

Johann Sebastian  
**BACH**

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**Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit**

God's own time is the time appointed us

BWV 106

Actus tragicus (Trauermusik)  
für Sopran, Alt, Tenor, Bass  
2 Altblockflöten, 2 Violen da Gamba und Basso continuo  
neu herausgegeben von Peter Thalheimer

Actus tragicus (funeral music)  
for soprano, alto, tenor, bass  
2 alto recorders, 2 viole da gamba and basso continuo  
newly edited by Peter Thalheimer  
English version by Jean Lunn

Stuttgarter Bach-Ausgaben · Urtext  
In Zusammenarbeit mit dem Bach-Archiv Leipzig

Klavierauszug / Vocal score  
Paul Horn



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Carus 31.106/03

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Zu diesem Werk ist folgendes Aufführungsmaterial erschienen:  
Partitur (Carus 31.106), Studienpartitur (Carus 31.106/07),  
Klavierauszug (Carus 31.106/03),  
Chorpartitur (Carus 31.106/05),  
komplettes Orchestermaterial (Carus 31.106/19).

The following performance material is available for this work:  
full score (Carus 31.106), study score (Carus 31.106/07),  
vocal score (Carus 31.106/03), choral score (Carus 31.106/05),  
complete orchestral material (Carus 31.106/19).





tral Germany, as is indicated by the *Trauer-Actus* of Georg Philipp Telemann<sup>4</sup> and unpublished cantatas by Liebhold and Lausch.<sup>5</sup>

The original performance material of the present cantata has not survived. All the extant sources date from after Bach's death. The present edition is based on the two earliest manuscripts, both of which date from the 18th century. These present the musical text as it was probably notated in the original, namely in two different keys: the recorder parts are given in F major, the remaining parts in E flat major. This fact reflects a practice which was customary in Bach's time at Mühlhausen (and in other places): two tuning pitches were employed simultaneously, a major second apart: the (higher) choir pitch and the (lower) chamber pitch. The organ and then the tuned string instruments and the voice parts were shown in choir pitch, the woodwind instrument parts in chamber pitch. In earlier editions of the *Actus tragicus* all of the parts were notated in E flat major, i. e. in choir pitch. That being the case, the recorder parts were no longer playable on normal treble recorders. In the present edition all of the parts are notated in F major (chamber pitch).

The bitonal notation of the sources is accounted for by the differences of pitch employed, but it provides no concrete proof of the absolute pitch at which the work was performed. The wide range of the voice parts, which extend in choir pitch from C to  $g^2$  (in chamber pitch: D to  $a^2$ ), and the compass of surviving contemporary German woodwind instruments indicate that chamber pitch at Mühlhausen in Bach's time was between  $a^1 = 400$  Hz and 420 Hz, and correspondingly a tone higher at choir pitch. For present-day use performance in F major at  $a^1 = 415$  is recommended. If suitable instruments are available, performance in F major at  $a^1 = 392$  Hz (corresponding to  $a^1 = 440$  Hz in E flat major) also comes into consideration. Performance in F major at  $a^1 = 440$  Hz is unproblematic for the instrument but makes high demands on the singers, especially the soprano and bass soloists.

The voice part of the Aria No. 3a is in both sources, while No. 3b is missing in one of the sources. Even though this effect, it can be assumed that the bass part in No. 2c and the soprano part in No. 3b are to be sung by soloists. If the cantata is also sung by soloists, the chamber pitch is too powerful for the transposition. If too many singers are employed, the chamber pitch may occur, especially in movements. The sources give no information as to which tuning should be used for the continuo. In the Alto Aria No. 3a a five-stringed violoncello. The work as a whole – in the stringed instruments in the bass. The tuning should be employed is a question which is left open.

