Forgiveness Vespers

with Ninth Hour

February 18, 2018

Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

a mission of the Orthodox Church in America

Ames, Iowa

Daily Vespers

When served apart from Matins

The Ninth Hour

*THE CURTAIN IS **NOT** OPENED.*

THE PRIEST STANDS BEFORE THE HOLY TABLE:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Reader: Amen.

Reader: Glory to You, our God; glory to You!

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things. Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life, come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One!

The Trisagion Prayers

Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!
O Master, pardon our transgressions!
O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.
Lord, have mercy. *(12x)*
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Reader: Come, let us worship God our King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Him.

Outside of Lent: Psalm 83, 84, 85 (84, 85, 86 in the Hebrew)

Psalm 83 (84 in the Hebrew)

How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, even faints
For the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she may lay her young –
Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts,
My King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;
They will still be praising You.
Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,
Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.
As they pass through the Valley of Baca,
They make it a spring;
The rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
The God of gods shall be seen.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
Give ear, O God of Jacob!
O God, behold our shield,
And look upon the face of Your anointed.
For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord will give grace and glory;
No good thing will He withhold
From those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
Blessed is the man who trusts in You!

Psalm 84 (85 in the Hebrew)

Lord, You have been favorable to Your land;
You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
You have covered all their sin.
You have taken away all Your wrath;
You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,
And cause Your anger toward us to cease.
Will You be angry with us forever?
Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?
Will You not revive us again,
That Your people may rejoice in You?
Show us Your mercy, Lord,
And grant us Your salvation.

I will hear what God the Lord will speak,
For He will speak peace
To His people and to His saints;
But let them not turn back to folly.
Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
That glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
And righteousness shall look down from heaven.
Yes, the Lord will give what is good;
And our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before Him,
And shall make His footsteps our pathway.

Psalm 85 (86 in the Hebrew)
Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me;
For I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am holy;
You are my God;
Save Your servant who trusts in You!
Be merciful to me, O Lord,
For I cry to You all day long.
Rejoice the soul of Your servant,
For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,
And abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
And attend to the voice of my supplications.
In the day of my trouble I will call upon You,
For You will answer me.

Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord;
Nor are there any works like Your works.
All nations whom You have made

Shall come and worship before You, O Lord,
And shall glorify Your name.
For You are great, and do wondrous things;
You alone are God.

Teach me Your way, O Lord;
I will walk in Your truth;
Unite my heart to fear Your name.
I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
And I will glorify Your name forevermore.
For great is Your mercy toward me,
And You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the proud have risen against me,
And a mob of violent men have sought my life,
And have not set You before them.
But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious,
Longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth.

Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me!
Give Your strength to Your servant,
And save the son of Your maidservant.
Show me a sign for good,
That those who hate me may see it and be ashamed,
Because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. *(thrice)*

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

With your whole heart you followed the way of holiness
And became a companion of the Apostles, O Archippus.
By your word you preached the Faith,
And by your life you uprooted evil.
Having proved steadfast in contest you were granted the crown of righteousness.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord, Who for our sake were born of a virgin and have endured crucifixion, trampling down death by death and as God revealing the Resurrection: Despise not the works of Your hands, but show Your love for mankind, O merciful one. Accept the prayers made on our behalf by her who gave You birth, and save Your despairing people, O our Savior.

For Your holy name's sake, do not abandon us forever; do not annul Your covenant; do not take Your mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Your beloved, and Isaac Your servant, and Israel Your holy one.

The Trisagion Prayers

Reader: Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!
O Master, pardon our transgressions!
O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!

Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. *(12x)*

Prayer of the Hours

You who at every season and every hour, in heaven and on earth, are worshipped and glorified, O Christ our God, who are long-suffering, merciful, and compassionate; who loves the just and shows mercy upon the sinner; who calls all to salvation through the promise of blessings to come: O Lord, in this hour receive our supplications, and direct our lives according to Your commandments; sanctify our souls, hallow our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds, deliver us from all tribulations, evil, and distress. Compass us about with Your holy Angels, that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory, for You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious, beyond compare, than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word; true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: O God, be merciful to us and bless us, and show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Reader: Amen.

OPEN CURTAIN.

The Prayer of the Ninth Hour (by St. Basil the Great):

Reader: O Master and Lord, Jesus Christ our God, Who are long-suffering towards our sins and have brought us even to this present hour, in which, hanging upon the life-creating Cross, You have opened to the good thief the way into Paradise, and destroyed death by death: be merciful to us, Your humble and sinful and unworthy servants. For we have sinned and transgressed, and we are not worthy to lift up our eyes and look upon the height of heaven, since we have forsaken the path of Your righteousness and have walked according to the desires of our own hearts. But we implore You: in Your boundless goodness, spare us, O Lord, according to the abundance of Your mercy, and save us for Your holy name's sake, for our days are consumed in vanity. Deliver us from the hand of the adversary, forgive us our sins, and kill the passions of the flesh, that putting off the old man, we may be clothed with the new, and may live for You, our master and protector; and that so, following Your ordinances, we may attain to eternal rest in the place where all the joyful dwell. For You, O Christ our God, are indeed the true joy and gladness of those that love You, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father, Who is without beginning, and Your most holy, good, life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Vespers

AT THE END OF THE NINTH HOUR, THERE IS NO DISMISSAL. THE PRIEST REMAINS BEFORE THE ALTAR TABLE, BOWS THREE TIMES, AND SAYS:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

PSALM 103(4) IS TYPICALLY READ (CHANTED) AT DAILY VESPERS.

Reader: Come let us worship God our King,
Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and God,
Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself our King and God.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!
O LORD my God, You are very great:
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment,
Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain.
He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters,
Who makes the clouds His chariot,
Who walks on the wings of the wind,
Who makes His angels spirits,
His ministers a flame of fire.

You who laid the foundations of the earth,
So that it should not be moved forever,
You covered it with the deep as with a garment;
The waters stood above the mountains.
At Your rebuke they fled;
At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.
They went up over the mountains;
They went down into the valleys,
To the place which You founded for them.
You have set a boundary that they may not pass over,
That they may not return to cover the earth.
He sends the springs into the valleys;
They flow among the hills.
They give drink to every beast of the field;
The wild donkeys quench their thirst.
By them the birds of the heavens have their home;
They sing among the branches.
He waters the hills from His upper chambers;
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of Your works.
He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the service of man,
That he may bring forth food from the earth,
And wine that makes glad the heart of man,
Oil to make his face shine,
And bread which strengthens man's heart.
The trees of the LORD are full of sap,
The cedars of Lebanon which He planted,
Where the birds make their nests;
The stork has her home in the fir trees.
The high hills are for the wild goats;
The cliffs are a refuge for the rock badgers.
He appointed the moon for seasons;
The sun knows its going down.
You make darkness, and it is night,
In which all the beasts of the forest creep about.
The young lions roar after their prey,
And seek their food from God.
When the sun rises, they gather together
And lie down in their dens.
Man goes out to his work
And to his labor until the evening.
O LORD, how manifold are Your works!

