

We Gather Together

Adrianus Valerius · 1597 · Tune: Kremser (Dutch folk melody)

Meter: 12.11.12.11

Verse 1

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing;
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

Verse 2

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be Thine!

Verse 3

We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

History

Originally a Dutch text by Adrianus Valerius written to celebrate the Dutch victory over the Spanish at the Battle of Turnhout in 1597, ending decades of forbidden Protestant worship. The English translation by Theodore Baker appeared in 1894. Edward Kremser arranged the folk tune in 1877. It became a Thanksgiving Day standard in American churches in the early 20th century.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 75:1

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.

Deuteronomy 8:10

When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.