The cantata is one of the few Bach cantatas which was first known in the early 19th century through the

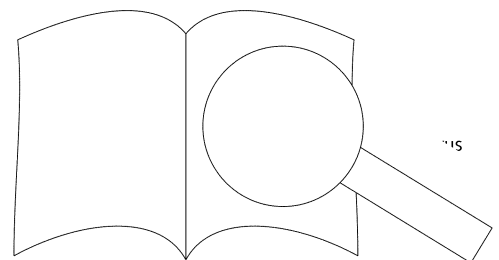
first publication of score and performance parts (Simrock, Bonn, 1830, edited by Adolf Bernhard Marx). In 1876 this work appeared as part of the Bach-Gesellschaft Complete Edition (Volume 23), edited by Wilhelm Rust. In 1977 Paul Horn published the cantata in F major for the first time (Hänssler-Verlag, Neuhausen-Stuttgart). It also appeared in 1986 in F major as part of the Neue Bach-Ausgabe (Volume 1/34), edited by Ryuichi Higuchi.

The cantata *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* is now among the best known works of Johann Sebastian Bach. The Bach specialist Alfred Dürr<sup>6</sup> considers "*Actus tragicus* to be a work of genius such as even great masters seldom achieve, and as a piece of world literature."

Grateful thanks are offered to the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Musikabteilung, Mendelssohn-Archiv, for granting permission for publication.

Ishofen, October 2012  
Translation: John Coombs

<sup>4</sup> Georg Phil 39.134).  
<sup>5</sup> See Hans-*deutschen* dissertatio  
<sup>6</sup> Alfred Dü etc., 1971,



# Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit

God's own time is the time appointed us

Actus tragicus

BWV 106

Johann Sebastian Bach

1685–1750

## 1. Sonatina

Molt' adagio

Klavierauszug: Paul Horn

Flauto dolce I, II  
Viola da gamba I, II  
Basso continuo

First system of musical notation, measures 1-3. Treble clef, common time signature. Includes performance markings 'Bc' and 'Vga' above the staff.

Second system of musical notation, measures 4-6. Treble clef, common time signature. Includes performance marking 'Fl' above the staff.

Third system of musical notation, measures 7-9. Treble clef, common time signature.

Fourth system of musical notation, measures 10-12. Treble clef, common time signature.

Fifth system of musical notation, measures 13-16. Treble clef, common time signature.

Sixth system of musical notation, measures 17-19. Treble clef, common time signature.

2a. Tutti

Got-tes Zeit, Got-tes Zeit ist die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 God's own time, God's own time is the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Got-tes Zeit ist die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 God's own time is the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Got-tes Zeit ist die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 God's own time is the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Got-tes Zeit ist die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 God's own time is the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Bc Tutti

Zeit, die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 us, the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Zeit, die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 us, the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Zeit, die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 us, the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Zeit, die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 us, the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Zeit, die al-ler-bes-te, ist die al-ler-bes-te  
 us, the time ap-point-ed, is the time ap-point-ed

Bc Zeit.  
us.

**Allegro**

In ihr In his

le-ben, we  
 pres-ence all

ben und have their

ihm his

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13

sind wir, in ihm le - ben, we - ben und sind wir,  
 be - ing, in his pres - ence all - have their be - ing,  
 - ben und sind wir, und sind wir, und sind wir, und  
 - have their be - ing, their be - ing, their be - ing, their  
 le - ben, we - ben und  
 pres - ence all - have their

In ihm le - ben, we  
 In his pres - ence all

18

in ihm le - ben, we - ben und  
 in his pres - ence all - have their  
 sind wir, in ihm le - ben, we  
 be - ing, in his pres - ence all - have their  
 sind wir, we - ben und  
 be - ing, all - have their in - pres - ence

- ben und sind wir,  
 - have their be - ing,

23

le - ben und sind wir, in ihm le - ben,  
 ing, their be - ing, in his pres - ence  
 wir, und sind wir, in ihm le - ben,  
 - ing, their be - ing, in his pres - ence  
 le - ben und sind wir,  
 ing, their be - ing.  
 in ihm le - ber  
 in his pres - ence

in ihm le - ber  
 in his pres - ence

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we - ben und sind wir, so - lan - ge, so -  
 all have their be - ing, as long as as he -

we - ben und sind wir, so -  
 all have their be - ing, as

we - ben und sind wir, so -  
 all have their be - ing, as

- ben und sind wir, so -  
 have their be - ing, as

lan - ge er will.  
 wills, as he wills;

