

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

The Love of God

With new Easter verse (v. 3)
Romans 8:35-39

Chords: D^b D^bsus D^b G^b/D^b D^b D^b

1. The love of God is great - er far Than tongue or
2. Could we with ink the o - cean fill, And were the
3. He is a - live, and He is Lord, Now crowned with

Chords: A^b7 E^m/A^b A^b7 D^b D^bsus D^b

pen can ev - er tell; It goes be - yond the
skies of parch - ment made, Were ev - 'ry stalk on
heav - en's high - est name; And there in Him, by

Chords: G^b/D^b D^b D^b A^b7 E^m/A^b A^b7

high - est star, And reach - es to the low - est
earth a quill, And ev - 'ry man a scribe by
love re - stored, With all cre - a - tion we'll pro -

Chords: D^b D^bsus/E^b D^b/F G^b G^b/B^b D^b

hell. The guilt - y pair, bowed down with care,
trade, To write the love of God a - bove
claim: "Wor - thy the Lamb, the Great I Am,

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MUSIC: Frederick M. Lehman; arr. by Claudia Lehman Mays

LOVE OF GOD
Irregular

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$B\flat m$ $A\flat$ $A\flat 7$ $D\flat$ $D\flat sus$ $D\flat$ $G\flat$
 $D\flat$ C $E\flat$ F

God gave His Son to win; His err - ing child He
 Would drain the o - cean dry; Nor could the scroll con -
 All glo - ry, pow'r, and might." With joy we'll trace His

$G\flat$ $D\flat$ $A\flat$ $A\flat 7$ $F m$ $D\flat$
 $B\flat$ $A\flat$

re - con - ciled, And par - doned from his sin.
 tain the whole, Tho' stretched from sky to sky.
 bound - less grace In all its depth and height.

Refrain
 $D\flat$ $E\flat m 7$ $D\flat 7$ $G\flat$ $A\flat$ $G\flat$ $D\flat$ $B\flat m$
 F $G\flat$ $D\flat$

O love of God, how rich and pure! How mea - sure -

$A\flat$ $A\flat 9$ $D\flat$ $E\flat m 7$ $D\flat 7$ $G\flat$
 $G\flat$ F

less and strong! It shall for - ev - er -

$A\flat$ $G\flat$ $D\flat$ $B\flat m$ $A\flat$ $F m$ $D\flat$
 $G\flat$ $D\flat$

more en - dure- The saints' and an - gels' song!

TOPICS: Easter; God's Love; Atonement; Eternal Life; Praise & Worship

LEAD-IN: *I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

A Father's Love

When I was all wrong, inside and out...when I was so blind I didn't want to change...when I was so helpless I could not change, Jesus took responsibility for me. He took it upon himself to save me from my own sin and the death He knew it would bring me.

When that meant sacrifice, He was there.

When it meant incredible suffering, He was there.

When it meant submitting himself to abuse, humiliation, and death, He was there for me.

Because I was blind, proud, and completely helpless, He carried me and all my guilt on His back. He died for my sins so that I wouldn't have to.

If my wife or children were in danger, I'd do anything to save them. No matter what the threat or the cost, I'd be there. I'd gladly step into the gap for them. That's the way Jesus felt about me when I was far away from Him, when I didn't know Him and didn't care.

Do you want to learn about what He put himself through? Read one or more of the accounts in the Bible (Matthew 26-27; Mark 14-15; Luke 22-23; John 18-19). Jesus' life wasn't taken from Him. He laid it down willingly, and the Bible accounts bear that out. He knew ahead of time all the suffering that awaited Him, but He faced it anyway.

He was betrayed by a close friend.

He let himself be taken by those who hated Him and were eager to kill Him.

He went through an illegal trial and was falsely accused, yet He never tried to defend himself.

He was severely beaten and had a crown of thorns pressed onto His head.

He was mocked and publicly humiliated. He watched and listened as the people He loved screamed for His execution.

Finally, He was nailed to a wooden cross and hung there to die slowly while His enemies jeered and His mother watched and wept.

Jesus knows love. He knows how much it costs. He knows how much it can hurt. Nothing can break our hearts like our children when they turn away from us, trample our love, and slowly destroy themselves in the process. Jesus lived out a parent's perfect love.

Every day, through every word and action, He showed us our Father's heart toward us. And He showed it most eloquently, most poignantly, most completely in His death.

We look around at creation and see our Father's lavish love and care for us. But creation flows from the unmeasured abundance of His riches. Though the universe is so vast and varied, the Creator is undiminished by giving it.

But in Jesus, we see the Creator's love more fully. We see Him pouring himself out completely, unreservedly for us.

That's love.

That's our Creator.

And His Fatherly love hasn't changed in the two thousand years since He sacrificed himself for us.

Discover Him.

Discover Him personally, for yourself.

Discover

Jesus.