

Week 3

# God Loves Me Dearly

Oct. 11

1 John 4:9–10; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4–5

*(Lutheran Service Book 392)*

1. God loves me dearly,  
Grants me salvation,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

3. He sent forth Jesus,  
My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus  
And set me free.

*Refrain (after each stanza):*  
Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.

4. Jesus, my Savior,  
Himself did offer;  
Jesus, my Savior,  
Paid all I owed.

2. I was in slav'ry,  
Sin, death, and darkness;  
God's love was working  
To make me free.

5. Now I will praise You,  
O Love Eternal;  
Now I will praise You  
All my life long.

1. In one of his letters and in his Gospel, the apostle John gives us some marvelous Christmas passages dealing with God's love. Read 1 John 4:9–10. How did God manifest His love, or show it to us (v. 9)? Did we in any way prompt that love or deserve it (v. 10)?

2. Read John 3:16. (You probably have this verse memorized.) How much does God love us?

3. Paul encompasses this thought in Romans 5:8. What does Paul mean here?

4. Paul continues in this vein in Ephesians. Read Ephesians 2:4–5, which captures three attributes of God. What are these attributes? Explain their differences.

5. Perhaps the author was reflecting on the Christmas story (Luke 2:1–20) and some of the passages above when he wrote the fifth stanza: “Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal; Now I will praise You All my life long.” Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. Is our praise limited to formal worship services?

**Answers:**

1. God showed His love to us by sending His only Son into the world. He did it so “that we might live through Him” on into eternity. We did not prompt God’s love in any way. Rather, it was His unqualified love that allowed us to be propitiated (favorably received back to Him from our sinful condition).

2. He loves us so much that He gave His only Son, so that those who believe in Him will not end up in hell but have eternal life.

3. By nature, sinners are alienated from God and deserve to “be hung out and dried”—headed for perdition. This death sentence has been handed down to us from our forefathers. God, in His great love, still sent His Son to die for us and gave us the Holy Spirit to bring us to faith in Jesus through His Gospel.

4. They are mercy, love, and grace. Mercy can be defined as kindness in excess of what should be expected; love, inherent to God, is His benevolent concern for mankind to the point of giving His own Son; and grace is the unmerited favor or love He shows to man. (In no way do we earn our salvation. God gives it to us.)

5. No. All wholesome, constructive efforts, including rest and recreation and even mundane tasks, can be to God’s glory.