



November 16, 2018

Now thank we all our God with hearts 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 1 of the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God"

Words by Martin Rinkart (1586-1649)

Martin Rinkart, a Lutheran pastor, lived in the walled city of Eilenberg in Saxony during the Thirty Years' War. Other pastors fled the city, but Rinkart stayed, enduring famine and plague as he ministered to the sick and dying.

While the city was under Swedish control, a general ordered everyone to pay an enormous levy and refused to hear their plea for mercy. Rinkart led this people in song and they knelt in prayer. So moved was the Swedish general by the sight that he reduced his demand. This prayer by Rinkart, which began as a grace before meals, then used in this time of need of the people of Eilenberg, became the hymn sung as a national thanksgiving at the end of the war.

As we come together for this season of thanksgiving, may each of us be able to lift with hearts and hands and voices deep thanks for the love, blessings and bounty of our lives.

In Christ's grace,

Pastor Deb