lan - ge er will.  
 long as he wills;

lan - ge er will.  
 long as he wills;

lan - ge er will.  
 long as he wills;

an ihm  
 and we

In ihm  
 and we

41 Adagio assai

ster - ben wir zur  
 die in - him in

ster - ben wir  
 die in

ste  
 die

rech - ten Zeit,  
 his own time,

in ihm ster - ben wir, in ihm ster - ben wir, in ihm  
 and we die in him, and we die in him, and we

in ihm ster - ben wir, in ihm ster - ben  
 and we die in him, and we die in

in ihm ster - ben wir, in ihm ster - ben  
 and we die in him, and we die in

en

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45

ster - ben wir zur rech - ten Zeit, wenn er will.  
 die in him in his own time, when he wills.

wir, ster - ben wir zur rech - ten Zeit, wenn er will.  
 him, die in him in his own time, when he wills.

wir, ster - ben wir zur rech - ten Zeit, wenn er will.  
 him, die in him in his own time, when he wills.

wir, ster - ben wir zur rech - ten Zeit, wenn er will.  
 him, die in him in his own time, when he wills.

2b. Solo (Tenore)

48 Lento

Ach, He - ra, uns be -  
 O, ora, to - re -

51

den - ken, Herr, leh - re uns be - ach,  
 mem - ber, Lord, cause us to re - m O

54

uns be - den - ken, Herr, leh - re  
 to - re - mem - ber, Lord, cause us

57

dass wir ster-ben müs-sen, dass wir ster-ben müs - sen,  
 that we all - must per - ish, that we all must per - ish,

60

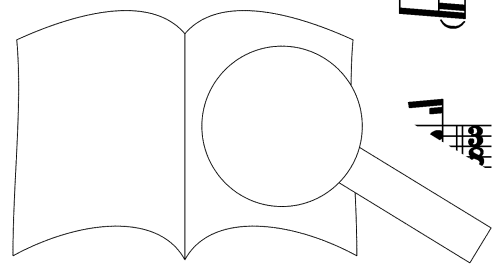
ach, Herr, Herr, leh - re uns be - den - ken, dass wir  
 O Lord, Lord, cause us to re - mem - ber thc' we

62

ster-ben müs - sen, auf dass, auf  
 all must per - ish, that we, that

65

dass, auf dass wir  
 we, that we r om



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101

und nicht le - ben  
and live on earth,

107

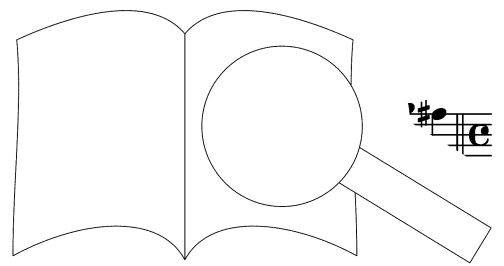
- dig, und nicht le - ben - - - dig blei - - ben. Be in  
and live on earth no long - - er. Maß

113

Haus!  
house.

Fl

119



2d. Tutti

131 Andante

Es ist der al - te Bund: Mensch, du musst  
*It is the an - cient law: man, you must*

Es ist der al - te Bund: Mensch, du musst ster - - ben, du musst, du  
*It is the an - cient law: man, you must per - - ish, you must, you*

Bc

Es ist  
*It is*

135

ster - - ben, du r - - ter - -  
*per - - ish, you st., you must!* Es ist der  
*must ster - - en, Mensch, du musst ster-ben, du musst ster-ben,*  
*must per - - ish, man, you must per - ish, you must per - ish,*

al - - - - -  
*an Mensch, du musst ster - - - - - du*  
*man, you must per - - - - - you*

Bc



al - te Bund: Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben, du musst ster-ben,  
 an - cient law: man, you must per - - - ish, you must per - ish,

du musst! Es ist der al - te Bund: Mensch, du musst ster - ben, du  
 you must, it is the an - cient law: man, you must per - ish, you

musst, du musst, Mensch, du musst ster-ben, du musst, du musst! Es  
 must, you must, man, you must per - ish, you must, you must, it

Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben, Mensch, du musst  
 man, you must per - - - ish, man, you mus

musst, du musst, Mensch, du musst ster-ben,  
 must, you must, man, you must per - ish, Me. na. st ster - -

ist der al - - te Bund: Mensci. du musst, Mensch,  
 is the an - - cient law: r du, you must, man,

du musst ster - - - ben!  
 you must per - - - ish.

st ster - - - ben!  
 st per - - - ish.

ster-ben, du musst ster - - - ben!  
 per - ish, you must per - - - ish.