In wisdom You have made them all.
The earth is full of Your possessions –
This great and wide sea,
In which are innumerable teeming things,
Living things both small and great.
There the ships sail about;
There is that Leviathan
Which You have made to play there.
These all wait for You,
That You may give them their food in due season.
What You give them they gather in;
You open Your hand, they are filled with good.
You hide Your face, they are troubled;
You take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;
And You renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
May the LORD rejoice in His works.
He looks on the earth, and it trembles;
He touches the hills, and they smoke.
I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
May my meditation be sweet to Him;
I will be glad in the LORD.
May sinners be consumed from the earth,
And the wicked be no more.
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
The sun knows its going down.
You make darkness, and it is night,
O LORD, how manifold are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

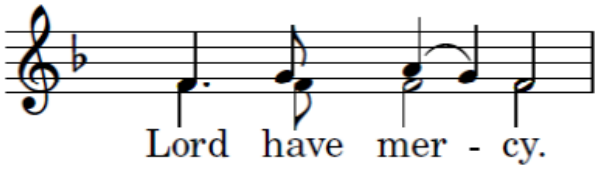
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God! *(Twice)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to You, O God, O our God and our Hope, glory to You.

Great Litany

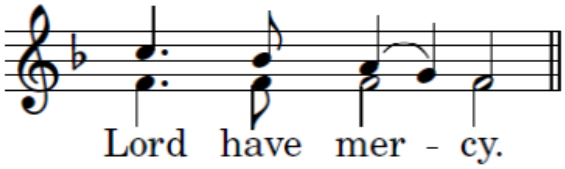
First Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For His Beatitude Metropolitan *Tikhon*,
for His Eminence Archbishop *Alexander,*
for the honorable Priesthood, the Diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy, and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

For travelers by land, by sea, and by air, for the sick and the suffering, for captives, and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

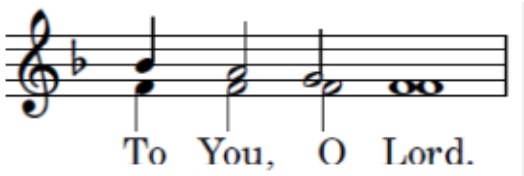
Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

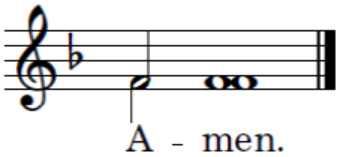
Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To You O Lord.



Priest (Exclamation): For unto You are due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.



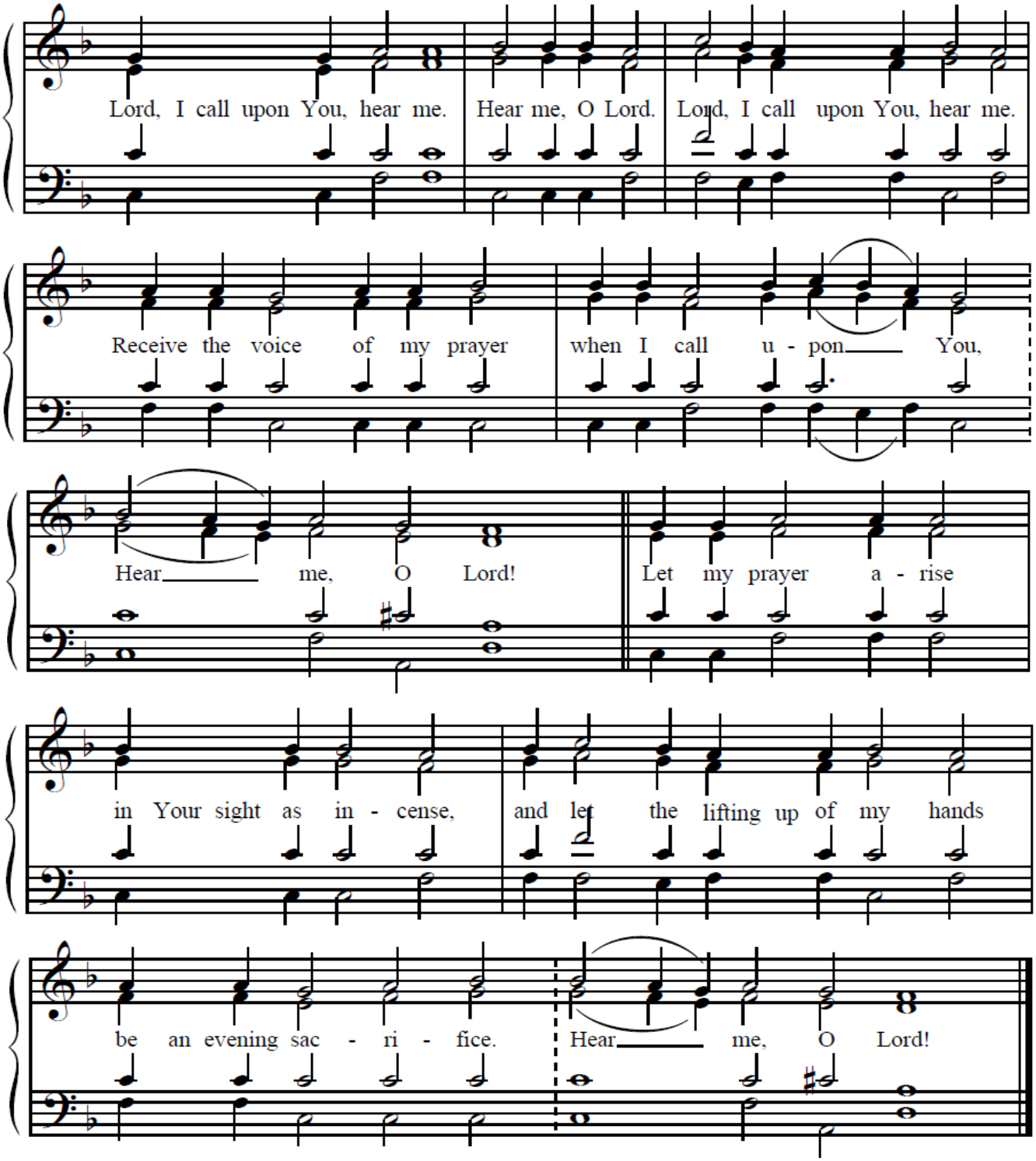
Clergy reenter the sanctuary.

Lord, I Call … *(SUNG IN THE TONE OF THE WEEK)*

Reader: In the Fourth Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

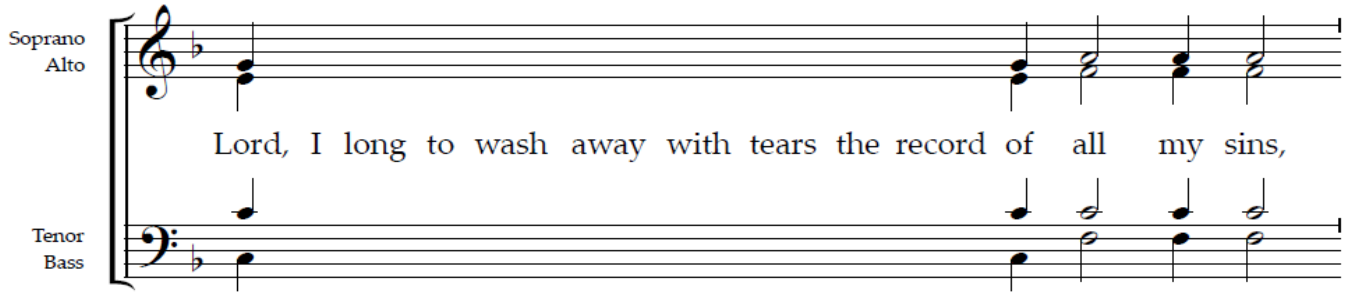
Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

