

# Protestant Hymns

by Dr. Martin Luther



**ABOUT THE READING** In the early 1500s Martin Luther challenged many Catholic practices. His protests marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation and of the Lutheran Church. Among Luther's beliefs was that all Christians should be able to understand religious teachings on their own. To encourage this, he wrote many religious **hymns** and placed great importance in singing as a part of worship.

**VOCABULARY**

**hymns** songs of praise

**lowly** ordinary

**bestow** give

**perils** dangers

**betide** happen to



*As you read the hymns below, think about why they might help people understand religious teachings.*

**From Heaven Above to Earth I Come**

From heaven above to earth I come  
 To bear good news to every home;  
 Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
 Whereof I now will say and sing:

To you this night is born a child  
 Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
 This little child, of **lowly** birth,  
 Shall be the joy of all the earth.

This is the Christ, our God and Lord,  
 Who in all need shall aid afford;  
 He will Himself your Savior be  
 From all your sins to set you free.

He will on you the gifts **bestow**  
 Prepared by God for all below,  
 That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
 You may with us His glory share.

**What is this hymn about?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Why are the words *Himself* and *His* capitalized?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**We All Believe in One True God**

We all believe in one true God,  
 Who created earth and heaven,  
 The Father, who to us in love  
 Hath the right of children given.  
 He both soul and body feedeth,  
 All we need He doth provide us;  
 He through snares and **perils** leadeth,  
 Watching that no harm **betide** us.  
 He careth for us day and night,  
 All things are governed by His might.

Underline the words in this hymn that are examples of Old English.

**Thou Who Art Three in Unity**

Thou who art Three in unity,  
 True God from all eternity,  
 The sun is fading from our sight,  
 Shine Thou on us with heavenly light.  
 We praise Thee with the dawning day,  
 To Thee at even also pray;  
 With our poor song we worship Thee  
 Now, ever, and eternally.

“Three in Unity” refers to the trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The word *even* here refers to an Old English term, *eventide*, or evening.

**ANALYZING LITERATURE**

**1. Main Idea** What is the main focus of the hymns?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Critical Thinking: Making Inferences** Why do you think singing these hymns during a religious service was important to Martin Luther?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Activity** Imagine that you are a music critic and had just heard these hymns for the first time. Write a paragraph in which you critique each hymn and decide which one will make the religious music charts.

## Literature Protestant Hymns

### CALL-OUT BOXES

1. the birth of Jesus Christ
2. to indicate that he is referring to Jesus
3. Hath, feedeth, doth, leadeth, and careth should be underlined.

### ANALYZING LITERATURE

1. God and Christian beliefs
2. The hymns support Christian beliefs, are easy to understand, and provide an enjoyable way of teaching those beliefs in song.

## Primary Source Portrait of Giuliano de' Medici by Sandro Botticelli

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. Possible response: The creases in the subject's neck and the folds in his tunic are lifelike details. Botticelli's use of shading also creates a three-dimensional, lifelike image.
2. Possible response: Botticelli might have chosen a simple image for the background so that the viewer would focus on the person, not the rest of the painting.

## Primary Source *Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina of Tuscany (1615)* by Galileo Galilei

### WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

1. People opposed his opinion because it was new and because it went against everything they previously believed. Possible response: These reasons are not valid; if scientists support new theories with valid evidence, then these theories should at least be considered.
2. You can infer he thinks they are arrogant and ignorant because they value their own opinions above truth.

## History and Geography

### MAP ACTIVITY

1. Florence, Milan, Venice, and Genoa should be circled.
2. Venice and Genoa should be marked with an X.
3. Route should be a straight line between Genoa and Milan.
4. Route should be a straight line between Venice and Milan.

### ANALYZING MAPS

1. Genoa
2. by land
3. Naples is farther from Europe than cities in northern Italy. Goods shipped to Naples would have had to travel a greater distance to reach Europe.
4. Answers will vary. One possible route is for goods to have traveled over land to the southern tip of Italy and then to have been shipped by sea to Sicily. Another possible route is for goods to have traveled over land to Naples and then been shipped by sea to Sicily. A third option is for goods to have traveled over land to Genoa and then been shipped by sea to Sicily.

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Answers will vary. Student papers should include a business plan and a labeled map.

## Social Studies Skills

### PRACTICE AND APPLY THE SKILL

1. 1525–49
2. They rose somewhat more quickly and were higher during most of the time.
3. 1475–99 and 1500–24
4. England's
5. Costs of basic goods rose substantially, creating hardship for many people.