Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637-1707)

28 Chorale Preludes

For Organ

Edited by
Christian Mondrup

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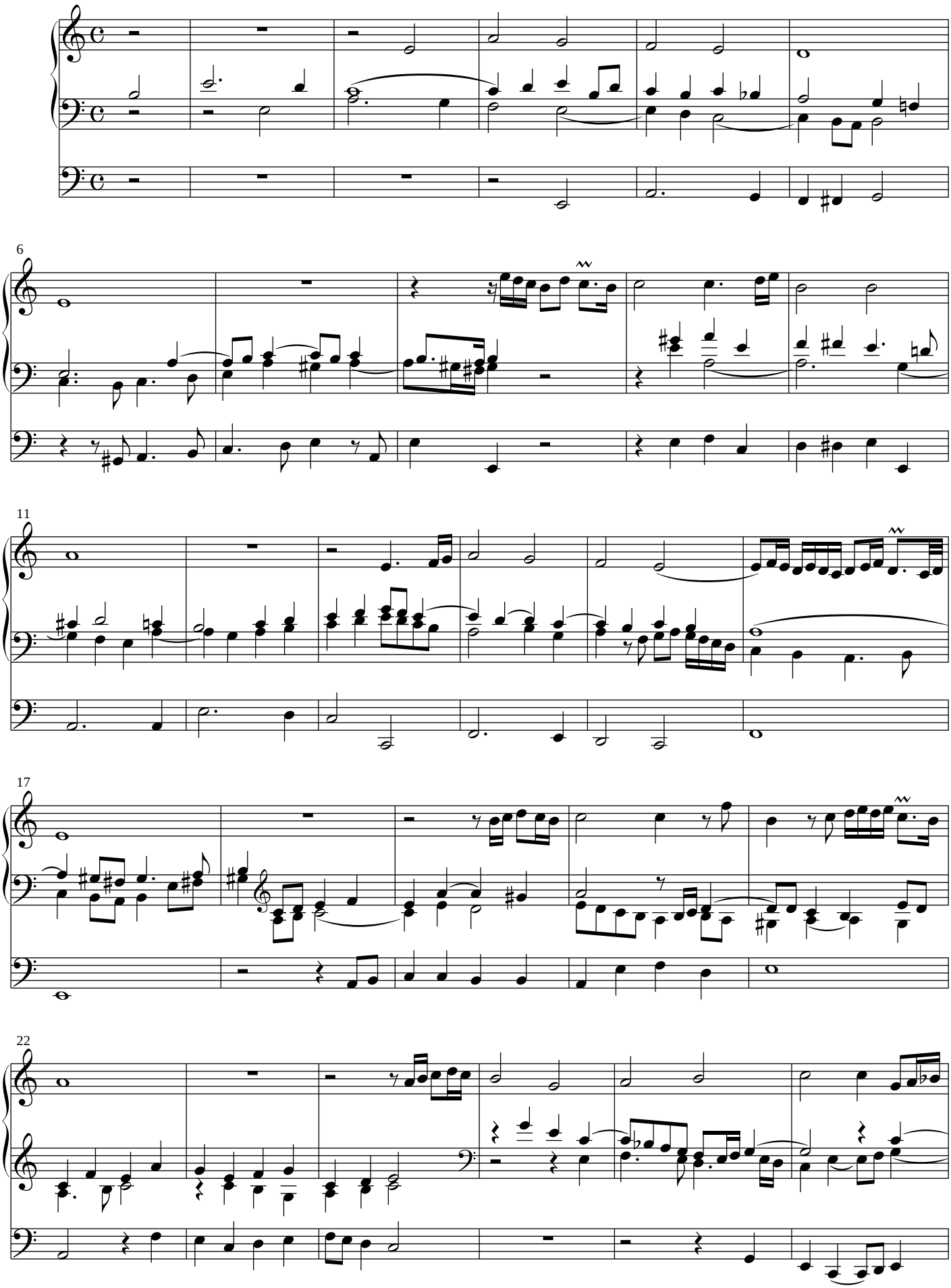
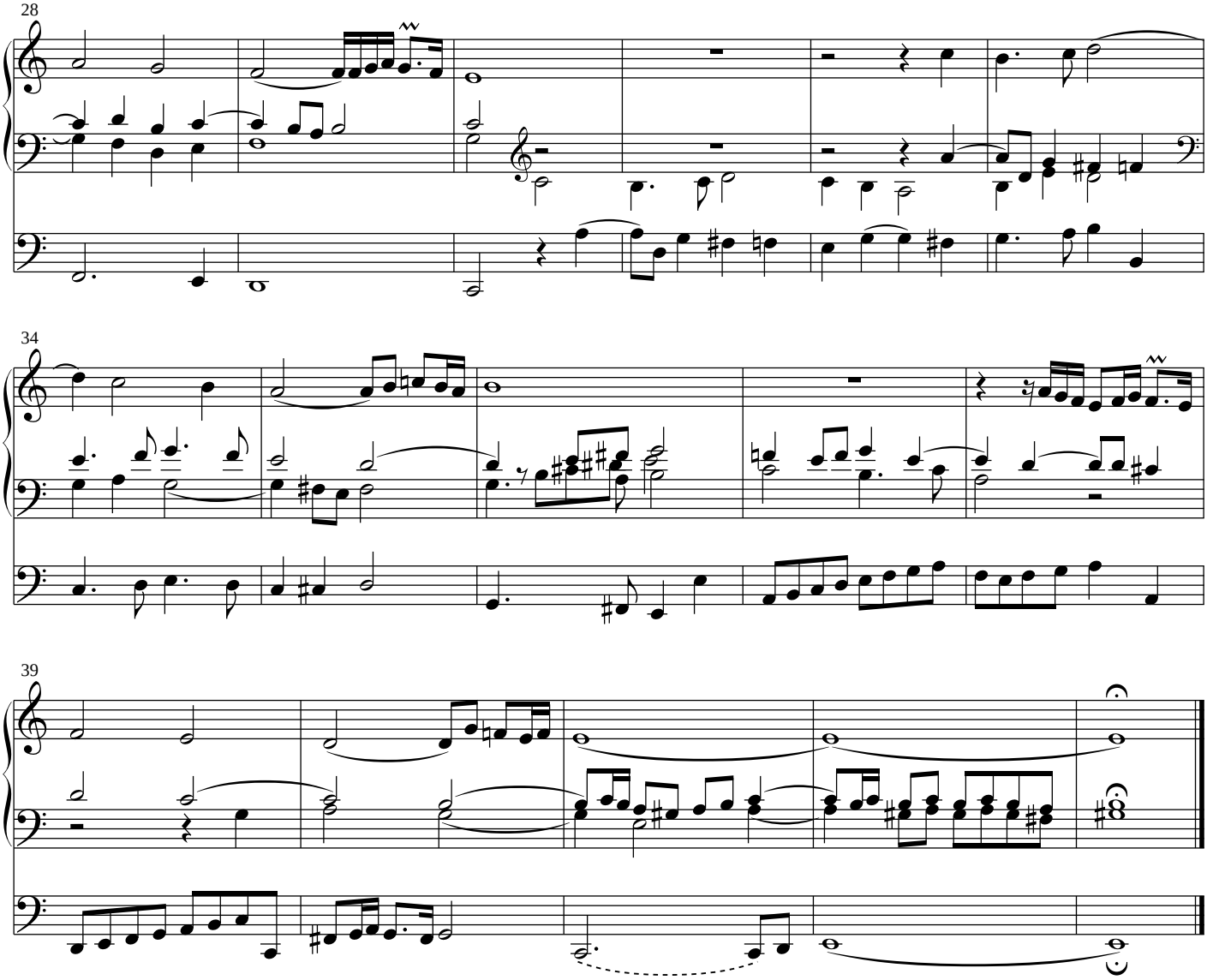
Contents

BuxWV 178	Ach Herr, mich armen Sünder	4
BuxWV 180	Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam	8
BuxWV 182	Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich	12
BuxWV 183	Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt	16
BuxWV 184	Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott	20
BuxWV 185	Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort	24
BuxWV 186	Es ist das Heil uns kommen her	26
BuxWV 187	Es spricht der Unweisen Mund wohl	30
BuxWV 189	Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ	34
BuxWV 190	Gott der Vater wohn uns bei	38
BuxWV 191	Herr Christ der einig Gottes Sohn	42
BuxWV 192	Herr Christ der einig Gottes Sohn	46
BuxWV 193	Herr Jesu Christ, ich weiss gar wohl	50
BuxWV 197	In dulci jubilo	54
BuxWV 199	Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott	58
BuxWV 200	Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott	62
BuxWV 201	Kommt her zu mir, spricht Gottes Sohn	66
BuxWV 202	Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich	70
BuxWV 206	Mensch, willt du leben seliglich	72
BuxWV 208	Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist	76
BuxWV 209	Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist	80
BuxWV 211	Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland	84
BuxWV 217	Puer natus in Bethlehem	86
BuxWV 219	Vater unser in Himmelreich	88
BuxWV 220	Von Gott will ich nicht lassen	92
BuxWV 221	Von Gott will ich nicht lassen	94
BuxWV 222	Wär Gott nicht mit uns diese Zeit	98
BuxWV 224	Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ	102
	Editorial notes	104
	Bibliography	104

Ach Herr, mich armen Sünder

BuxWV 178

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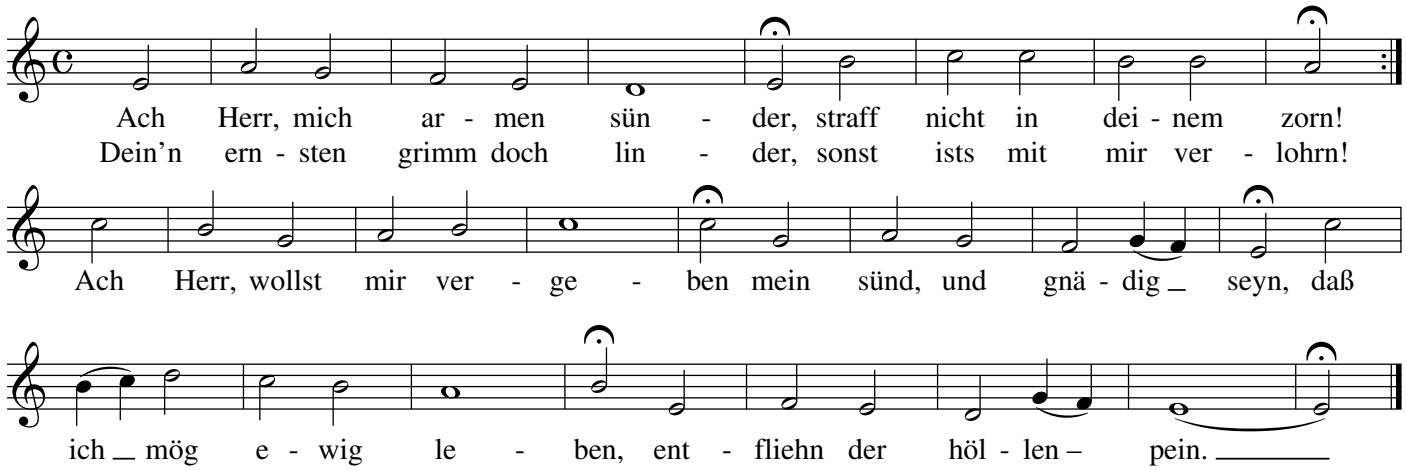

Tune based on: Apel 1832, no. 23a, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 115

Author: Cyriakus Schneegaß (1546–1597)

English translation:

> Ah Lord, poor sinner that I am,
> do not punish me in your rage,
> but soften your stern wrath
> otherwise I am lost.
> Ah Lord, may it be your will to forgive
> my sin and be merciful
> so that I may live for ever
> and flee from the pains of hell.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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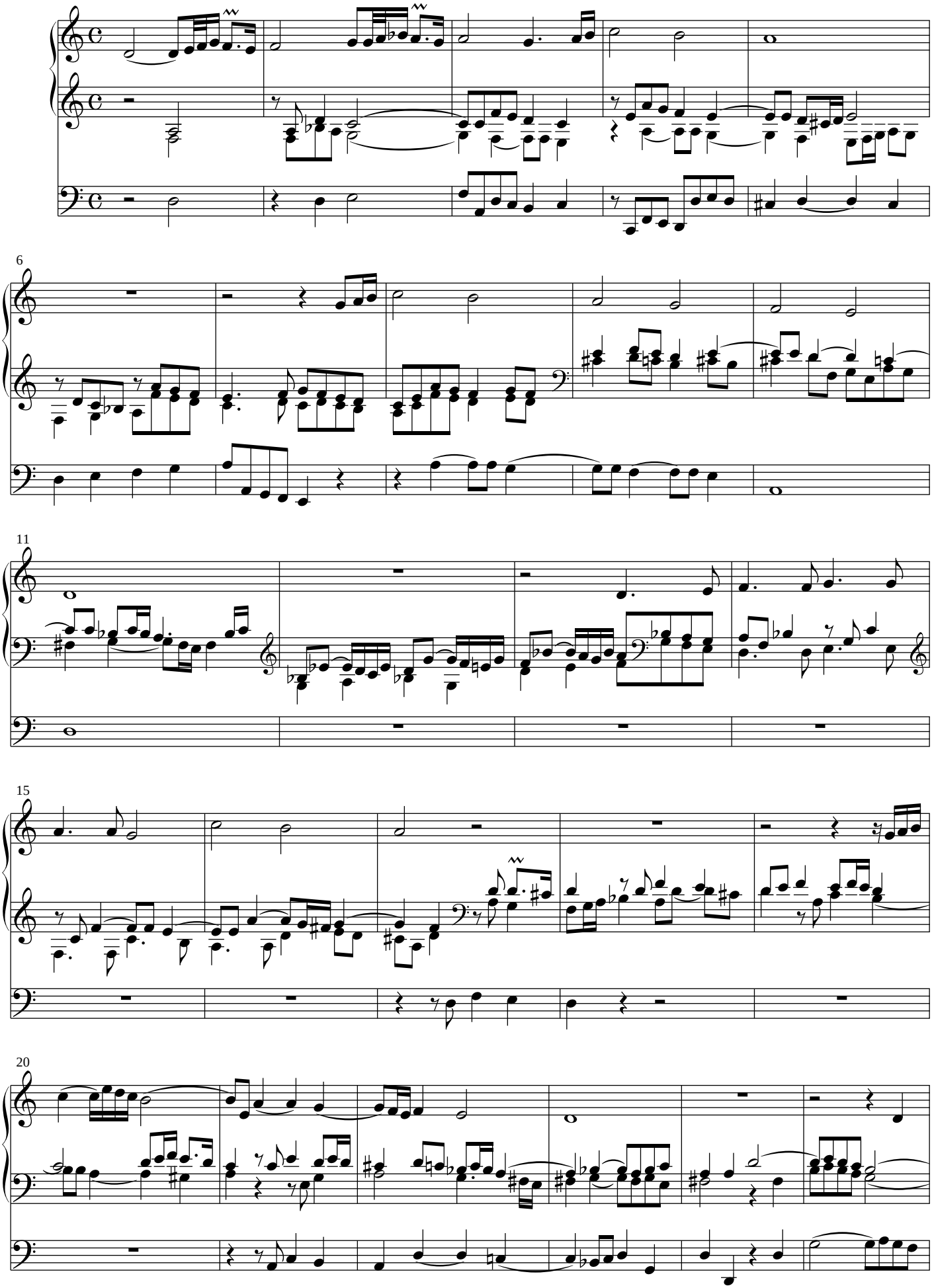
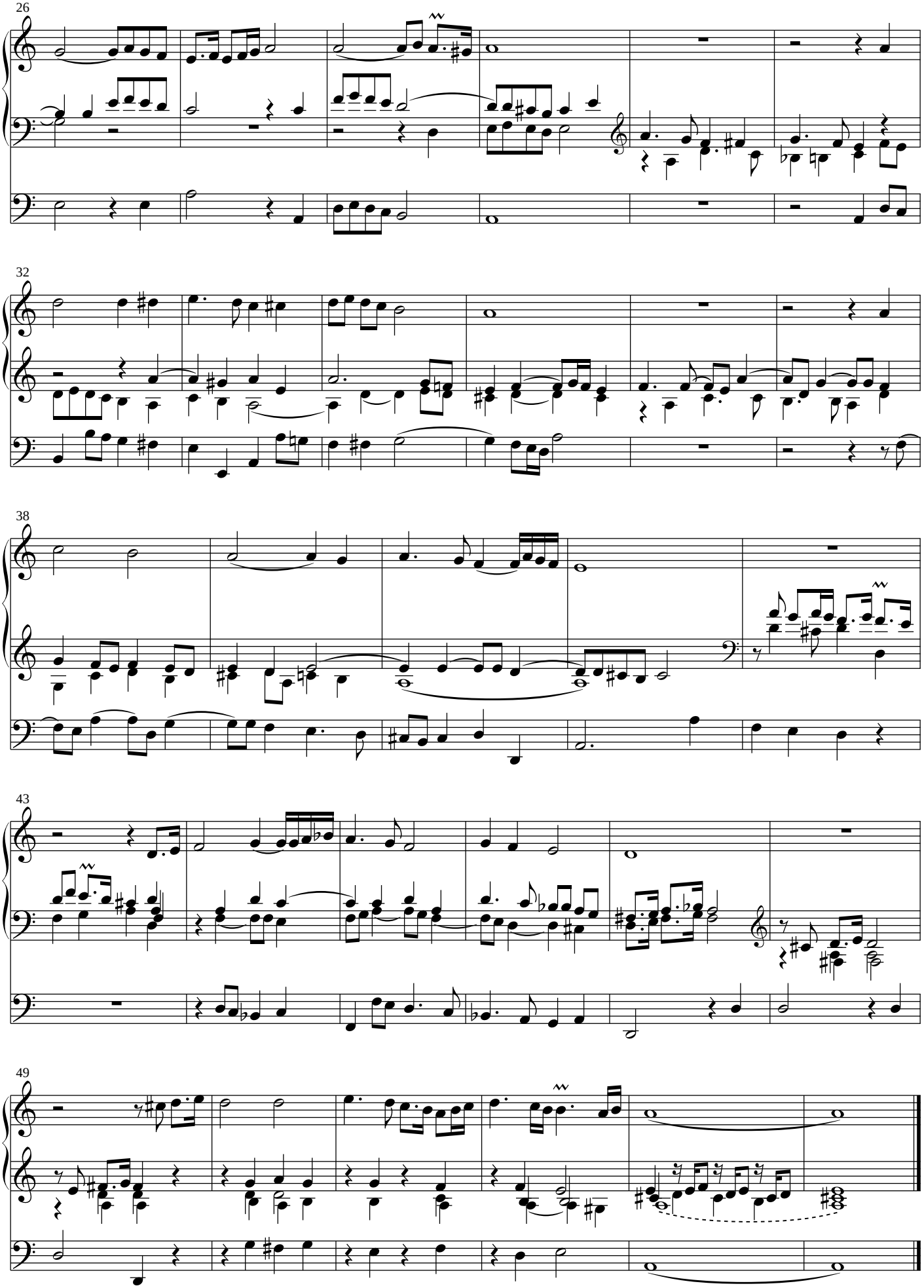
Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam

BuxWV 180

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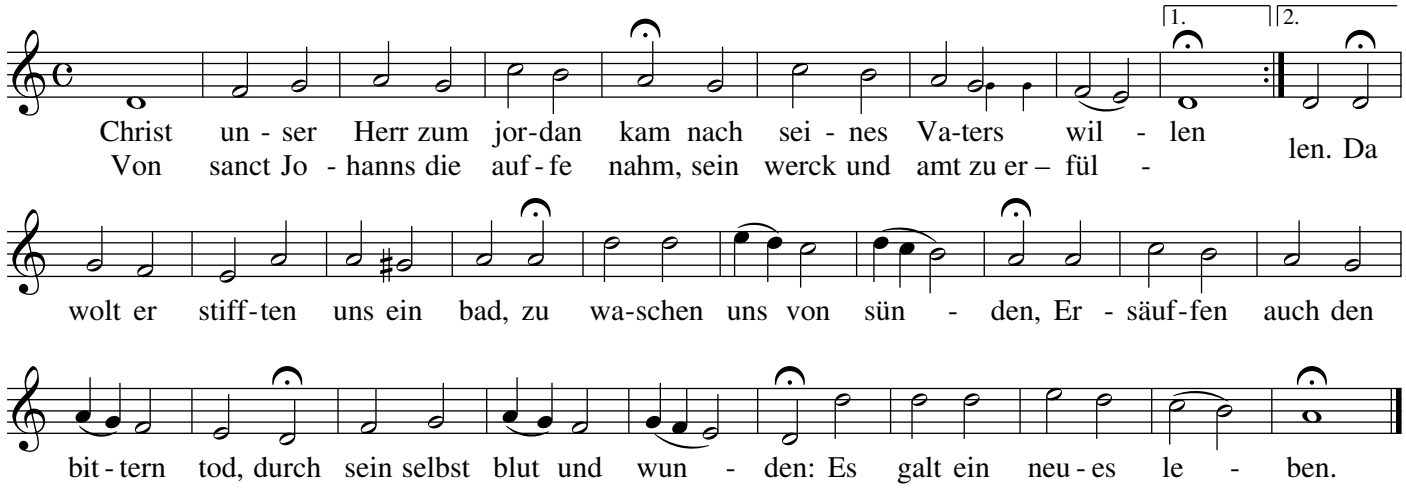

Tune based on: Müller 1718, no. 52, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 86

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

> Christ our Lord came to the Jordan
> in accordance with his Father's will,
> received baptism from Saint John
> to fulfil his work and ministry;
> by this he wanted to establish for us a bath
> to wash us from our sins,
> and also to drown bitter death
> through his own blood and wounds;
> this meant a new life.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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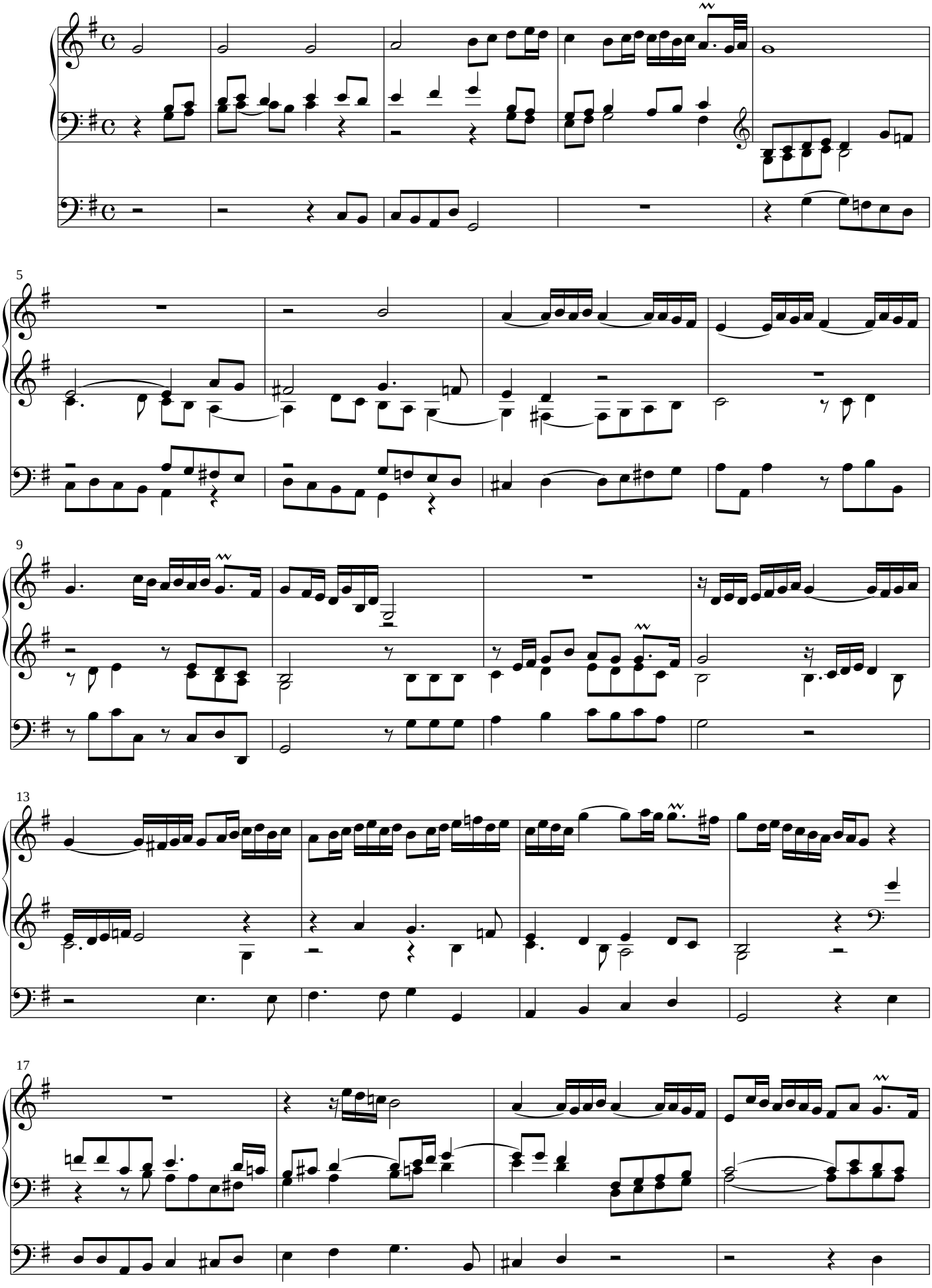
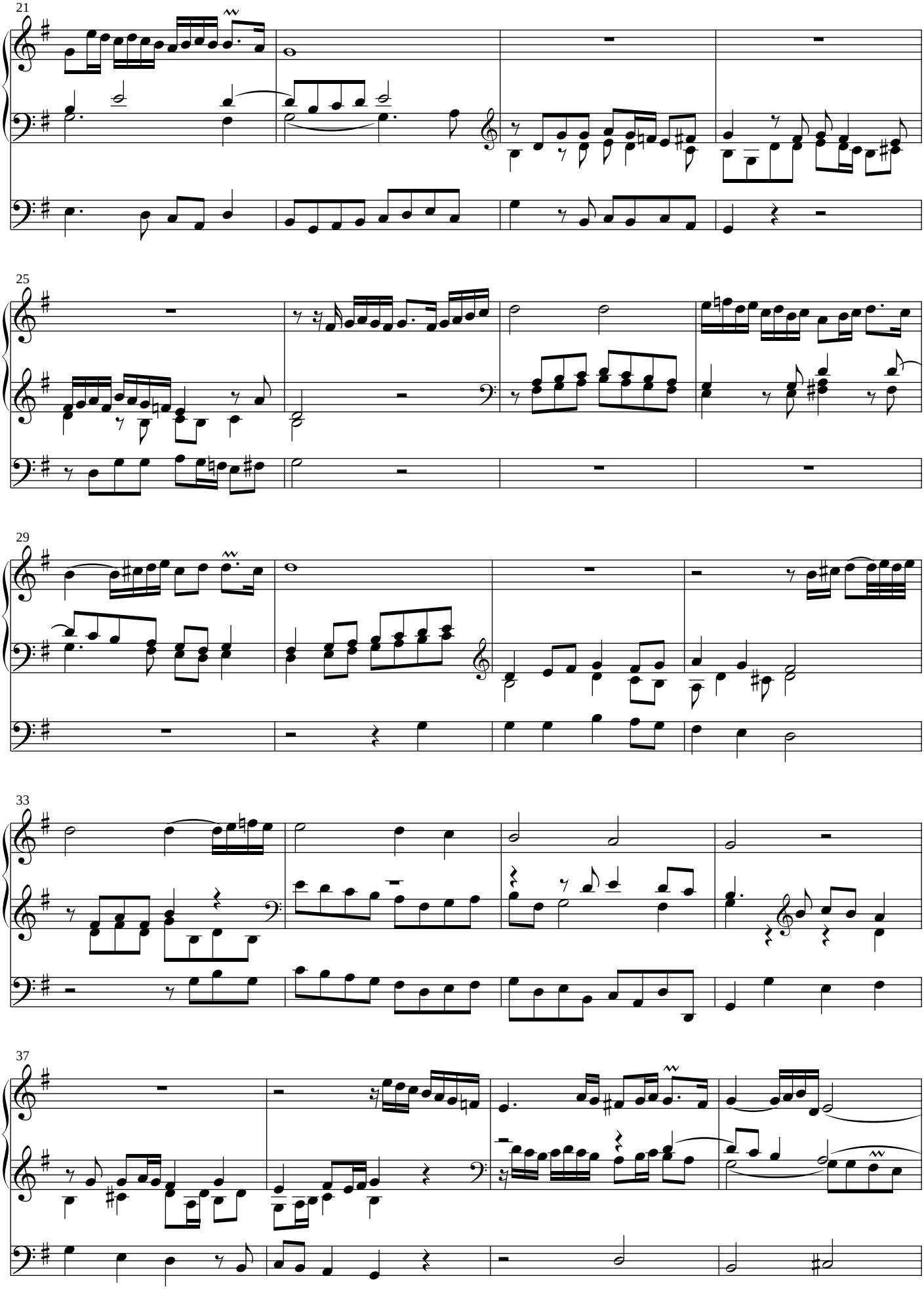
Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich

BuxWV 182

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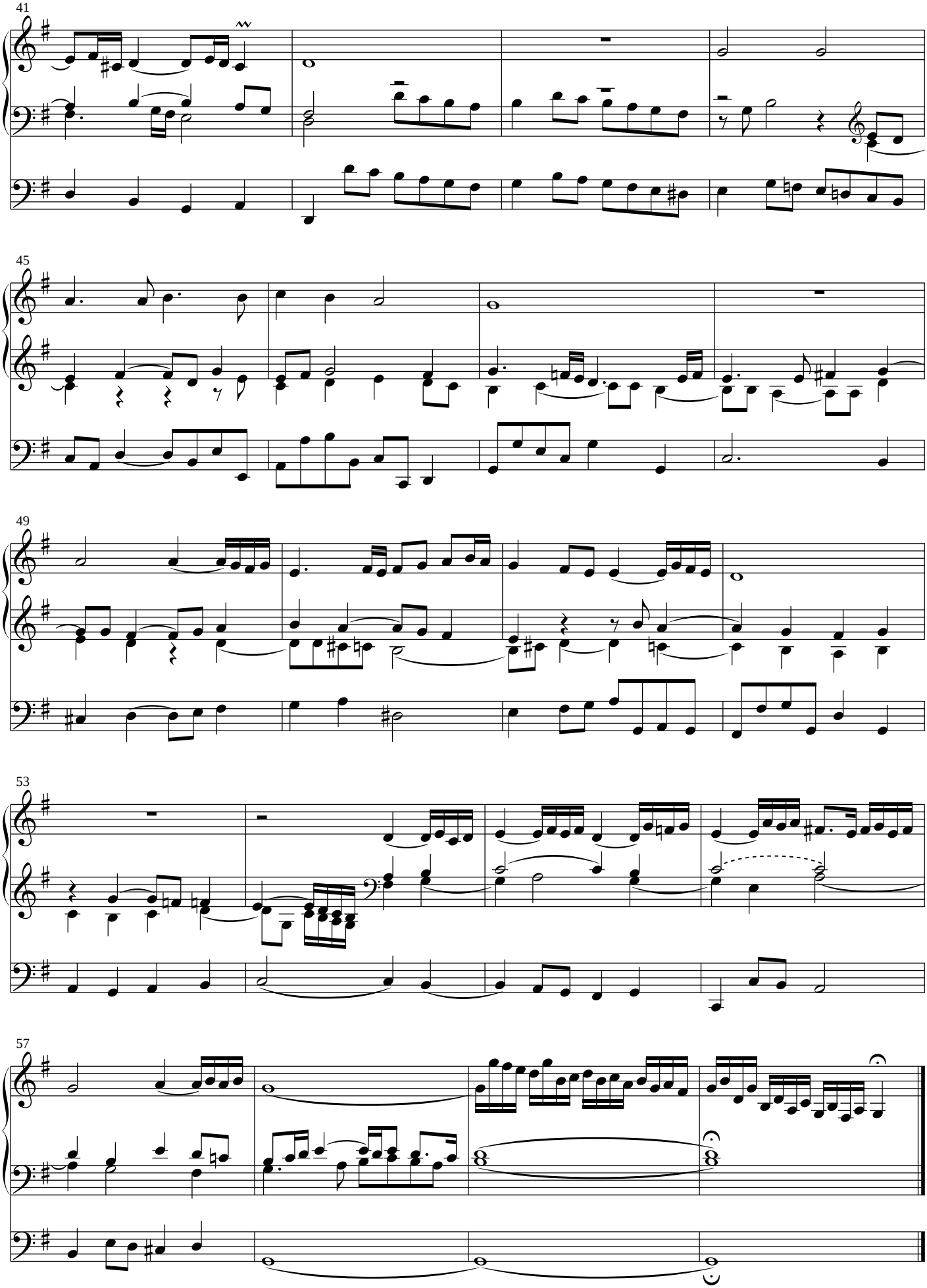
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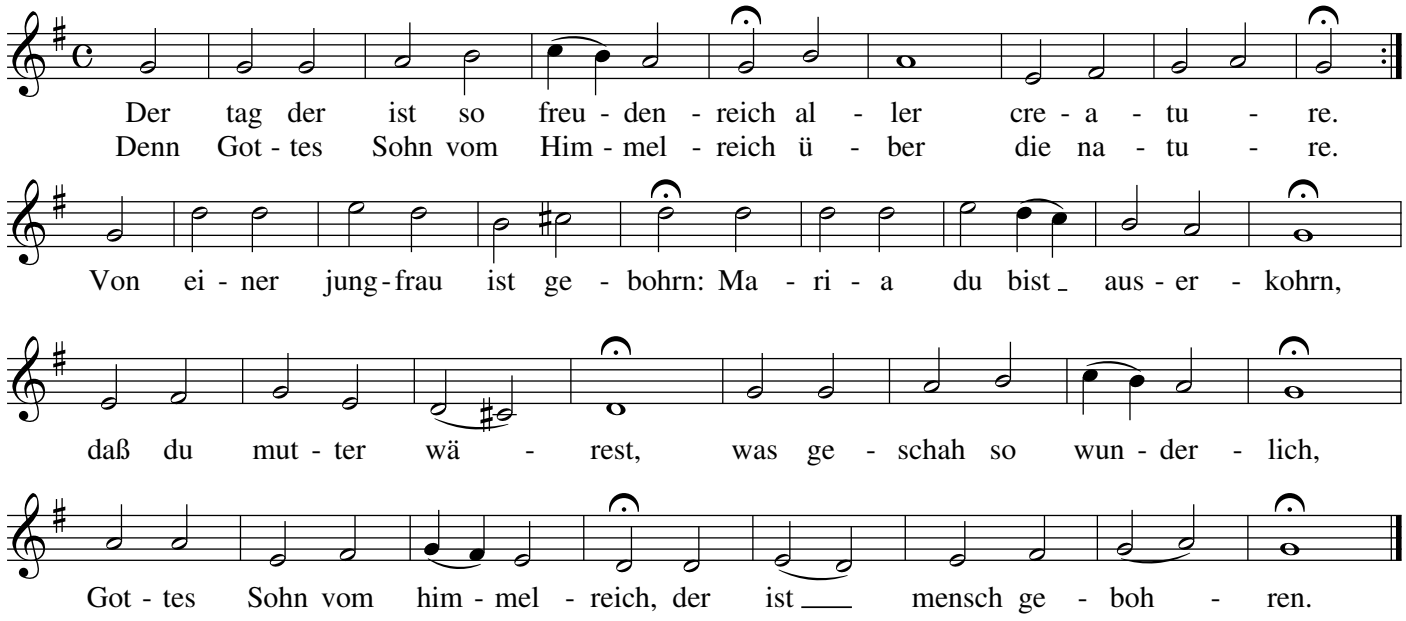


