

From a facsimile (retaining original orthography) of Luther's 1534 translation of the Bible into German:

Psalter

CXXX.

Ein lied im höhern Chor.

Aus der tieffen / Ruffe ich H E R R zu dir

From Bach's autograph title at the top of the first page of music for the BWV 131 score:

Aus der Tieffen ruffe ich Herr zu dir....

* In order for the German to mean "out of the depths", the German language would require a different (dative plural) article: ***Aus den Tiefen***. In Luther's German, ***tieffen*** is a feminine singular noun.

* By the beginning of the 19th century, the 'n' at the end of the feminine noun, 'Tiefe', was no longer used (Goethe, born in 1750, no longer used the optional 'n').

* The earliest evidence for the existence of the autograph score is as part of a collection of Bach's autograph manuscripts assembled by Aloys Fuchs (1799-1853) who promptly had it hardbound with the title embossed in gold letters as: ***Aus der Tiefe ruff' ich o Herr! zu dir.***