

CANTATA CLXXVII. ICH RUF' ZU DIR, HERR
 JESU CHRIST¹. Fourth Sunday after Trinity
 (1732)

Melody: "Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ"

Anon. 1535



A Choral Cantata, on Johannes Agricola's (Sneider) Hymn, "Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ," published originally as a broadsheet, and thence in Joseph Klug's *Geistliche Lieder zu Wittenberg* (Wittenberg, 1535 [1529])², with the melody.

Agricola was born at Eisleben in 1492. He was educated at Wittenberg, where he was befriended by Luther. He became in 1525 Rector of St Andrew's School and preacher at Eisleben, and later (1540) Court preacher at Berlin. He helped to draw up the "Interim" in 1548 and died in Berlin in 1566. The Hymn is attributed erroneously to Paul Speratus.

¹ Every movement of the Cantata is a stanza of the Hymn

² Wackernagel, III. 54, prints from a 1531 text.

The melody, which was published with the Hymn (*supra*), occurs also in Cantata 185. Organ Works, N. xv. 111.

(a)

The words of the opening movement are the first stanza of the Hymn :

Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ,
 Ich bitt' : erhor' mein Klagen ;
 Verleih' mir Gnad' zu dieser Frist,
 Lass mich doch nicht verzagen.
 Den rechten Glauben, Herr, ich mein',
 Den wollest du mir geben,
 Dir zu leben,
 Mein'm Nächsten nutz zu sein¹,
 Dein Wort zu halten eben.

B.G. xxxv. 201.

English translations of the Hymn are noted in the *Dictionary of Hymnology*, pp. 31, 1550.

Form. Choral Fantasia (2 *Ob.*, *Violino concertante*, *Strings*, *Continuo*).

(b)

The words of the concluding Choral are the fifth stanza of the Hymn :

Ich lieg' im Streit und widerstreb' :
 Hilf, O Heir Christ, dem Schwachen !
 An deiner Gnad' allein ich kleb' ;
 Du kannst mich starker machen.

¹ 1531 nutz sein.