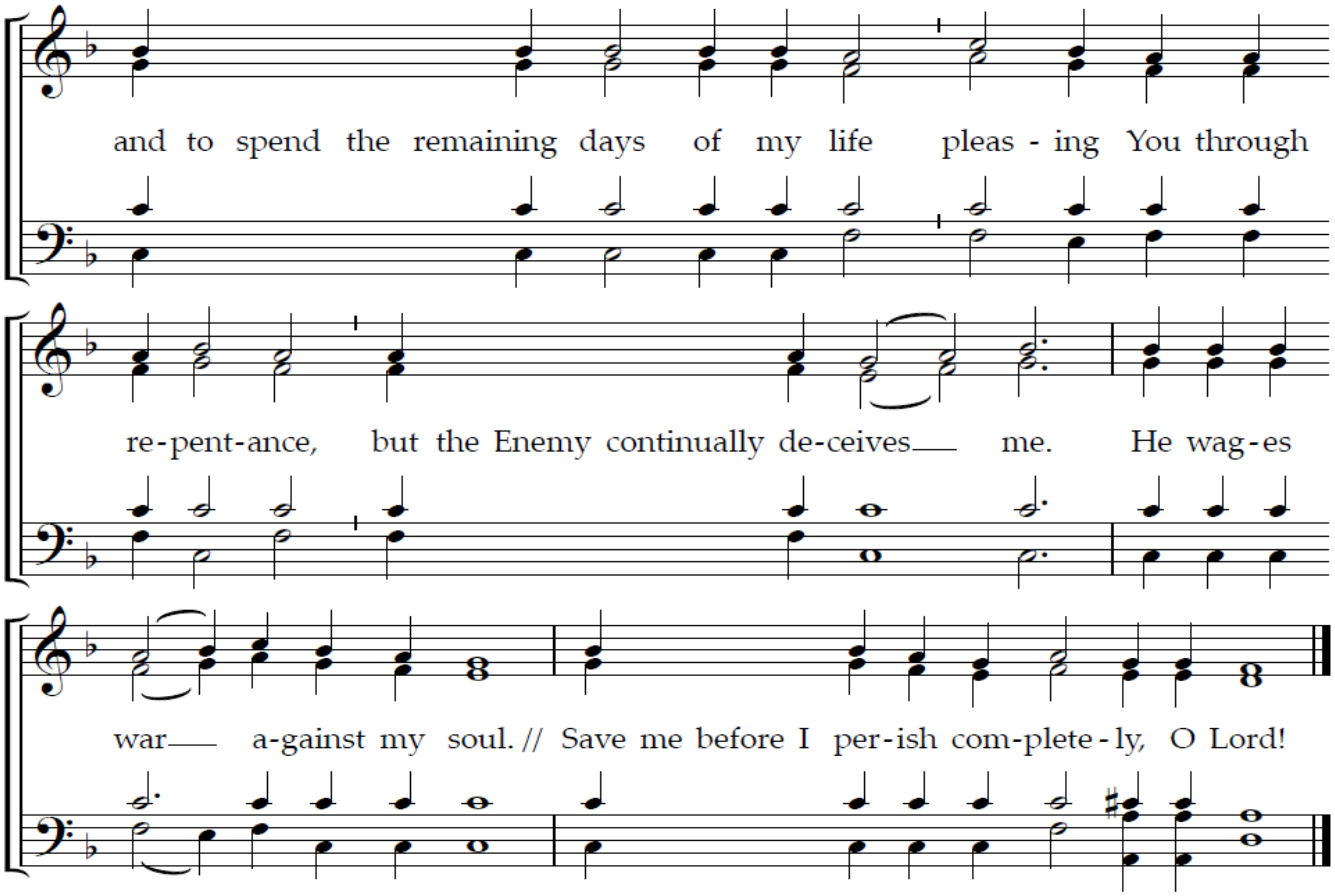


Reader (chanted after the first sticharion is completed): Set a watch over my mouth, O Lord, keep guard over the door of my lips.
Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds in company with men who work iniquity, and let me not join their chosen ones.
Let a good man strike or rebuke me in mercy; but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head. For my prayer is continually against their evil deeds,
When their judges are overthrown in stony places. My words shall be heard then!
As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn near hell!
But my eyes are toward You, O Lord, Lord! In You I put my trust, do not take away my soul.
Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evil doers.
Let the wicked together fall into their own nets while I alone pass through.
I call with my voice to the Lord; with my voice I make supplication to the Lord.
I pour out my complaint before Him; I proclaim my sadness before Him!
When my spirit departs from me, You know my way. In the path where I walk, they have hidden a trap for me.
I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me. No refuge remains for me, no man cares for my soul!
I cry to You, O Lord, I say, "You are my hope, my portion in the land of the living!"
Give heed to my cry, for I am brought very low. Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.

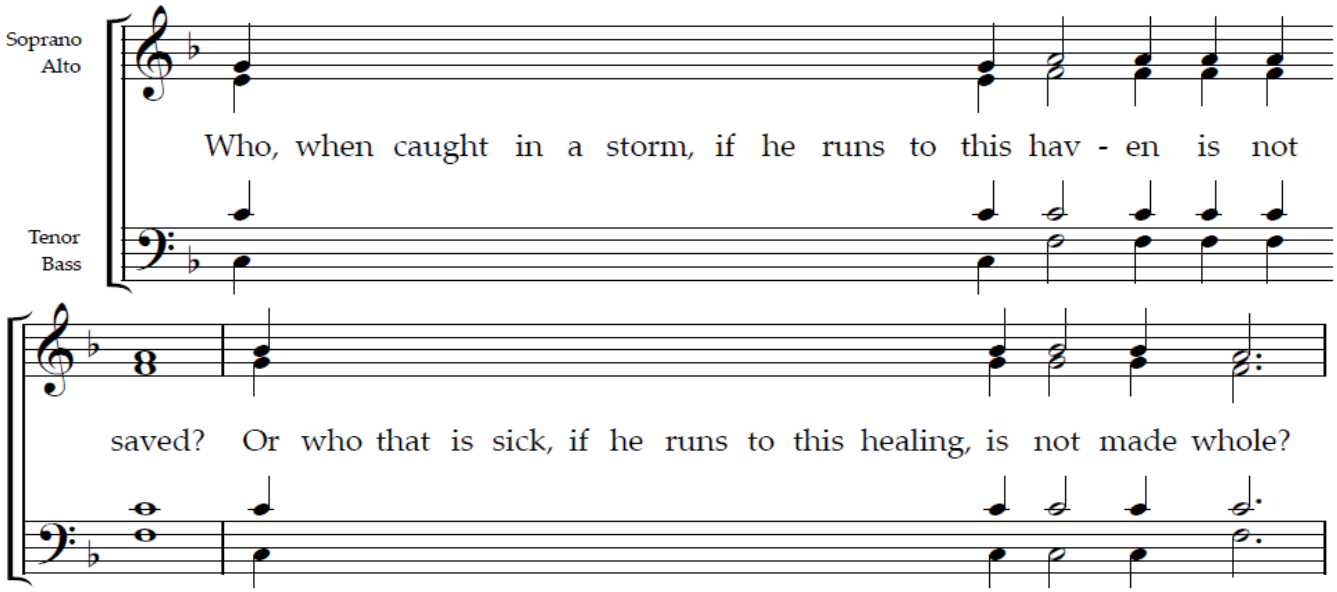
Reader: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess Your name.