Tune based on: Graupner 1728, no. 59, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 7

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

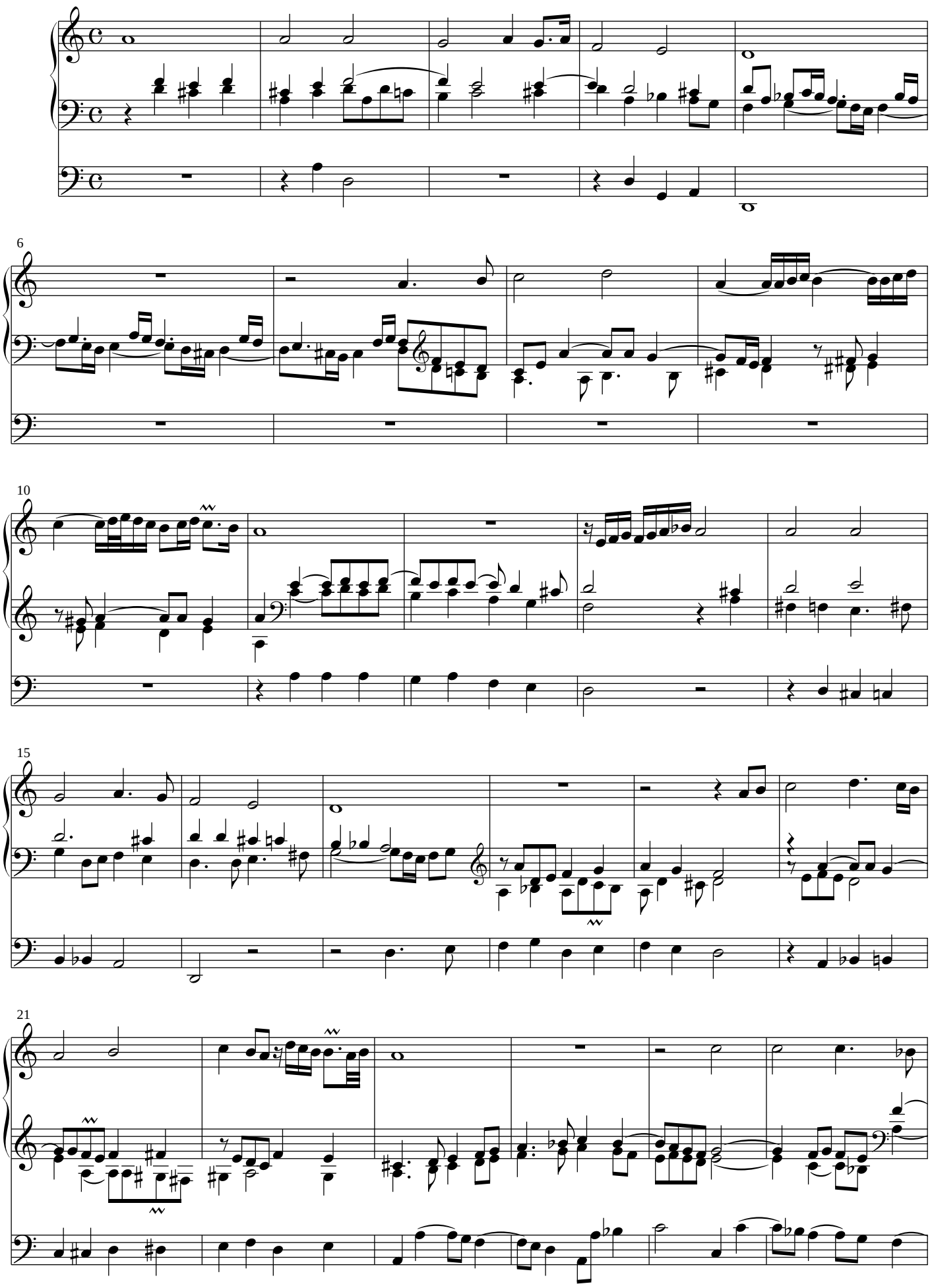
English translation:

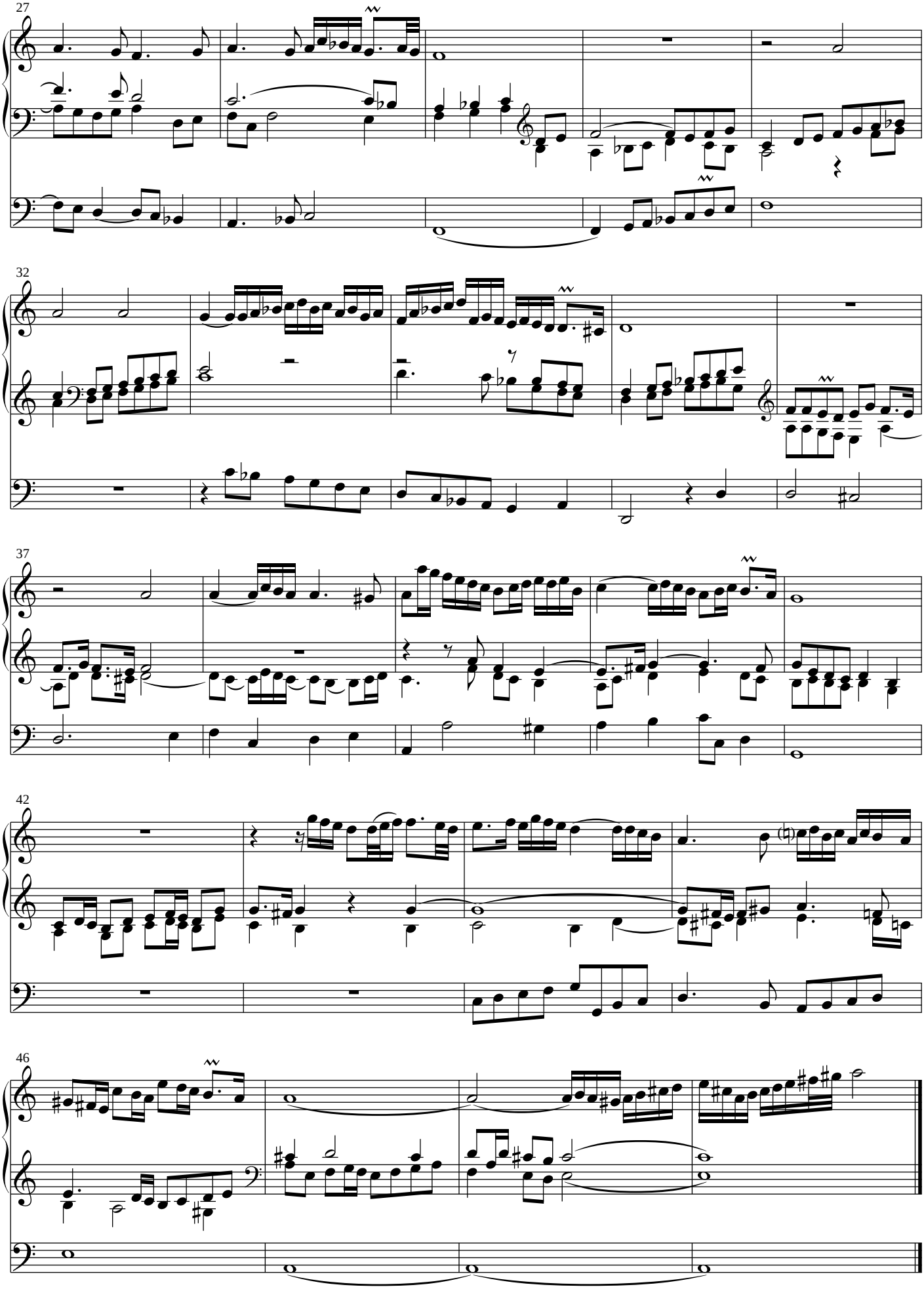
> Christian folk, a day of joy
> Bid ye one another,
> Birthday of a Kingly Boy,
> Virgin is His mother.
> 'Tis a Child of wonderment,
> All delight in Him is pent
> By our human nature;
> But what speech of man may spell,
> Or what music utter well,
> Our Divine Creator.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt

BuxWV 183

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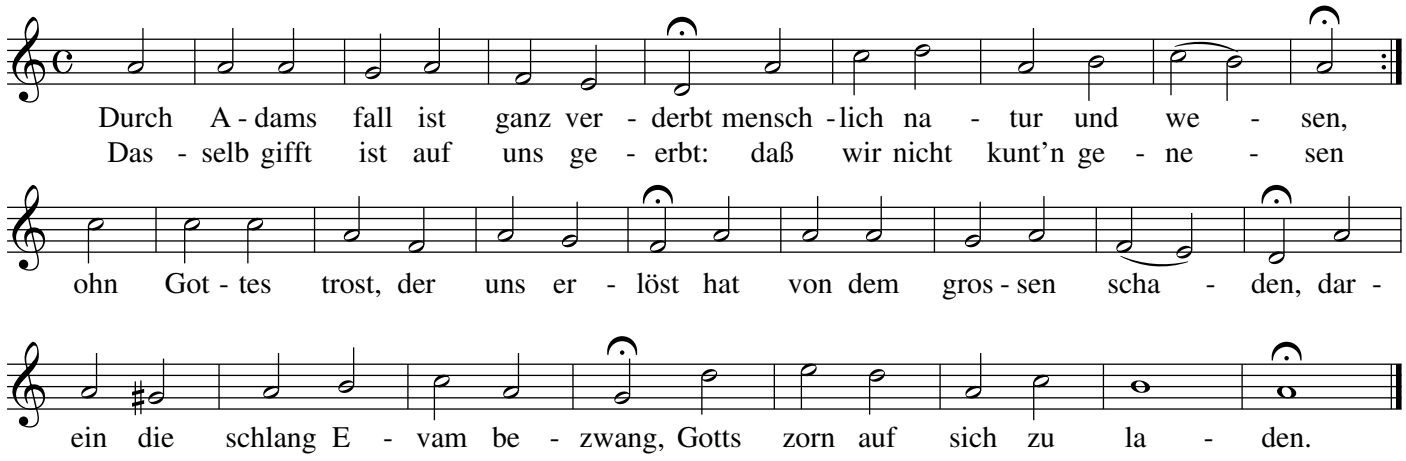

Tune based on: Graupner 1728, no. 52, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 121

Author: Lazarus Spengler (1479–1534)

English translation:

> Through Adam's fall human nature
> and character is completely corrupted,
> the same poison has been inherited by us,
> so that we would not be able to recover health
> without comfort from God, who has redeemed us
> from the great harm
> that was done when the serpent overcame Eve
> and led her to bring God's wrath upon herself.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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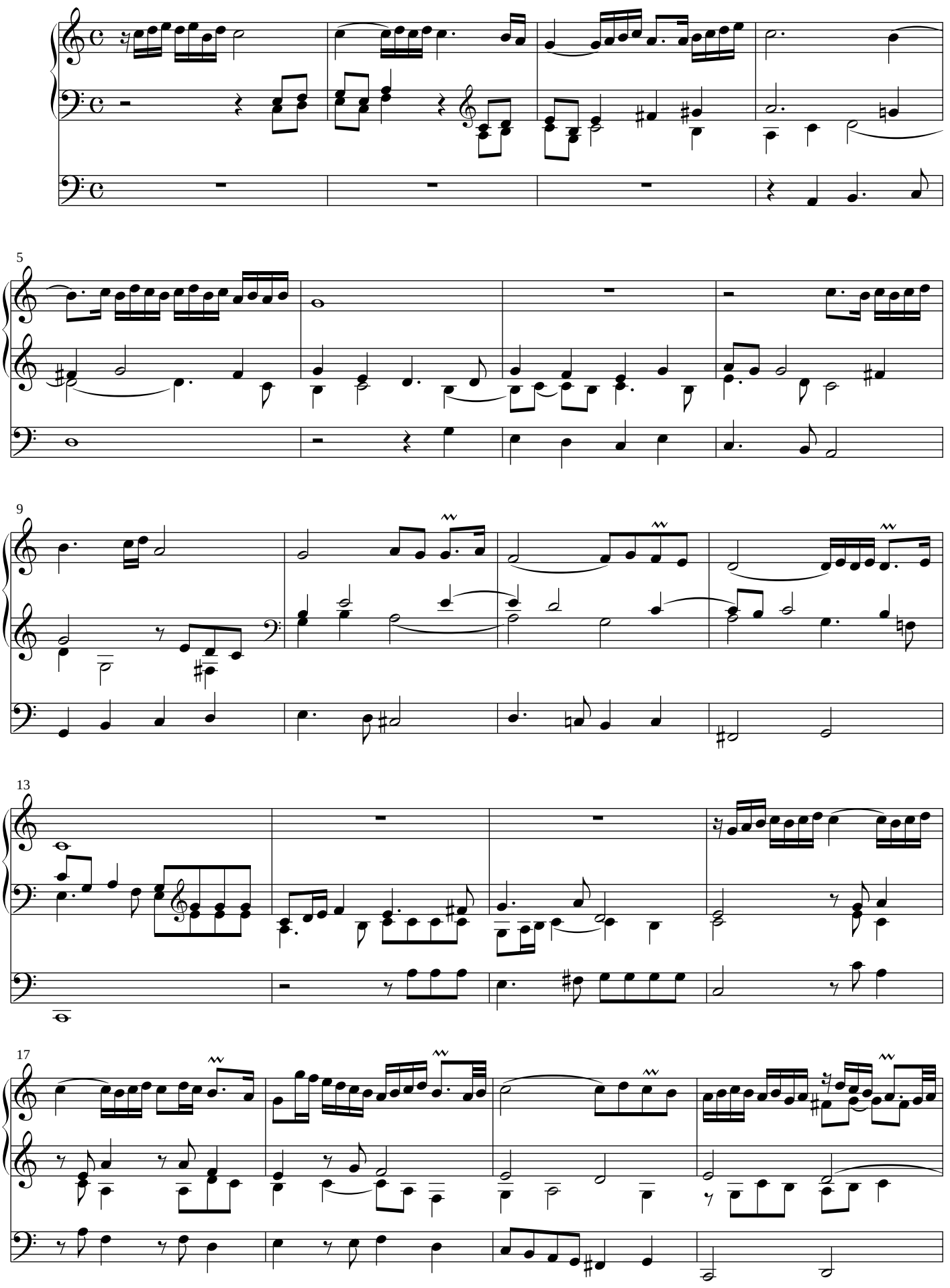
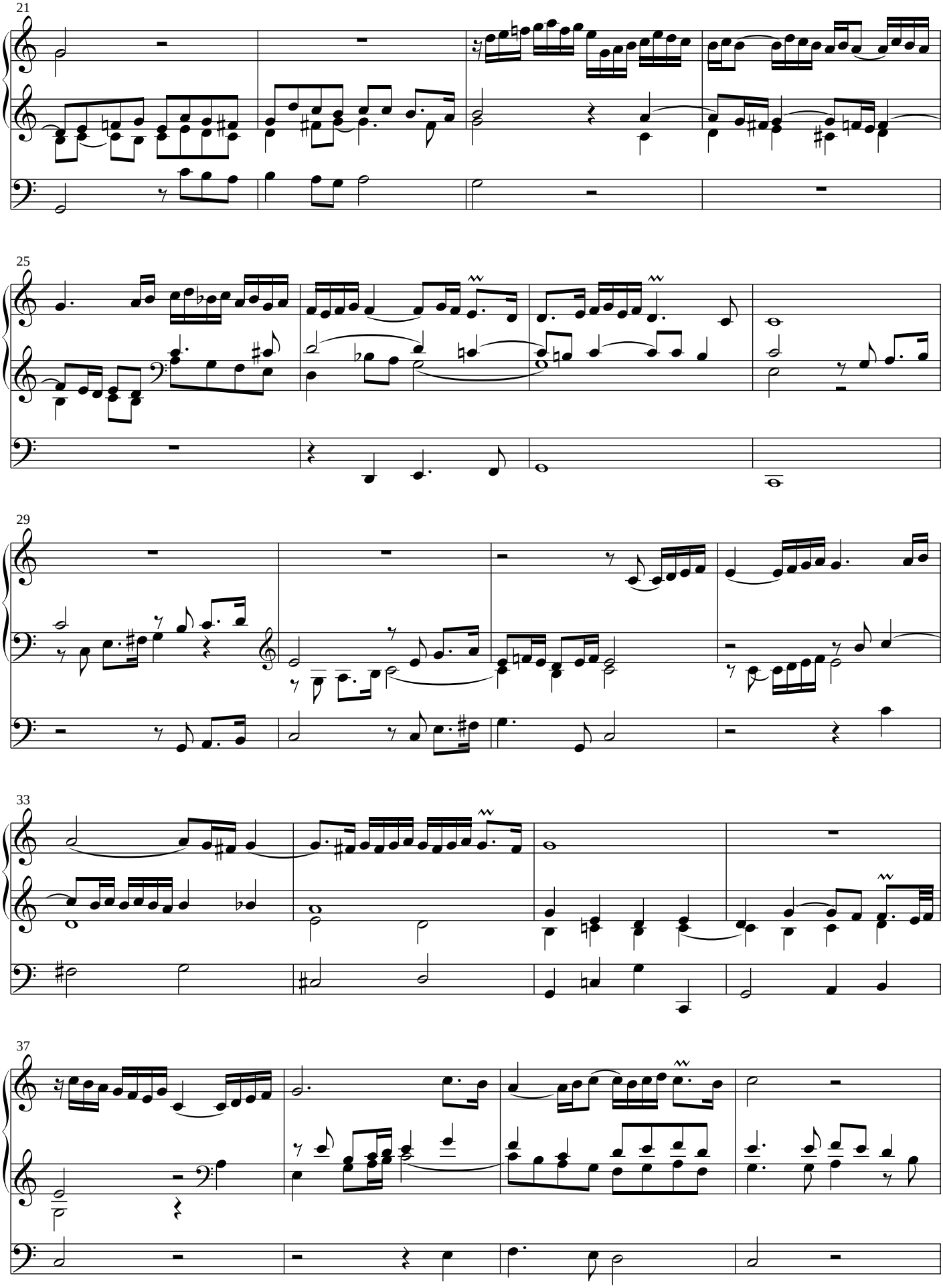
Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott

BuxWV 184

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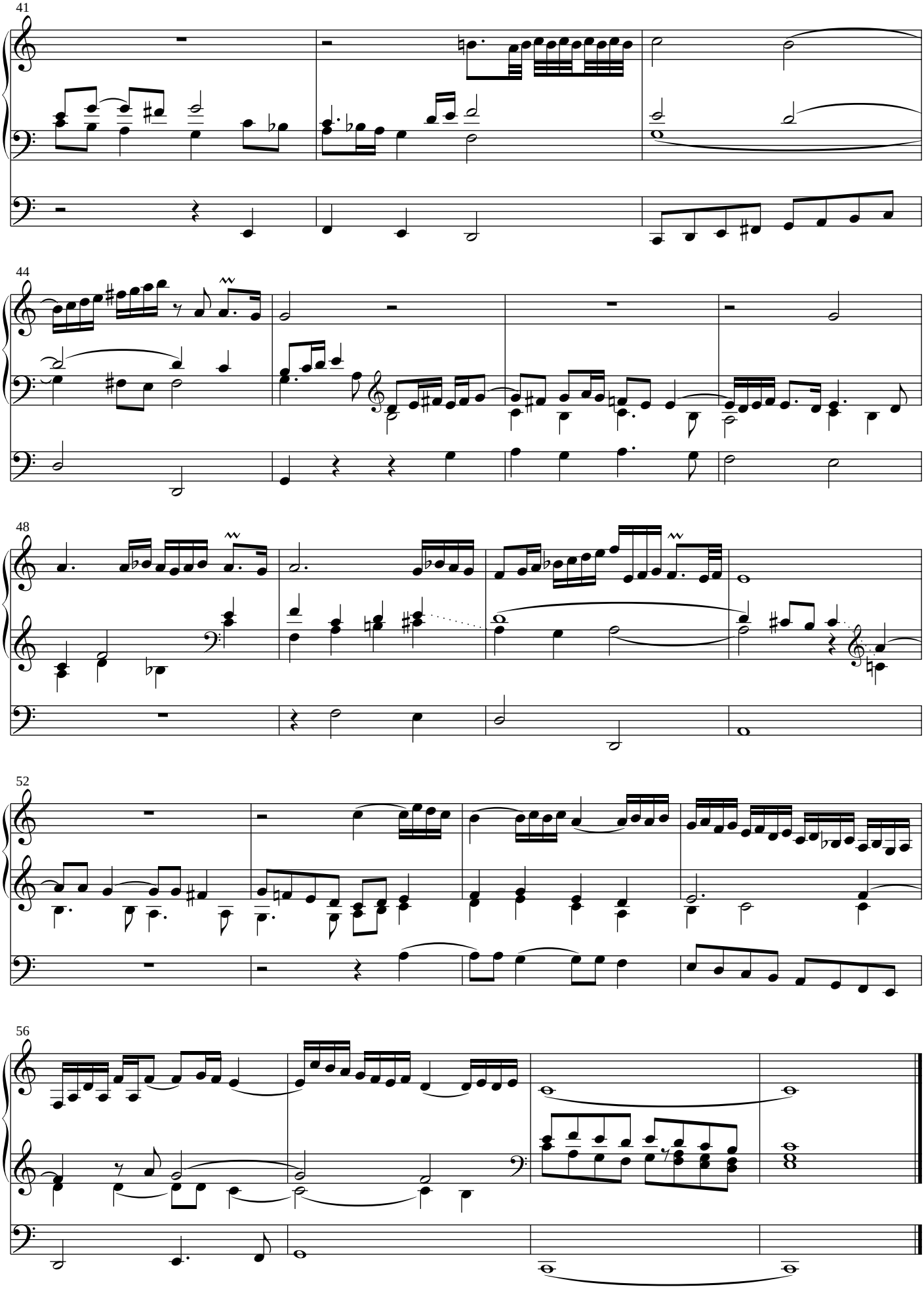
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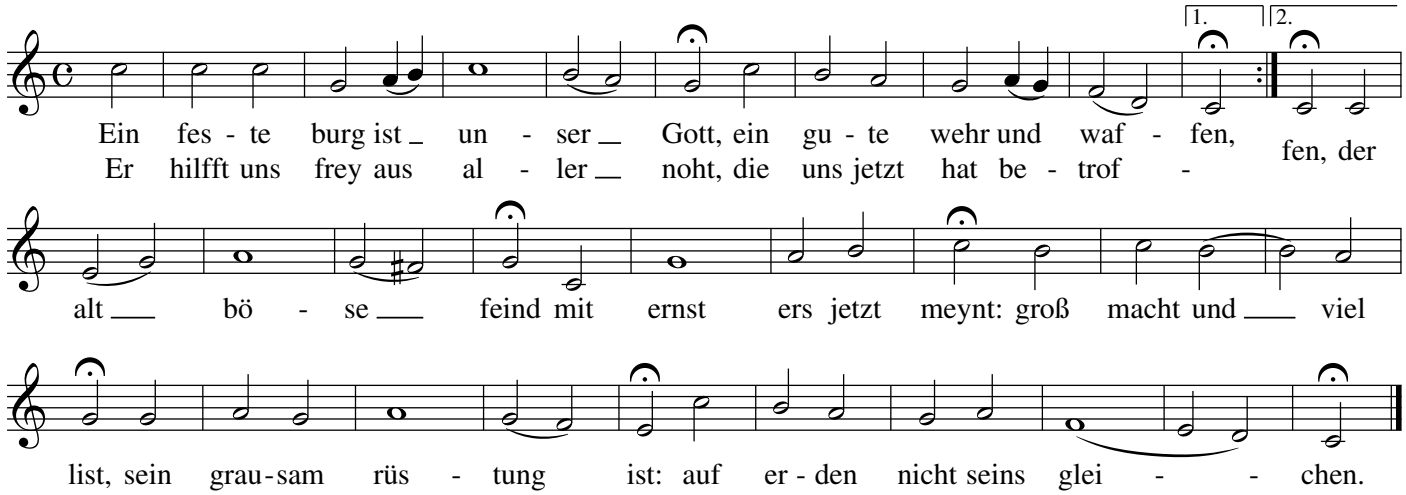


Tune based on: Apel 1832, no. 47, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 226

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

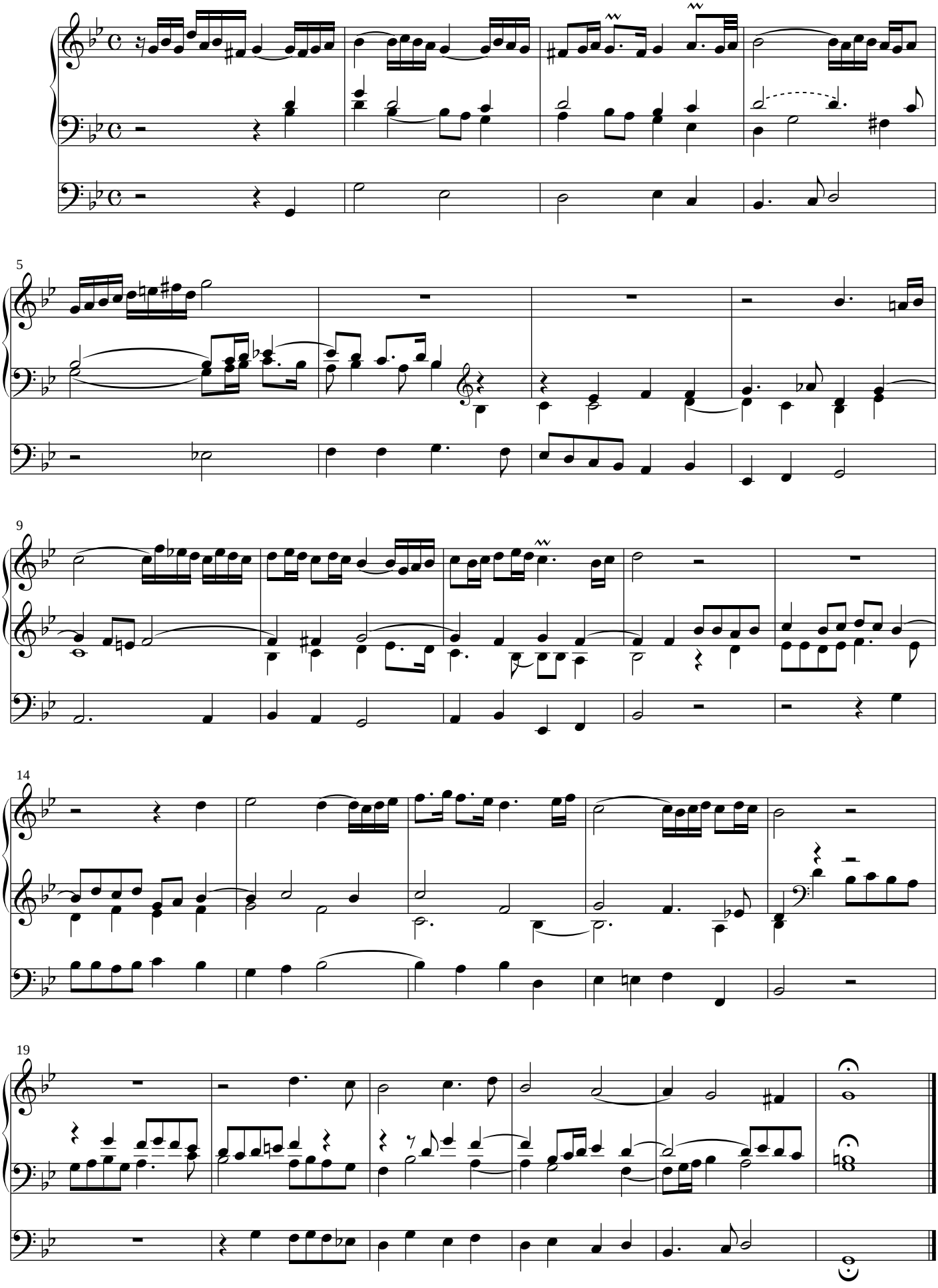
English translation:

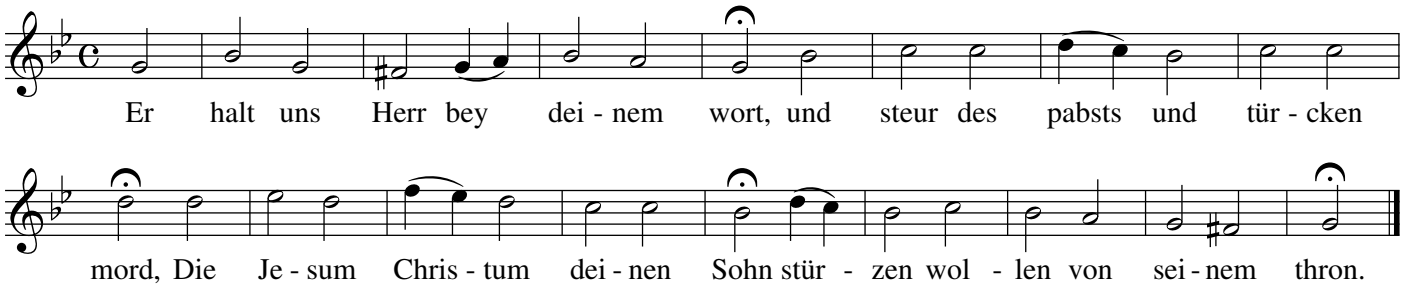
> A sure stronghold our God is He,
> A trusty shield and weapon;
> Our help He'll be and set us free
> From every ill can happen.
> That old malicious foe
> Means us deadly woe;
> Armed with might from hell
> And deepest craft as well,
> On earth is not his fellow.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort

BuxWV 185





Tune based on: Müller 1718, no. 53, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 227

