

O, how great is Your compassion

Altdorf, 1653

Ach, Was Soll Ich Sunder Machen
877.877

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. A fermata is placed over the final note of the fifth measure. The number '5' is written above the staff at the end of the system.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. A fermata is placed over the final note of the tenth measure. The number '10' is written above the staff at the beginning of the system.

Oh, how great is Thy compassion,
Faithful Father, God of grace,
That with all our fallen race
And in our deep degradation
Thou wast merciful that we
Might be saved eternally!

Thy great love for this hath striven
That we may from sin be free
And forever live with Thee;
Yea, Thy Son Himself hath given
In His grace an earnest call
To His Supper unto all.

And for this our soul's salvation
Voucheth Thy good Spirit, Lord,
In Thy sacraments and Word.
He imparteth consolation,
Granteth us the gift of faith
That we fear nor hell nor death.

Lord, Thy mercy will not leave me—
Truth doth evermore abide—
Then in Thee will I confide.
Since Thy Word cannot deceive me,
My salvation is to me
Well assured eternally.

I will praise Thy great compassion,
Faithful Father, God of grace,
That with all our fallen race
And in our deep degradation
Thou wast merciful that we
Might bring endless praise to Thee.

Johannes Olearius