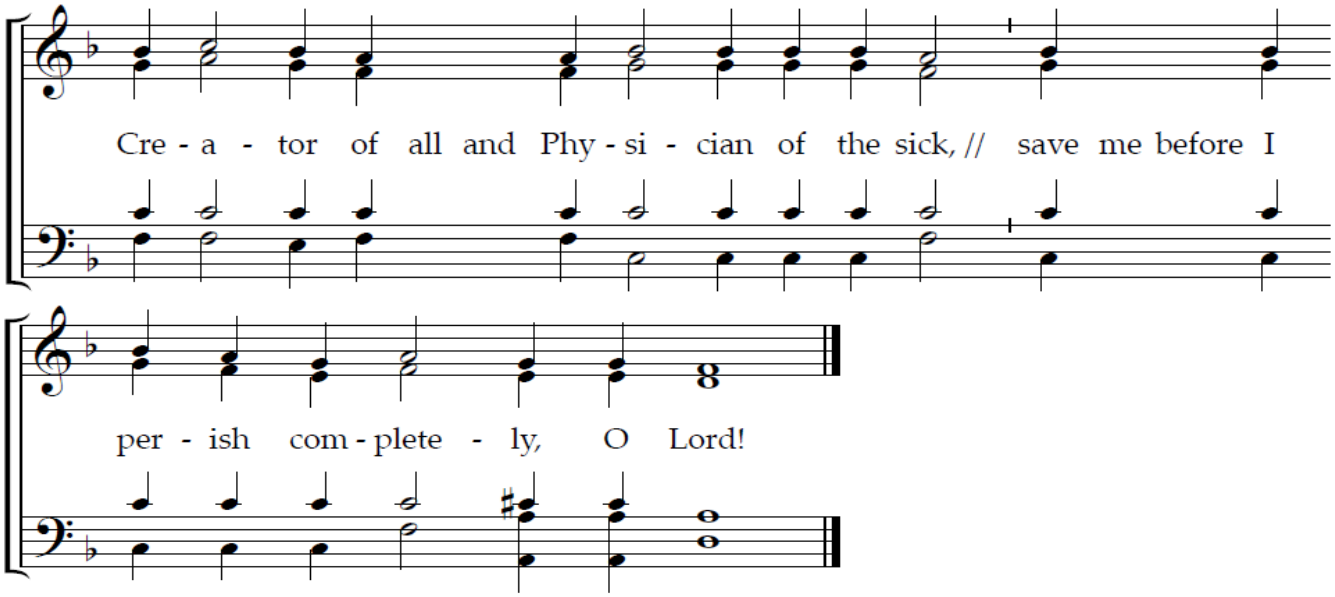
Choir:
Lord, I long to wash away with tears the record of all my sins,
and to spend the remaining days of my life
pleasing You through repentance,
but the Enemy continually deceives me.
He wages war against my soul.//
Save me before I perish completely, O Lord!



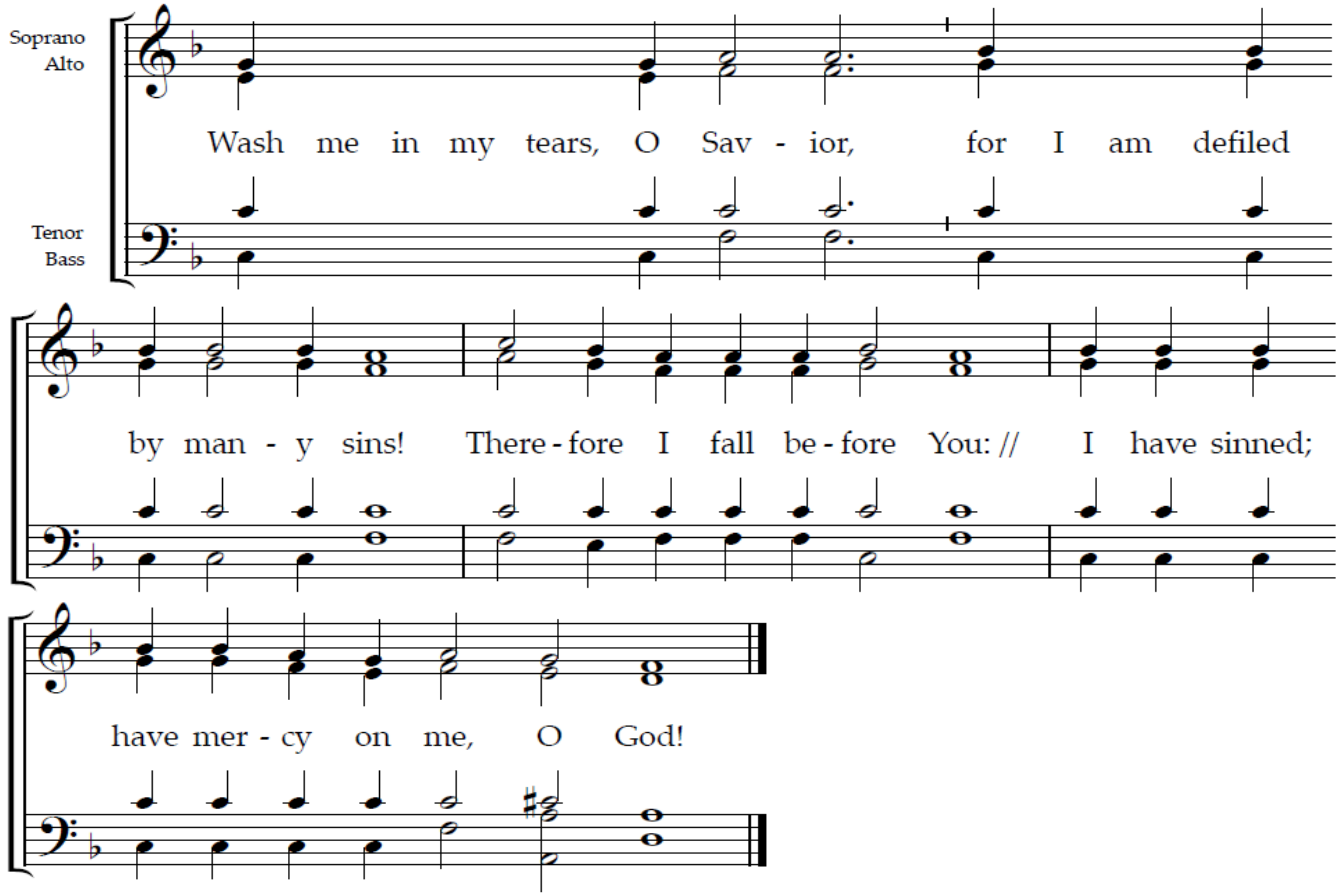


Reader: The righteous shall wait patiently for me until You shall reward me.
Who, when caught in a storm, if he runs to this haven is not saved?
Or who that is sick, if he runs to this healing, is not made whole?
Creator of all and Physician of the sick,//
Save me before I perish completely, O Lord!