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

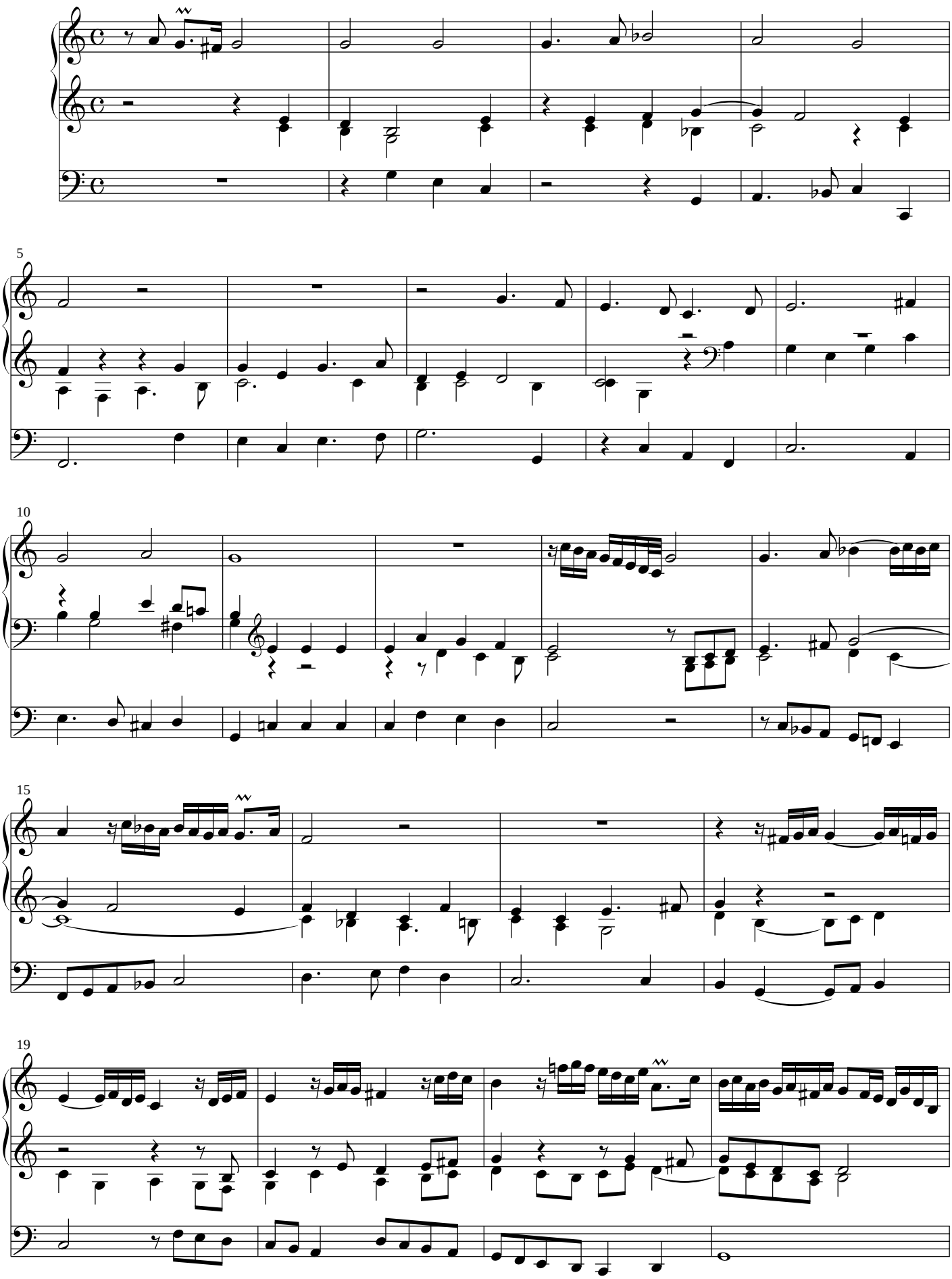
English translation:

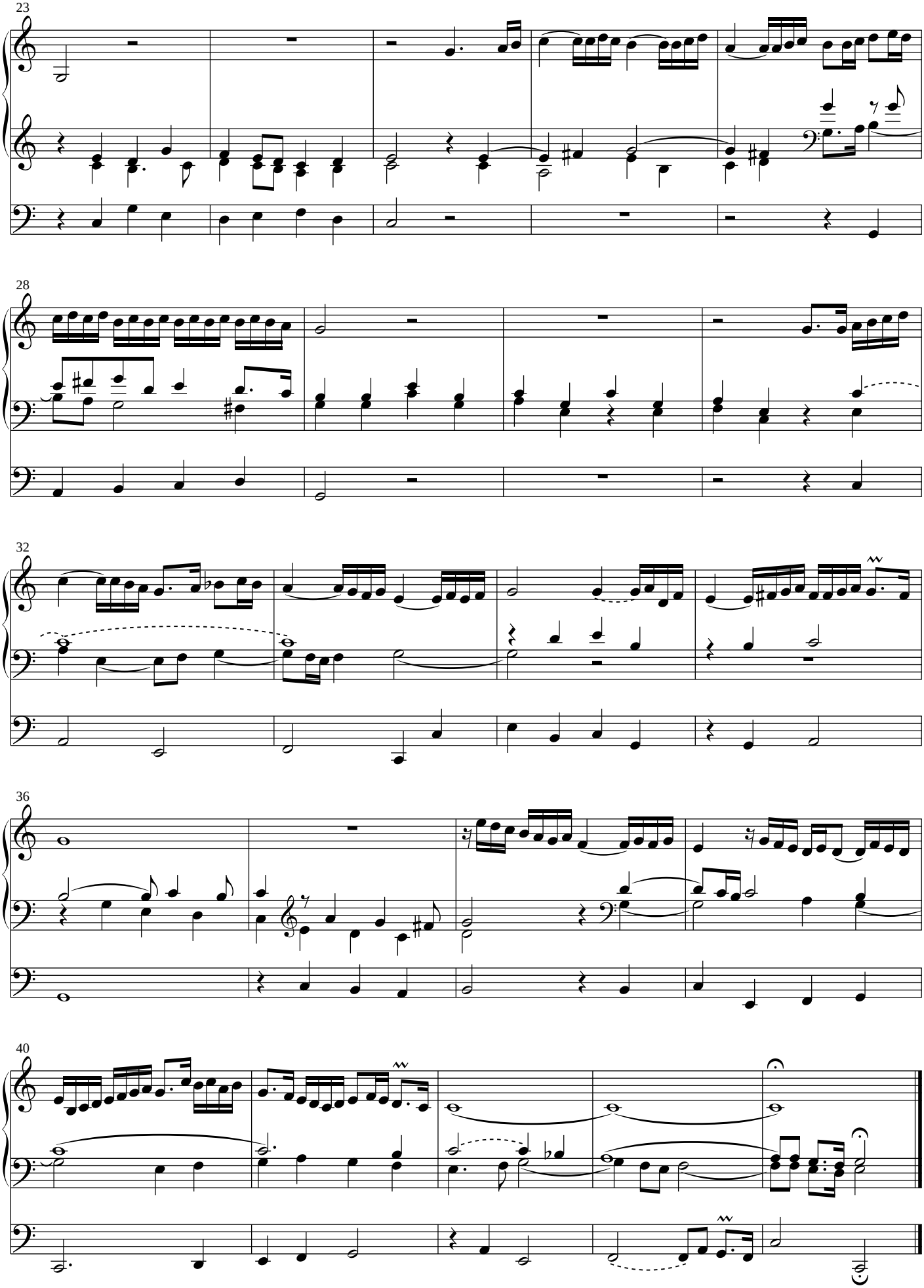
> Preserve us, Lord, with your word,
> and control the murderous rage of the Pope and the Turks,
> who would want to cast down Jesus Christ, your son,
> From his throne

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Es ist das Heil uns kommen her

BuxWV 186

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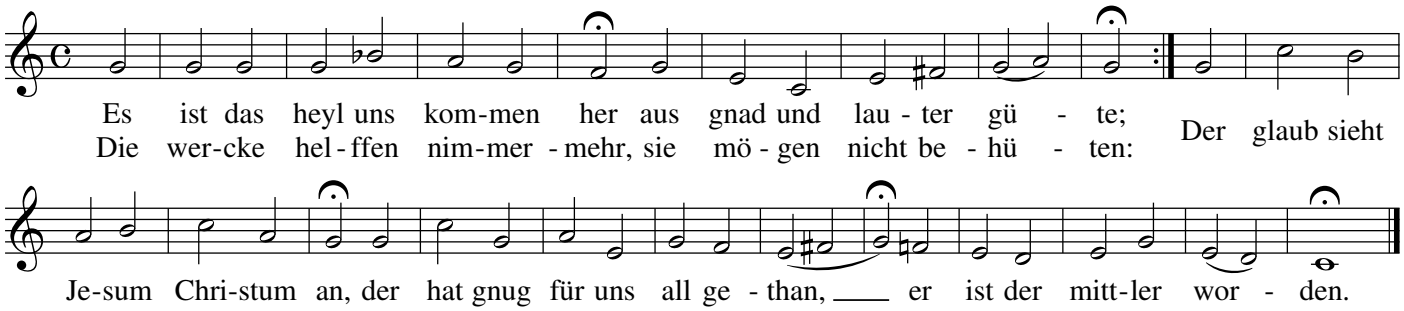

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 362, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 122

Author: Paul Speratus (1489–1551)

English translation:

> Salvation has come to us
> from grace and sheer kindness
> Works never help,
> they cannot protect us.
> Faith looks towards Jesus Christ
> who has done enough for all of us.
> He has become our mediator.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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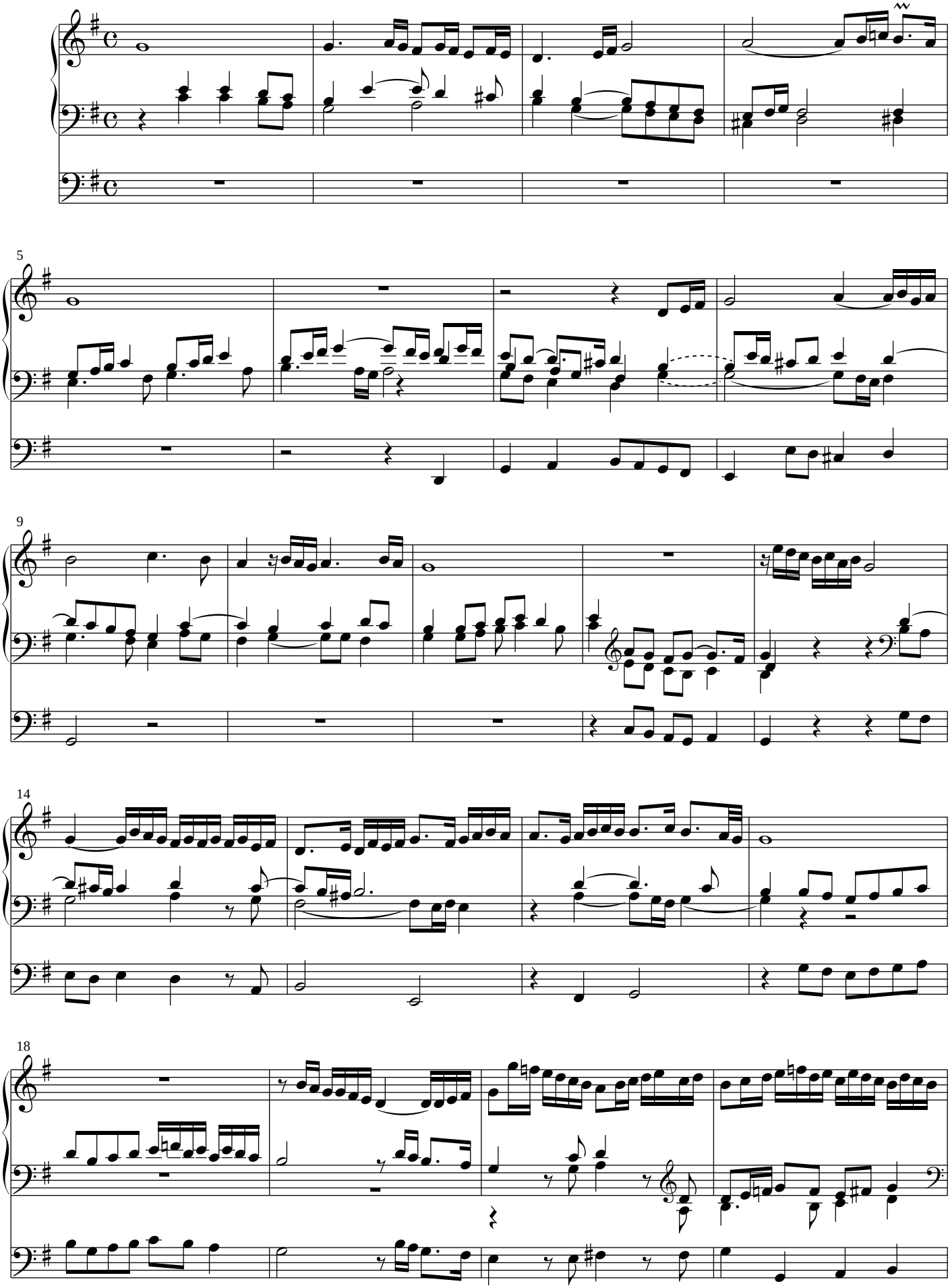
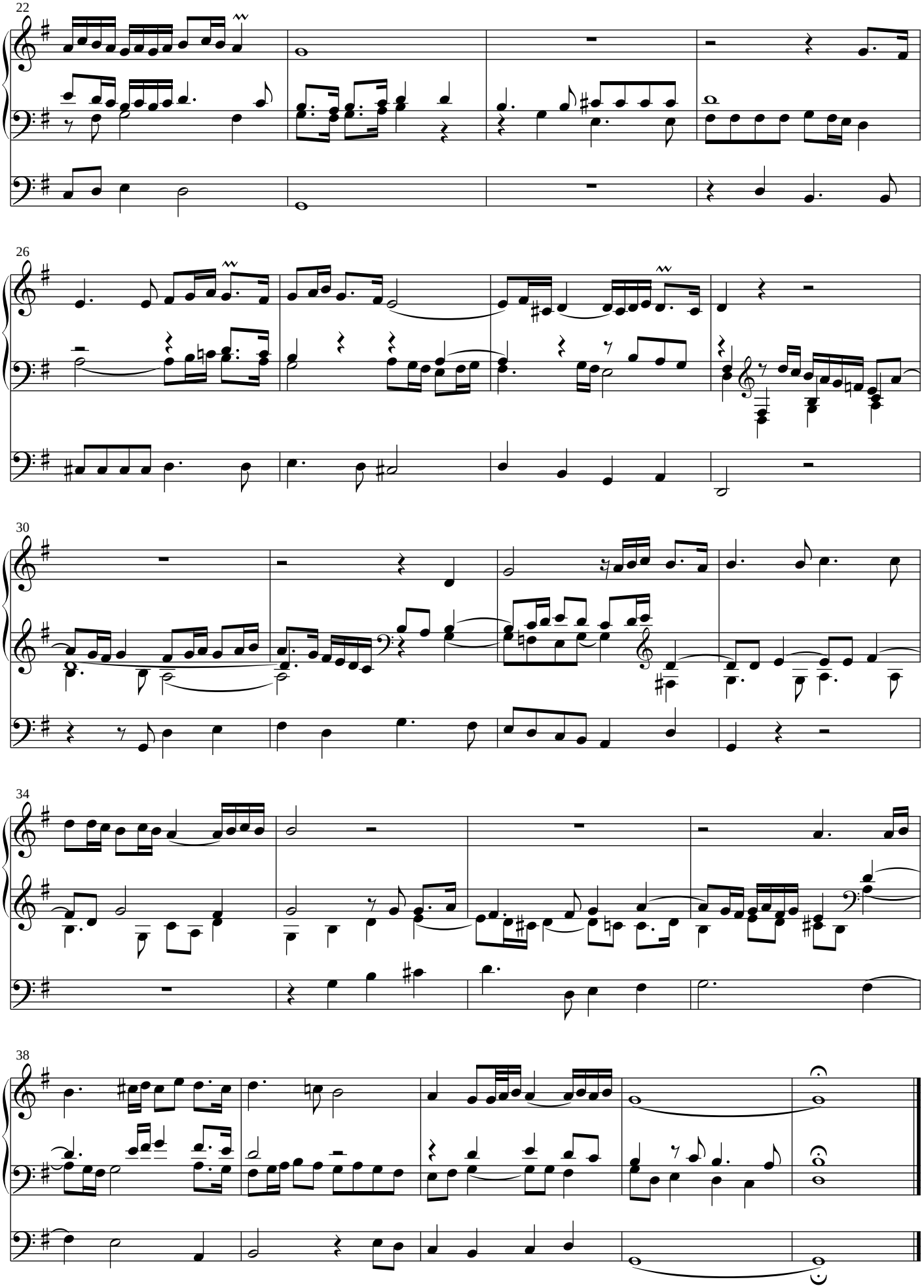
Es spricht der Unweisen Mund wohl

BuxWV 187

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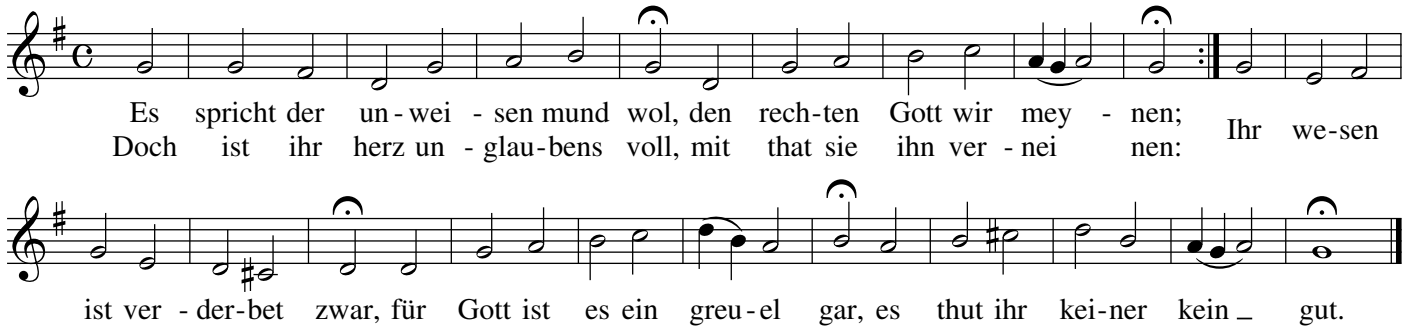

Tune based on: Graupner 1728, no. 73, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 225

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

> The mouth of fools doth God confess,
> But while their lips draw nigh Him,
> Their heart is full of wickedness,
> And all their deeds deny Him.
> Corrupt are they, and every one
> Abominable works hath done;
> There is not one well-doer.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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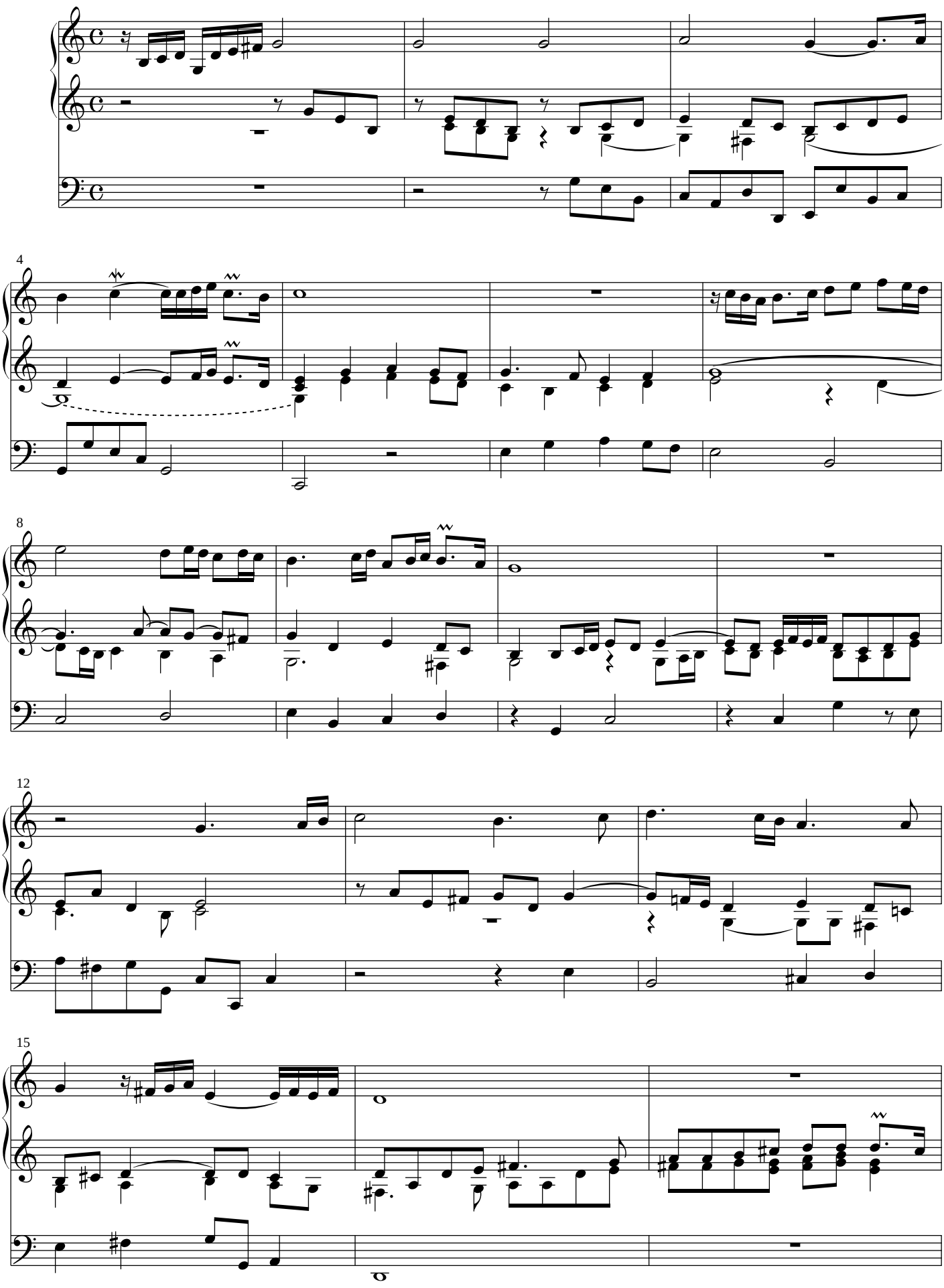
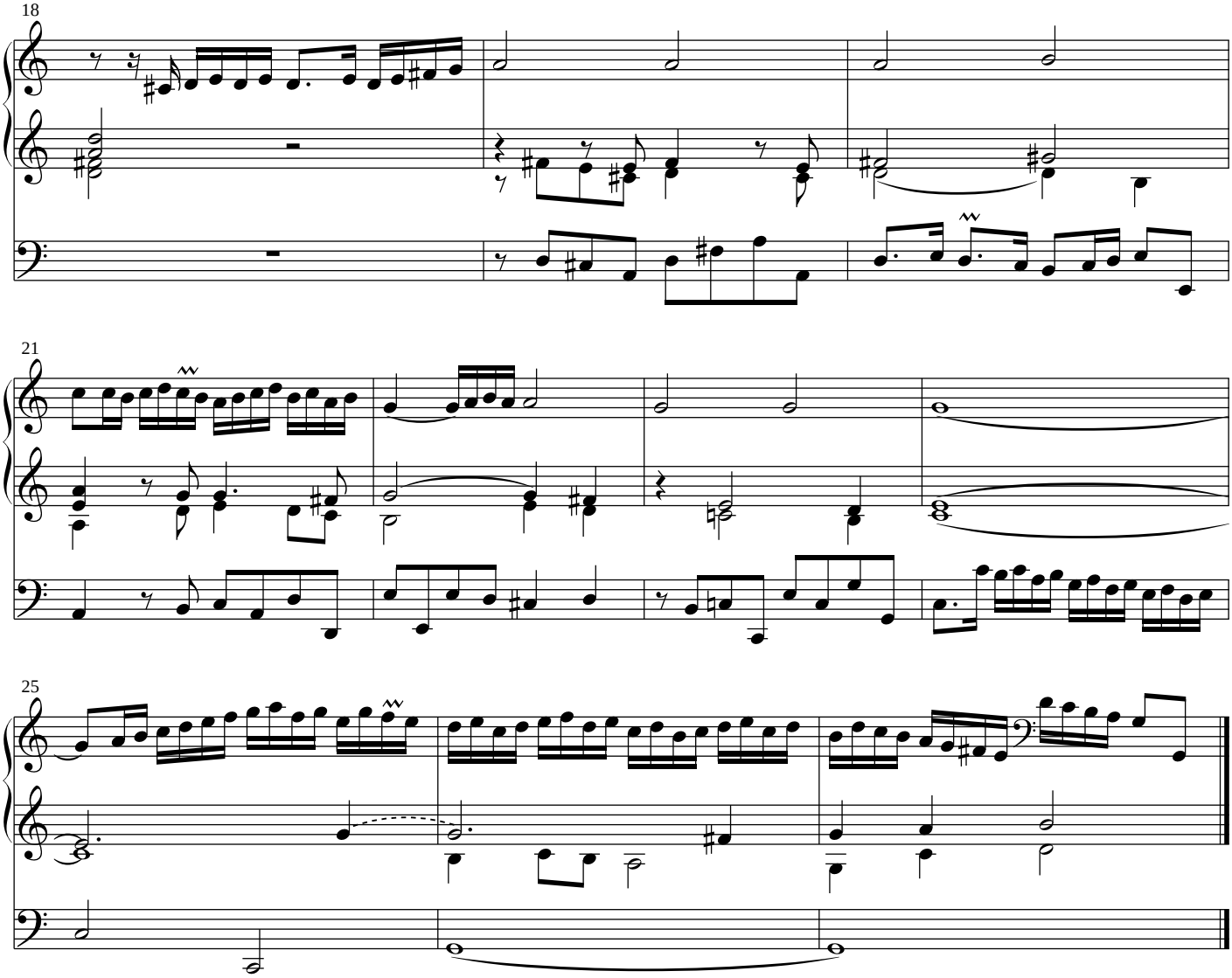
Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ

BuxWV 189

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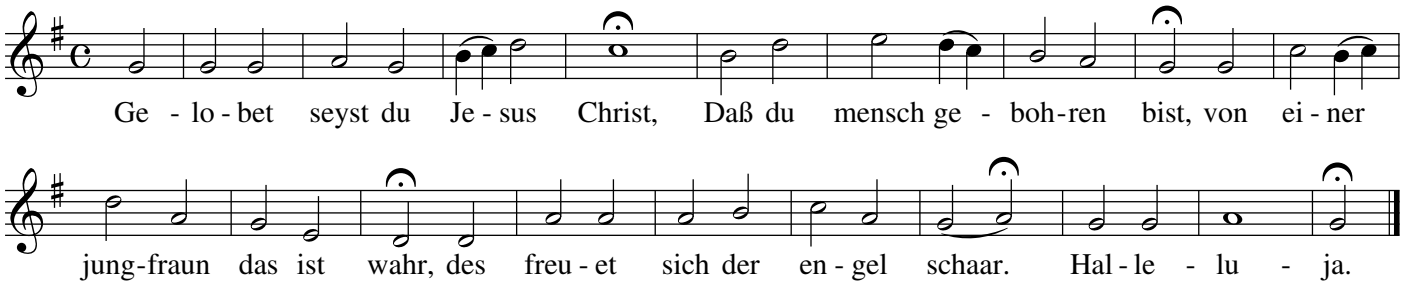

Tune based on: Müller 1718, no. 8, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 4

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

> Praised be you, Jesus Christ
> that you have been born as a man
> from a virgin – this is true –
> at which the host of angels rejoices.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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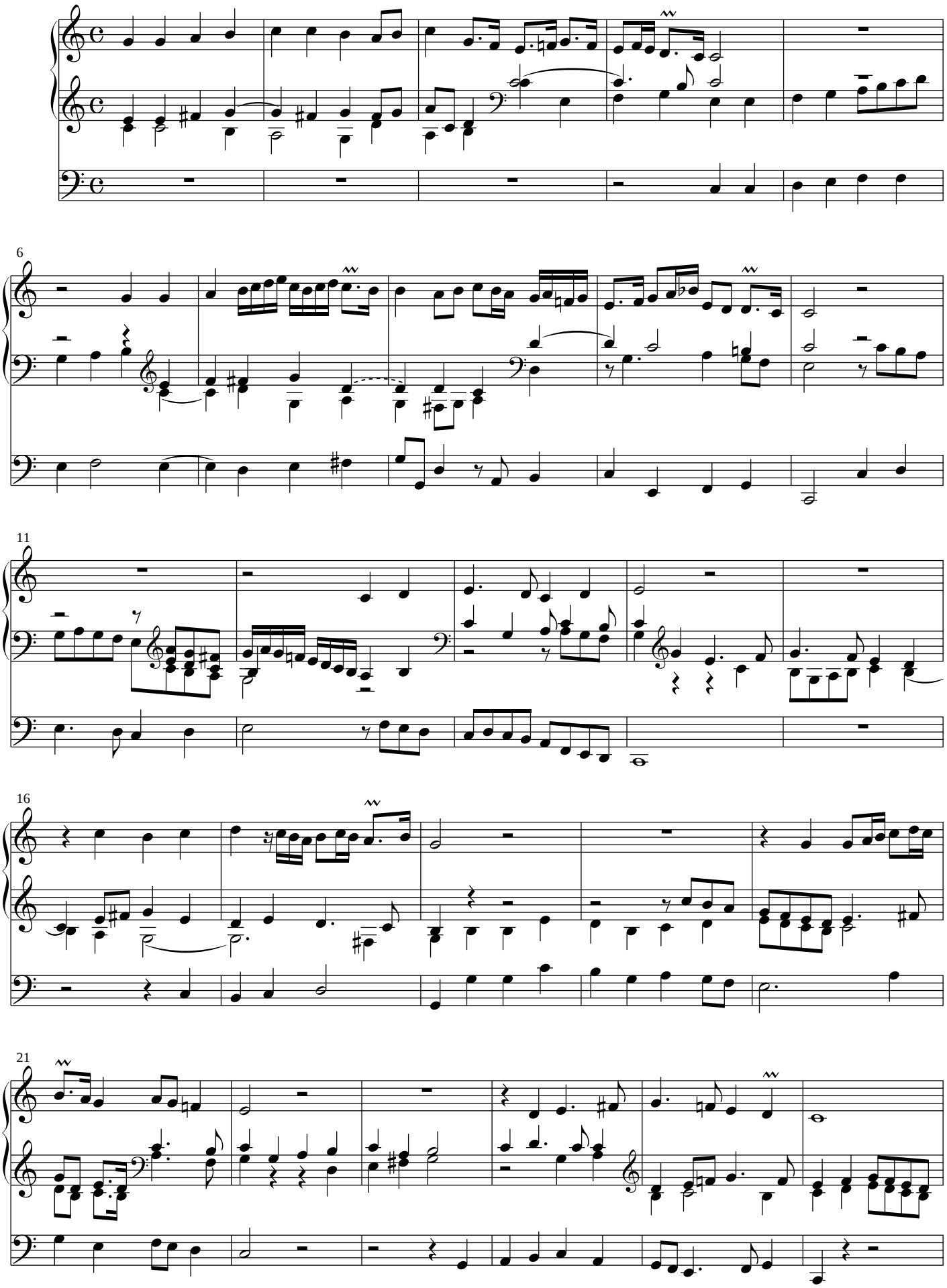
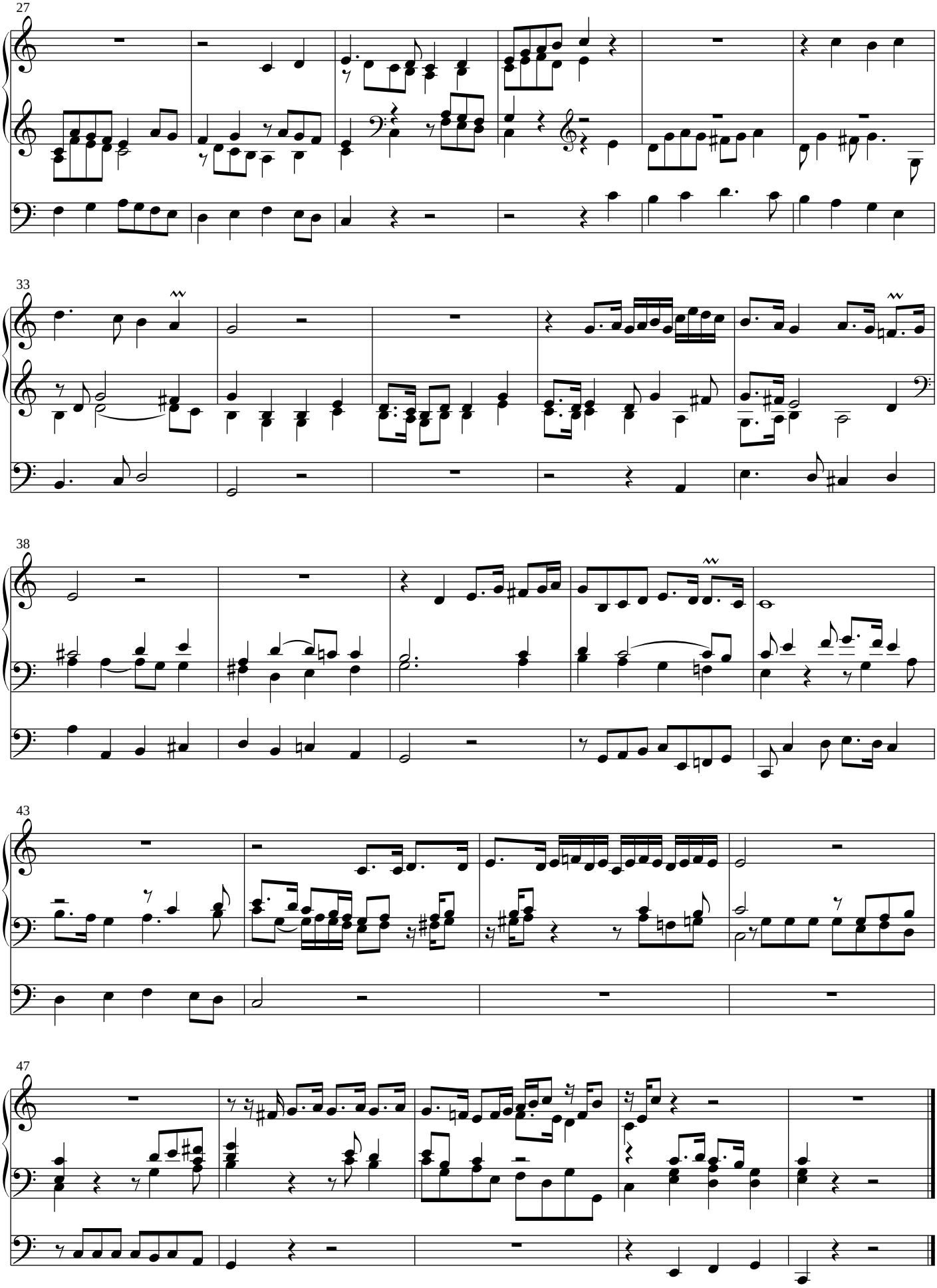
Gott der Vater wohn uns bei

BuxWV 190

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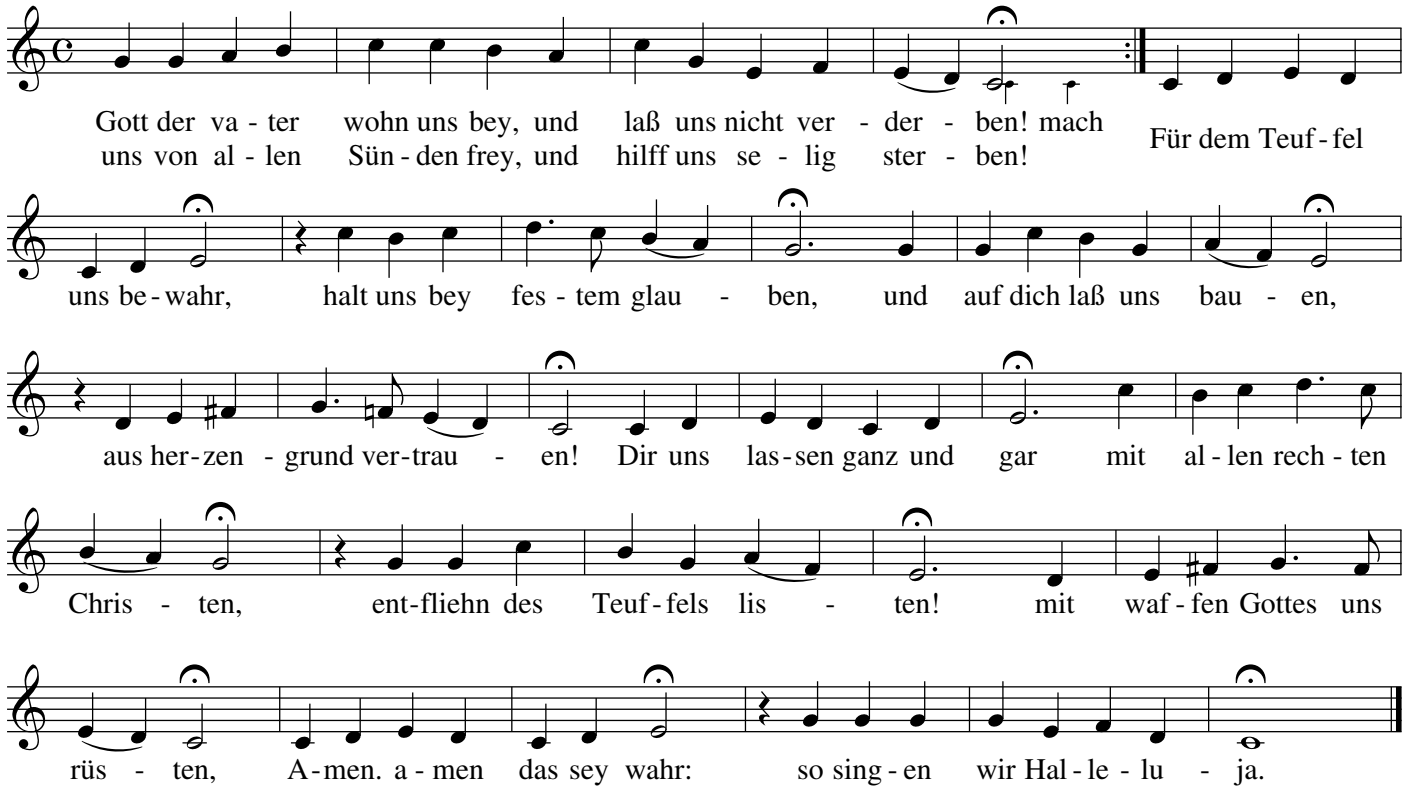

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 175, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 67

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

God the Father, be our Stay;
O let us perish never!
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,
And grant us life forever.
Keep us from the evil one;
Uphold our faith most holy;
Grant us to trust Thee solely
With humble hearts and lowly.
Let us put God's armor on,
With all true Christian running
Our heav'nly race and shunning
The devil's wiles and cunning
Amen, amen! This be done;
So sing we, Alleluia!

