thee and bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our holy Lord and King.

O bringer of salvation, Who wondrously has wrought
Thyself the revelation Of love beyond our thought,
We worship Thee, We bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our gracious Lord and King.

In Thee all fullness dwelleth, All grace and power divine;
The glory that excelleth, O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, We bless Thee, to Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee, Our glorious Lord and King.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray... Abide with us, dear Lord, and be present in all this day shall bring.

Reader 7: Abide with us and with your whole church.

Reader 8: Abide with us throughout this day which You have given,

Reader 9: And at the end of our life,

Reader 10: And at the end of the world.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy;

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 7: Abide with us with Your grace and goodness,

Reader 8: In Your Holy Word and Sacrament,

Reader 9: With Your strength and blessing.

Reader 10: Abide with us in love and hope and promise

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 7: Abide with those in need of healing.

Reader 8: Abide with those who mourn.

Reader 9: Abide with the homeless, the hungry, with the widowed and orphaned.

Reader 10: Abide with us and help us do your bidding as your people to help meet needs.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 7: Abide with children, that they may know the love of Your embrace.

Reader 8: Abide with middle schoolers that they may know you love them and who they are becoming.

Reader 9: Abide with our teenagers as they confront the choices and decisions of adolescence.

Reader 10: Abide with young adults, studying, serving, starting careers and households, building their lives after high school.

Reader 7: Abide with parents, mentors and all people who care about kids that they may be strong witnesses to your love.

Reader 8: Abide, dear God, with your love and mercy, protect and bless all who dwell here, both young and old, children, teenagers, young adults, adults and older adults.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy;

ALL: Hear our prayer.

Reader 9: Abide with us throughout this day and fill this day with joy.

Reader 10: Abide with us and all the faithful, now and forever.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

ALL: AMEN

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And with your Spirit.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts,

ALL: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

ALL: It is right to give His thanks and praise.

Pastor: Blessed You are, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Forgive, renew and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Fathering, be all glory, honor and worship with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Leader: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE AGNUS DEI: "Lamb of God," (LSB 550)

Words and Music by Twila Paris. (LSB 550) Copyright © 1985 Straightway Music; administered by EMI. Used with permission. CCLI # 508491.

Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side.
To walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.

Refrain: O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

You gift of love they crucified, The laughed and scorned His as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God. (Refrain)

I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod and to be called the Lamb of God. (Refrain)

THE DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"My Song Is Love Unknown" (Public Domain. LSB 430)

My song is love unknown. My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless show That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from His blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange and now This longed for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed, Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew His way And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these Themselves displease And 'gainst Him rise.

They rise and need will have My dear Lord made away;
A murdered they save, The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful He To suffering goes That He His foes From thence might free.

In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was His Home But mine the tomb Wherein He lay.

Here might I stay and song, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend, In Whose Sweet praise In all my days Could gladly spend.

“What Wondrous Love Is This” (Public Domain. LSB 543)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul.
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul. To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down. When I was sinking down, sinking down.
When I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown
Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul. Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the lamb I will sing, I will sing. To God and to the lamb I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb Who is the great I AM,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing. While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me.
And through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And through eternity, I'll sing on.

“Forever”

Words and music by Chris Tomlin. Copyright © 2001 worshiptogether.com songs, six steps Music.

Administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing. For a congregation wanting to use a contemporary song,

“Forever” could be a good selection. It echoes the thoughts of the Psalm of the day, Psalm 136.

Give thanks to the Lord
Our God and King
His love endures forever

And by the grace of God
We will carry on
His love endures forever

For He is good
He is above all things
His love endures forever

Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise, Yeah

Sing praise, sing praise
With a mighty hand and outstretched arm
His love endures forever

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us
Forever, forever

For the life
That's been reborn
His love endures forever

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us
Forever, forever, forever

Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise, Yeah

His love endures forever
His love endures forever
His love endures forever
Forever

Forever, God is faithful
Forever, God is strong
Forever, God is with us
Forever, forever

Sing praise, sing praise
Sing praise, sing praise, Yeah

From the rising
To the setting sun
His love endures forever

Forever you are faithful
Forever you are strong

Forever you are with us
Forever and ever and ever, yeah

Forever you are faithful
Forever you are strong
Forever you are with us
Forever, forever

You are our God
You are God
Forever and ever and ever

And ever and ever
And ever and ever
And ever

“Beautiful Savior” (Public Domain, LSB 537)

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows. Fair are the woodlands, Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine. Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration Now and forever-more be Thine!

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

Leader: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with this salutary gift, and, we implore You, that of Your mercy, You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and (+) give you peace.

ALL: Amen.

SONG OF COMMUNITY: “Brothers and Sisters in Christ”

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1. Sing alleluia! Amen! Let your prayers and praises ascend.
Lift up your voices and sing To our Lord God, our Savior and King.
Here brought together by grace We are gathered as friends in this place.

Chorus: And assembled as one In the name of the Son,
Lifting hearts. Lifting hands, Celebrating as friends.
And proclaiming the Lord. All our praises afford.
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

2. Man walked alone and in need Without faith, hope or promise or creed;
Wandering aimlessly lost Unaware of the staggering cost
That God in His mercy would save All His people from death and the grave.
3. Lord, teach us how to proclaim All your goodness, your love and your name!
Lord, teach us how to forgive And in love, teach us, Lord, how to live.
Raising our voices in song, Help us tell all the world we belong.