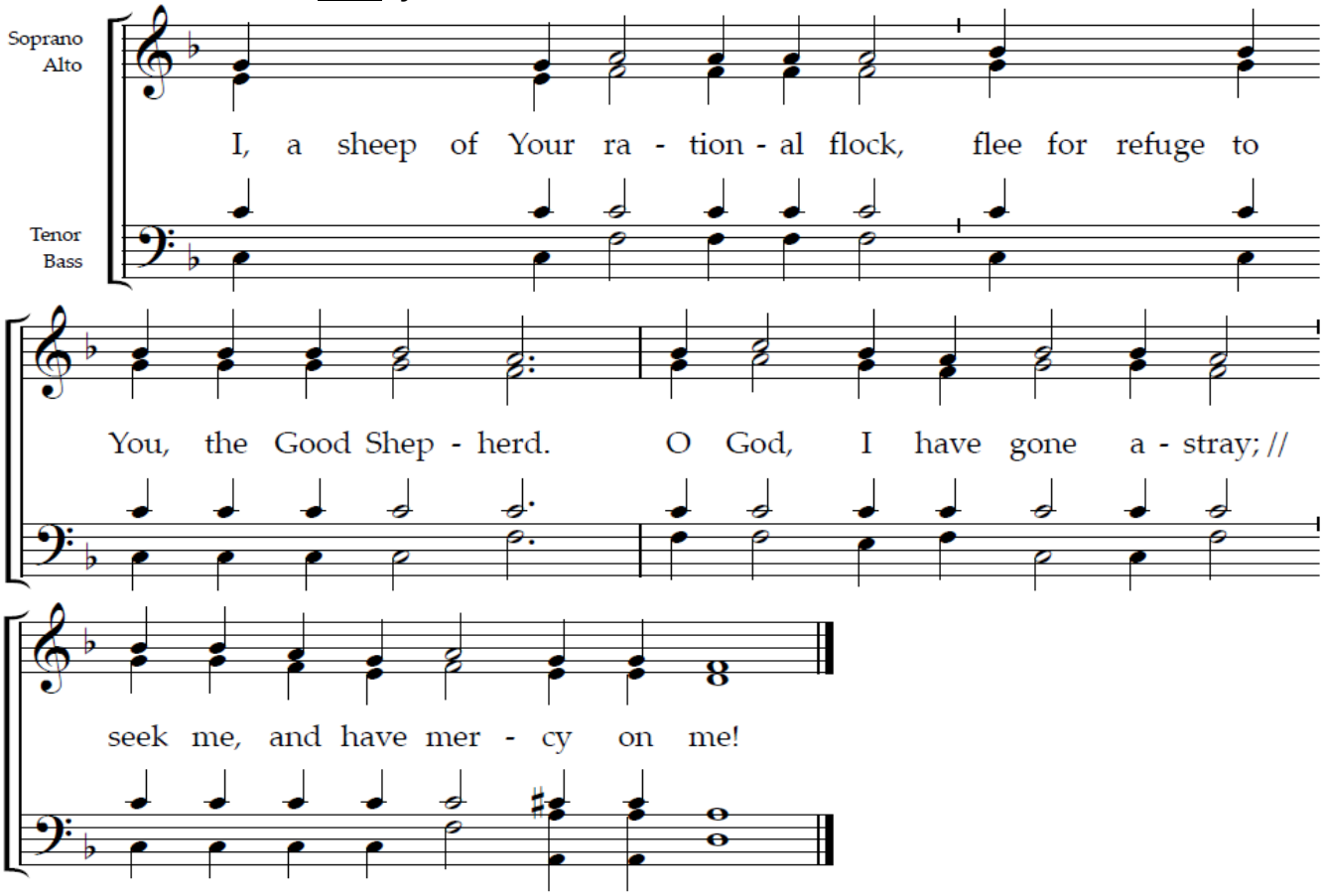


Reader: Out of the depths have I cried to You, O Lord, O Lord, hear my voice.
Wash me in my tears, O Savior,
for I am defiled by many sins!
Therefore I fall before You://
I have sinned; have mercy on me, O God!



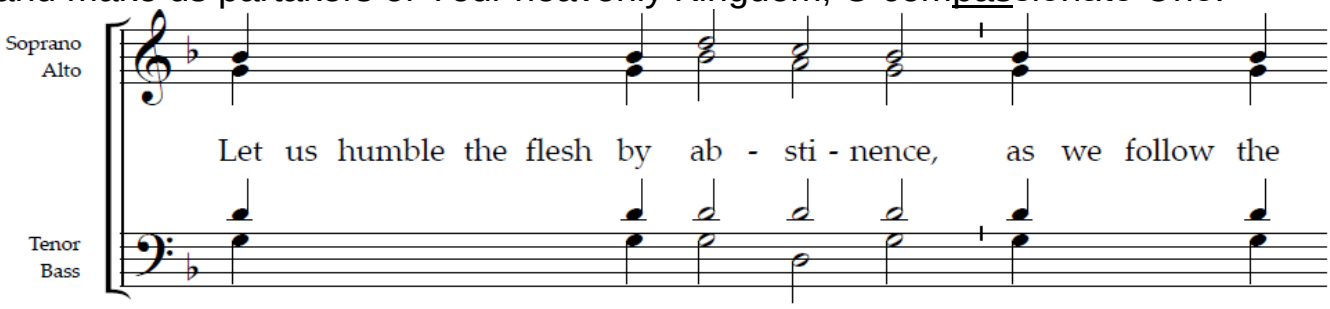
Reader: Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.
I, a sheep of Your rational flock,

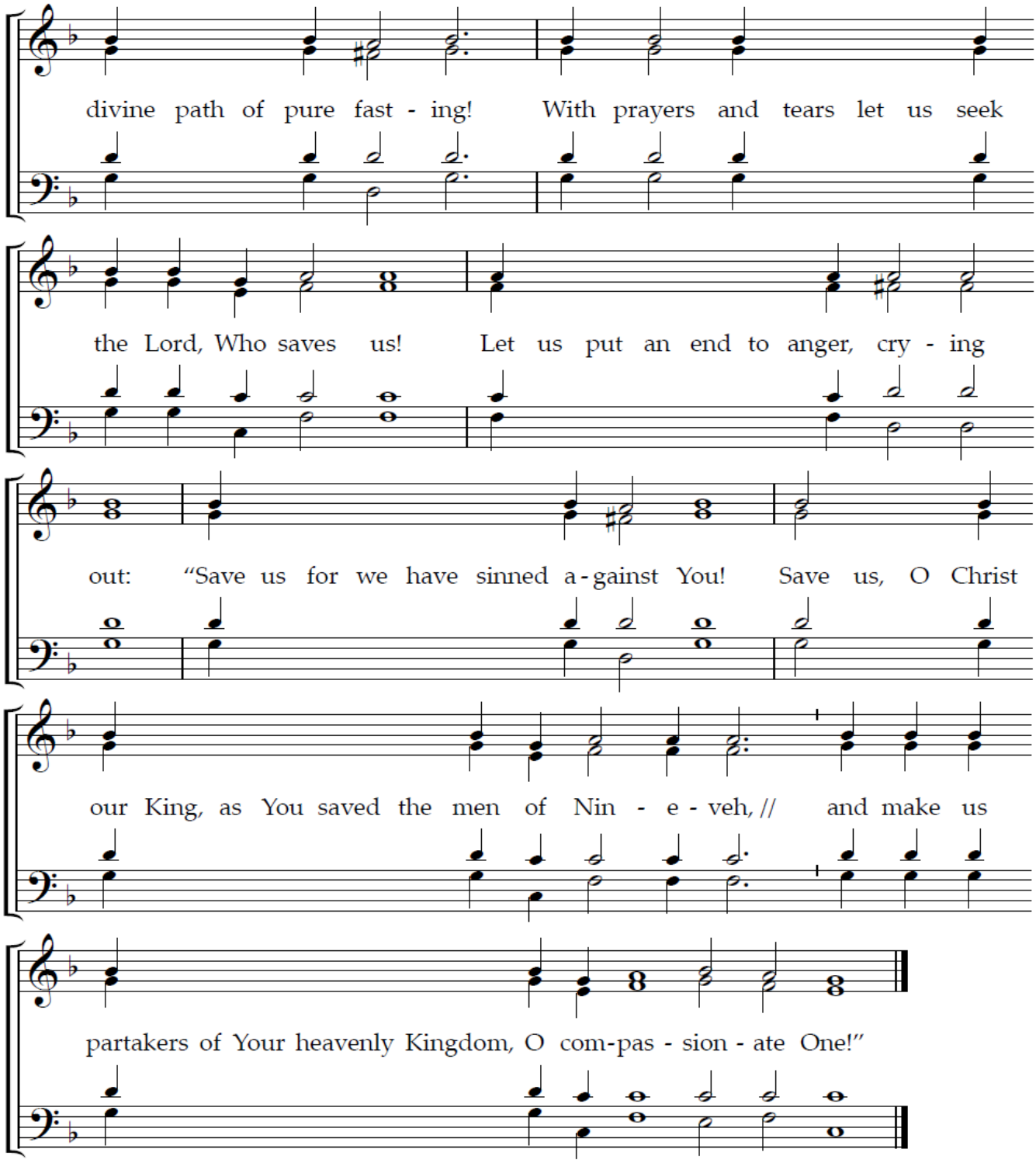
flee for refuge to You, the Good Shepherd.
O God, I have gone astray;//
seek me, and have mercy on me!