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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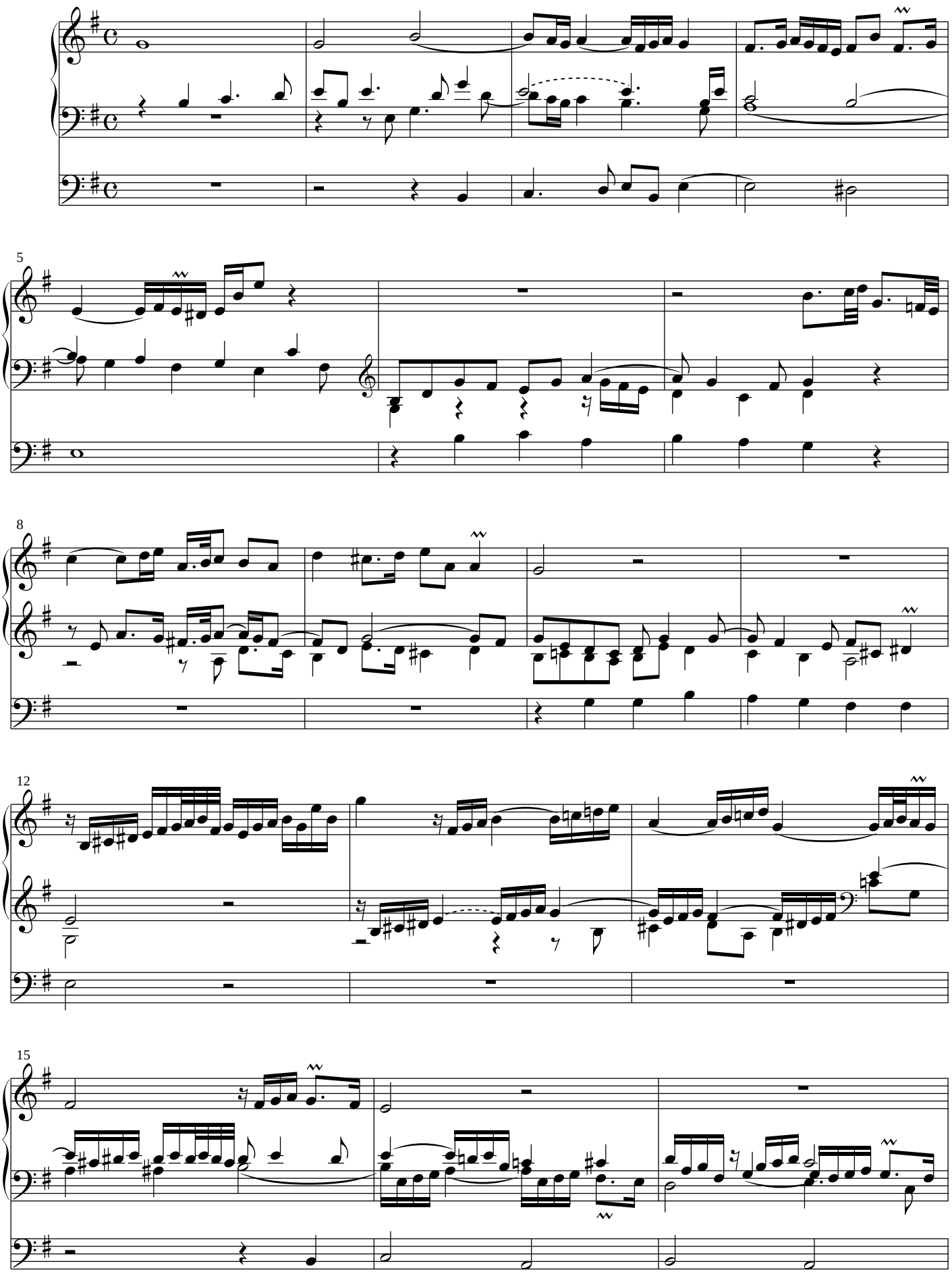
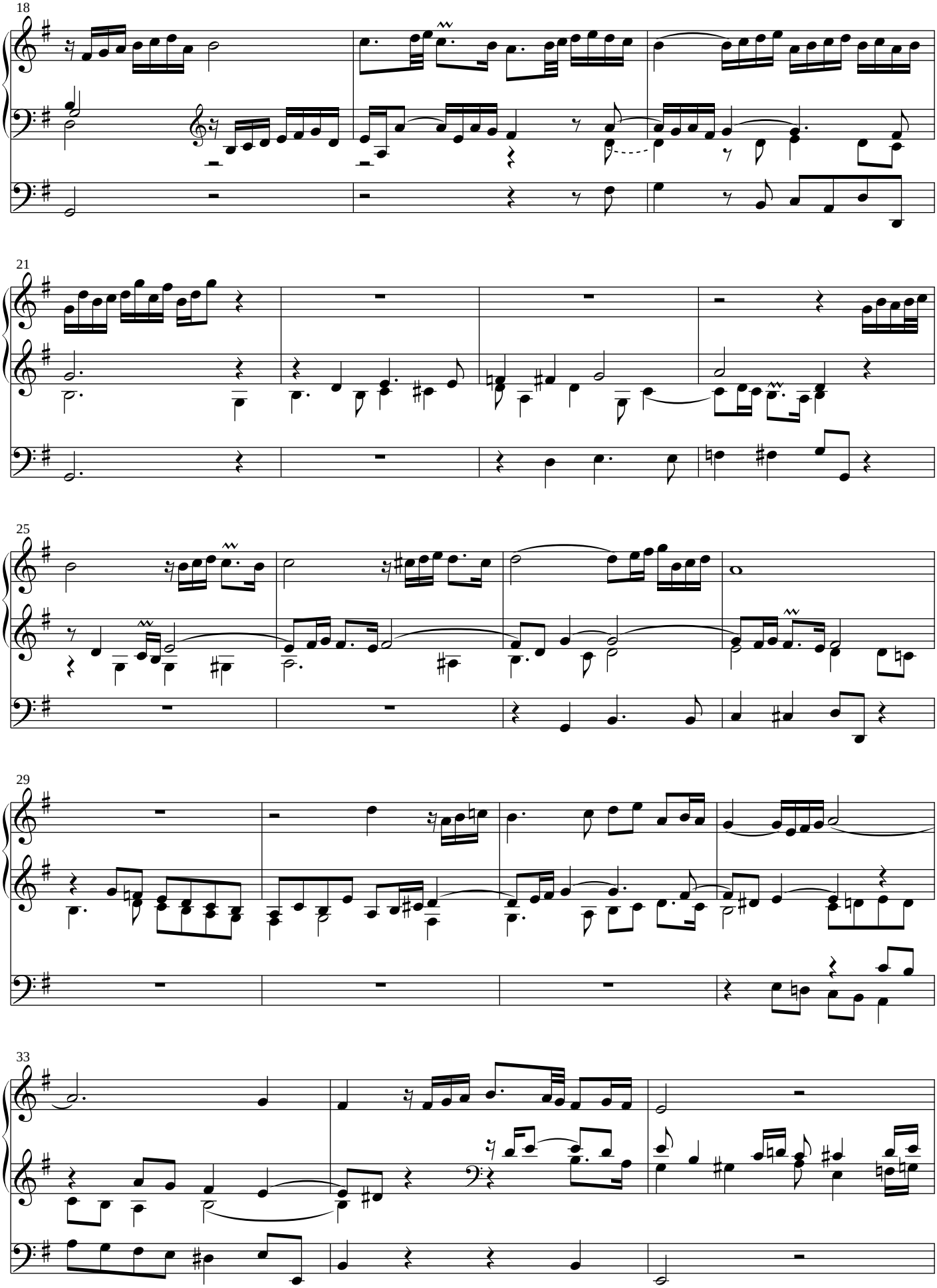
Herr Christ der einig Gottes Sohn

BuxWV 191

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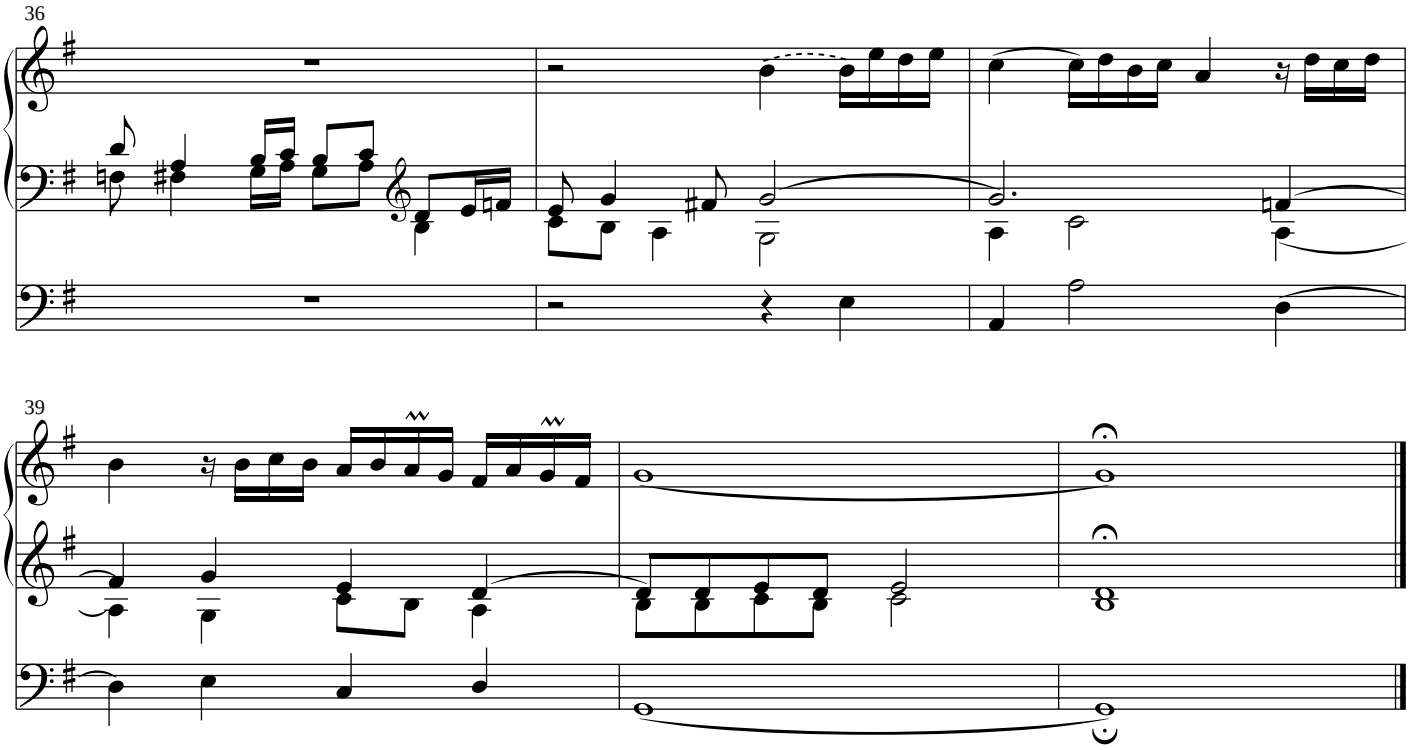
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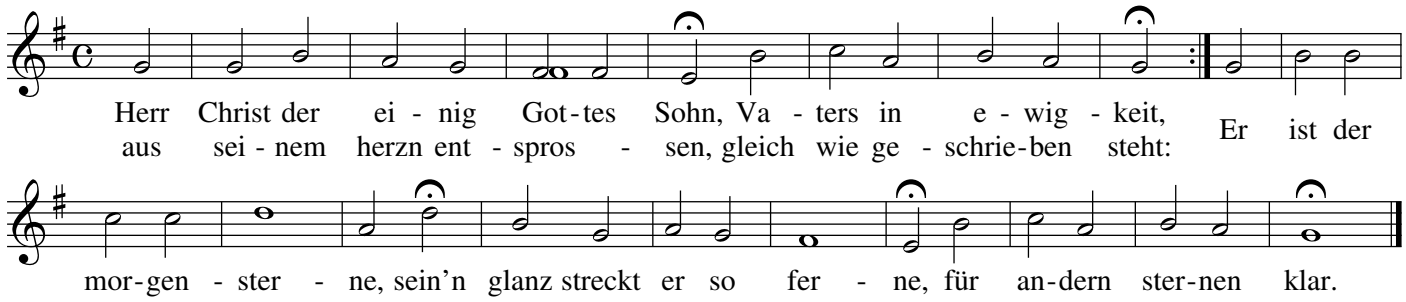


Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 138, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 124

Author: Elisabeth Kreuziger (ca.1500–1535)

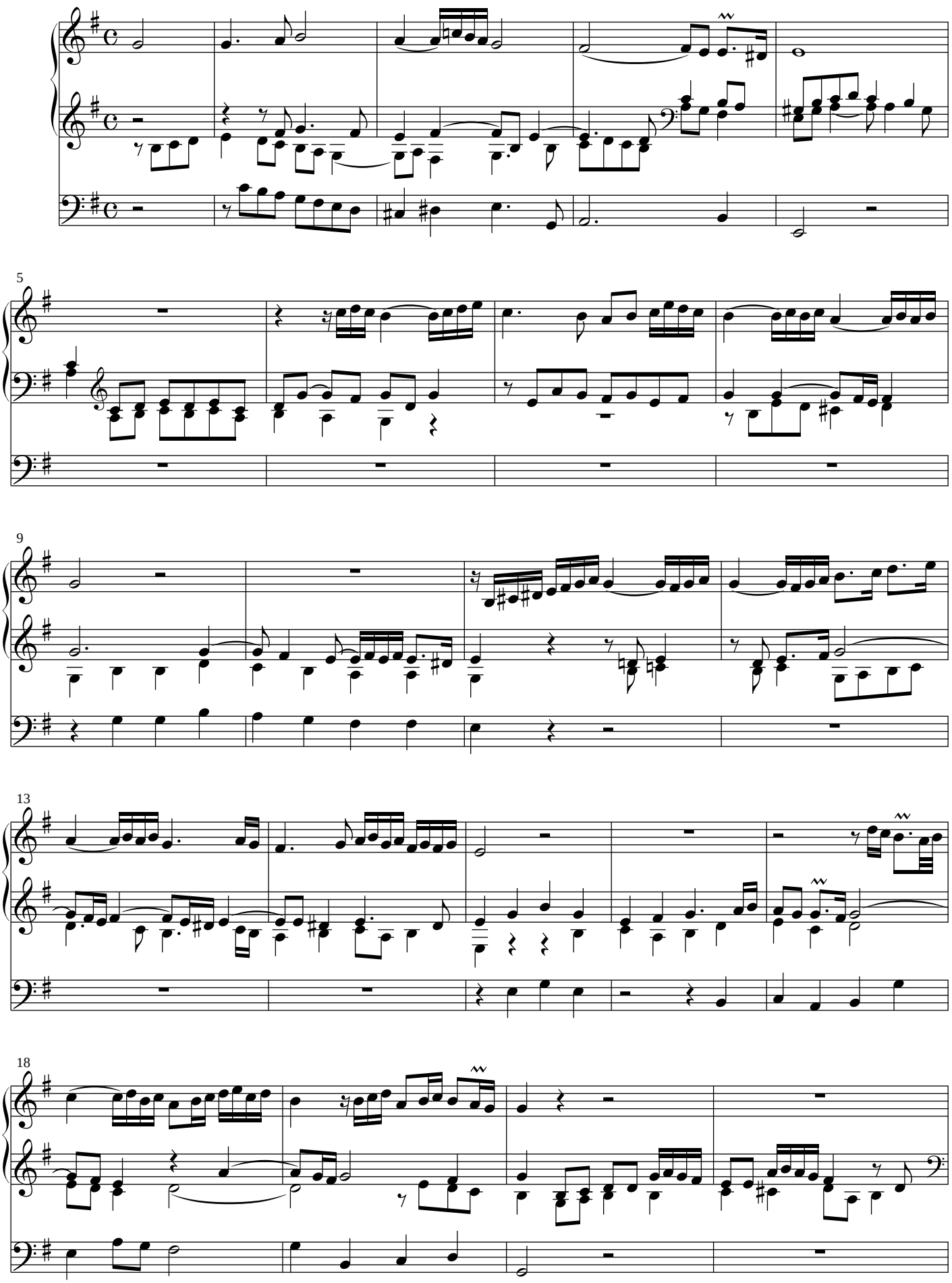
English translation:

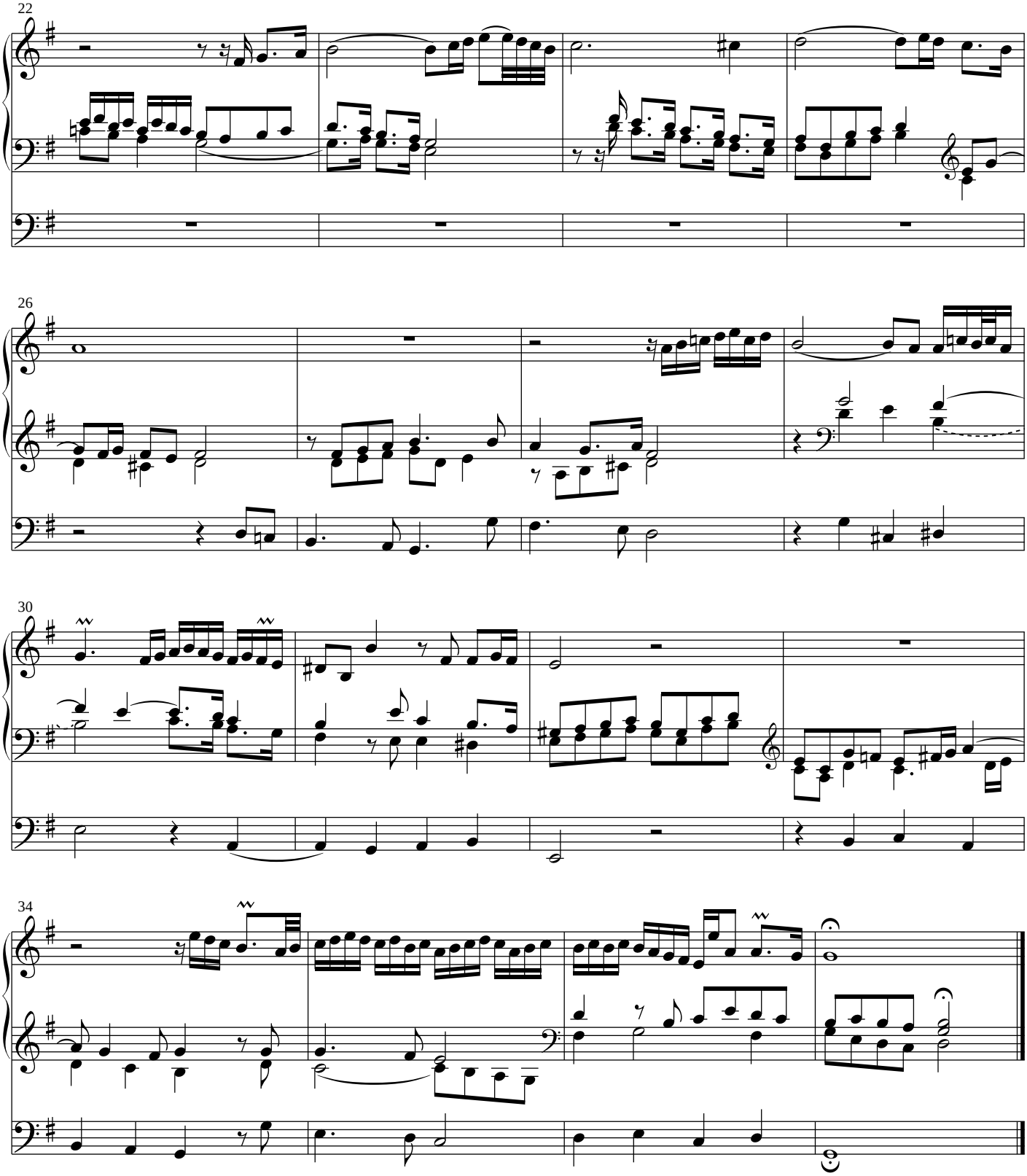
> Lord Christ, God's only dear Son,
> His from eternity,
> Forth from the Father's heart sprung,
> As in Scripture we see,
> The Morning Star, He gleameth,
> His light more brightly beameth
> Than all stars in the sky.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Herr Christ der einig Gottes Sohn

BuxWV 192

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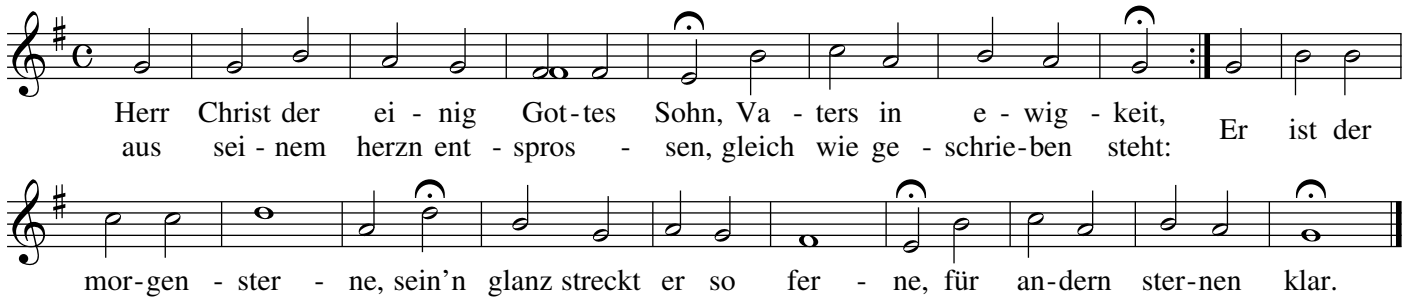

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 138, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 124

Author: Elisabeth Kreuziger (ca.1500–1535)

English translation:

> Lord Christ, God's only dear Son,
> His from eternity,
> Forth from the Father's heart sprung,
> As in Scripture we see,
> The Morning Star, He gleameth,
> His light more brightly beameth
> Than all stars in the sky.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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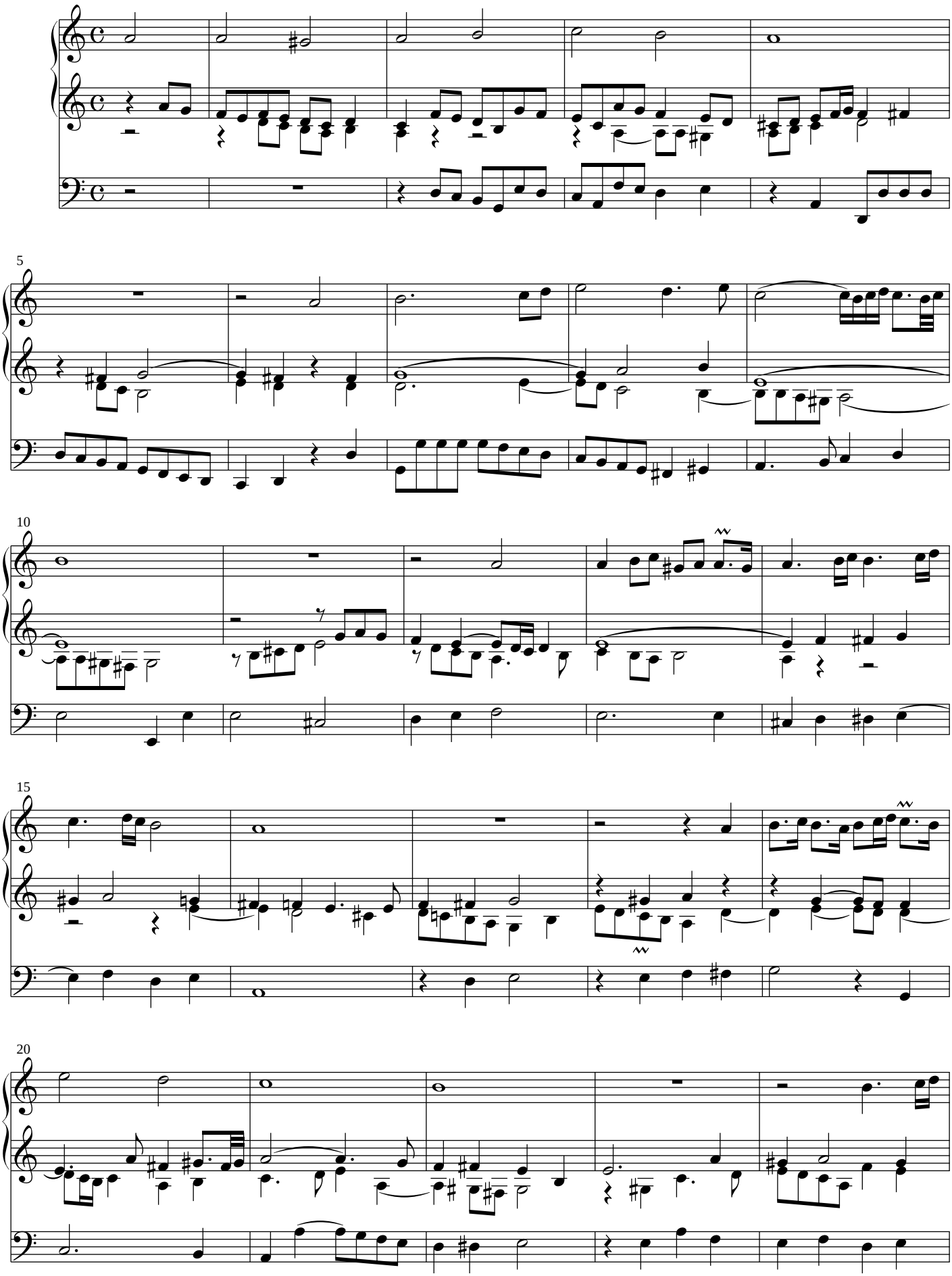
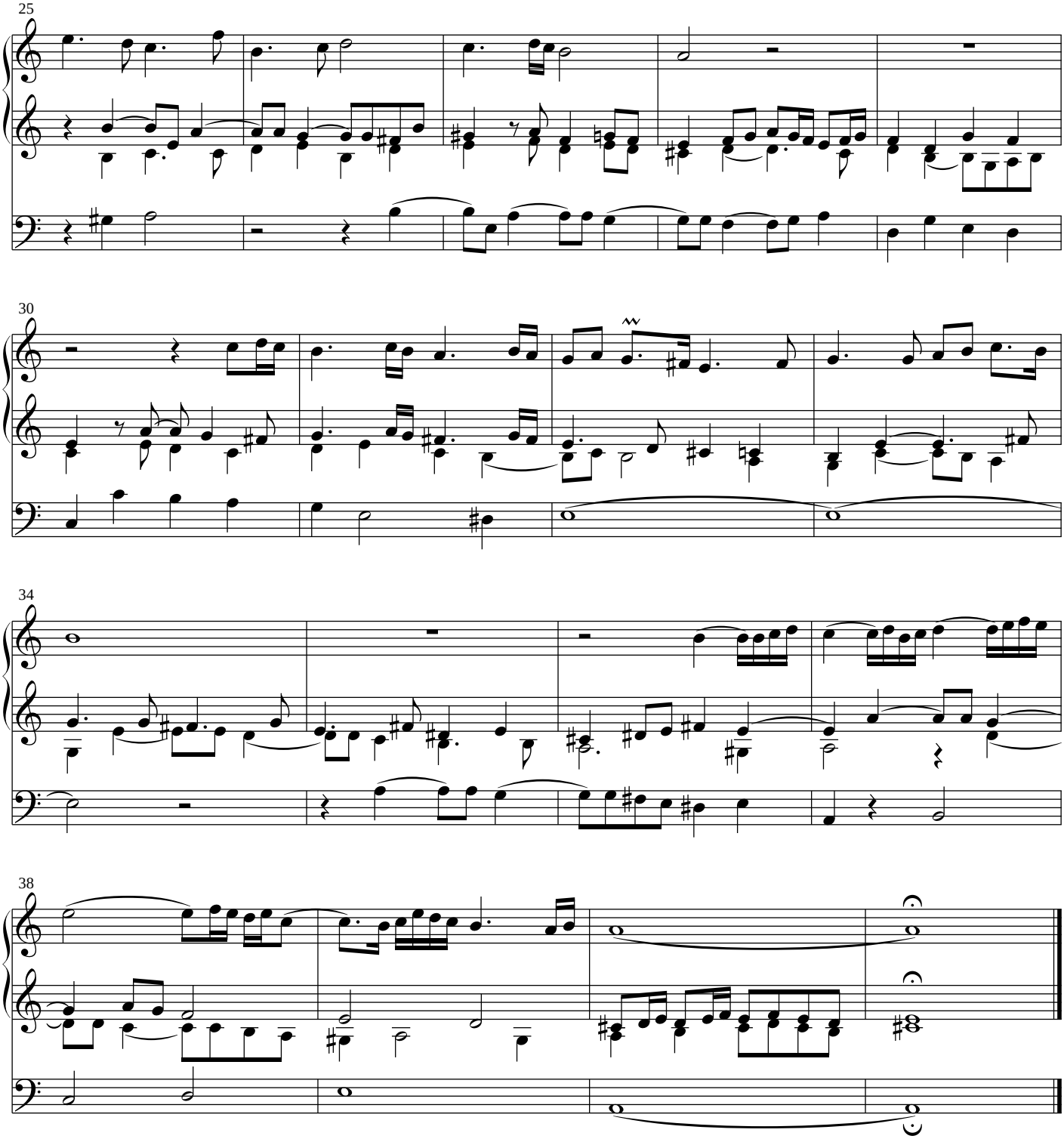
Herr Jesu Christ, ich weiss gar wohl

BuxWV 193

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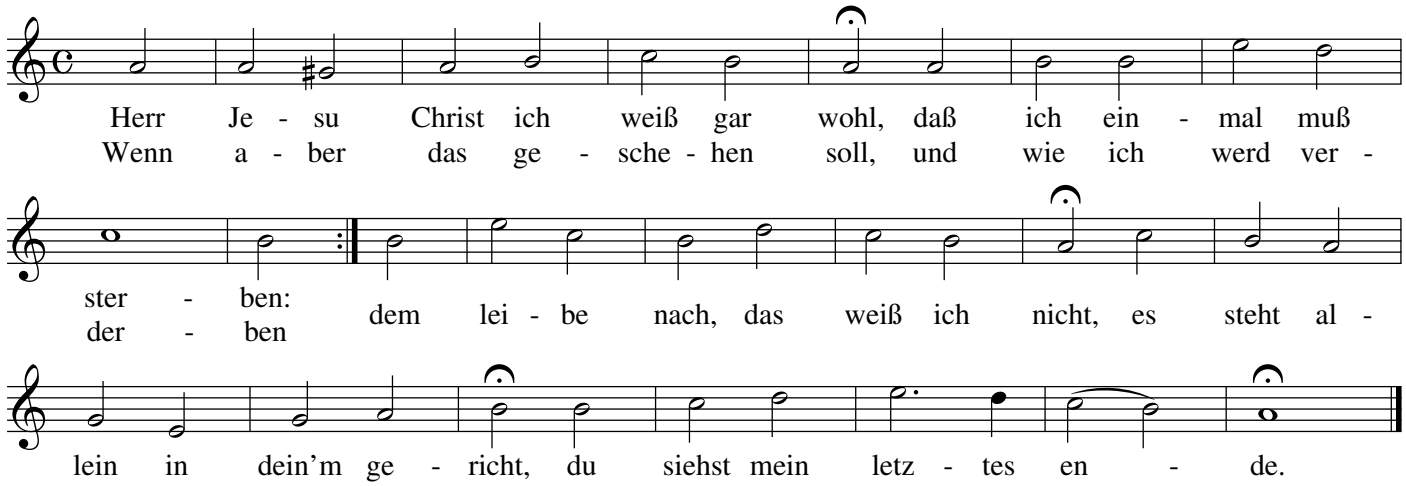

Tune based on: Graupner 1728, no. 102, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 245

Author: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt (1532–1599)

English translation:

> Lord Jesus Christ, I know very well
> That sometime I musi die;
> When, however, that will happen,
> And how I shall perish bodily, I know not,
> That is solely according to thy judgment;
> Thou knowest mine uttermost end.

