

In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord

Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ
Johannes Schneising, 1540
Tr. composite

8.7. 8.7. 8.8. 8.4. 8.

Allein zu dir
Wittenberg Braodsheets, 1541
Arr. composite

The musical score is written for voice and lute. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a lute line. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are as follows:

In Thee a - lone, O Christ, my Lord,
I know Thou wilt Thine aid af - ford,
My hope on earth re - main - eth;
- Naught else my soul sus - tain - eth.
No strength of man, no earth-ly stay, Can help me in the
e - vil day; Thou, on - ly Thou, canst aid sup - ply.
To Thee I cry; On Thee I bid my heart re - ly.

- 2 My sins, O Lord, against me rise,
I mourn them with contrition;
Grant, through Thy death and sacrifice,
To me a full remission.
Lord, show before the Father's throne
That Thou didst for my sins atone;
So shall I from my load be freed.
Thy Word I plead;
Keep me, O Lord, each hour of need.
- 3 O Lord, in mercy stay my heart
On faith's most sure foundation
And to my inmost soul impart
Thy perfect consolation.
Fill all my life with love to Thee,
Toward all men grant me charity;
And at the last, when comes my end,
Thy succor send.
From Satan's wiles my soul defend.
- 4 Glory to God upon His throne,
The Father, mercies sending,
And Jesus Christ, His only Son,
Us faithfully defending,
And God the Holy Ghost, our Lord,
Who ever doth His help afford
That we to Him well-pleasing be
In this our day
And also in eternity!

Johann Schneesting's "In Thee Alone, O Christ, My Lord (*Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ*)" first appeared in an undated broadsheet, printed probably 1540 in Nürnberg. Five years later it would be included, with the approval of Martin Luther, in Valentin Babst's *Geistliche Lieder*, Vol. 2, Leipzig, 1545, No. 21, under the title "A General Confession in Hymnic Form." Since then it has been a regular fixture in Lutheran hymnals. The melody appeared almost contemporaneously with the text, in a Wittenberg broadsheet dated 1541.

Stanzas 1-3 appear in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, No. 319, in a translation by Arthur Tozer Russell. These stanzas have been used for the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book. The fourth has been translated anew. The music is taken largely from the setting found in Friedrich Layritz, *Kern des Deutschen Kirchengesangs*, 3rd ed., Noerdlingen, 1854, No. 7. Both text and music may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever, and are offered with the prayer that they may serve for the edification of Christian people everywhere. For more information, visit the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book at:

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presents

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by

Johannes Schneesting

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