Reader: In the Second Tone, If You should mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with You is forgiveness.

Let us humble the flesh by abstinence,
as we follow the divine path of pure fasting!
With prayers and tears let us seek the Lord, Who saves us!
Let us put an end to anger, crying out:
"Save us for we have sinned against You!
Save us, O Christ our King, as You saved the men of Ninevah,//
and make us partakers of Your heavenly Kingdom, O compassionate One!"

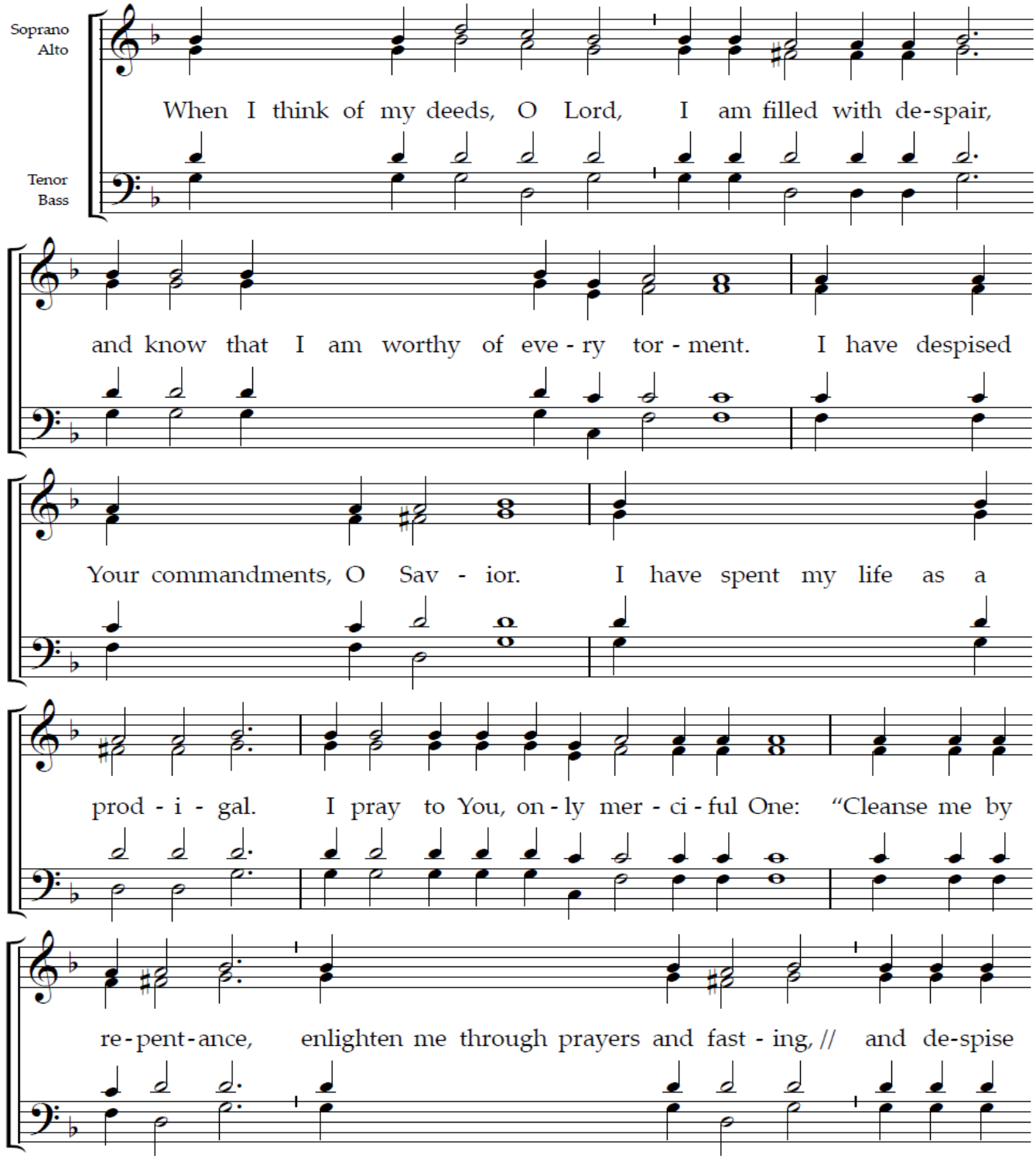


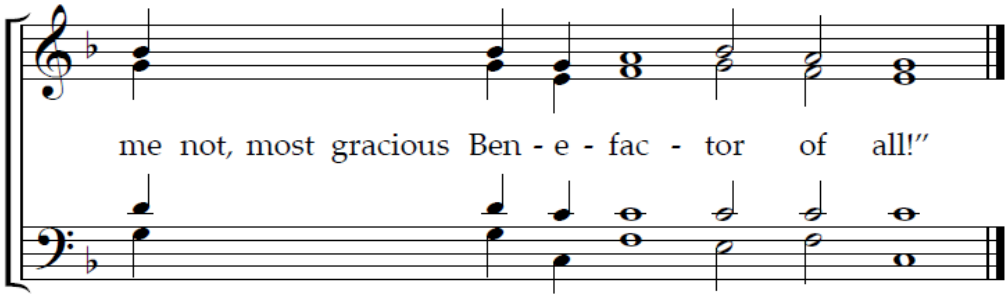


Reader: For Your name's sake have I patiently waited for You, O Lord; my soul has waited patiently for Your word my, soul has hoped in the Lord.

When I think of my deeds, O Lord,
I am filled with despair,
and know that I am worthy of every torment.
I have despised Your commandments, O Savior.
I have spent my life as a prodigal.

