

ANTHEM

A Song of Thanksgiving

John Ferguson

Lord, You have been our refuge from one generation to another. (Psalm 90:1)
Your love never ceases; Your mercies never end. (Lamentations 3:22)
For You are good, O Lord; Your steadfast love endures forever and ever.
(Psalm 100:5)

Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

(Martin Rinckart; tr. Catherine Winkworth)

Commemoration in the Prayers



November 25

Isaac Watts (AD 1748), *Hymn-writer*

Isaac Watts was born into a family of Dissenters or Non-Conformists, English Protestants who dissented from the Church of England because it had not sufficiently departed from the practices of the Roman Church. At the time, the preferred Anglican practice was to sing metrical paraphrases of the Psalms instead of hymns. Watts complained of the bad quality of the writing in the metrical Psalters. His father challenged Isaac to do better, and the man who showed a talent for rhyme even as a young boy eventually wrote about 750 hymns (15 of which appear in *LSB*). He is thus regarded as “the Godfather of English hymnody.” Among his best-loved hymns appearing in many hymnals:

Joy to the World (not written for Christmas!)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed

The Man Is Ever Blest

I Sing th' Almighty Power of God

Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds

This Is the Day the Lord Has Made

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Watts served as pastor of an Independent congregation in London, accepting the Call in 1702. Watts was also a logician, writing a textbook, *Logick* (first published in 1724), which shows the influence of English philosopher and empiricist John Locke.

Our second Communion distribution hymn this evening, *O Bless the Lord, My Soul* (*LSB* 814), is by Isaac Watts.