



What Wondrous Love is This?

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WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS? (LSB #543), a popular camp revival song, was part of the Second Great Awakening in the United States in 1811—a time of tent revivals initiated by Methodist and Baptist preachers. The author is unknown.

*What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, 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.*

Wondrous love, indeed. John 3:16 tells us “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” This wondrous sacrificial love for us shines forth as we sing.

I first heard this song at a Maundy Thursday service during the stripping of the altar. The second verse impacted me viscerally. “When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown. Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.” As the chancel emptied, I realized I was sinking down by the weight of my own sins. I desperately needed Christ’s forgiveness.

Philippians 2:7-8 tells us, “(Christ) made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” His sacrifice is our redemption.

Just as the empty altar on Maundy Thursday reflects the loss on Good Friday, it doesn’t end at the cross. Christ’s glorious resurrection follows. We sing to God and to the Lamb...who is the great I AM...while millions join to sing this joyous song.

Revelation 5:11-13 says, “I heard the voice of many angels around the throne...and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand...saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing...to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

And finally, when we are free from our earthly body, we will join the heavenly host in singing eternal praise. “Holy, holy, holy Lord God, the Almighty who was and is and is to come” (Revelation 4:8b). *What wondrous love is this, O my soul.*

Scripture: New King James Version.



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