

# 130, 131 Alle Menschen müssen sterben

Melodic source: BWV 643 (embellishment in bars 5 and 12 removed)

Melodic origin: Christoph Anton (1610-58) for the secular song,  
*Daphnis ging vor wenig Tagen*, 1643

Text: Johann Rosenmüller (1619-84)



Text known to Bach (Weimar 1713):

Alle Menschen müssen sterben/  
alles Fleisch vergeht wie Heu/  
was da lebet muss verderben/  
soll es anders werden neu.  
Dieser Leib/ der muss verwesen/  
wenn er ewig soll genesen/  
der so grossen Herrlichkeit/  
die den Frommen ist bereit.

Translation (Catherine Winkworth):

*Hark! A voice saith all are mortal,  
Yea, all flesh must fade as grass,  
Only through death's gloomy portal  
To a better life ye pass,  
And this body formed of clay  
Here must languish and decay,  
Ere it rise in glorious might,  
Fit to dwell with saints in light.*