Source: Willmet 2007

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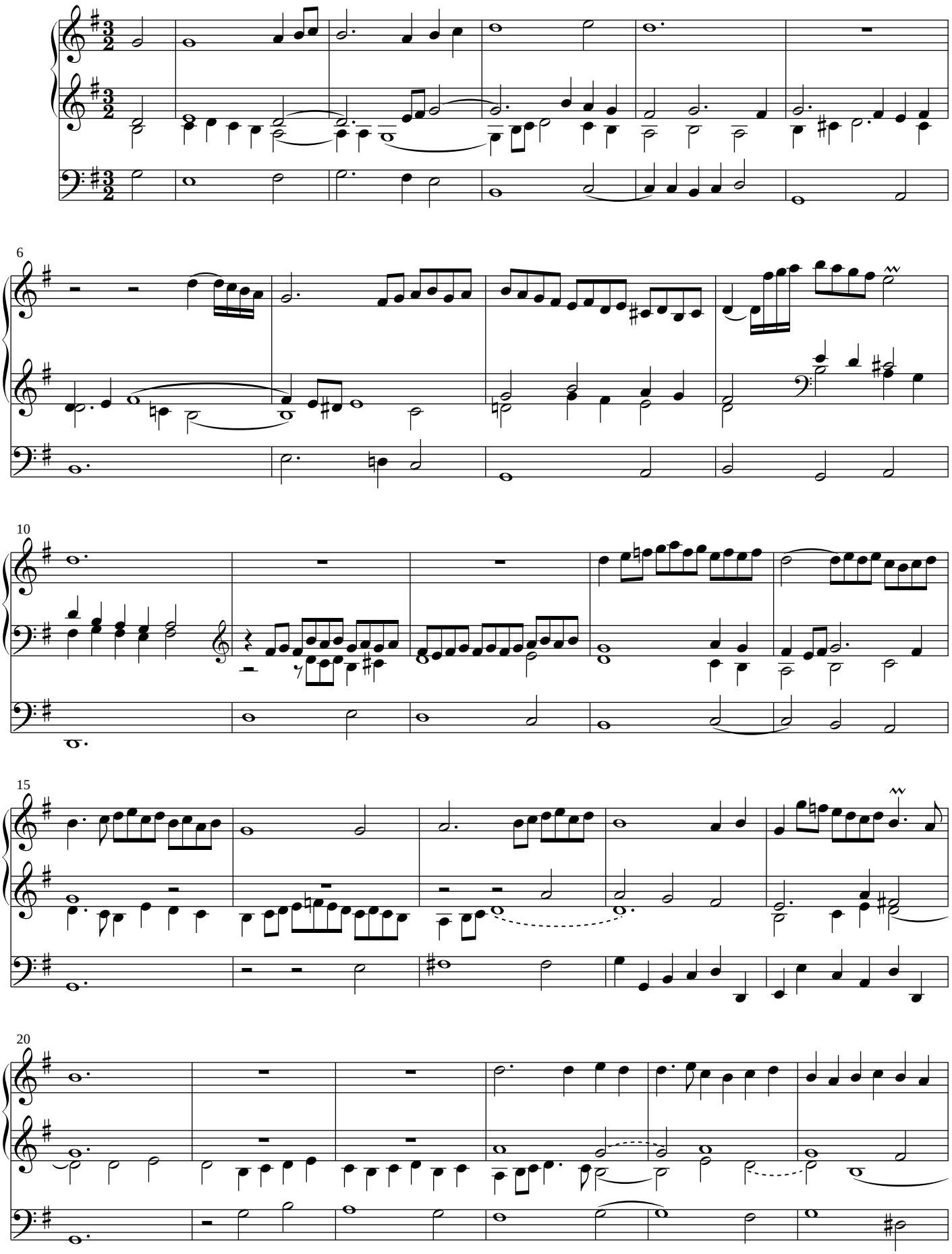
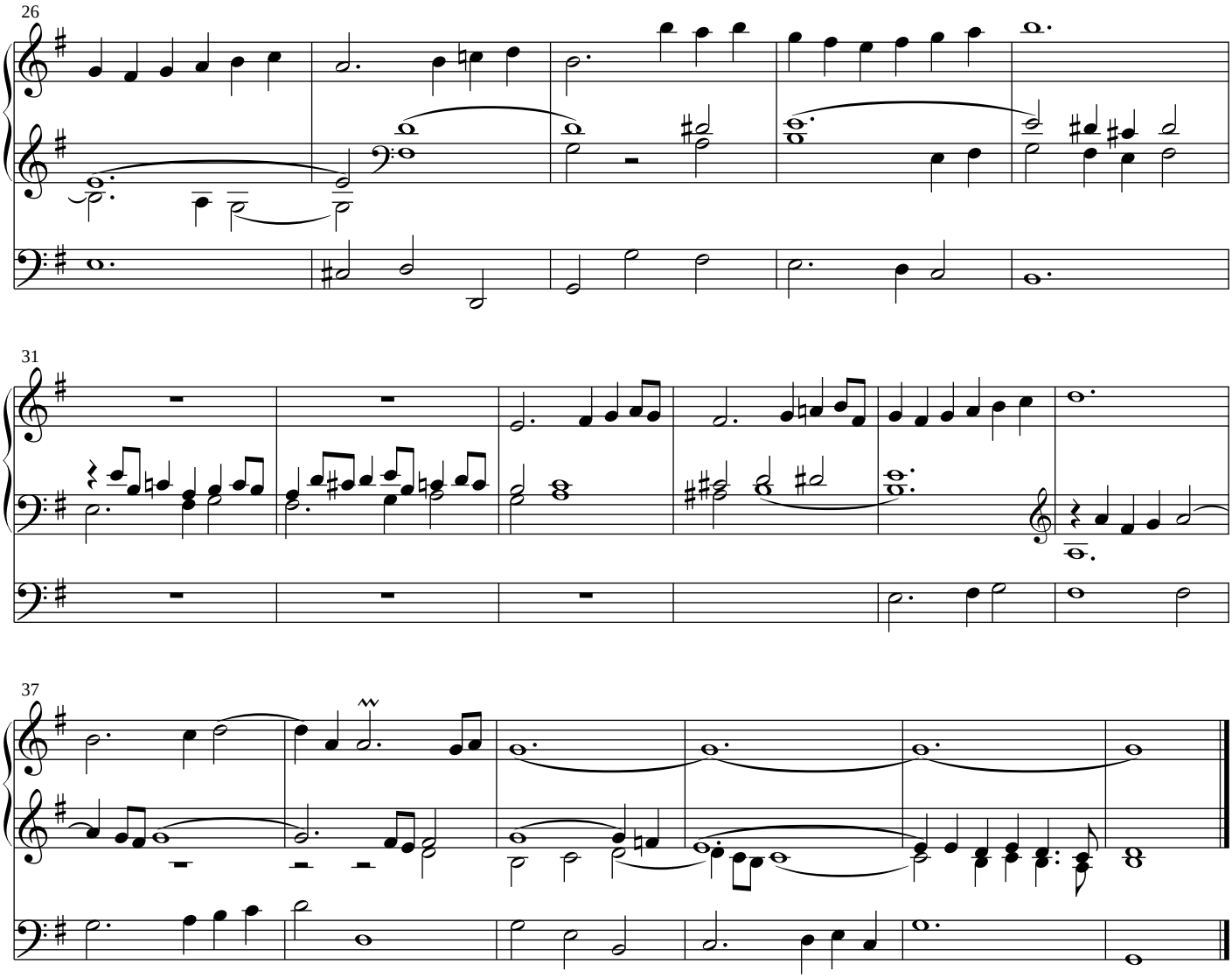
In dulci jubilo

BuxWV 197

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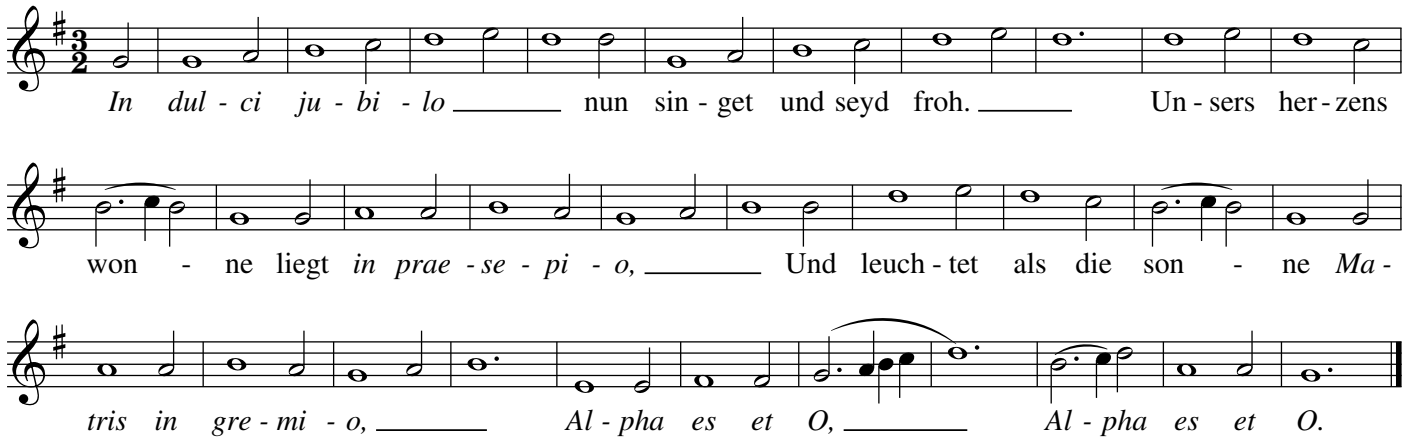

Tune based on: Graupner 1728, no. 140, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 9

Author: Heinrich Seuse (1295–1366)

English translation:

> In dulci jubilo [In quiet joy]
> Let us our homage show
> Our heart's joy reclineth
> In praesepio [in a manger]
> And like a bright star shineth
> Matris in gremio [in the mother's lap]
> Alpha es et O. [Thou art Alpha & Omega].

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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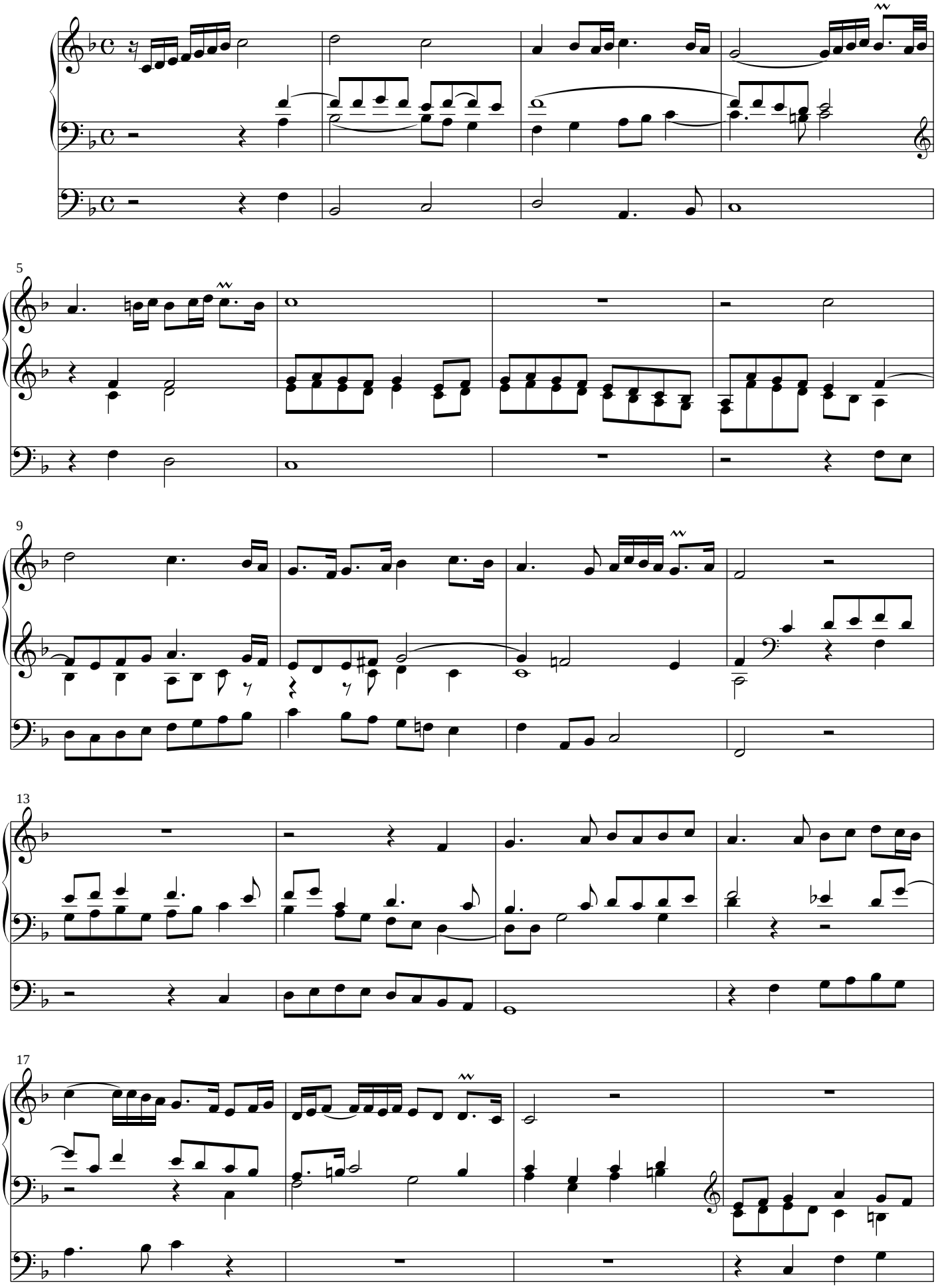
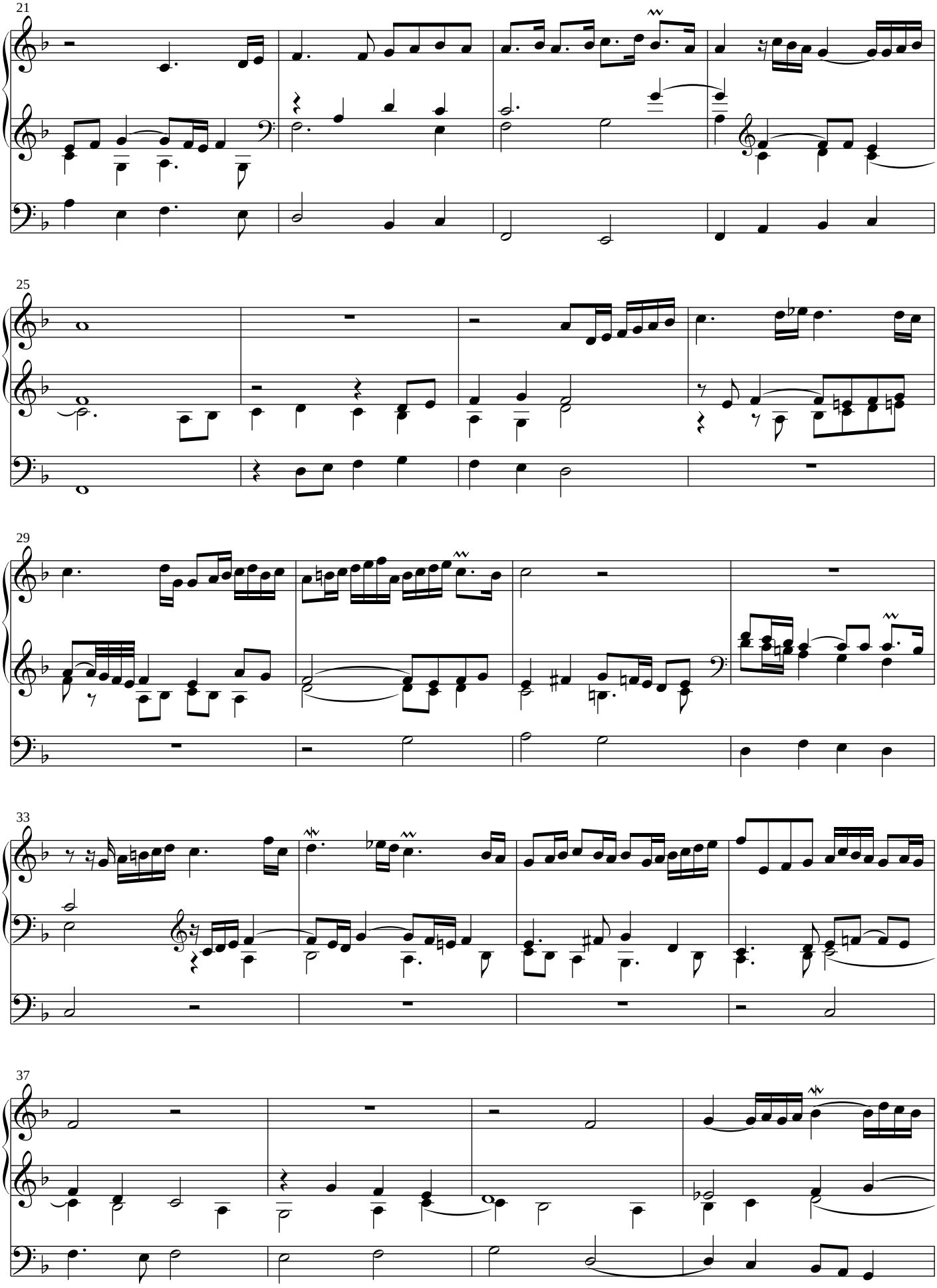
Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott

BuxWV 199

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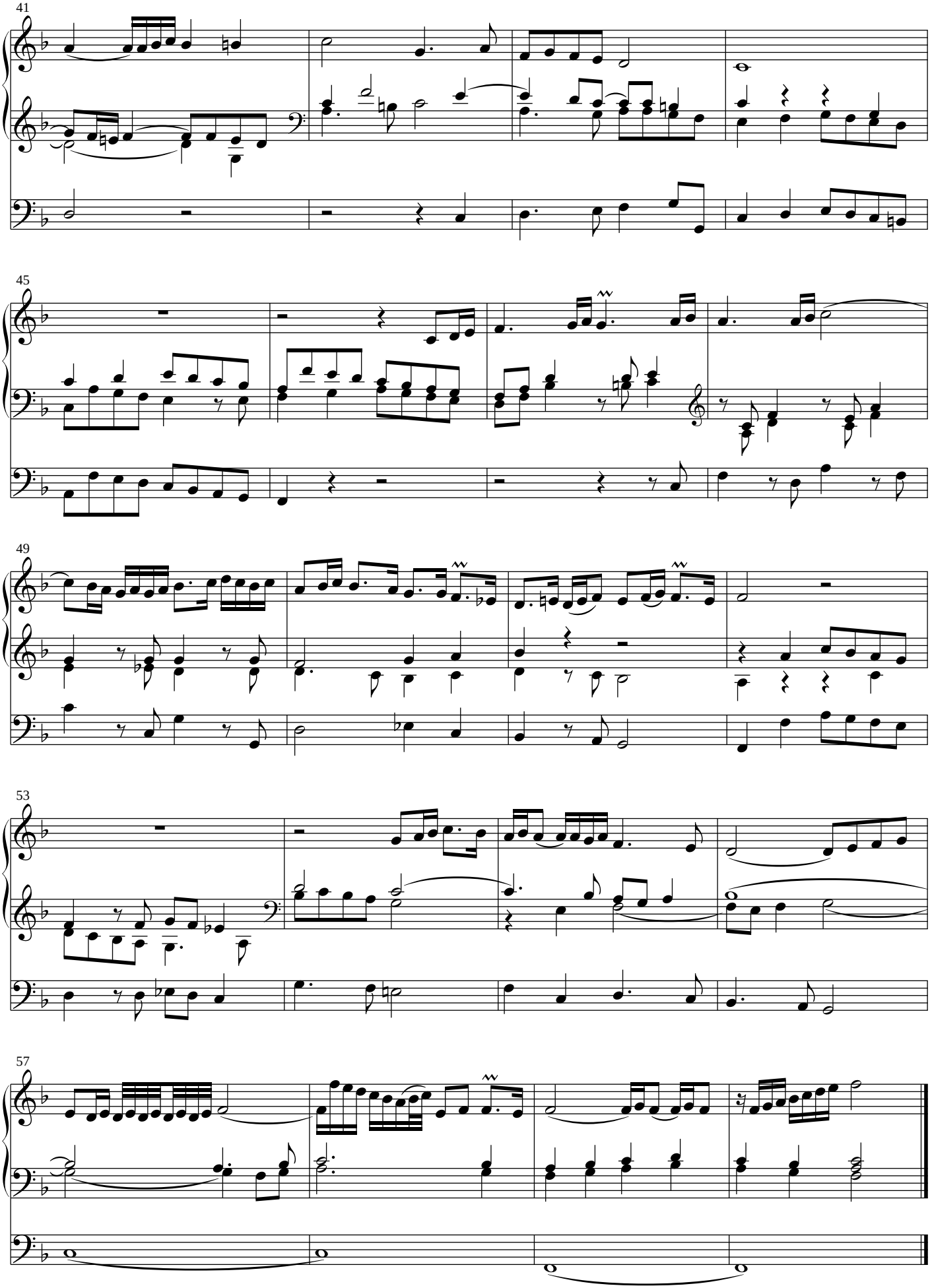
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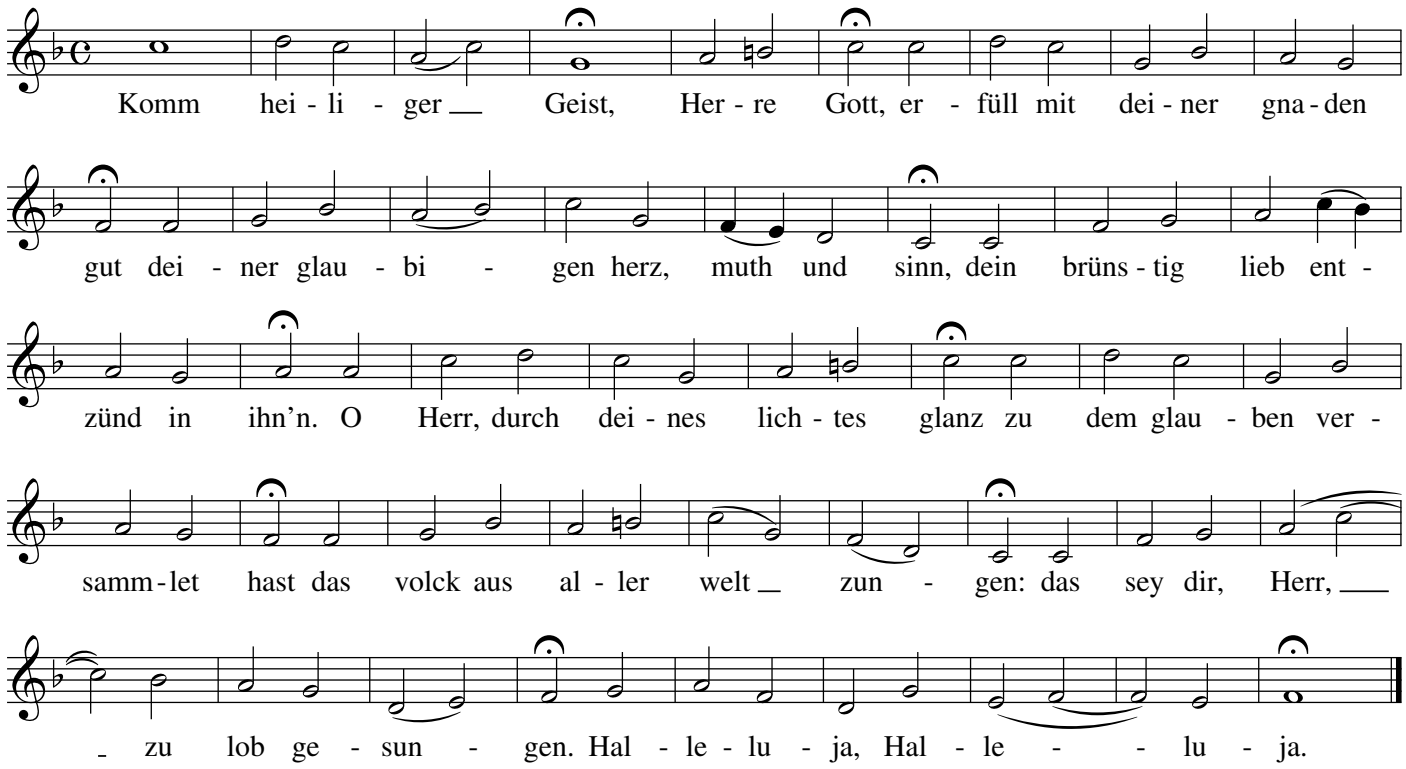


Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 167, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 59

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

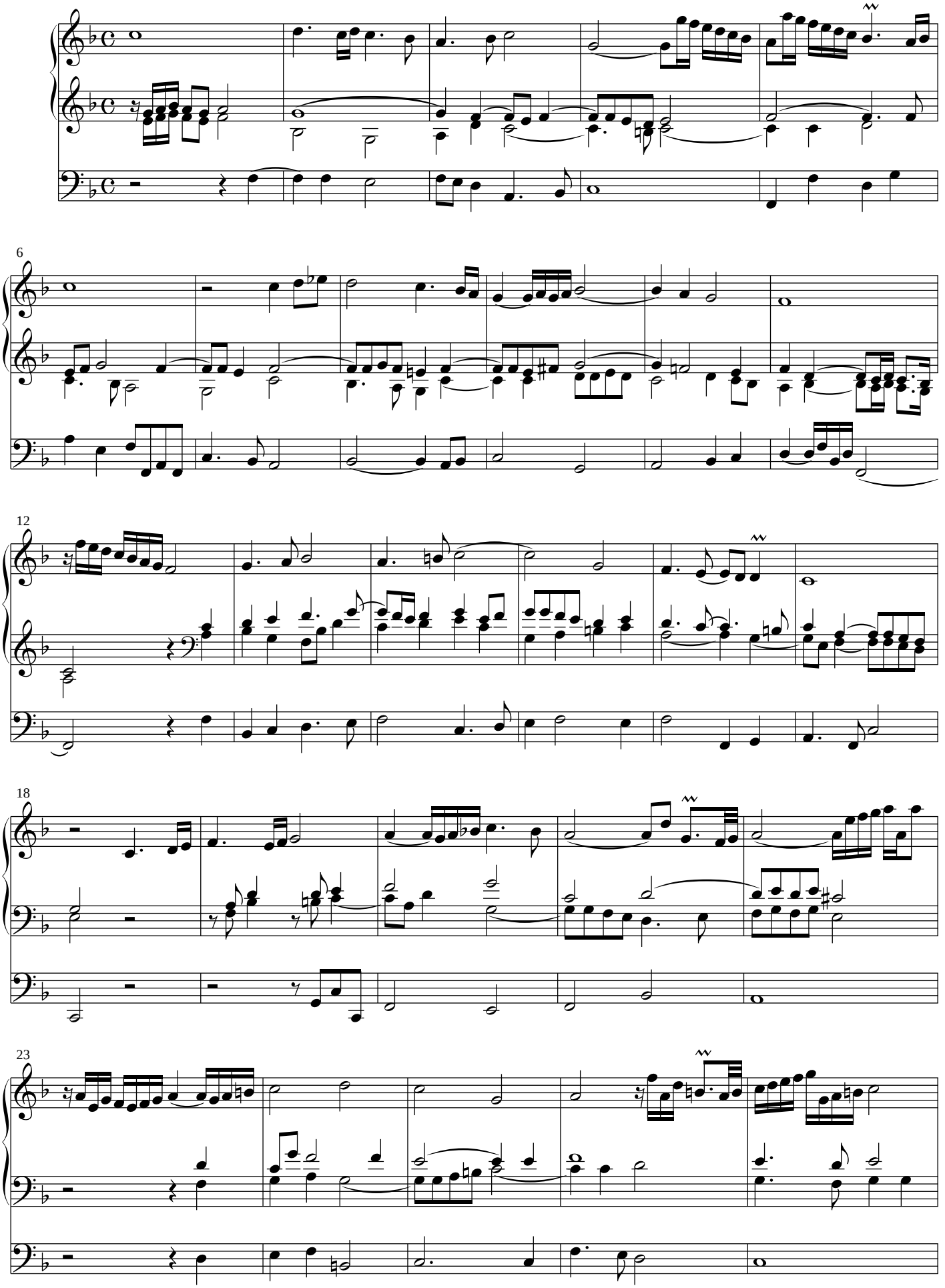
English translation:

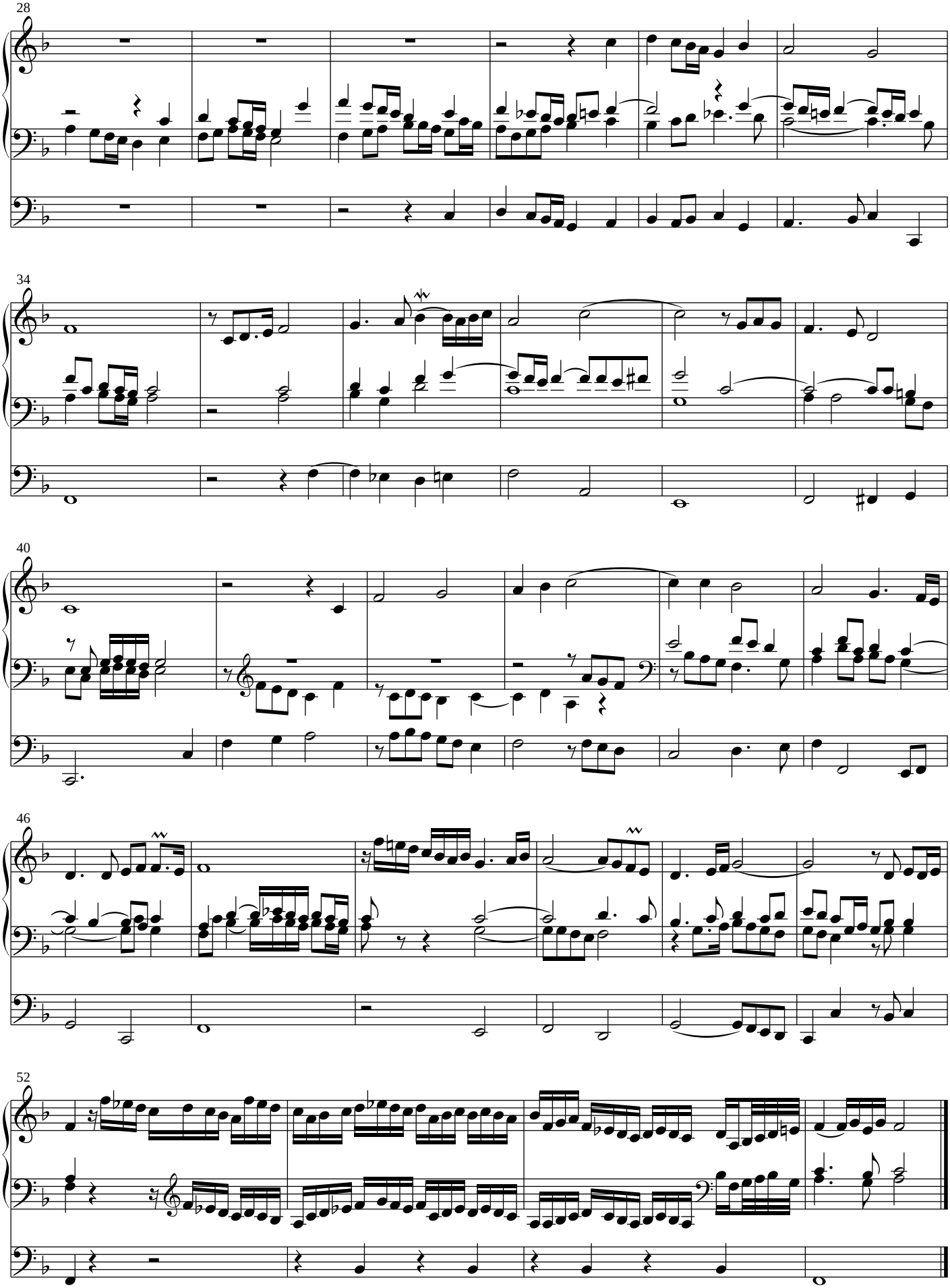
> Come, Holy Spirit, Lord God,
> fill with the goodness of your grace
> the heart, spirit and mind of your believers,
> kindle in them your ardent love !
> O Lord, through the splendour of your light
> you have gathered in faith
> people from all the tongues of the world;
> so that in your praise Lord, may there be sung
> Halleluja! Halleluja!