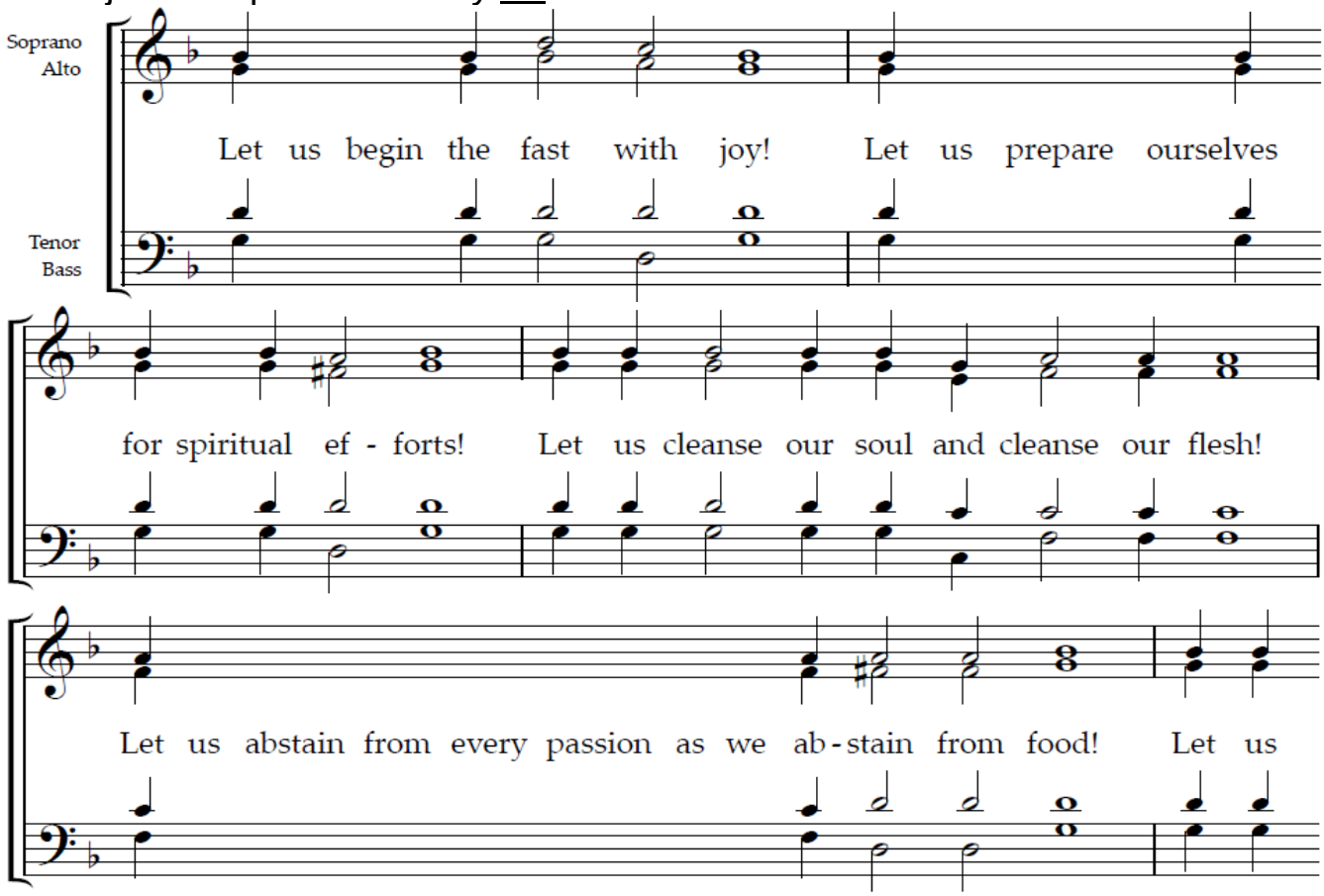
I pray to You, only merciful One:
“Cleanse me by repentance,
enlighten me through prayers and fasting,//
and despise me not, most gracious Benefactor of all!”

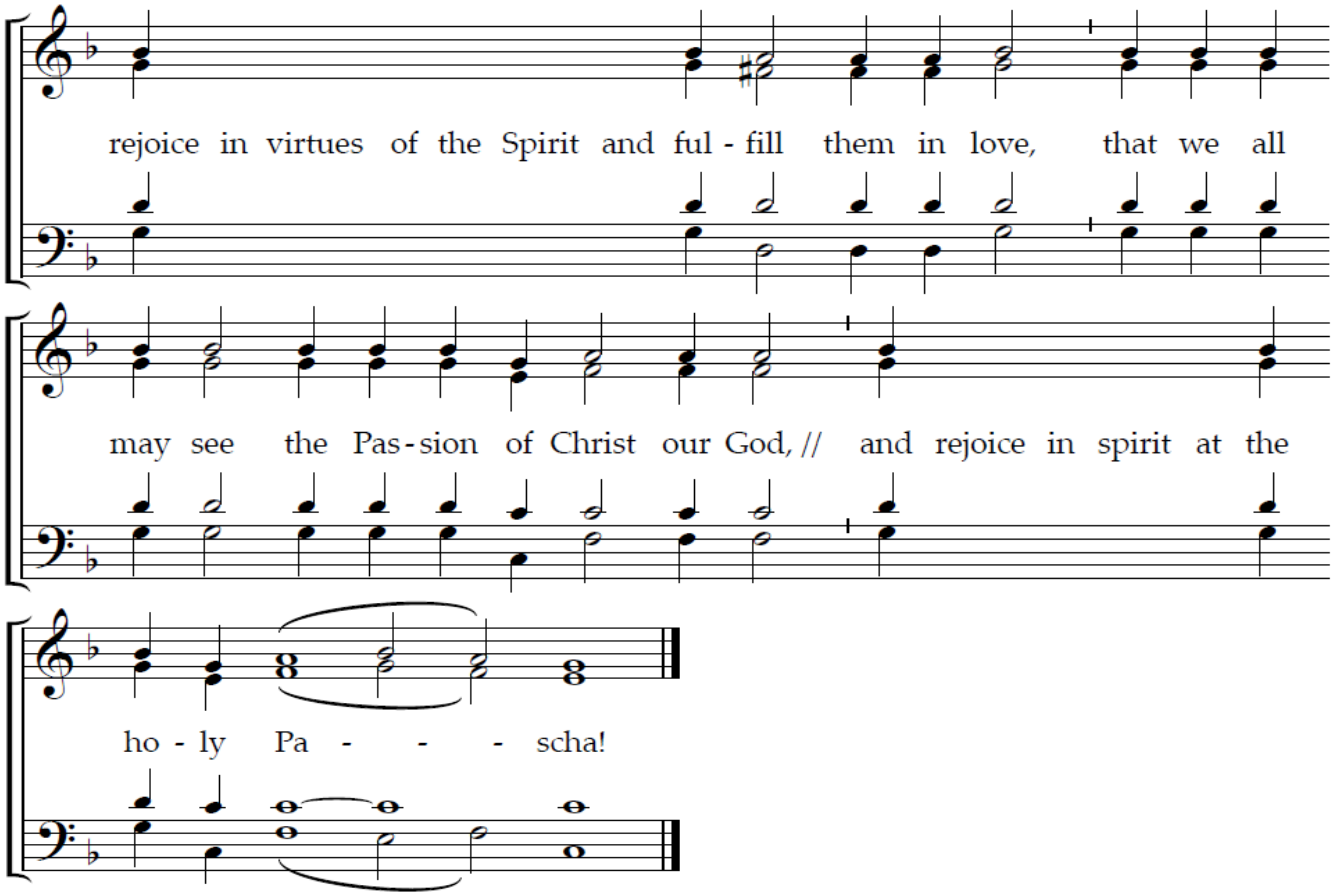




Reader: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.

