

All Glory Be to God on High

Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr

Nikolaus Decius, 1525

Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

8.7.8.7.8.8.7

Allein Gott in der Höh

Attr. Nikolaus Decius, 1539

Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1607, abbr.

All glo - ry be to God on high,
To us no harm shall now draw nigh,

Who hath our race be - friend - ed!
The strife at last is end - ed.

God show - eth His good - will to men,

And peace shall reign on earth a - gain;

Oh, thank Him for His good - ness!

- 2 We praise, we worship Thee, we trust,
And give Thee thanks forever,
O Father, that Thy rule is just
And wise and changes never.
Thy boundless pow'r o'er all things reigns,
Done is whate'er Thy will ordains:
Well for us that Thou rulest.
- 3 O Jesus Christ, Thou only Son
Of God, Thy heav'nly Father,
Who didst for all our sins atone
And Thy lost sheep dost gather:
Thou Lamb of God, to Thee on high
From out our depths we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, Jesus!
- 4 O Holy Ghost, Thou precious Gift,
Thou Comforter unailing,
O'er Satan's snares our souls uplift
And let Thy pow'r availing
Avert our woes and calm our dread.
For us the Savior's blood was shed;
We trust in Thee to save us.

“All Glory Be to God on High” (“*Allein Gott in der Höh sei Ehr*”) is a metrical setting of the Gloria in Excelsis written by Nikolaus Decius. It was first printed, in Low German and with no melody, in the Rostock *Gesangk Boek* of 1525. Its standard High German form appeared in Valentin Schumann’s Leipzig hymnal of 1539, where its melody also first appears. The melody was likely written by Decius himself, based upon the plainchant of the Easter Gloria. Decius’s hymn was never adopted in hymnals under Luther’s direction, though Valentin Babst’s hymnal of 1545 included the melody with a different text. It did nevertheless become an enduring favorite throughout the generations following Luther.

The English text chosen for the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book is the translation of Catherine Winkworth, 1863, as found in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, No. 237. The musical arrangement is adapted from Michael Praetorius, *Musae Sioniae* Vol. 2, 1607. Both text and music are in the public domain and may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever. They 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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The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book

presents

All Glory Be to God on High

by

Nikolaus Decius

and translated by

Catherine Winkworth

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