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Komm, heiliger Geist, Herre Gott

BuxWV 200

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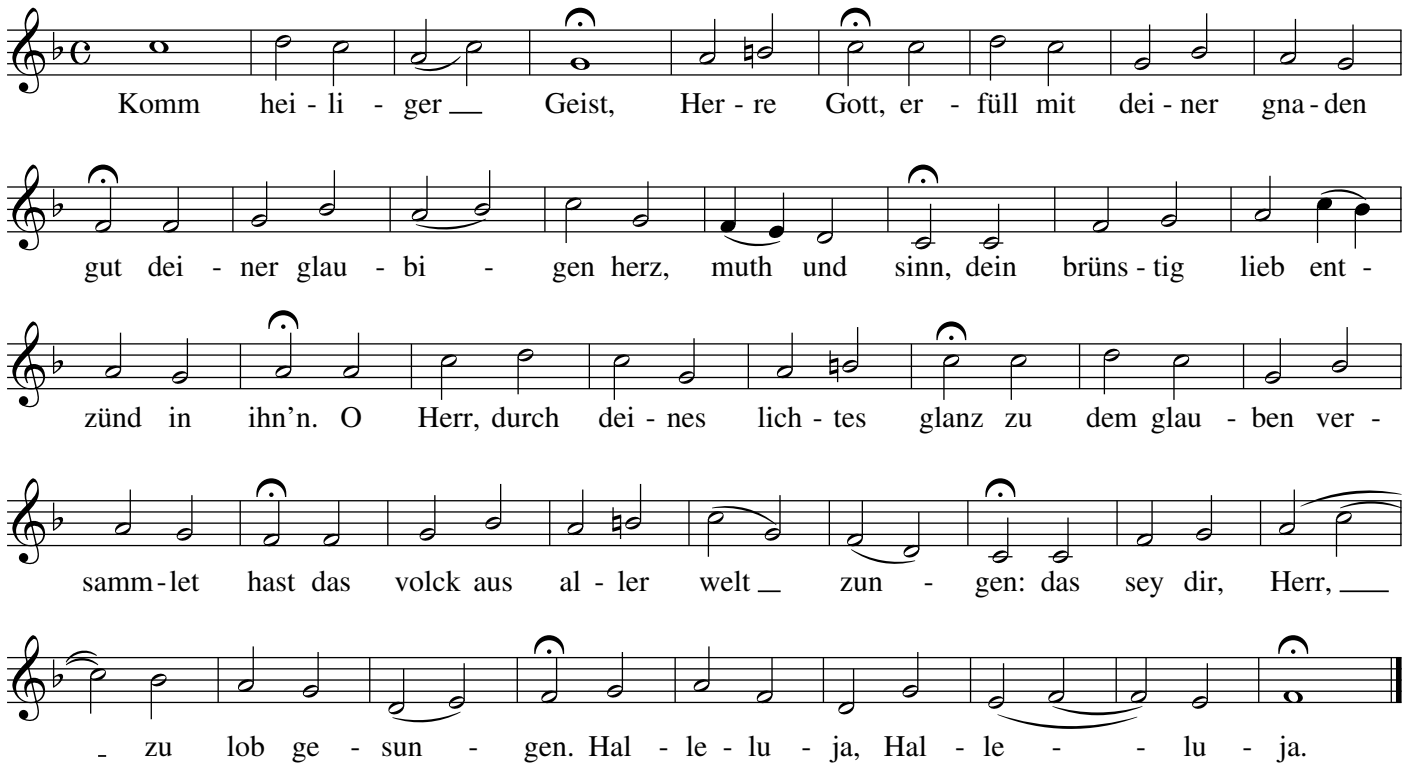

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 167, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 59

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

> Come, Holy Spirit, Lord God,
> fill with the goodness of your grace
> the heart, spirit and mind of your believers,
> kindle in them your ardent love !
> O Lord, through the splendour of your light
> you have gathered in faith
> people from all the tongues of the world;
> so that in your praise Lord, may there be sung
> Halleluja! Halleluja!

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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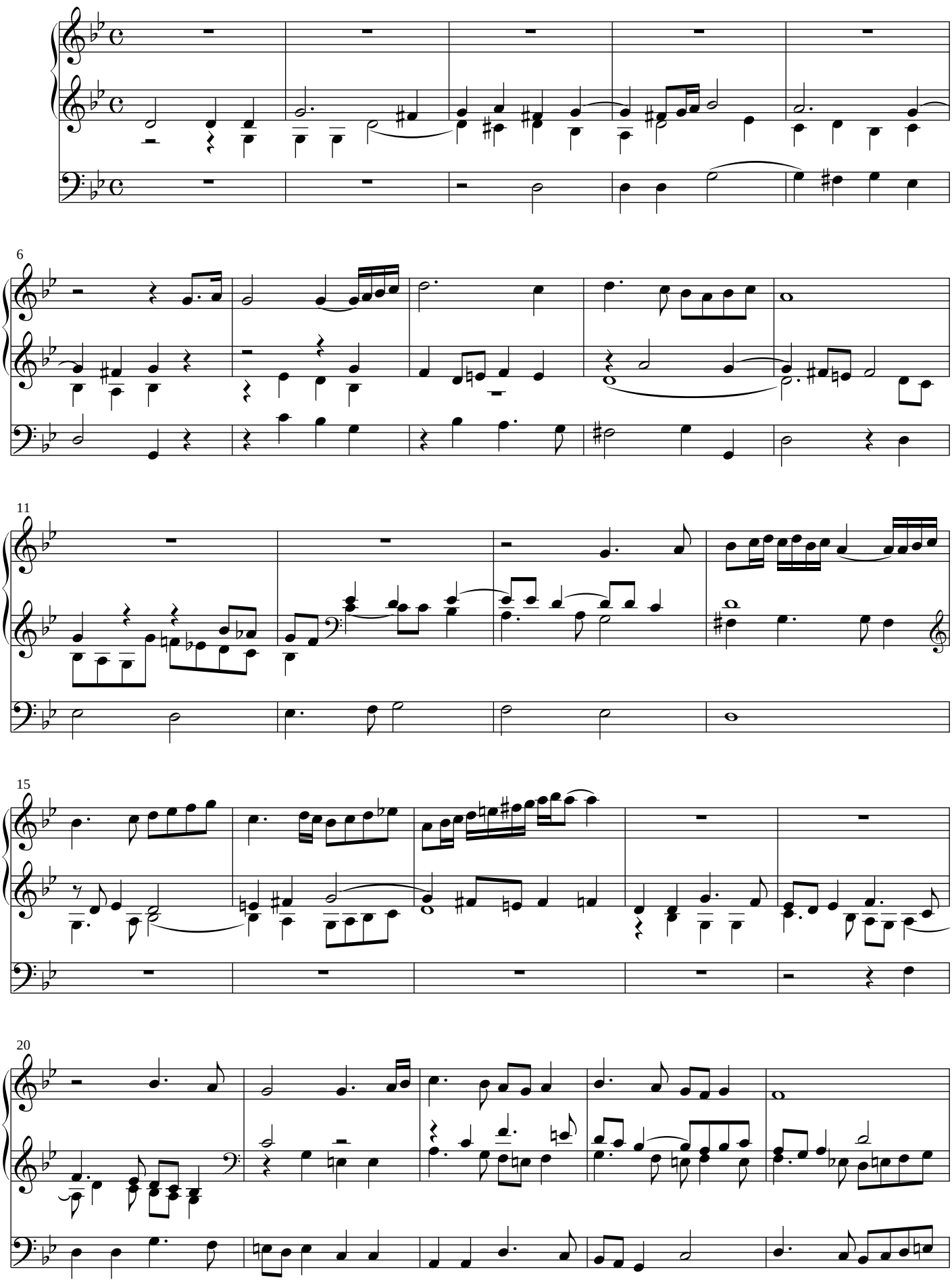
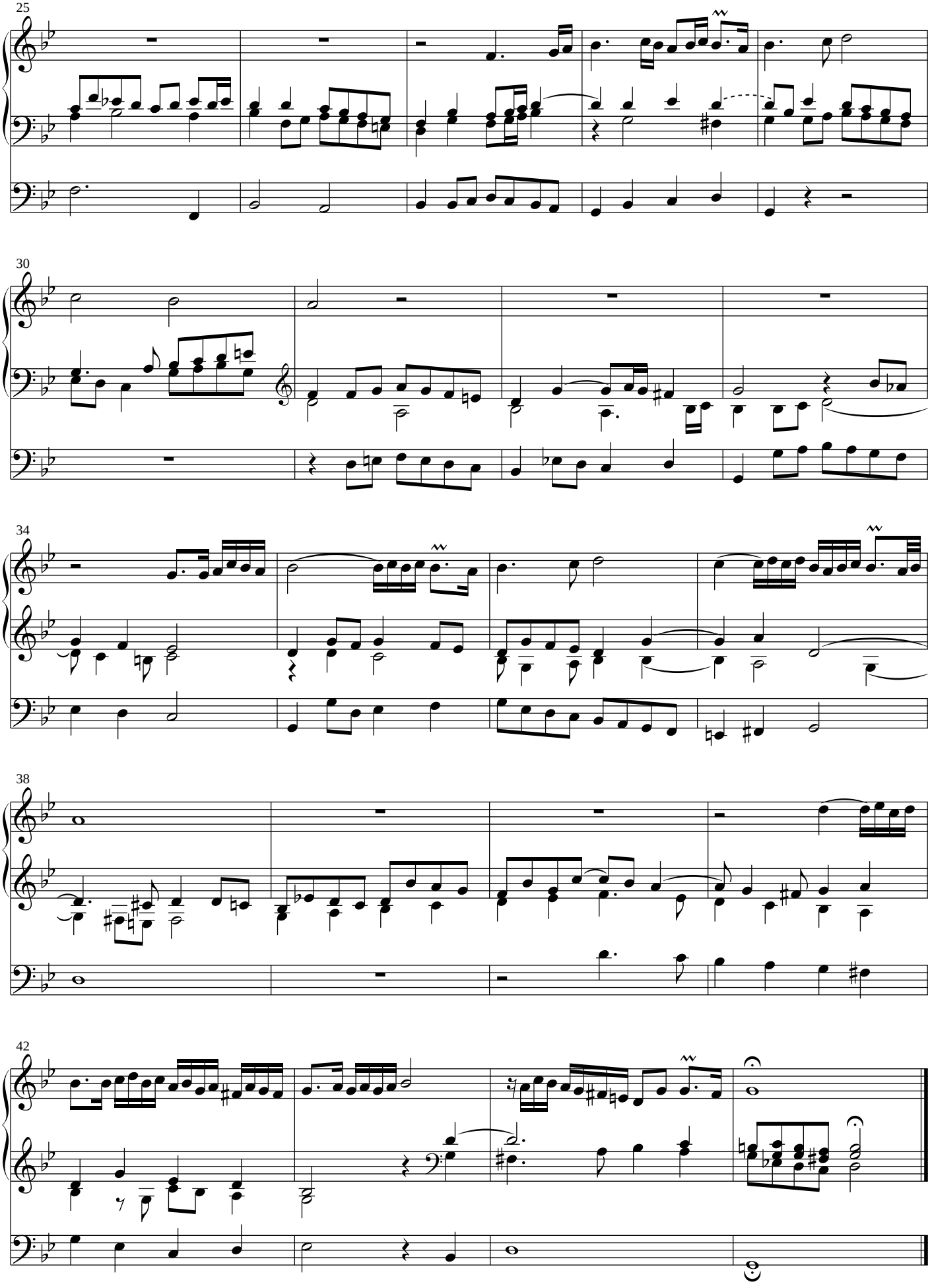
Kommt her zu mir, spricht Gottes Sohn

BuxWV 201

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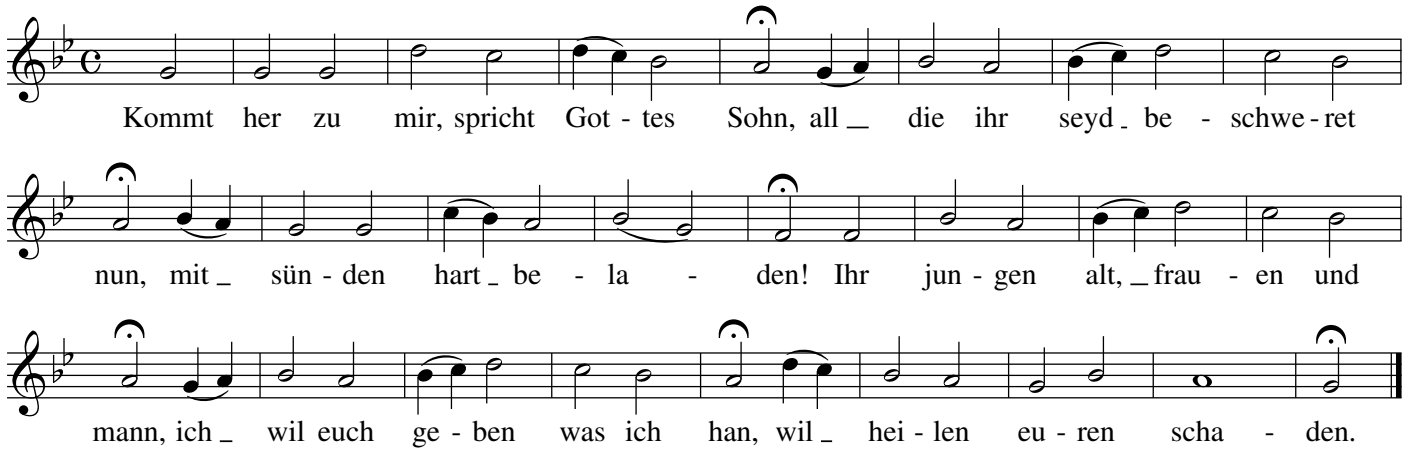

Tune based on: Apel 1832, no. 87, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 146

Author: Georg Grünwald (ca.1490–1530)

English translation:

> Come to me, says God's Son,
> all you who are burdened,
> heavily laden with sins,
> people young and old, men and women,
> what I want to give you
> will cure your troubles.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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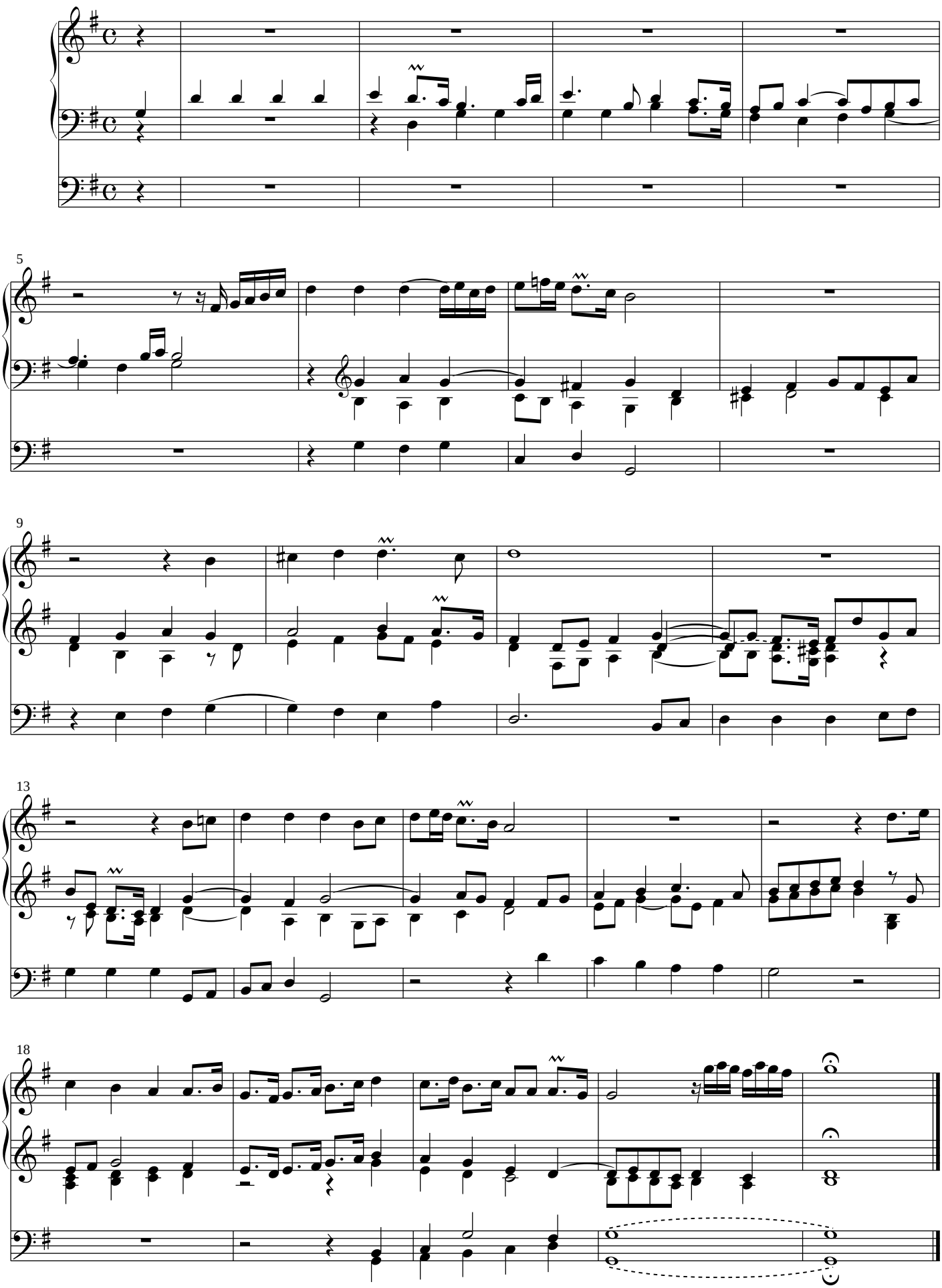
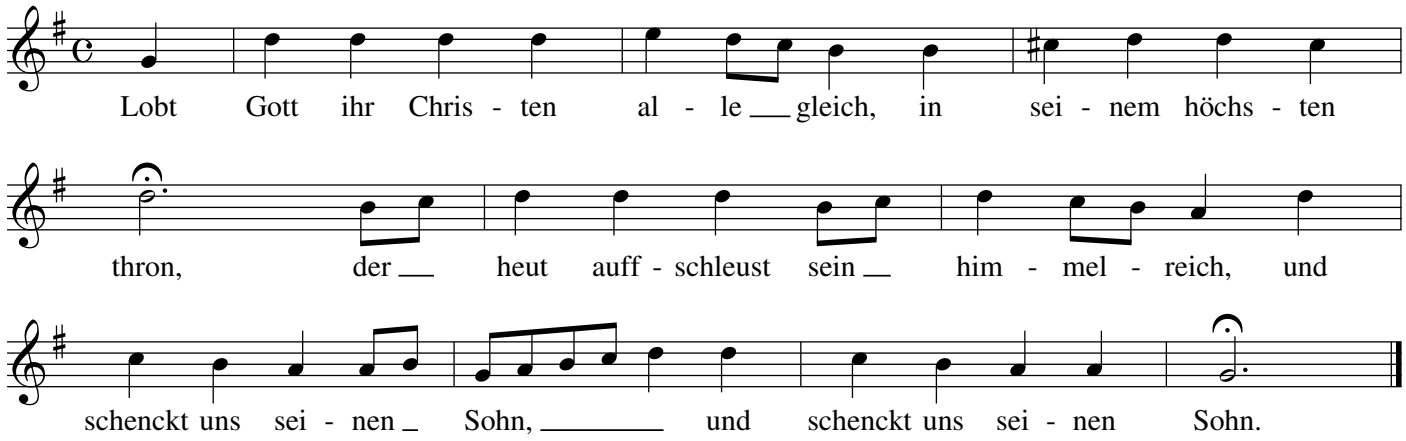
Lobt Gott, ihr Christen allzugleich

BuxWV 202





Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 77, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 14

Author: Nikolaus Herman (ca.1480–1561)

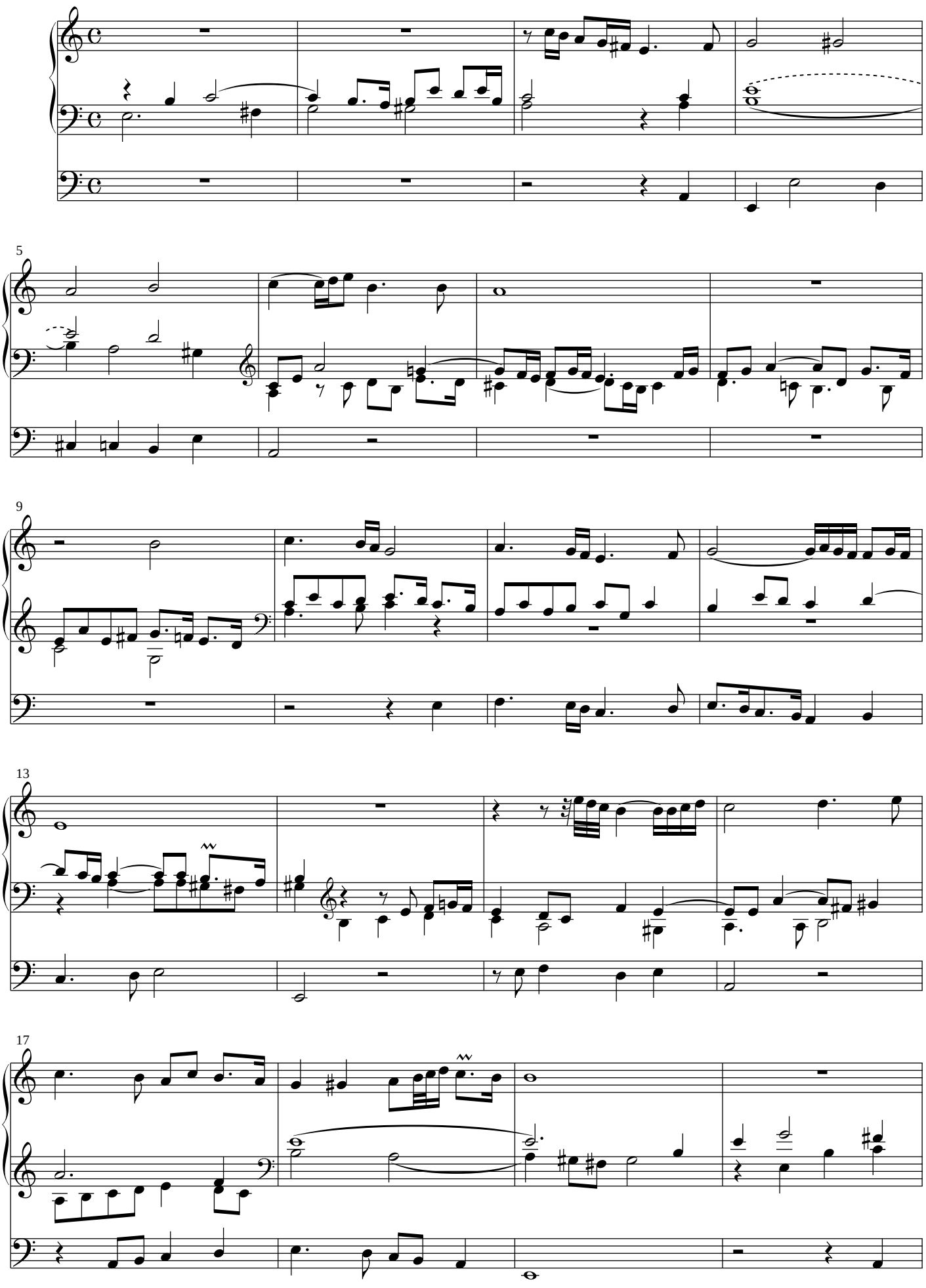
English translation:

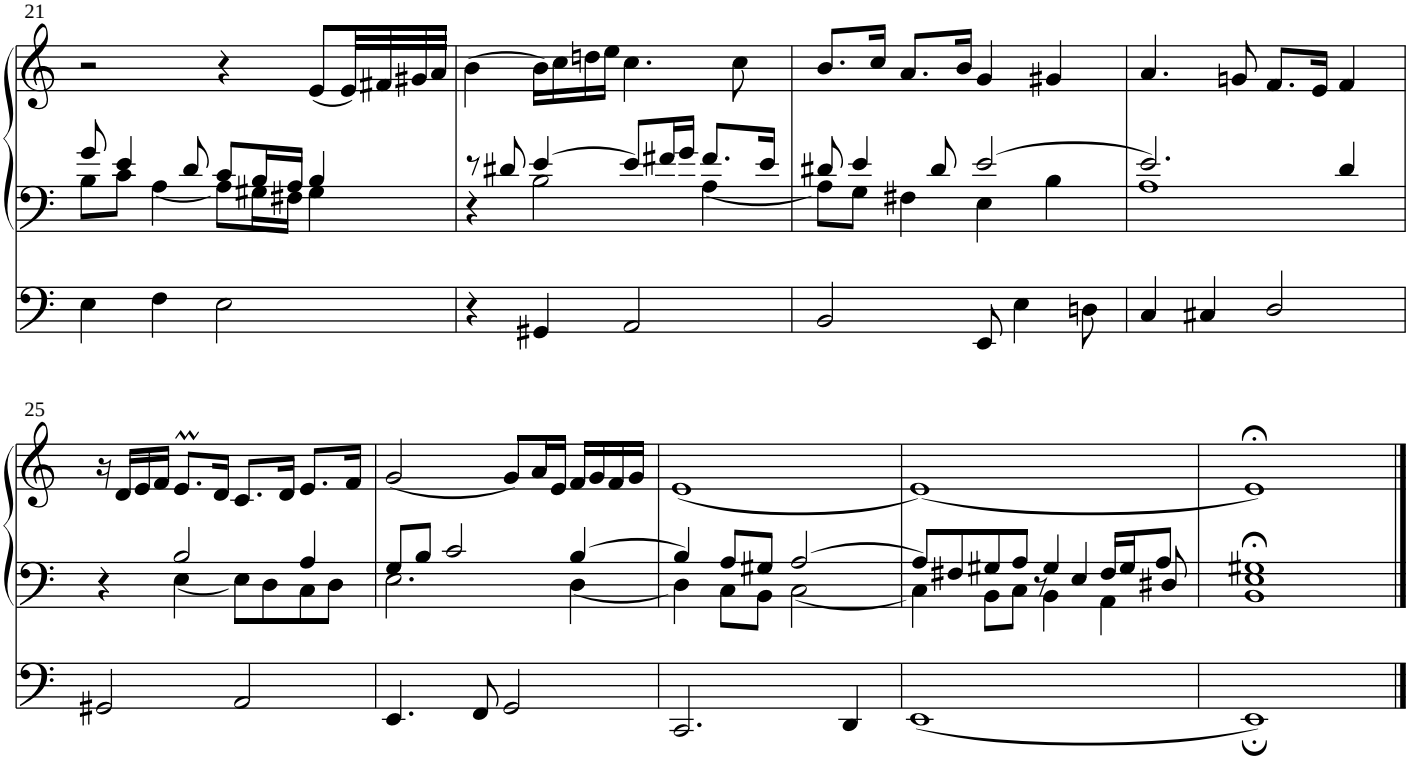
> Praise God, you Christains, all together,
> on his highest throne,
> who today unlocks his heavenly kingdom
> and bestows on us his son.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Mensch, willt du leben seliglich

BuxWV 206

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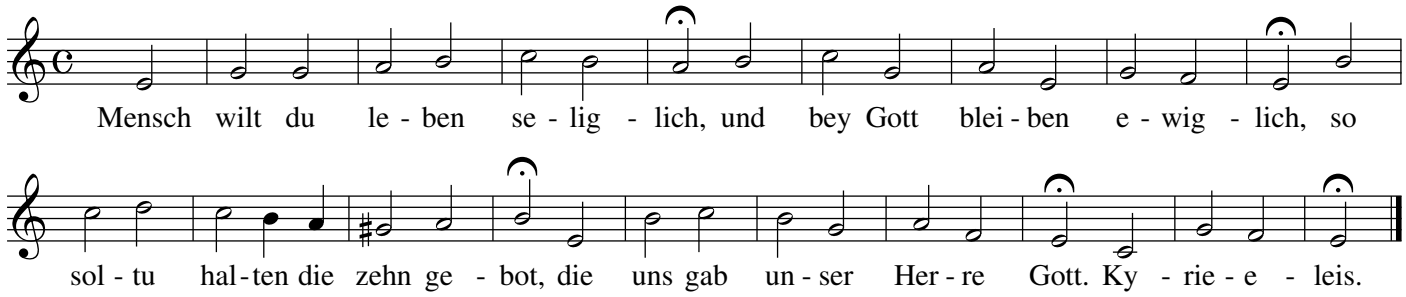

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 370, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 77

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

O man, if thou wilt blessèd be
And dwell with God eternally,
Then shalt thou keep the Ten Commands
Which God hath placed in our hands.
Kyrieleis!

Source: *The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book* n.d.

