

"Now Thank We All Our God"

This hymn of gratitude was written during a devastating war. It represents the creative work of four remarkable persons: Martin Rinkart, Catherine Winkworth, Johann Crüger, and Felix Mendelssohn. It is truly a worthy and timeless hymn.

KIDPages

Use these pages:

- With children who arrive early
- In a small learning group
- As a take-home page (If a page is sent home, suggest that parents and children work on the KIDPage together.)

Who Am I?

Use this page to help children discover information about the author, translator, composer, and arranger as they solve the code.

Create an Art Song

Have children complete this art project to help them memorize the text of Stanza 1.

Hymn Detective

Use the sheet music for the hymn and the Hymn Detective KIDPage for children to discover the meaning and structure of the text.

"Now Thank We All Our God" Descant

Perform this chart with Boomwhackers®, bells, or handchimes.

"Now Thank We All Our God" Dramatic Reading

Enlist and rehearse two readers to present this dramatic reading.

Who Am I? Answers:

1. Martin Rinkart
2. Catherine Winkworth
3. Johann Crüger
4. Felix Mendelssohn

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and Him who reigns with them in highest heaven,

who, from our mother's arms, hath blest us on our way
 and keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

WORDS: Martin Rinkart, 1636; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858
 MUSIC: Johann Crüger, 1647; harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

NUN DANKET
 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6

WHO AM I?

Four extraordinary persons created "Now Thank We All Our God." To discover their names and how each of them contributed to the creation of the hymn, read the statements and write the correct letter in the blanks using the Alphabet Code:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Alphabet | A | B | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | J | K | L | M |
| Code | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | X | Y | Z |
| | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |



1. I wrote "Now Thank We All Our God" as a table blessing during a difficult time of war, disease, and famine.
My name is

_____ .
13 1 18 20 9 14 18 9 14 11 1 18 20

1586-1649



2. I translated "Now Thank We All Our God" and many other hymns from the German language to English.
My name is

_____ .
3 1 20 8 5 18 9 14 5 23 9 14 11 23 15 18 20 8

1827-1878



3. The tune used with "Now Thank We All Our God" is named NUN DANKET. It is from a music book I composed.
My name is

_____ .
10 15 8 1 14 14 3 18 21 7 5 18

1598-1662



4. I am a famous composer who created the harmony for the tune NUN DANKET.
My name is

_____ .
6 5 12 9 24 13 5 14 4 5 12 19 19 15 8 14

1809-1847

Create an Art Song

Draw pictures to represent the missing words from "Now Thank We All Our God:" 1. hearts; 2. hands; 3. voices; 4. world; 5. mother's; 6 arms; 7. gifts; 8. love. Use the words and pictures to help memorize the words.

Now thank we all our God with

1  and 2  and 3 ,

who wondrous things hath done,

in whom His 4  rejoices; who, from our

5  6 , hath blest us on our way

with countless 7  of 8 ,

and still is ours today.

HYMN DETECTIVE

BE A HYMN DETECTIVE!

Learn more about
"Now Thank We All Our
God." Read each statement
and mark the text on the Hymn
Sheet as directed.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

This hymn helps us celebrate the bond
we share in Christ by using words that
show unity.

Circle the words **us**, **our**, and **ours**
every time they are used
in the hymn.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Sing this hymn to celebrate
Mother's Day!

Draw a big heart around the phrase
mother's arms.

HELPFUL WORDS FOR HARD TIMES

Martin Rinkart, the author, ministered
during a time of war, hunger, disease,
and death.

Draw a wavy line under the words in
Stanza 2 that express God's comfort
during hard times: **peace**, **near**,
cheer, **grace**, **guide**, **perplexed**,
and **ills**.

MAKE YOUR LIFE A DOXOLOGY!

Stanza 3 is a doxology which praises
the Trinity. The word *doxology* comes
from the word *doxa*, which means
glory. Our lives should bring glory
to God every day! Draw a triangle
around the words **Father**, **Son**, and
Him who reigns (Holy Spirit).

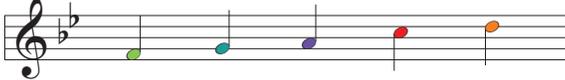
FOREVER! ETERNAL! EVERLASTING!

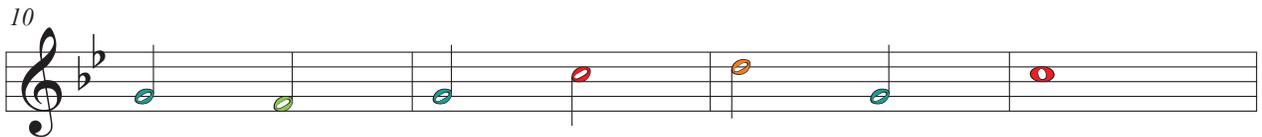
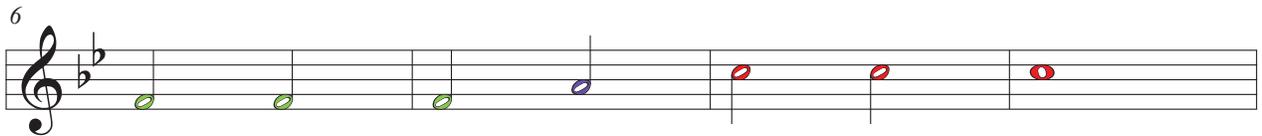
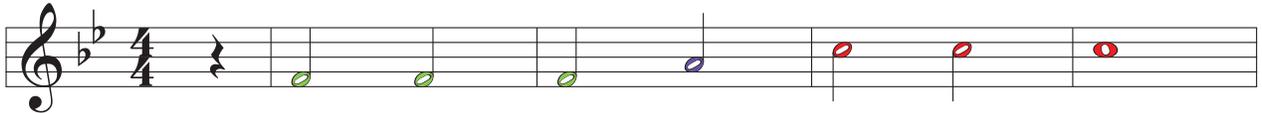
God is now, always has been, and
always will be. This is a
wonderful mystery!

Draw three lines under these words:
was, **is now**, and
shall be evermore.

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Descant

Pitches needed: 



A color version is available on the Enhanced CD.

“Now Thank We All Our God”



Dramatic Reading



Reader 1: Martin Rinkart was a minister in his home town of Eilenburg, Germany, during the Thirty Years' War.

Reader 2: Families crowded into the city seeking safety. Many people began to die from hunger and disease.

Reader 1: During the worst times, Rinkart was the only pastor left in the city. He often conducted more than twelve burials a day.

Reader 2: When the commander of the attacking army demanded a huge amount of money from the city of Eilenburg, Rinkart bravely left the city to ask for mercy. The commander was impressed by Rinkart's courage and faith and lowered his demands.

Reader 1: Rinkart was a man of great faith and courage.

Reader 2: His faith stayed strong during a time of terrible suffering. In spite of all these difficulties, he wrote "Now Thank We All Our God" as a table grace.

Reader 1: Stanza 1 offers thanksgiving, Stanza 2 is a prayer for God's care, and Stanza 3 is a doxology, praising the Trinity.

Reader 2: Let's sing together with heart and hands and voices.