



# He Adores You

by Jan Brunette

## Opening

Dear Father in heaven, as You open our eyes to Your love through Your Word, may this study create, by the power of Your Spirit, a desire in us to love You more dearly and to see You more clearly. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him (Psalm 103:11).*

## Oh, how He loves you and me!

Be assured that we can know with all certainty that Jesus not only loves us but also adores us. No matter our age, our occupation, our appearance or our status in life, He adores us. Whether our paths have been tainted by some unwise choices, or we have strayed from Him for a time, He still adores us. Although painful circumstances may have crept into our daily lives, and our reaction to those circumstances undesirable, He does and will always adore us. He remembers that we are His and patiently waits for our adoration in faith.

**How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race  
But holds our one humanity Within its broad embrace.**

**How long the love of Christ! Its patience will not cease  
Until this broken world is bound In everlasting peace.**

*(LSB #535:1-2)*

**Ephesians 3:16-19** encourages us to learn of Him and His love more and more: *I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge — that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.*

Upon reading these verses, name some ways we can become more rooted and grounded in His love, and how they can be accomplished. \_\_\_\_\_

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Understanding that we often set limits to our devotional time, we need to remember that there was no limit to the unending, sacrificial love displayed by Christ. His love is encapsulated, not only in His death and resurrection, but also in His abiding, all-consuming demonstrations of love displayed day after day. Because we are so often consumed with our daily lives and the troubles they bring, we neglect to see His compassionate guidance and tender touches of grace along the way. We fail to realize that His desire to guide us is beautifully orchestrated and is specifically designed just for us. How can these thoughts help your resolve to spend more time with Him? \_\_\_\_\_

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A TV channel I dearly love to watch has movies that are wholesome, interesting, and wonderful reminders of love that often surpass the thinking of many today. Sacrificial love is usually lavished upon the recipient and a gentler, simpler love is displayed. While many would call these movies “chick flicks,” I enjoy observing them as symbolic of the love that Christ has for me as His chosen. The pictures of love portrayed enable me to visualize Christ’s tender, gentle, and kind approach to me as He woos me into His eternal arms. I also constantly remind myself that Christ’s love is different from these earthly loves, in that His is an eternal love that far surpasses any love expressed in these films.

How high the love of Christ! Beyond all thought it soars,  
And yet upon our passing lives Unmeasured mercy pours.

How deep the love of Christ, Descending to a cross!  
He bears within His wounded hands All human pain and loss.  
(LSB #535:3-4)

### The measure of His love

Read **Psalm 36:5-10** as you discover the depth of God's love for us. How can we personally relate these verses to our own lives? \_

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Christ knows what we need to love Him more and to trust Him more abundantly. It may be revealed through a route of difficulties, a path of isolation and loneliness, and perhaps even over-activity as we try to achieve our plans in life rather than His. Yet, in and through all these, He will stretch out His everlasting arms, draw us to Himself, and assure us that its sole purpose is to teach us that there is no greater love than His — one that is unconditional, forgiving, and restoring. It is truly one that is more sacrificial, gentle, and simple than any earthly love, for it soothes the spirit and calms the soul. It provides rest in the midst of the events and circumstances of life and opens our eyes to Him, the Author and Perfecter of our faith and the Lover of our souls.

Read the following excerpts in the Psalms to discover a Love beyond all comprehension. Picture it not only as the Father's love for you, but the Son's love as well.

**Psalm 5:11-12** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 17:7-9** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 59:16-17** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 63: 2-4** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 89:1-2** \_\_\_\_\_

### My response to that love

As Christ's love becomes more and more rooted and established in us, so does the desire to serve Him faithfully and without restraint. Our attitudes, motivations, and passions for service change. We begin to acknowledge that our responses to Him become that of love, not guilt or a need for more activity in our lives.

As you look up the following passages, record God's plan for you.

**Matthew 6:33-34** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 15:16-17** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians 5:18-20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 2:10** \_\_\_\_\_

What is our response to His plans?

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 4:32-5:2** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 5:18-20** \_\_\_\_\_

**Philippians 3:12-14** \_\_\_\_\_

In and through our Baptism, the benefits of Christ's cross and resurrection are given in full supply. His Holy Spirit pours the love of the Father and the Son into us. His greatest desire is to reveal Christ's sacrificial love in abundance and to truly enable us to know this love that surpasses knowledge, thus empowering us to share it with others.

In the following verses, record that great love. \_\_\_\_\_

**John 14:15-21** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 15:11-15** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 1:3-8, 17-21** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ephesians 2:4-7** \_\_\_\_\_

All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height,  
Whose length and breadth fill time and space  
With endless life and light! (LSB #535:5)

And God in His Word says: *How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!* (1 John 3:1a)

He adores you. Grow in His love!

### Closing

Dear Jesus, we adore You by offering our love and affection. May we challenge ourselves to grow through Your Spirit. Prepare our hearts to serve You more faithfully — first out of love for You and then for others. Open our eyes to see the depth of Your love in every daily task we have to do and to cherish the times we spend with You in prayer and devotion. Thank You for Your gift of love for us — Your unconditional, sacrificial, gentle love. Amen.

Sing or read together: "O Savior, Precious Savior" (LSB #527; LW #282; TLH #361).

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