

The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

After the Pax Domini (the Peace of the Lord), comes the Agnus Dei (Latin for Lamb of God). The congregation sings:

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world; grant us peace.

This comes to us from **John 1:29**, where John the Baptist, looking at Jesus says, "*Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.*" We sing this right before receiving the body and blood of Christ to remind us of whose body and blood they are, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins. The last line ties it in with the Pax Domini because, as we said, only the blood of Christ can wash away our sins and give us peace with God. He does this purely out of mercy and not because of anything we have done.

Prayer:

O Lord, You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In Your mercy take away our sins, that we might live in Your peace, You who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.