

“Christe, du Lamm Gottes” BWV 233.1 (233a)

**Christe, du Lamm Gottes,  
Der du trägst die Sünd<sup>1</sup> der Welt,  
Erbarm dich unser!**

**Christe, du Lamm Gottes,  
Der du trägst die Sünd der Welt,  
Erbarm dich unser!**

**Christe, du Lamm Gottes,  
Der du trägst die Sünd der Welt,  
Gib uns deinen Frieden! Amen.<sup>2</sup>**

**Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie  
eleison.**

**Christ, you Lamb of God,  
You who bear the sin of the world,<sup>3</sup>  
Have mercy on us.**

**Christ, you Lamb of God,  
You who bear the sin of the world,  
Have mercy on us.**

**Christ, you Lamb of God,  
You who bear the sin of the world,  
Grant us your peace. Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have  
mercy.**

(transl. Michael Marissen and Daniel R. Melamed)



Scan or go to <http://www.bachcantatatexts.org/BWV233.1> for an annotated translation

General Note: This composition is likely to have been associated with the communion service, and thus probably best regarded as a setting of the German "Agnus Dei" (a portion of the Mass Ordinary chanted in connection with communion) supported by words borrowed from the "Kyrie eleison" of the Ordinary or from a version of the Litany. Bach used this music as a "Kyrie" setting in the Missa BWV 233, removing the "Agnus Dei" text.

<sup>1</sup>Here, and throughout this movement, "Sünd" is a clipped form of the singular "Sünde" ("sin"), not of the plural "Sünden" ("sins").

<sup>2</sup>The German "Agnus Dei."

<sup>3</sup>John 1:29, "Siehe, das ist Gottes Lamm, welches der Welt Sünde traget" ("Look, this one is God's lamb, which bears the sin [i.e., not: 'the sins,' plural] of the world").