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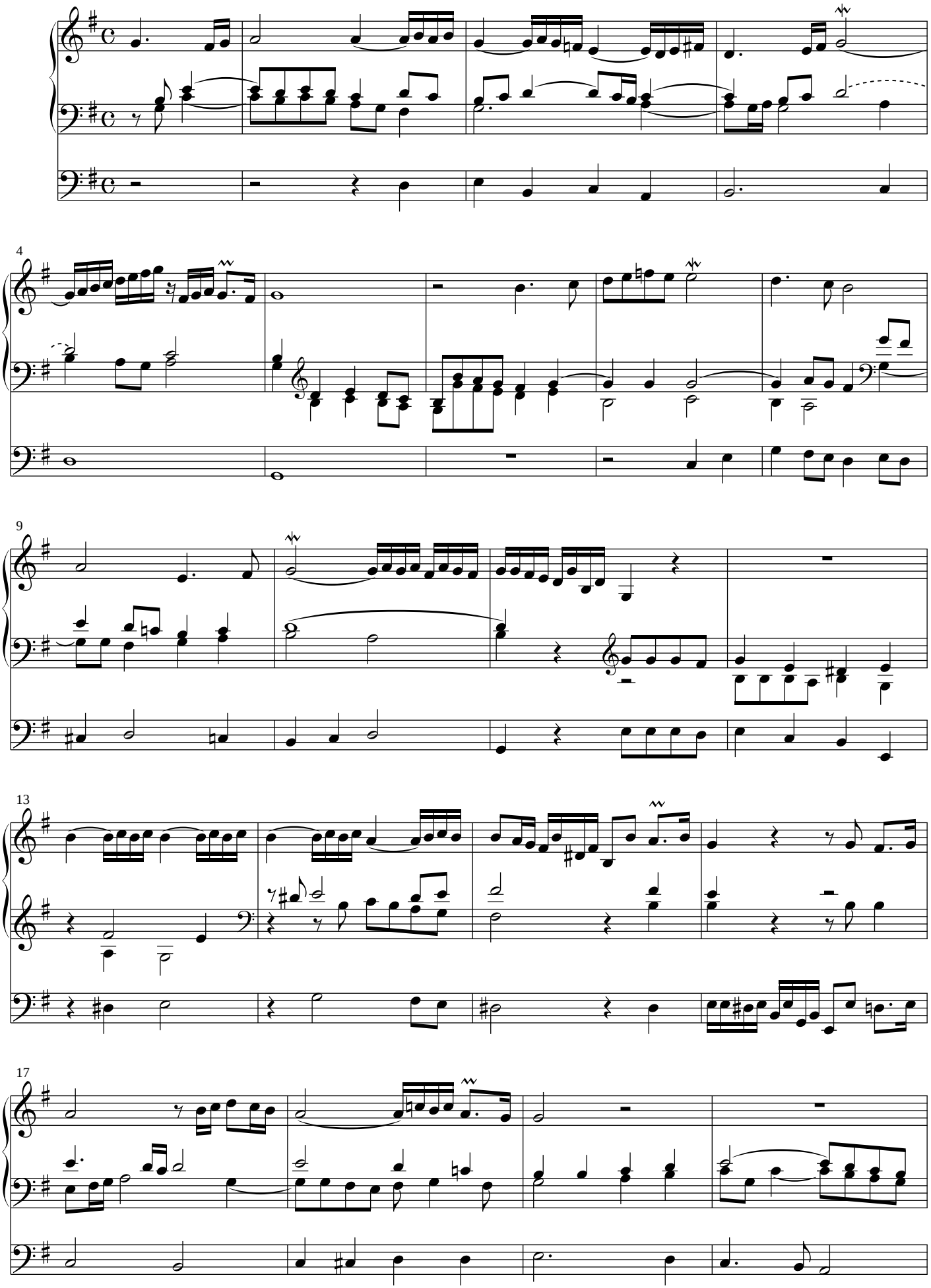
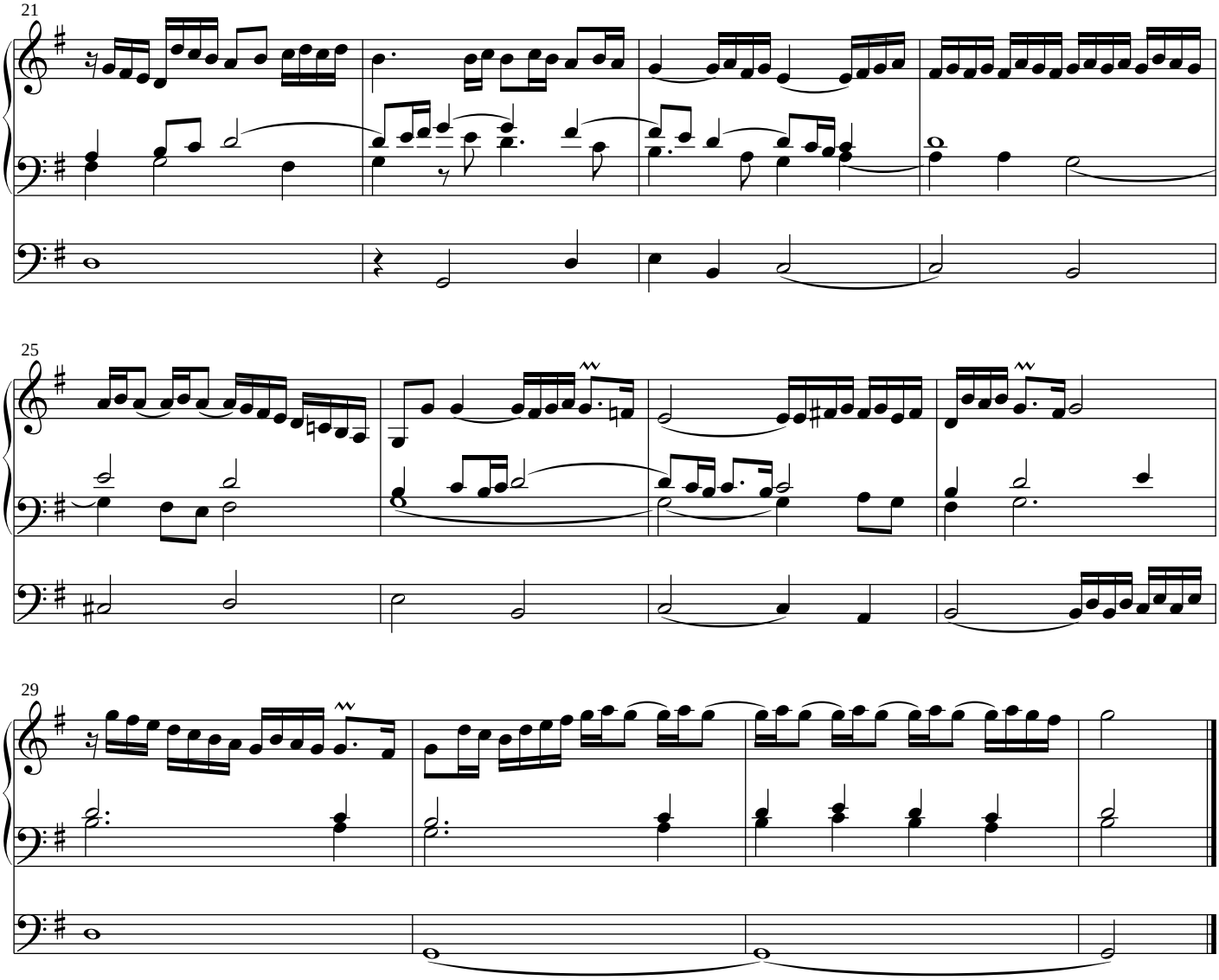
Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist

BuxWV 208

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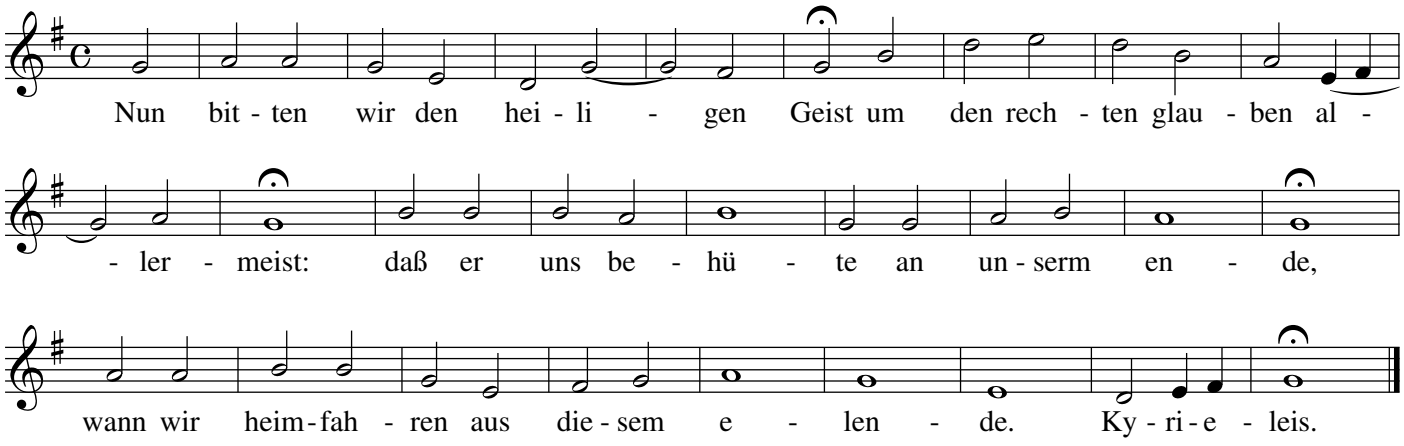

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 55, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 60

Author: Berthold von Regensburg (ca.1220–1272)

English translation:

> We now beg the holy spirit
> for true belief above all
> so that he may watch over us at our end
> when we travel home from this miserable world.
> Lord, have mercy.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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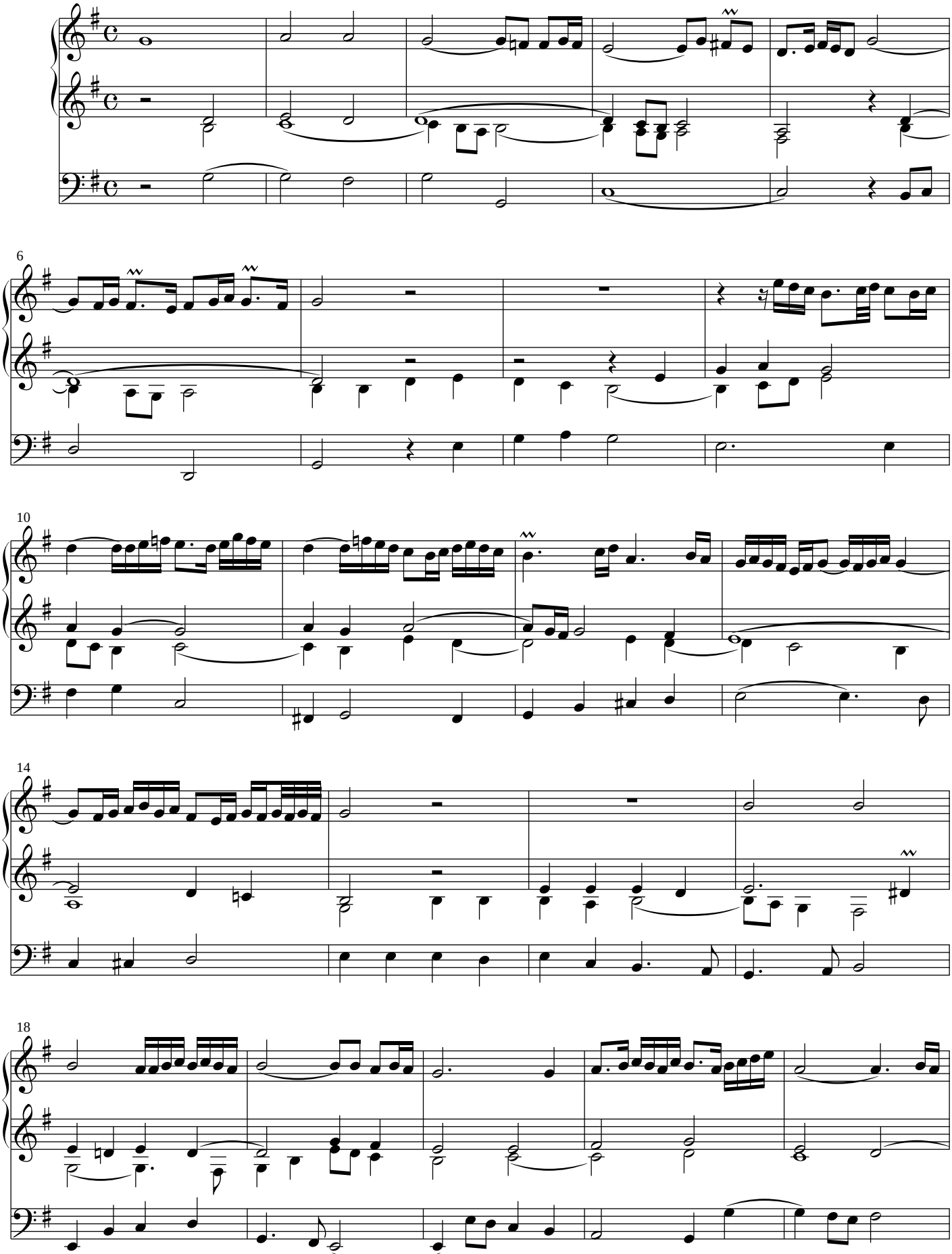
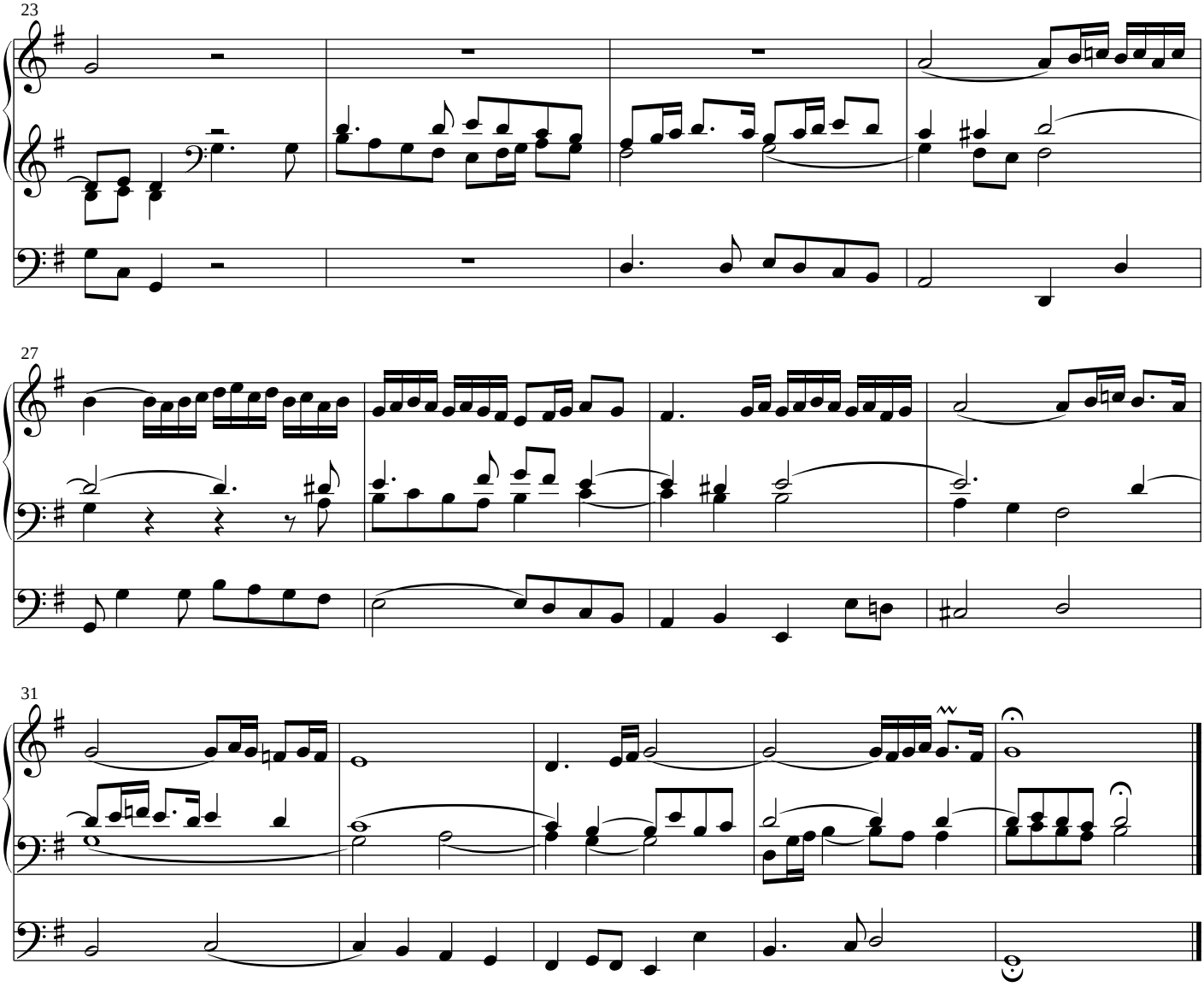
Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist

BuxWV 209

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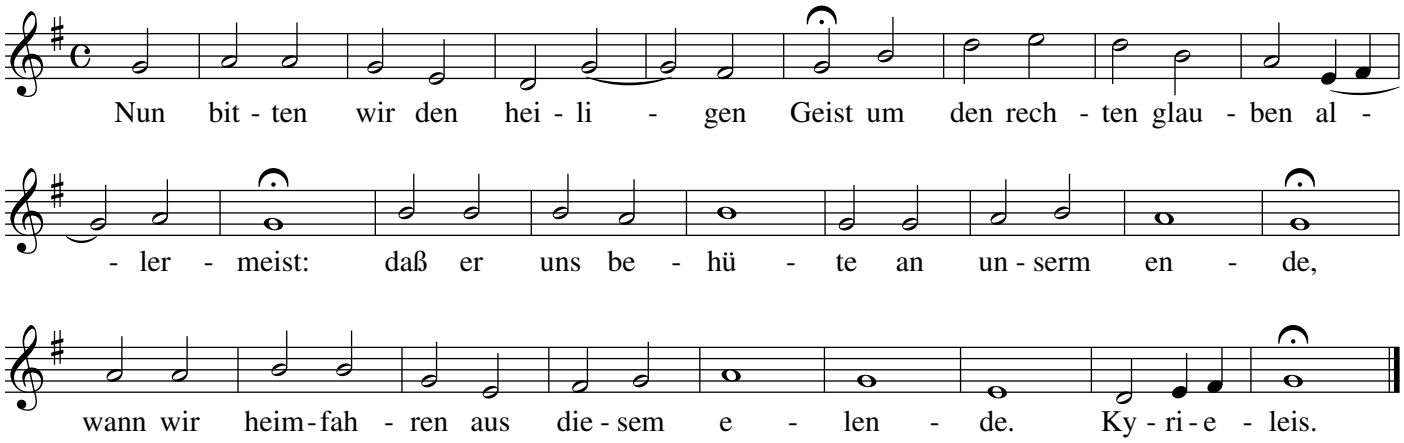

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 55, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 60

Author: Berthold von Regensburg (ca.1220–1272)

English translation:

> We now beg the holy spirit
> for true belief above all
> so that he may watch over us at our end
> when we travel home from this miserable world.
> Lord, have mercy.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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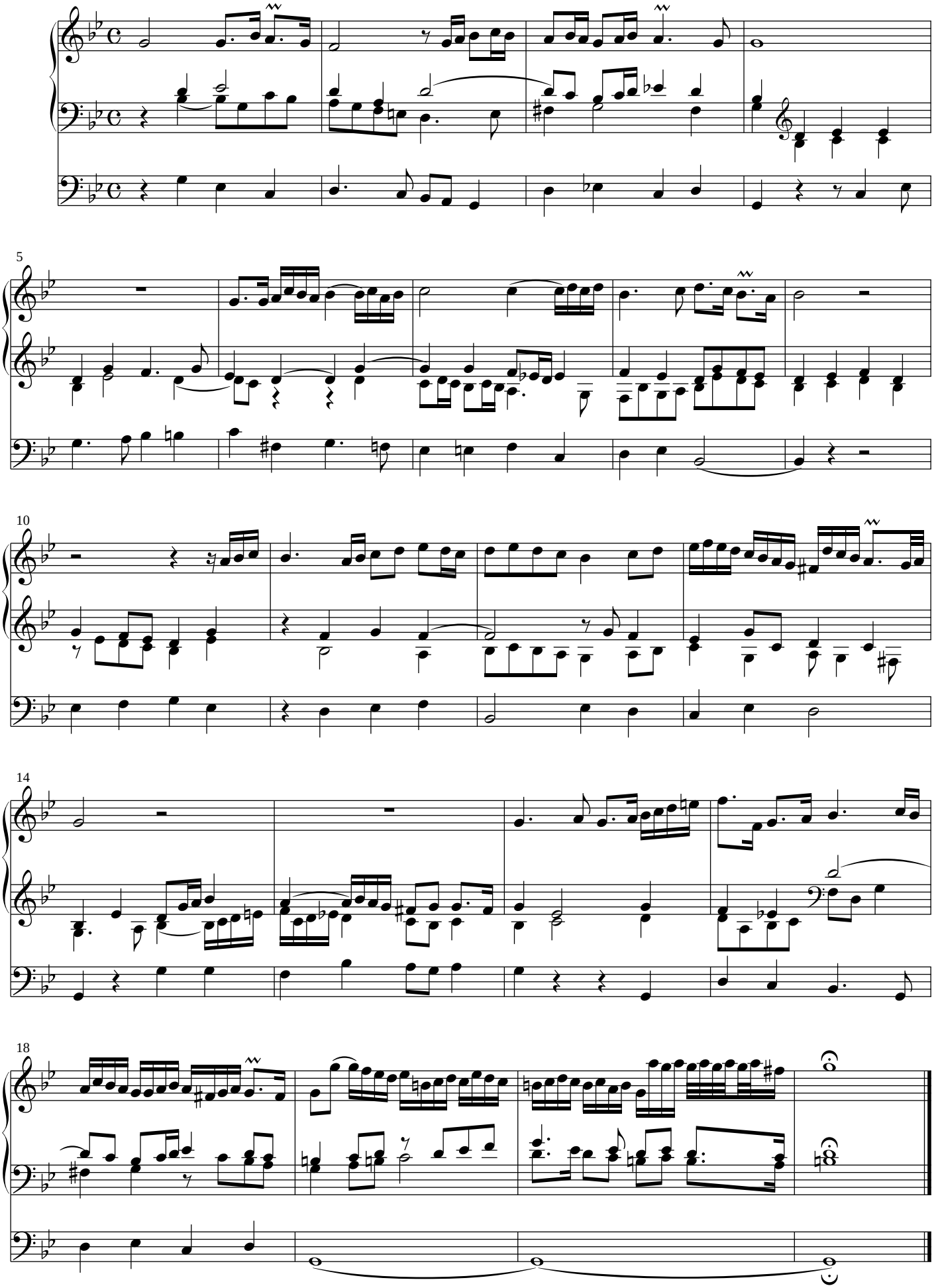
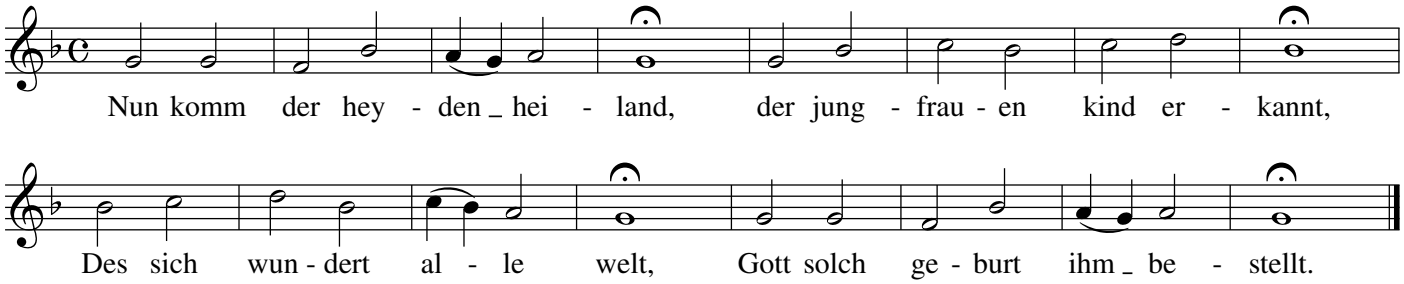
Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

BuxWV 211





Tune based on: Graupner 1728, no. 185, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 1

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

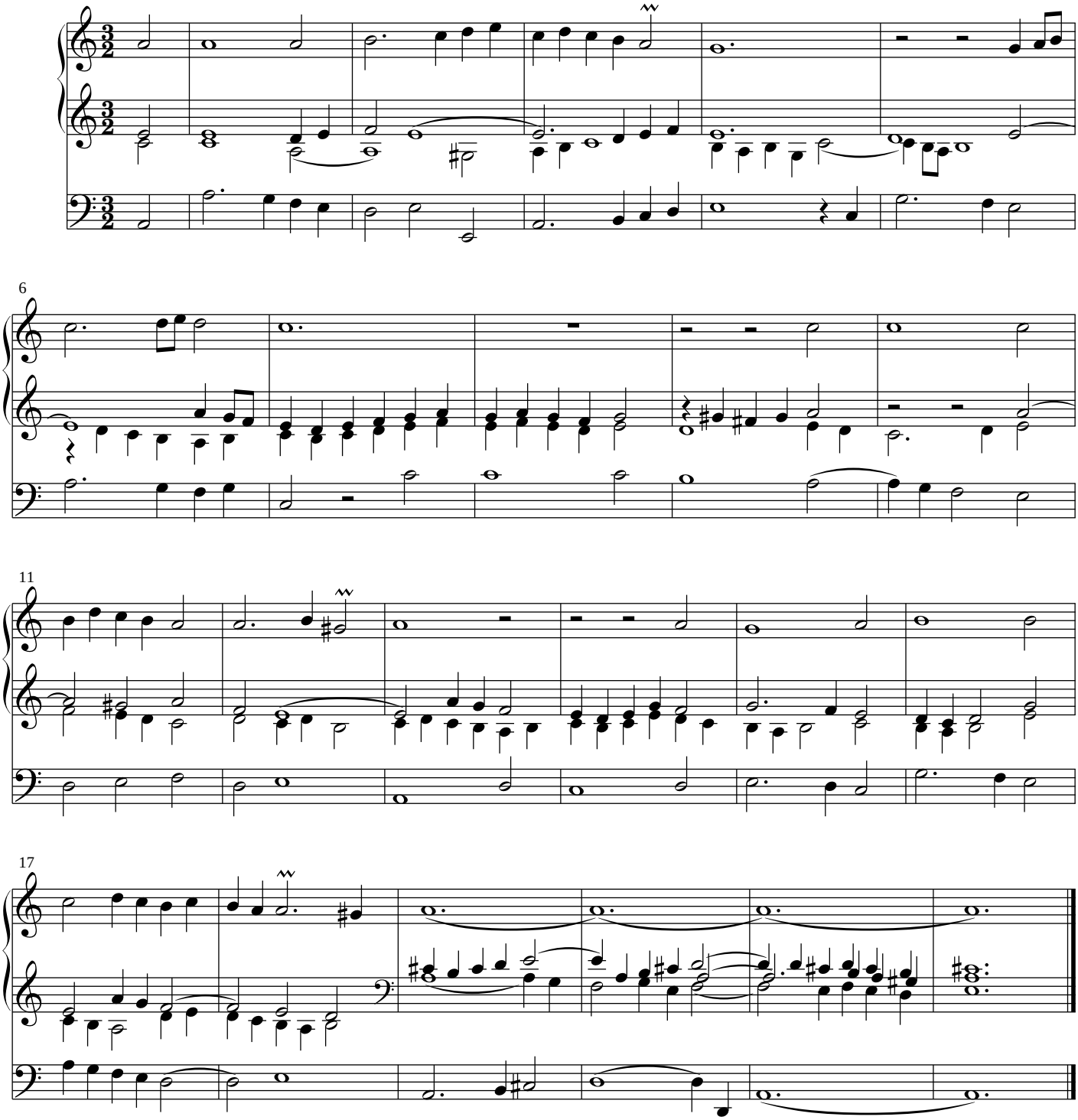
English translation:

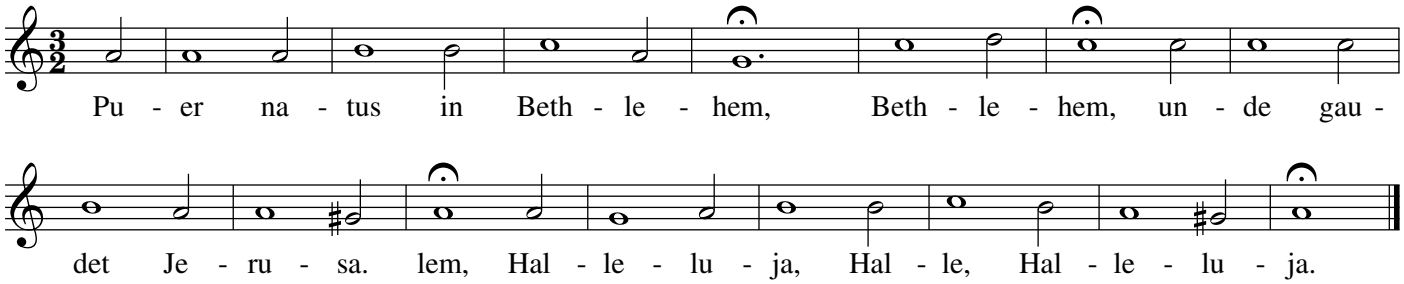
> Now come, Saviour of the gentiles,
> recognised as the child of the Virgin,
> so that all the world is amazed
> God ordained such a birth for him.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Puer natus in Bethlehem

BuxWV 217





Tune based on: Müller 1718, no. 11, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 15

Author: Unknown, 14. century

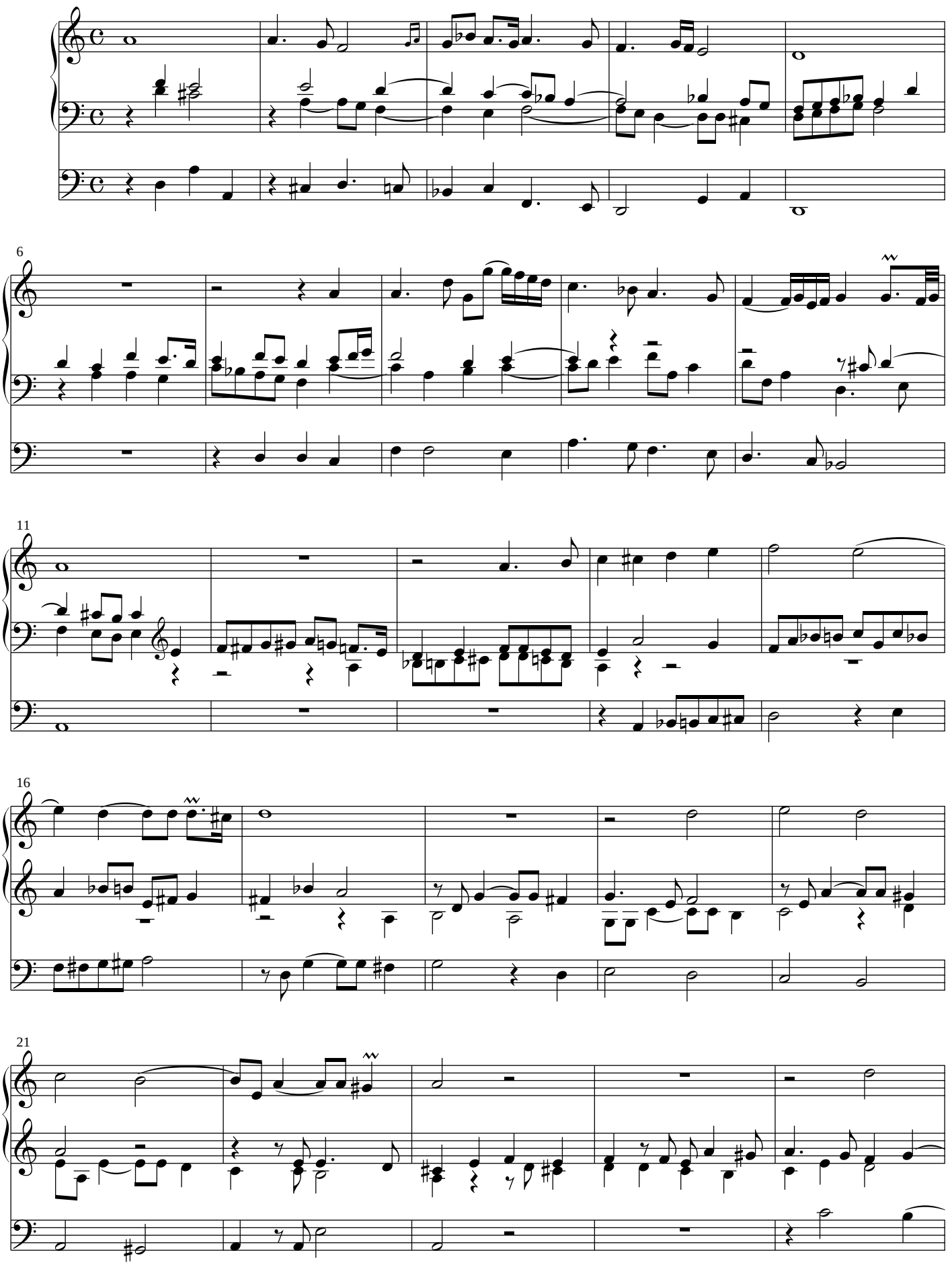
English translation:

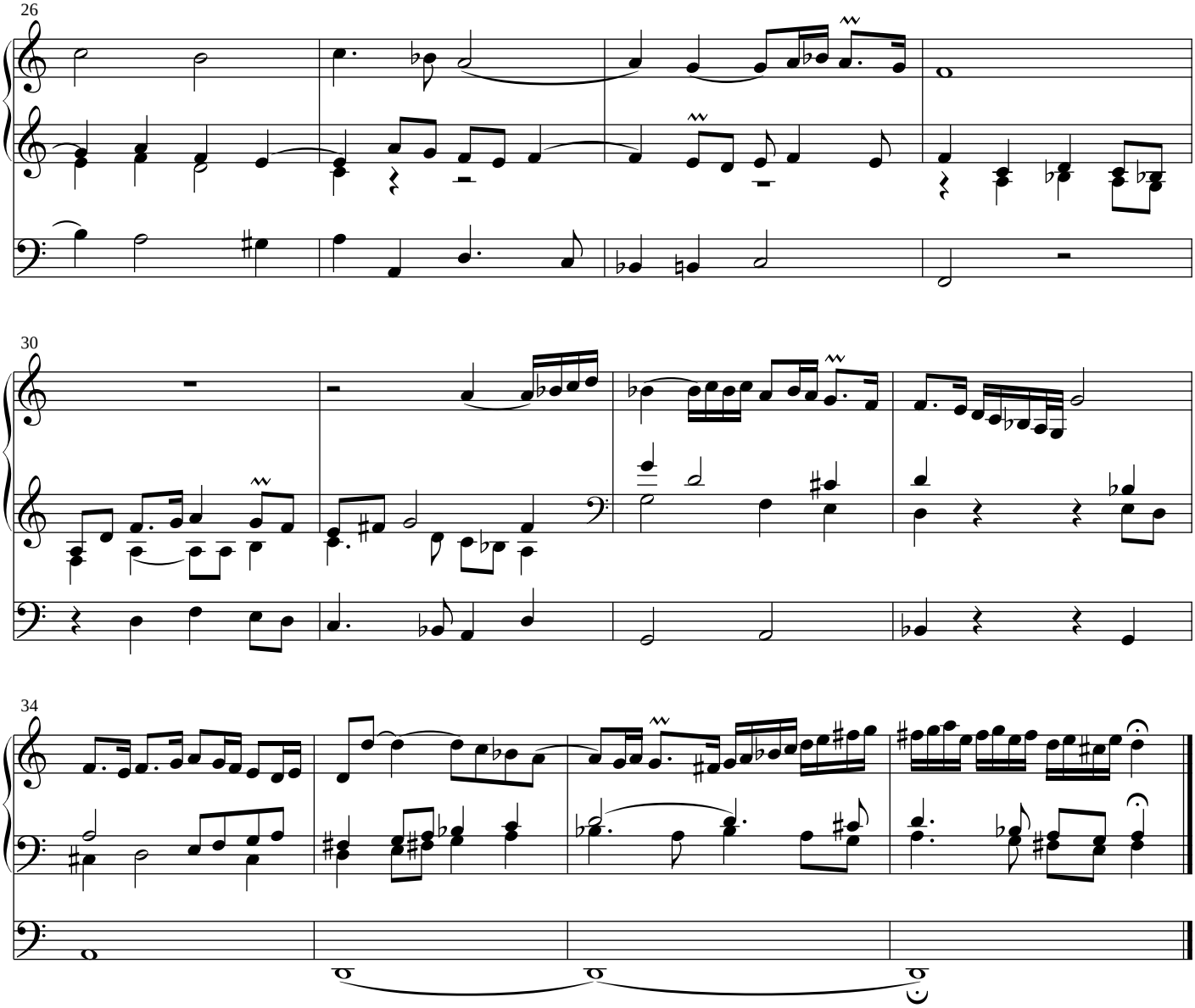
> A child is born at Bethlehem
> for whom Jerusalem rejoices
> Alleluja, alleluja.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Vater unser in Himmelreich