Ja, ja, ja, komm, Herr Je - su,  
 O come, O come, Lord Je - su,

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147

komm, ja, komm, Herr Je - su, komm, ja, komm, Herr Je - su, ja, ja, ja,  
 come, O come, Lord Je - su, come, O come, Lord Je - su, O come, ja, O

150

komm, Herr Je - su, ja, ja, ja, ja, Herr Je - su, komm, ia,  
 come, Lord Je - su, O come, O come, Lord Je - su, come, O

Tutti

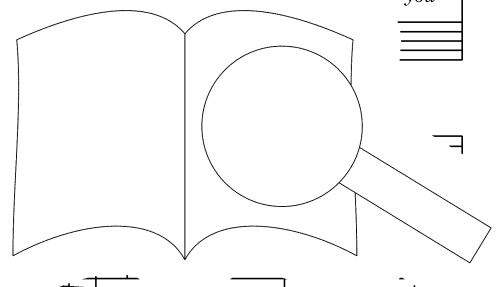
153

ja, ja, komm, Herr Je - su, komm, Herr Je - su, komm  
 come, O come, Lord Je - su, come, Lord Je - su, co

156

ist der al - te Bund: Mensch, du musst  
 is the an - cient law: man, you must

Es ist der al - te Bund: Mensch, du musst ster -  
 It is the an - cient law: man, you must die





160

ja, ja, ja, komm, ja, ja, ja,  
 O come, O come, O come, O

ster - ben, ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst  
 per - ish, per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man, you must

musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch,  
 must per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man,

al - te Bund: Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben,  
 an - cient law: man, you must per - ish, man, you must per - ish,

163

komm, ja, ja, ja, ja, komm,  
 come, O come, O come, come, come, i

ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben,  
 per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man, you must

du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben,  
 you must per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man, you must

Mensch, du musst ster - ben, du musst ster - ben,  
 man, you must per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man, you must

165

su, ja, Je - su, komm, ja, komm Herr Je - su, ja,  
 su, O i Je - su, come, O come, Lord Je - su, O

ben, Mensch, du musst  
 ish, man, you must

Tutti

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komm, ja, ja, Herr Je - su, komm,  
 come, O come, Lord Je - su, come,

ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben!  
 per - ish, man, you must per - ish, man, you must per - ish.

Mensch, du musst ster - ben, ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben!  
 man, you must per - ish, per - ish, man, you must per - ish.

Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster - ben!  
 man, you must per - ish, man, you must per - ish.

Tutti

Herr Je - su, komm, ja, ja, ja, komm, ja, komm, Herr Je - su,  
 Lord Je - su, come, O come, O come, O come, Lord Je - su.

Es  
 It

Bc

su, Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben, du musst  
 su, man, you must per - - - ish, you must

ist der Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben, du musst  
 is the man, you must per - - - ish, you must

Es ist  
 It is

ster - - - ben, du musst ster-ben, du musst ster - - - ben,  
 per - - - ish, you must per-ish, you must per - - - ish,

ben, Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben, du musst ster-ben, du musst ster - ben,  
 ish, man, you must per - - - ish, you must per-ish, you must per - ish,

Mensch, du musst ster - ben, Mensch, du musst ster-ben, du musst ster - ben,  
 man, you must per - ish, man, you must per-ish, you must per - ish,

Tutti

Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben!  
 man, you must per - - - ish.

