**Name of Class**

**Now Thank We All Our God– CW 610:1,2,3**

**PREPARATION**

**Objective**

The student will:

1. Discover reasons why a Trinitarian doxology is special.
2. Identify how the teaching of the Trinity is a blessing in their life.
3. Sing and perform the tune, and associate the tune with the text.

**Materials Needed**

1. *Christian Worship* or a copy of the text of the hymn
2. *Christian Worship Handbook* (optional)
3. Bibles
4. NPH Hymnsoft (optional)
5. Pictures of Martin Rinkart and Paul Gerhardt
6. Pictures of St. Nicolai

**Words to Know**

bounteous

**Biblical Connections**

Psalm 139:13

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Acts 2:38

1 John 1:7

2 Corinthians 8:9

Galatians 3:13

**Key Question**

**Why do we give special attention to hymns that contain the names Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

*When we sing to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, it gives us the opportunity to remember* *that we are united in faith with thousands of Christians from the past and present, and it acknowledges the works of each person of the Trinity.*

**LESSON**

**Introduction**

If you were to name three of the most famous people in the following areas, who would it be: sports? music? government? Name three who work together with the intention of bringing you safely to heaven (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This trio is like none other. In fact, we’re talking about the Trinity. Today’s hymn is one of many which addresses our Triune God. **Why do we give special attention to hymns that contain the names Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

**Background Information**

* Johann Crüger wrote the melody. In our hymnal, no composer has as many hymn melodies as he.
* He often teamed up with Paul Gerhardt. Gerhardt wrote the words, and Crüger wrote the music
* Both lived in Germany in the 1600’s and lived through the Thirty Years’ War~~.~~
* Crüger served as music director and organist at St. Nicolai, Berlin, a church that still exists today. Gerhardt was his pastor! (Show picture of church and the dynamic duo.)

**Stanza 1**

1. **This stanza says that God has done wondrous things for us and that he gives us countless gifts of love. What is your top three list of what God has done for you?**

*Answers will vary; put answers on board and attempt to divide them into three categories as blessings from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit*

1. **According to the hymn, how long has he been doing these great things?**

*From the time we were in our mother’s arms (really, from the time we were conceived; refer to Psalm 139:13)*

**Stanza 2**

**Words to Know**

Bounteous – plentiful; generous

1. **We believe in the biblical teaching of the Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Already in the first line we learn something about the work of God the Father. What are two specific things God the Father does?**

*Preserving us and giving us what we need (bounteous); guarding and protecting us*

1. **How does the Holy Spirit “keep us in God’s grace?”**

*He works through the Gospel when we come in contact with God’s Word as well as through the sacraments (baptism and Holy Communion); refer to 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 and Acts 2:38*

1. **We are asking God to “free us from all ills.” To what ills do you think this refers?**

*Physical and spiritual; have students name specific ills*

1. **How did God the Son free us from all ills?**

*By his perfect life and death, we are freed from the punishment we deserve because of our sins; refer to 1 John 1:7, Galatians 3:13, and 2 Corinthians 8:9.*

**Stanza 3**

1. **Stanza three presents us with an interesting puzzle. Find the identity behind each of these three words.**

**Him**: *the Holy Spirit*

**Them**: *Father and the Son*

**One**: *God*

1. **Try to draw a picture of one God who is three separate persons.**

*Have some symbols of the Trinity on hand. Help students understand that no picture or symbol can ever solve the puzzle. God is beyond too big for our minds to understand.*

1. **When we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God in three persons, we are using a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*Trinitarian Doxology*

1. **Think of two reasons why the church pays special attention to hymn stanzas when they contain a Trinitarian doxology.**

*One: it unites us to the countles Christians who have gone before us and have sung stanzas like this (almost 2000 years)*

*Two: we are saying, “We believe in the persons and work of the Trinity.” For if we reject this teaching, we are forever lost in hell as the Athanasian Creed states.*

1. **Dig around in the hymnal and find five hymns that have Trinitarian doxologies.**
2. **Since it’s an expression of praise when the Trinity is addressed, how should this stanza be played and sung?**

*STRONG and BOLD! And standing on our feet. Congregations often stand to sing this kind of a stanza.*

**Key Question**

**Why do we give special attention to hymns that contain the names Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

**Key Summary**

When we sing to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, it gives us the opportunity to remember that we are united in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (faith) with thousands of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Christians) from the past and present, and it acknowledges the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (works) of each person of the Trinity.

**Sing the Hymn!**

Accompaniment and voices can be found on the *CD*.

**Prayer**

Glory be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Memory**

Memorize stanzas 1,2,3

**Writing Activity**

*What’s the Trinity:* How would you explain the Trinity and the work of each person to a friend? Write out your response.

*Trinity Sunday:* If you are learning this hymn near Trinity Sunday, have the students explain the references to the Trinity and why we thank each person. The best written response may be used in the service folder for the weekend. If this is the case, the congregation should sing this hymn.

*Thanksgiving:* same idea as Trinity Sunday except at Thanksgiving.

**Visual Activity**

*The Look of the Trinity:* Using whatever materials you wish, create a visual of the work of each person of the Trinity.

Father: creating us, preserving us, protecting us

Son: living a perfect life for us, dying for us, taking our sins away

Holy Spirit: creating faith in us and keeping us in that faith

**Speaking/Listening/Performing**

*Composing a Psalm Tone:* The psalms in Christian Worship are a special kind of musical style called Anglican chant (demonstrate if needed). Each psalm closes with a Trinitarian doxology. In groups come up with a new chant (new melody) with a pre-existing psalm. You can use the same words if you like. In front of the class, you will model one line and the class copy you; sing the next line, and the class will copy, and so on.

**Cooperative Learning**

See #4 above

**Hymnal Connection**

*Hunting for the Trinity:* Pick one order of service to look through and find all the references to the Trinity. Just write down the page number in which you find the Trinity addressed.

**Performance Option - tentative**