

THANKSGIVING

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We Gather Together

Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century

Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894

Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

- 1 We gath-er to-geth-er
to ask for God's bless-ing,
to live in com-mu-ni-ty,
seek-ing God's will.
We come now, as sis-ters
and broth-ers, con-fess-ing
the sins that di-vide
and the wrong in us still.
- 2 Be-side us, for-giv-ing,
en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,
you call us, O Sav-ior,
to life that is new.
You draw us a-way
from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.
- 3 All praise to the Spir-it,
pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.
You of-fer us free-dom,
to fol-low or stray,
Em-pow-er-ing all by
the hope you en-gen-der.
Grant wis-dom and cour-age
to fol-low your way.

The original text of this hymn was one of thanksgiving for The Netherlands' independence from Spanish domination in the sixteenth century. It has been reinterpreted for contemporary congregations by United Church of Christ minister and writer Lavon Bayler.

Tune: KREMSEK 12.11.12.11,
16th-century Dutch melody
Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

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Nun danket alle Gott
(Now Thank We All Our God)

Sir. 50:20-24; 39:35; Ps. 67

Martin Rinkart, 1647; transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

1 Nun dank - et al - le Gott, mit Herz - en, Mund und Händ - en,
1 Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voic - es,
2 O may this boun-teous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God our Mak - er now be giv - en.

der gro - sse Ding - e tut an uns und al - len End - en;
Who won - drous things has done, in whom this world re - joic - es,
With ev - er joy - ful hearts and bless - ed peace to cheer us,
To Christ, and Spir - it, too, our help in high - est heav - en.

der uns von Mut - ter - leib und Kind - es - bein - en an
Who, from our par - ents' arms, has blessed us on our way
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when per - plexed,
The one e - ter - nal God, whom earth and heaven a - dore,

un - zäh - lig viel zu gut bis hier-her hat ge - tan.
With count-less 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 ev - er - more.

For much of his life, German Lutheran pastor and musician Martin Rinkart ministered to the walled city of Eisleben amidst the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This hymn has become one of the most widely used hymns of the church.

Tune: NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
Johann Crüger, 1647
Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

381 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Mt. 13:39



1. Come, ye thank-ful peo-ple, come; raise the song of har-vest home.
2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un-to his praise to yield,
3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har-vest home,
4. E-ven so, Lord, quick-ly come to your fi-nal har-vest home,



All is safe-ly gath-ered in ere the win-ter storms be-gin.
 wheat and tares to- geth-er sown, un-to joy or sor-rows grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of-fens-es purge a-way,
 gath-er all your peo-ple in, free from sor-row, free from sin,



God, our ma-ker, does pro-vide for our wants to be sup-plied;
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap-pear,
 give his an-gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for-ev-er pu-ri-fied, in your pres-ence to a-bide.



come to God's own tem-ple, come, raise the song of har-vest home.
 Lord of har-vest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit-ful ears to store in his gar-ner ev-er-more.
 Come, with all your an-gels, come, raise the glo-rious har-vest home.