BuxWV 219

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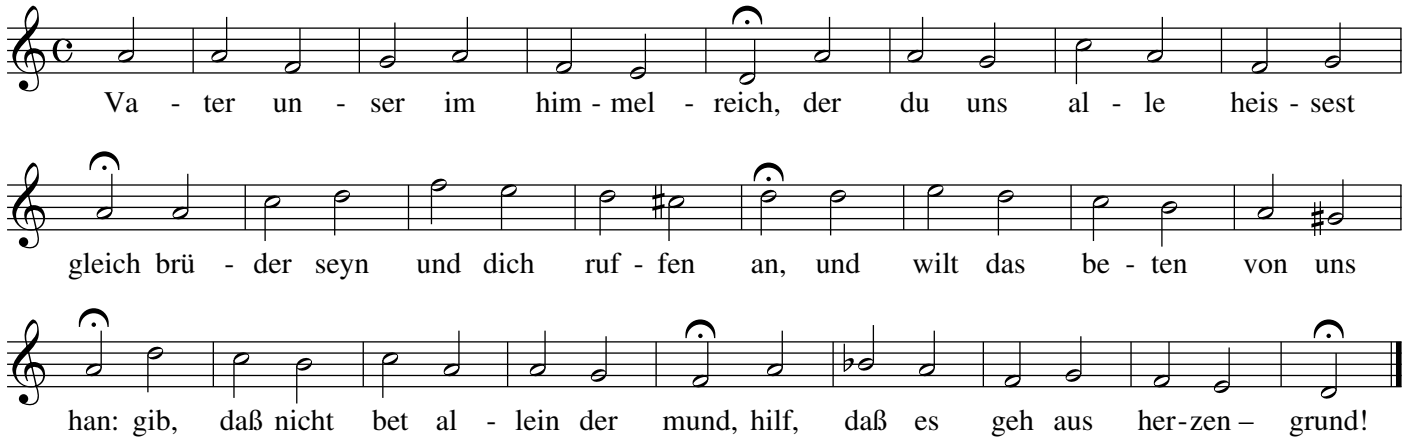

Tune based on: Graupner 1728, no. 226, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 83

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

> Our Father in the heaven Who art,
> Who tellest all of us in heart
> Brothers to be, and on Thee call,
> And wilt have prayer from us all,
> Grant that the mouth not only pray,
> From deepest heart oh help its way.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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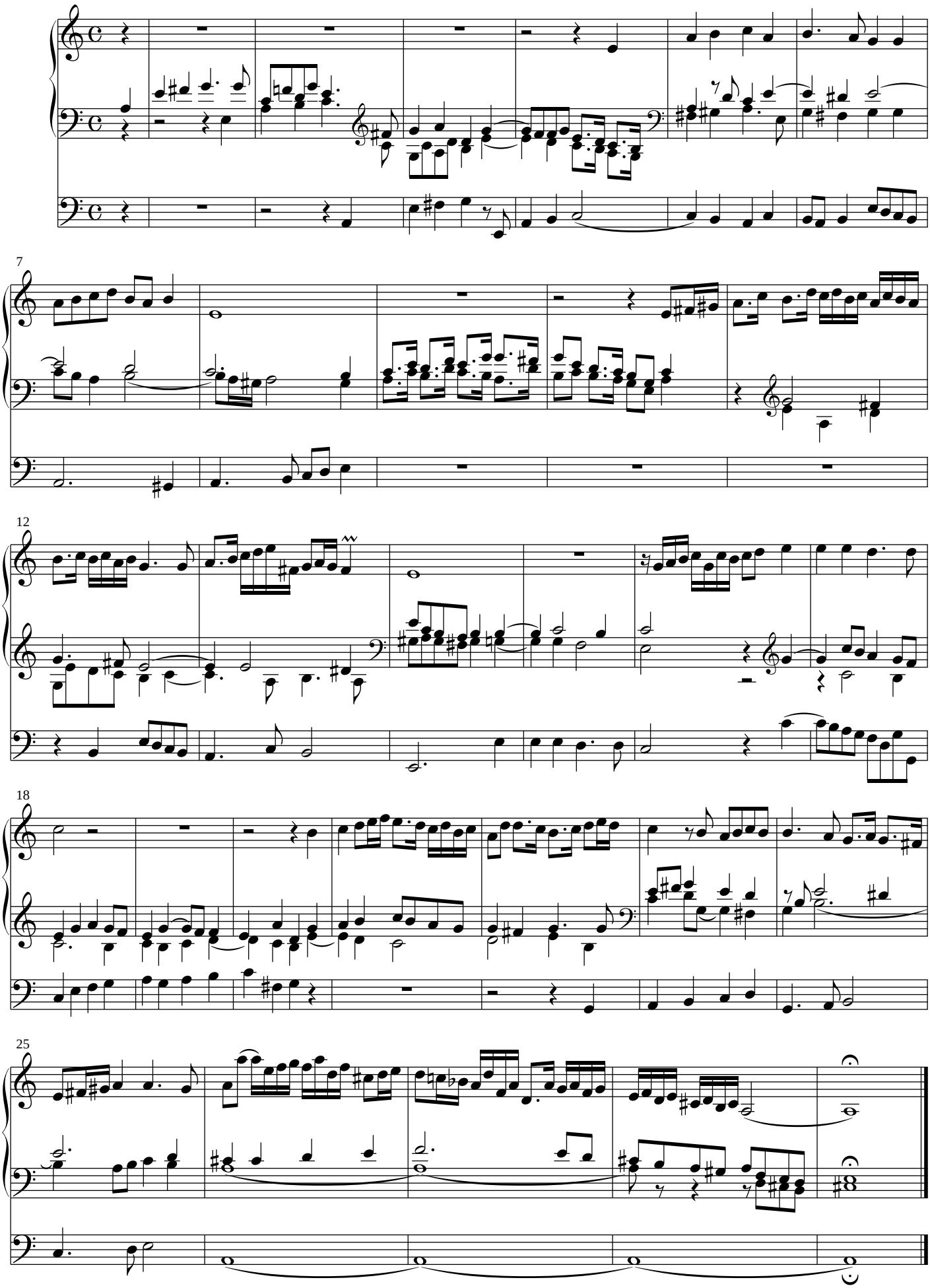
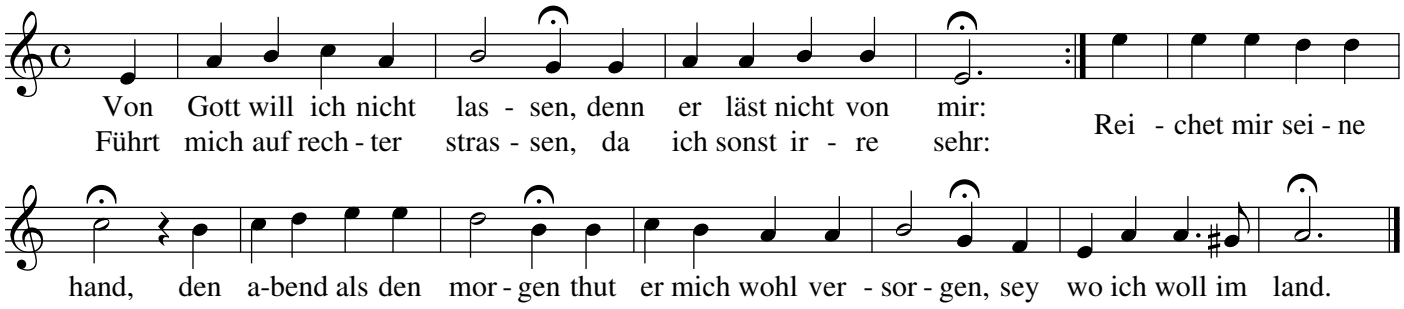
Von Gott will ich nicht lassen

BuxWV 220





Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 393, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 188

Author: Ludwig Helmbold (1532–1598)

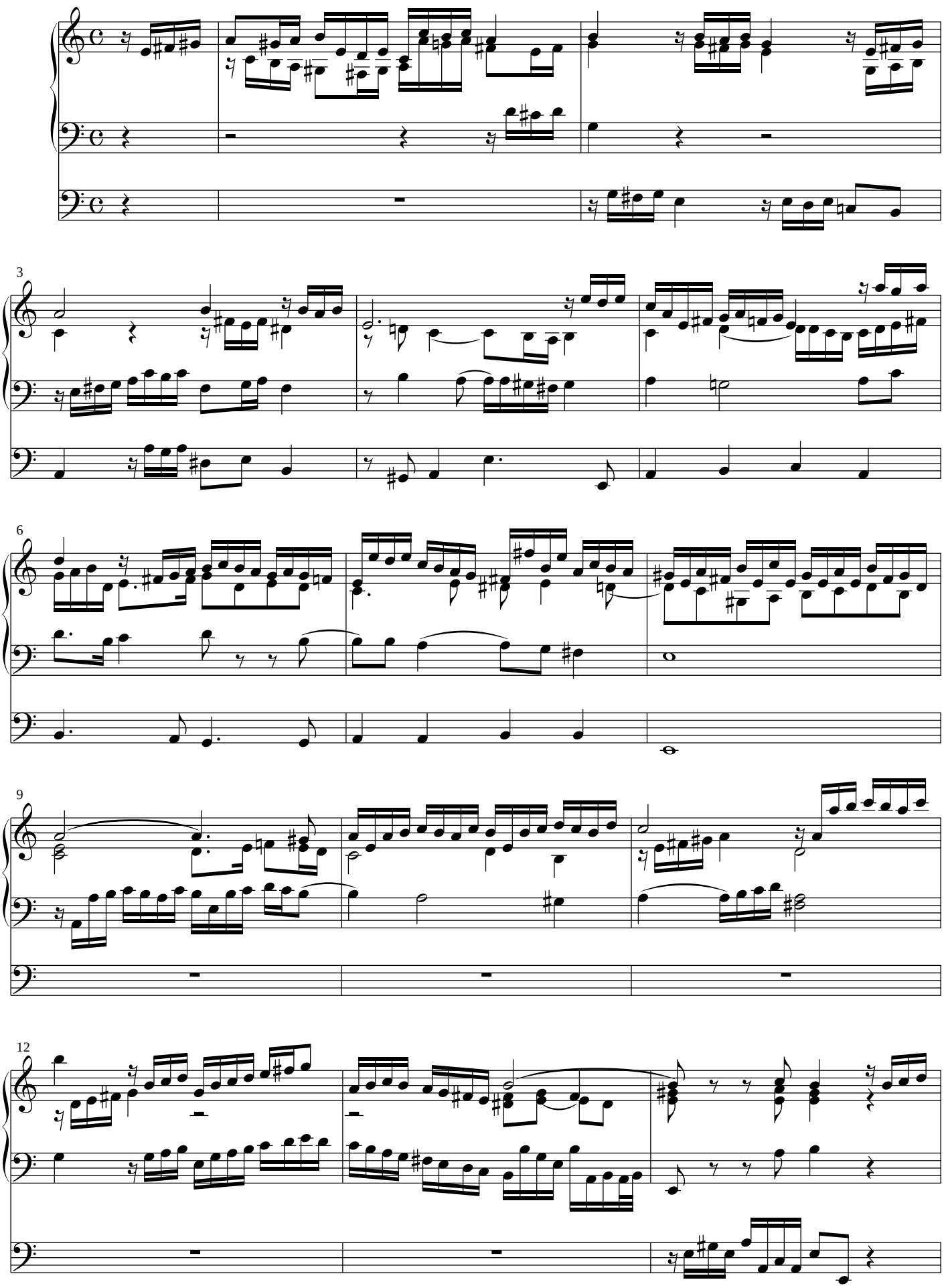
English translation:

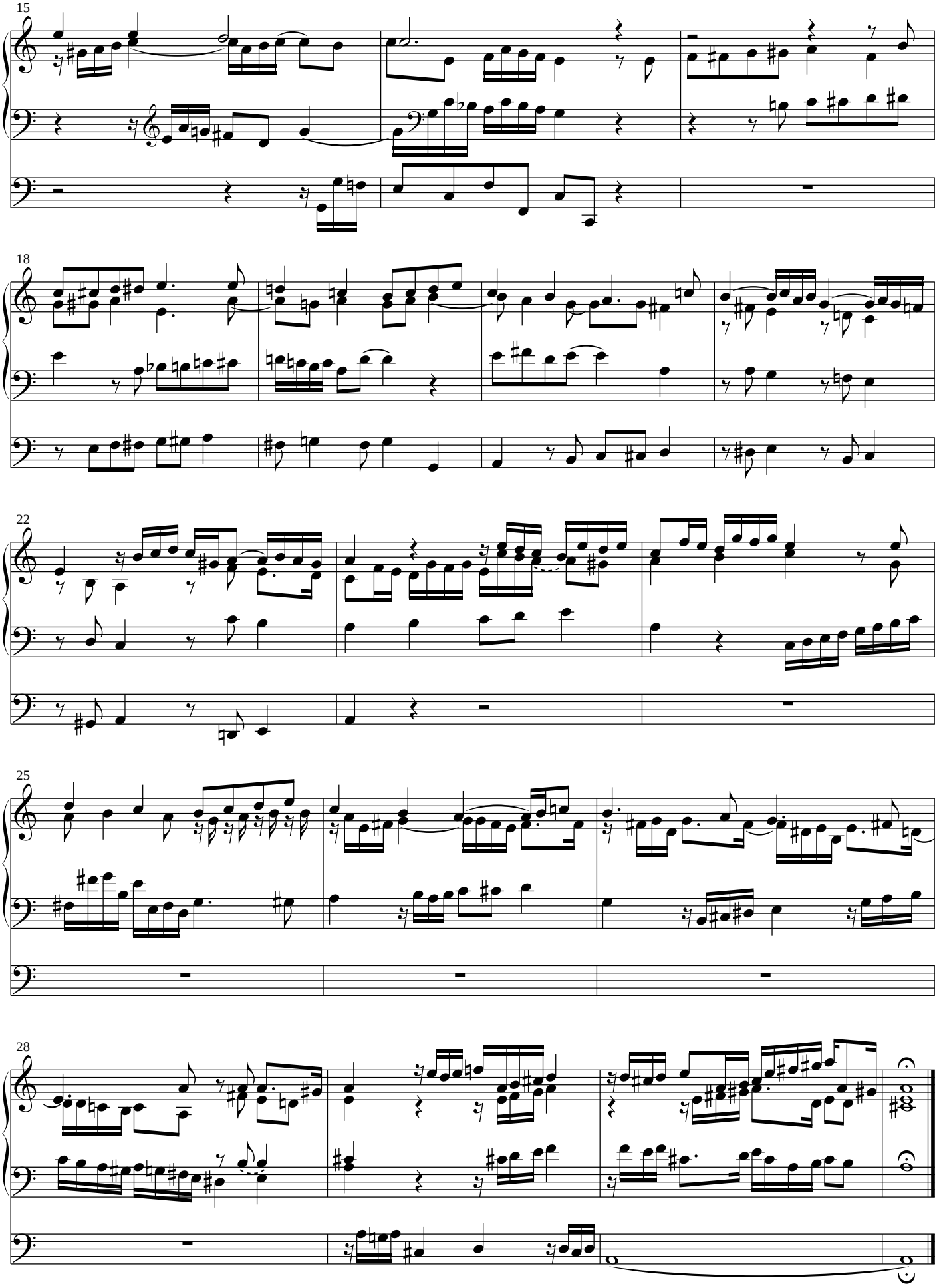
> I shall not abandon God
> For he does not abandon me,
> he leads me on the right way,
> where I would otherwise go far astray,
> he reaches out his hand to me.
> Morning and evening
> he takes good care of me
> wherever I may be.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

Von Gott will ich nicht lassen

BuxWV 221

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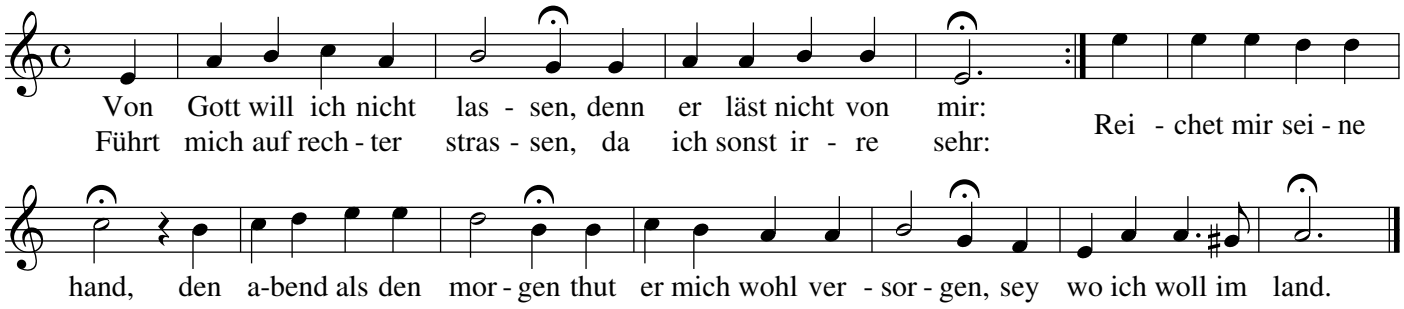

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 393, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 188

Author: Ludwig Helmbold (1532–1598)

English translation:

> I shall not abandon God
> For he does not abandon me,
> he leads me on the right way,
> where I would otherwise go far astray,
> he reaches out his hand to me.
> Morning and evening
> he takes good care of me
> wherever I may be.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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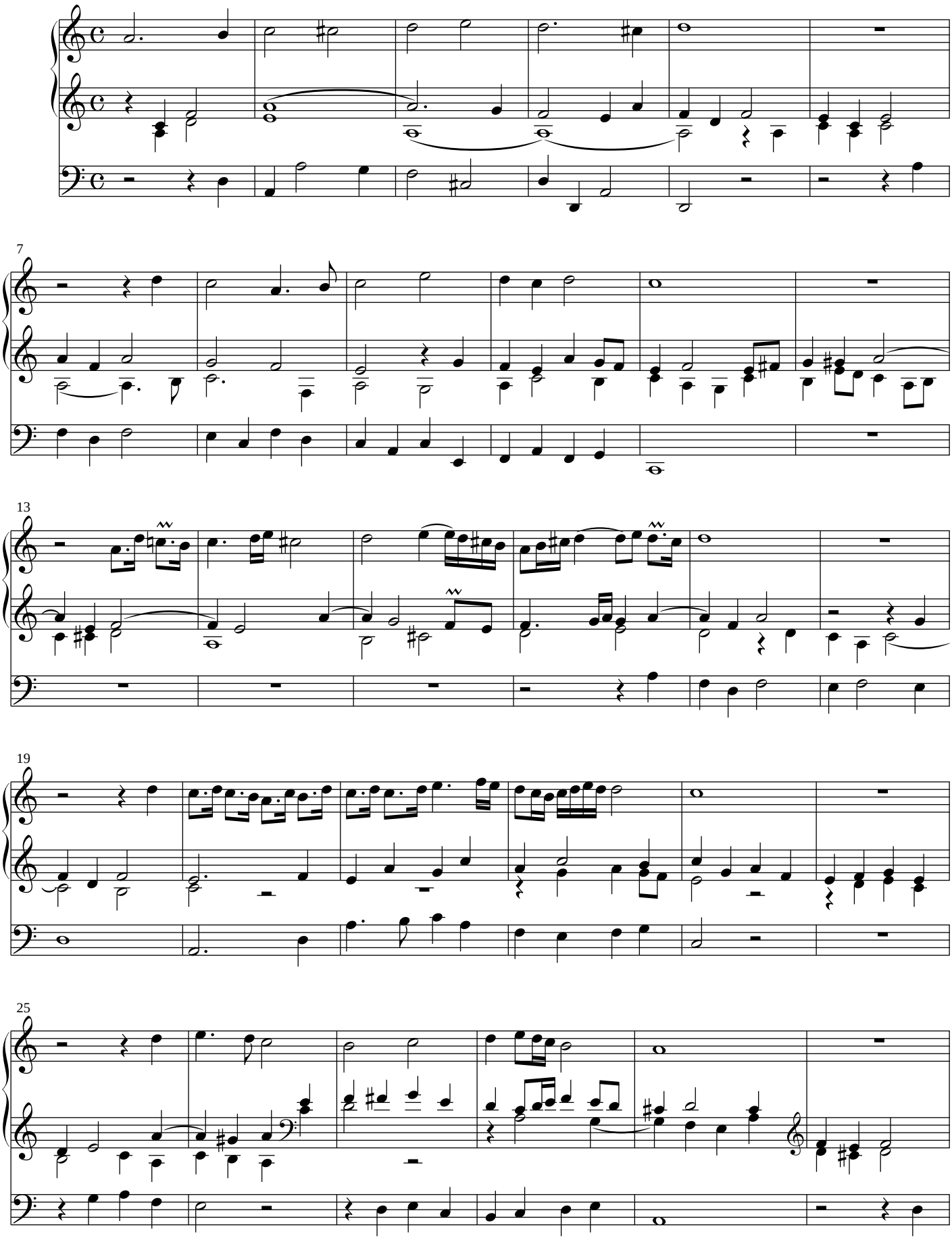
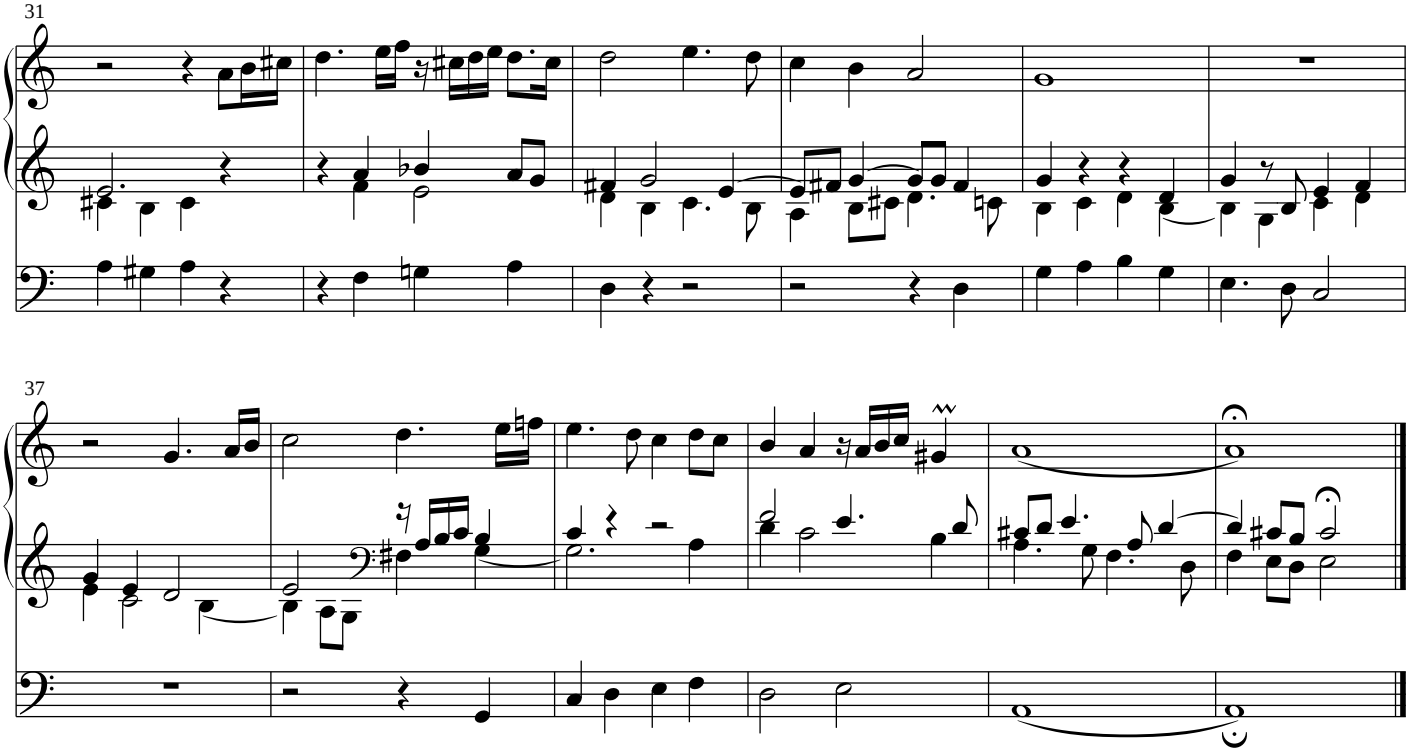
Wär Gott nicht mit uns diese Zeit

BuxWV 222




31

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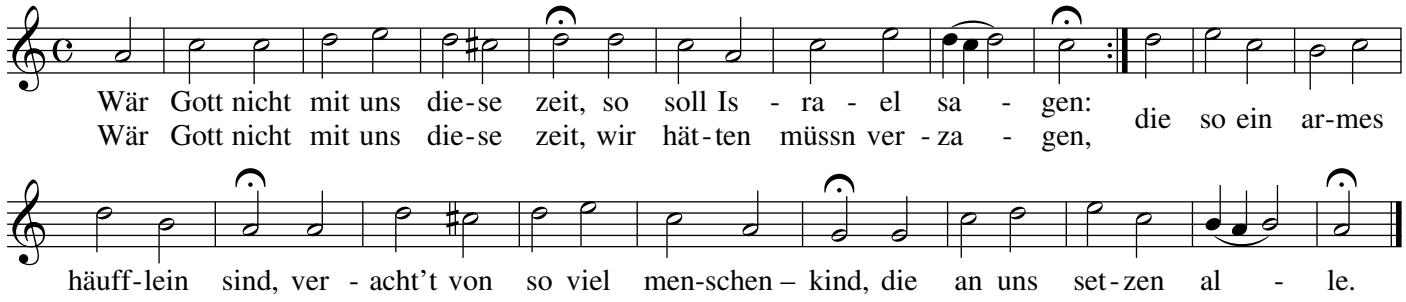

Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 199, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 229

Author: Martin Luther (1483–1546)

English translation:

> If God were not upon our side,
> Then let Israel say it;
> If God were not upon our side,
> We had been quite dismayed.
> A poor, a lowly flock are we,
> 'Gainst whom the world rails mightily
> And sets on us in anger.

Source: *Bach Cantatas Website* n.d.

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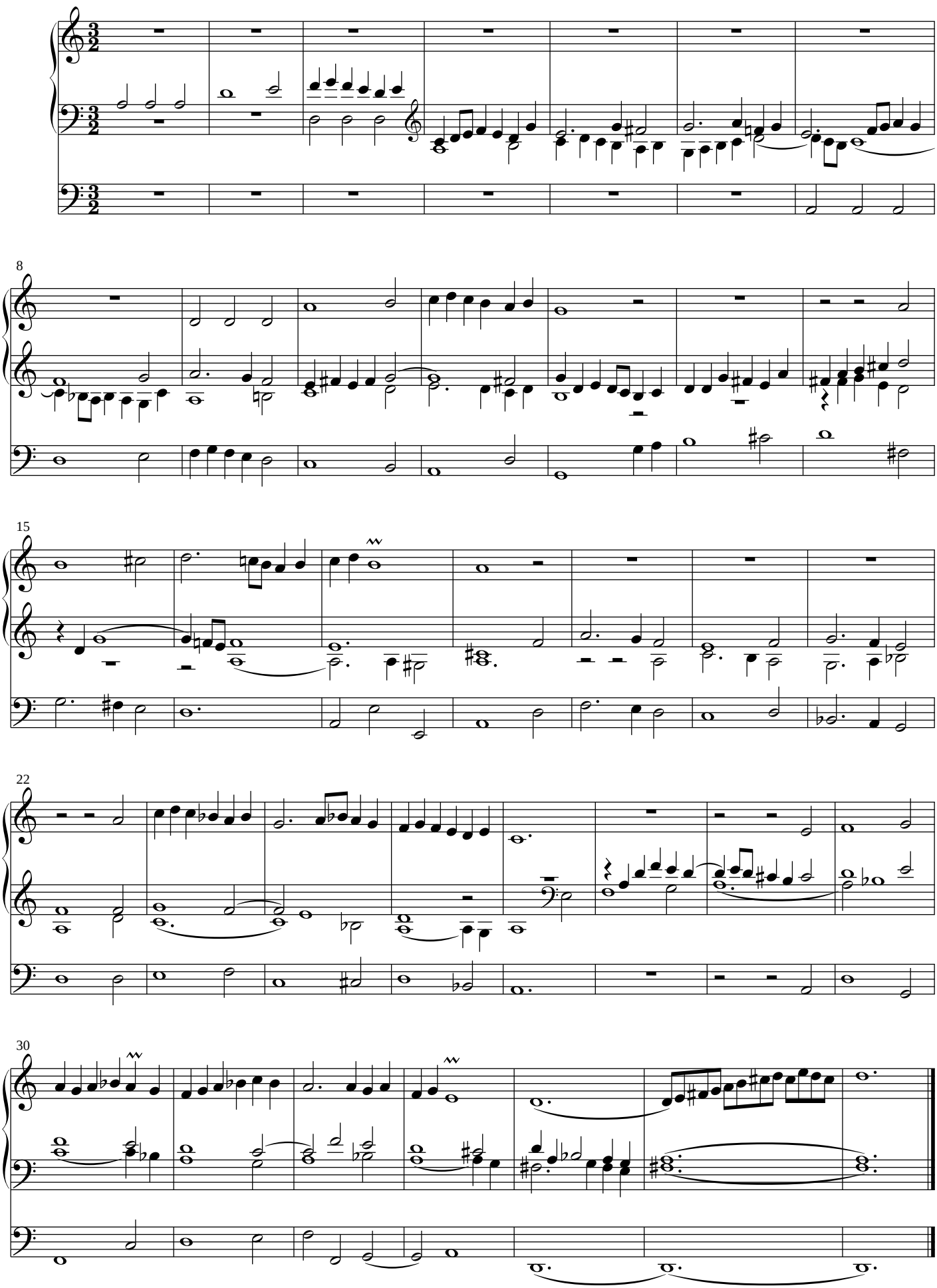
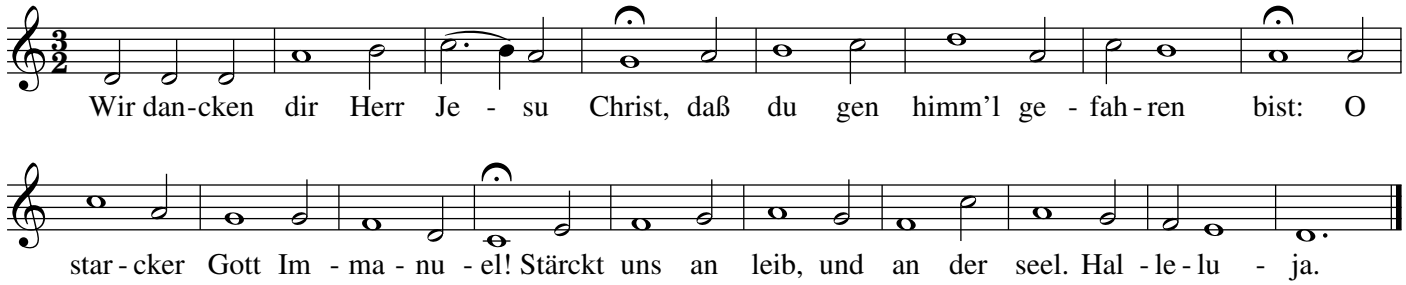
Wir danken dir, Herr Jesu Christ

BuxWV 224





Tune based on: Bronner 1721, no. 145, text: *Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726, no. 57

Author: Nikolaus Selnecker (1530–1592)

English translation:

> We give Thee thanks, Lord Jesus Christ,
> Ascended now above the skies.
> O God of strength, Immanuel,
> Grant strength to body, strength to soul.
> Alleluia!

Source: *The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book* n.d.

Editorial notes

This volume contains 28 chorale preludes by Dietrich Buxtehude (1637–1707). All preludes belong to a group of basically four-part settings with an ornamented cantus firmus (chorale tune) as the the upper part. The edition is based on the complete editions of Buxthude's organ works prepared by Philipp Spitta, rev. by Max Seiffert (Buxtehude 1904) and Klaus Beckmann (Buxtehude 1995–1996)

Each prelude is accompanied by the underlying chorale tune as found in more or less contemporary collections of organ hymn settings with the text of the first stanza taken from the hymnal (*Lübeckisches Gesangbuch* 1726) used in Lübeck where Buxtehude was organist in the St. Mary's Church.

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