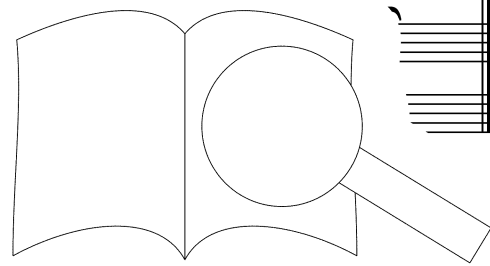
Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben!  
 man, you must per - - - ish.

Mensch, du musst ster - - - ben!  
 man, you must per - - - ish.

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- su, Herr - Je - su!  
 - su, Lord - Je - su!



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3a. Solo (Alto)

Bc

In dei-ne Hän-de,  
In - to thy keep-ing,

4

in dei - ne Hän-de be - fehl ich mei-nen Geist, in dei-ne Hän-de, in dei - ne  
in - to thy keep-ing I shall com-mit my soul, in - to thy keep-ing, in - to thy

7

Hän-de be - fehl ich mei-nen Geist, in dei-ne Hän-de, in dei - ne Hän-de be -  
keep-ing I shall com-mit my soul, in - to thy keep-ing, I shall com-mit my soul, in - to thy keep-ing

10

fehl ich mei-nen Geist, du hast mich er - lö - set, Herr, du ge - treu - er  
shall com-mit my soul, for thou hast re - deemed me, O Lord, thou faith - ful

13

in - dei-ne Hän-de,  
in - to - thy keep-ing,

16

fehl ich mei-nen Geist, du hast mich er-lö - set, du hast mich er - lö - set, Herr, du ge-treu-er  
 shall com-mit my soul, for thou hast re - deemed me, for thou hast re - deemed me, O Lord, thou faith-ful

19

Gott, du hast mich er-lö - set, du hast mich er-lö - set, Herr, du ge-treu - er Gott, Herr,  
 God, for thou hast re - deemed me, for thou hast re-deemed me, O Lord, thou faith - ful God, O

22

du ge - treu-er Gott, ge - treu - er Gott.  
 Lord, thou faith-ful God, thou faith - ful God.

### 3b. Solo (Basso) e Corale (Alto)

25 Basso

Heu - te, heu - te v r e, heu - te wirst du mit mir, mit mir, mit  
 Yes, to - day ye to - day you shall be with me, with me, with

28

es, im Pa - ra - dies, im Pa - ra  
 dise, in par - a - dise, with me in

32

- ra - dies, — im Pa - ra - dies, im Pa - ra - dies — sein, heu - te, heu - te wirst du mit  
 - a - dise, — in par - a - dise, with me in par - a - dise, yes, to - day you shall be with

35

mir, heu - te, heu - te wirst du mit mir, mit mir im Pa - ra - dies — sein, im Pa - ra -  
 me, yes, to - day you shall be with me, with me in - par - a - dise, in par - a

38 Alto

Pa - ra - dies, im Pa - ra - ra -  
 par - a - dise, in par - - - - ra -

Mit  
 In

und  
 and

wirst du mit mir, mit  
 you shall be with me, with

41

Freud  
 joy

da - - hin  
 de - - part;

es, — im Pa - ra -  
 dise, — in par - - a

u mit  
 ve with

in God      Got - - - tes re      Wil - - - quire

mir im Pa - ra - dies, im Pa - ra - dies,      mit mir im Pa - - - ra - dies, im Pa - ra - dies

me in par - a - dise, in par - a - dise,      with me in par - - - a - dise, in par - a -

len,      ge - - - trost      ist ed

it.      Con - - - tent

sein, im Pa - ra - dies,      im Pa - - - ra - dies      sein, he

dise, in par - a - dise,      in par - - - a - dise,

mir      mein      Herz      und

are      my      mind      and

mir im Pa - ra - dies,      ir      - - - te wirst du mit mir im Pa - ra - dies

me in par - a - dise,      es, to - day you shall be with me in par - a -

Sinn,      anft      und      stil

heart,      calm      my      spir

dies\_ sein!      - - -

a - - - dise.

