

Now Thank We All Our God

Martin Rinkart · 1636 · Tune: Nun Danket (Johann Crüger)
Meter: 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6

Verse 1

Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Verse 2

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

Verse 3

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

History

Lutheran pastor Martin Rinkart wrote the verses around 1636 in Eilenburg, Saxony as a table grace for his children, in the middle of the Thirty Years' War and a deadly plague during which he conducted up to 50 funerals a day. Catherine Winkworth's English translation appeared in 1858. The tune 'Nun danket' by Johann Crüger (1647) is one of the most beloved chorales in the German tradition.

Scripture References (KJV)

Ecclesiasticus 50:22-24

(Source text from the Apocrypha; the hymn echoes Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 — 'to enjoy the good of all his labour... it is the gift of God.')

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

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