

Singing Our Faith
6th Sunday of Easter – May 6, 2018

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling,
2. Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er,
3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion,



Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Let us all your life re - ceive;
Pure and spot - less, gra - cious Lord.



Fix in us your hum - ble dwell - ing,
Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
Let us see your great sal - va - tion



All your faith - ful mer - cies crown.
Nev - er - more your tem - ples leave.
Per - fect - ly in you re - stored.



Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion,
You we would be al - ways bless - ing,
Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



Love un - bound - ed, love all pure;
Serve you as your hosts a - bove,
Till in heav'n we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va - tion,
Pray, and praise you with - out ceas - ing,
Till we sing be - fore the Al - might - y,

Singing Our Faith 6th Sunday of Easter – May 6, 2018



Let your love in us en - dure.
Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.
Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Tune: HYFRYDOL, 8 7 8 7 D; Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

The gospel readings from last Sunday and this Sunday take place at the Last Supper after Jesus washed the apostles' feet. When I think of the apostles at the Last Supper, I imagine them staring at Jesus with dropped jaws, figuratively of course. In that short segment of time at the Last Supper, Jesus turns their world upside down in so many ways. One sentence that strikes me is this: *"I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father."* This ultimately reveals the New Covenant between God and humankind. This all passed by in the blink of an eye, and I wonder how much they were able to digest at the time versus how much of it made sense after events such as the resurrection, ascension, and descent of the Holy Spirit.

The main idea this Sunday is simple: **"Love one another."** There are many kinds of love, depending on the context of the relationship, and each person has a different idea of what each kind of love means. Our human interpretations and expectations make love messy. Ultimately, Jesus wants us to love as he does, not as we think we should. It's a bold quest for every person.

Singing Our Faith
6th Sunday of Easter – May 6, 2018

The processional hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” is such a rich text. The text was penned by Charles Wesley, the youngest son and 18th child of Samuel and Susanna Wesley. The Wesleys are considered an iconic family among Protestant Christians. Charles Wesley penned thousands of hymn texts – “Love Divine” is often considered one of his finest.

Wesley’s naming of God as “Love” draws us into this Sunday’s gospel and Jesus’ commandment. Certain phrases point to the Eucharist – “fix in us your humble dwelling” and “let us all your life receive” among others. This reinforces the bond between the Eucharist and unity with Christ and his commandments. The first two stanzas help us on earth to serve Christ, to live his examples of love and compassion in every moment. Stanza three points to the hope of Eternal Life “Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we sing before the almighty, lost in wonder, love, and praise.” To quote St. John Paul II, “We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!” In this Easter season, we celebrate that Jesus has triumphed over death and opened the gates of Heaven to us. Whatever trials this world throws at us, Charles Wesley’s image of being lost in wonder, love, and praise strips us of earthly burdens, and gives us a renewed hope in the resurrection.

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy and Music