Vga I, II

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56

le,  
it,

*f*

59

wie as Gott the mir Lord ver has hei told - - - ßen to

62

hat: me, Der death

65

mein my Schlaf sleep wor al

68



4. Tutti

Tutti

5

Glo - rie, Lob, Ehr und Herr lich-keit  
 All glo - ry, laud, and praise be thine,

Glo - rie, Lob, Ehr und Herr lich - keit  
 All glo - ry, laud, and praise be - th'

Glo - rie, Lob, Ehr laud, und Herr praise -  
 All glo - ry, laud, and praise -

Glo - rie, Lob, Ehr und  
 All glo - ry, laud, and th'

Tutti

sei O und Sohn be-reit,  
 er and bless - ed Son,

er. Va - ter und Sohn be - reit,  
 Fa - ther and bless ed Son,

er, Gott Va - ter und Sohn be-reit,  
 God, the Fa - ther and bless - ed Son,

sei dir, Gott Va - ter  
 O God, the Fa - th

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12

dem Heil - gen Geist mit Na - - men!  
 and Ho - ly Ghost, for ev - - er;

dem Heil - gen Geist mit Na - - men!  
 and Ho - ly Ghost, for ev - - er;

dem Heil - gen Geist mit Na - - men!  
 and Ho - ly Ghost, for ev - - er;

dem Heil - gen Geist mit Na - - men!  
 and Ho - ly Ghost, for ev - - er;

15

Die gött - lich Kraft  
 may thy great might

Die gött - lich Kraft  
 may thy great might

Die gött - lich Kraft  
 may thy great might

Die gött - lich Kraft  
 may thy great might

ach  
 win

mach  
 win

mach  
 win

mach  
 win

18

uns sieg - haft  
 us the fight,

uns sieg -  
 us the

uns  
 us

durch Je - sum Chris - tum,  
 through Christ our Sav - iour,

*sro*

21

durch Je - sum  
through Christ our

a - - - men, a - men, a - men, a - - - men, a -

- - - - - men, a - men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, durch  
through Christ our Sav - iour, through

a - - -

23

Chris - tum, a - - - - men, a -  
Sav - iour,

- men, a - - - men, a - men, a - men,

Je - sum Chris - tum, a - men, a - men, a - - -

Christ our Sav - iour,

- - - - - men, durch  
through

25

- men, - tum, a - men, a - men, a - - -

- iour,

- men, a - - -

Chris - tum, a

Sav - iour,

27

men, a - men, a - - - men, a - - - men, durch Je - sum  
 through Christ our

durch Je - sum Chris - tum,  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - -

men, a - men, a - - - men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - men,  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - men,

29

- men, a - men, a - men, a -

Chris - tum, a - - - men, a - - - a - men,  
 Sav - iour, a - - -

- men, a - men, a - men, a -

a - men, a - men, Je - sum  
 Christ our

31

- men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - men,  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - men,

a - - - men, a - men, durch Je - sum  
 through Christ our

durch Je - sum Chris - tum,  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - -

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Chris - tum, a - - - - - men, a - men, a - men, a - -  
 Sav - iour, a - - - - - men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - - - - men, a - -  
 - men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - - men, a - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - - - - men, a - -  
 Tutti

Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - -  
 Christ our Sav - iour, a - - - - -  
 men, a - - - - - men, a - - - - -  
 men, a - - - - - men, a - - - - -  
 men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, our Sav - iour, a - -

men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - - - -  
 men, a - - - - - men, a - - - - -  
 men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - - - -  
 men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - - - -  
 men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - - - -

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men, a-men, a - men, a - - - men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum,  
 through Christ our Sav - iour,

durch Je - sum Chris - tum, durch  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, a - - men, through

Chris - tum, a - - men, a - men, a - -  
 Sav - iour, iour,

men, a - men, a - -

41

a - - - - -

Je - sum Chris - tum, a - - - - -  
 Christ our Sav - iour,

men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum,  
 through Christ our Sav - i

men, durch Je - sum Chris - tum, en, a - men, a - -  
 through Christ our Sav - iour, iour,

43

men, Je - sum  
 Christ our

men, a - - - - -

men, durch - - - - -  
 thr

a - - - - - men, men,