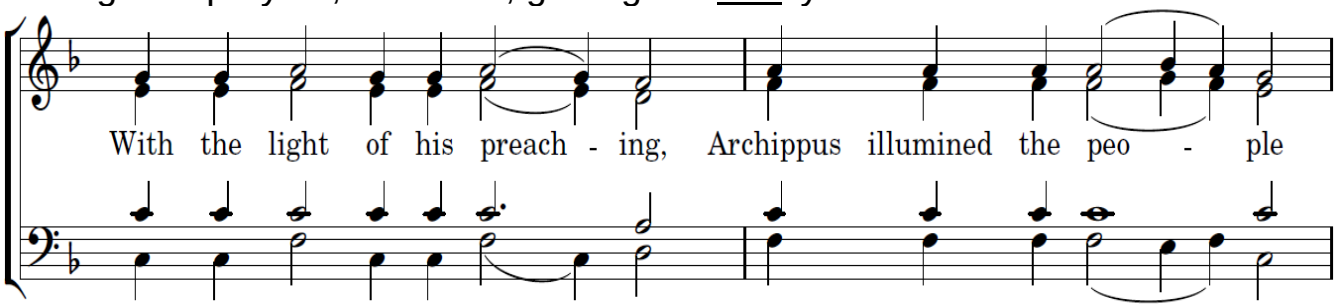
Let us begin the fast with joy!
Let us prepare ourselves for spiritual efforts!
Let us cleanse our soul and cleanse our flesh!
Let us abstain from every passion as we abstain from food!
Let us rejoice in virtues of the Spirit and fulfill them in love,
that we all may see the Passion of Christ our God,//
and rejoice in spirit at the holy Pascha!

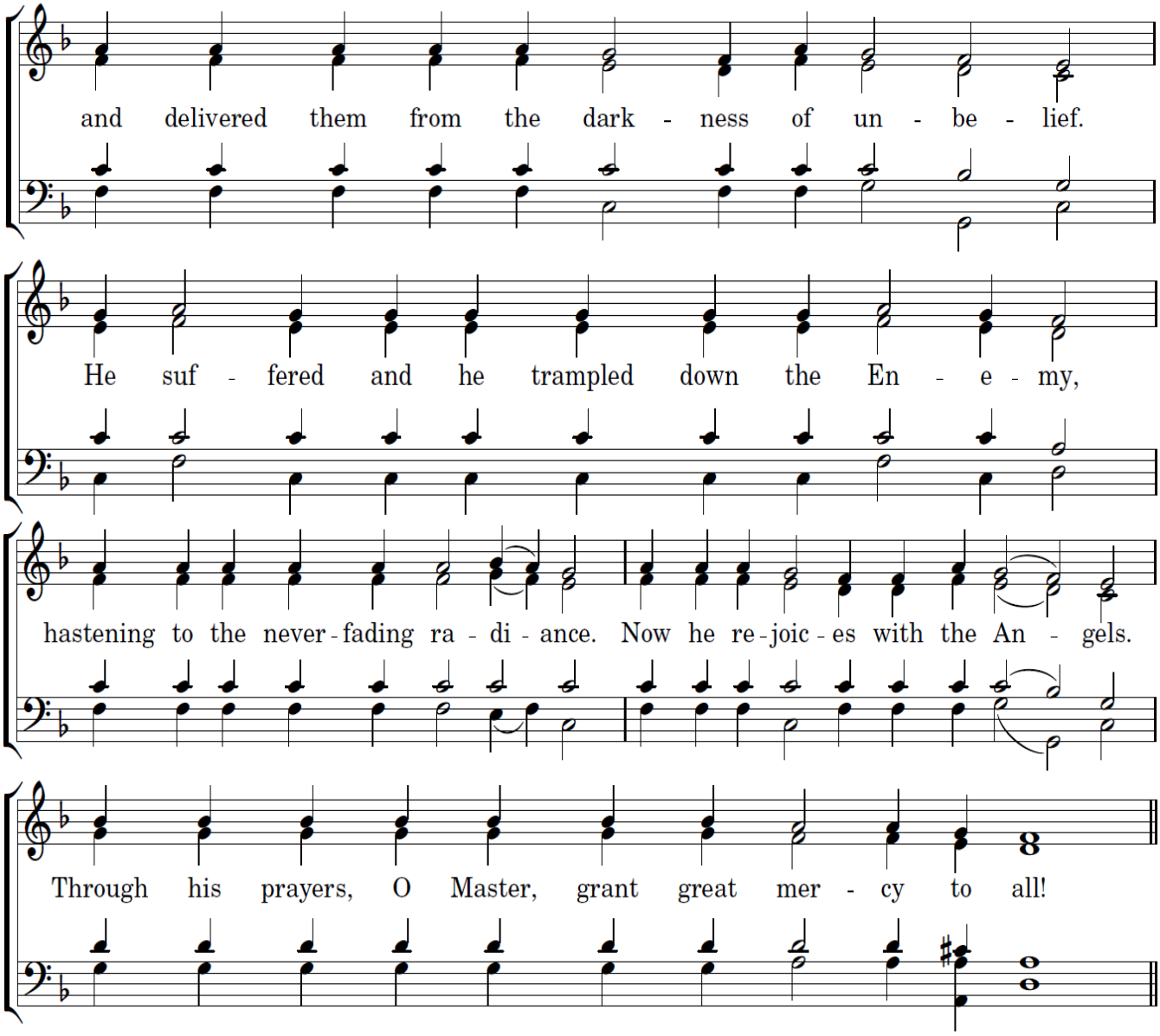




Reader: In the Eighth Tone, For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He shall deliver Israel out of all his iniquities.

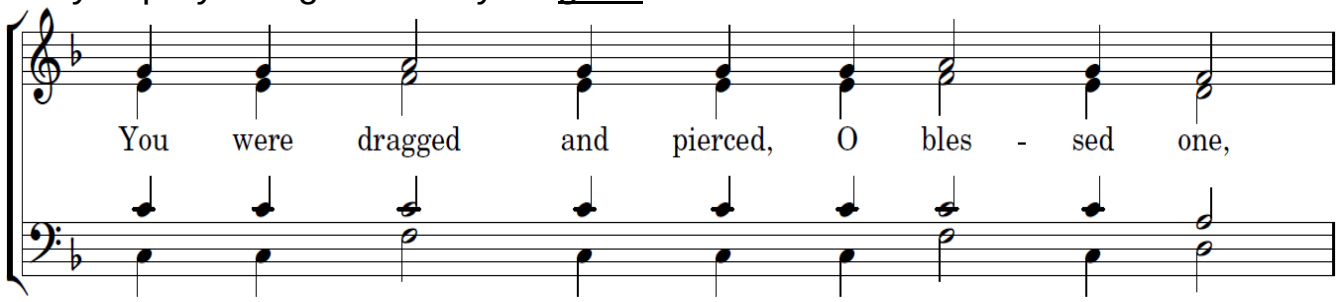
With the light of his preaching,
Archippus illumined the people
and delivered them from the darkness of unbelief.
He suffered and he trampled down the Enemy,
hastening to the never-fading radiance.
Now he rejoices with the Angels.//
Through his prayers, O Master, grant great mercy to all!

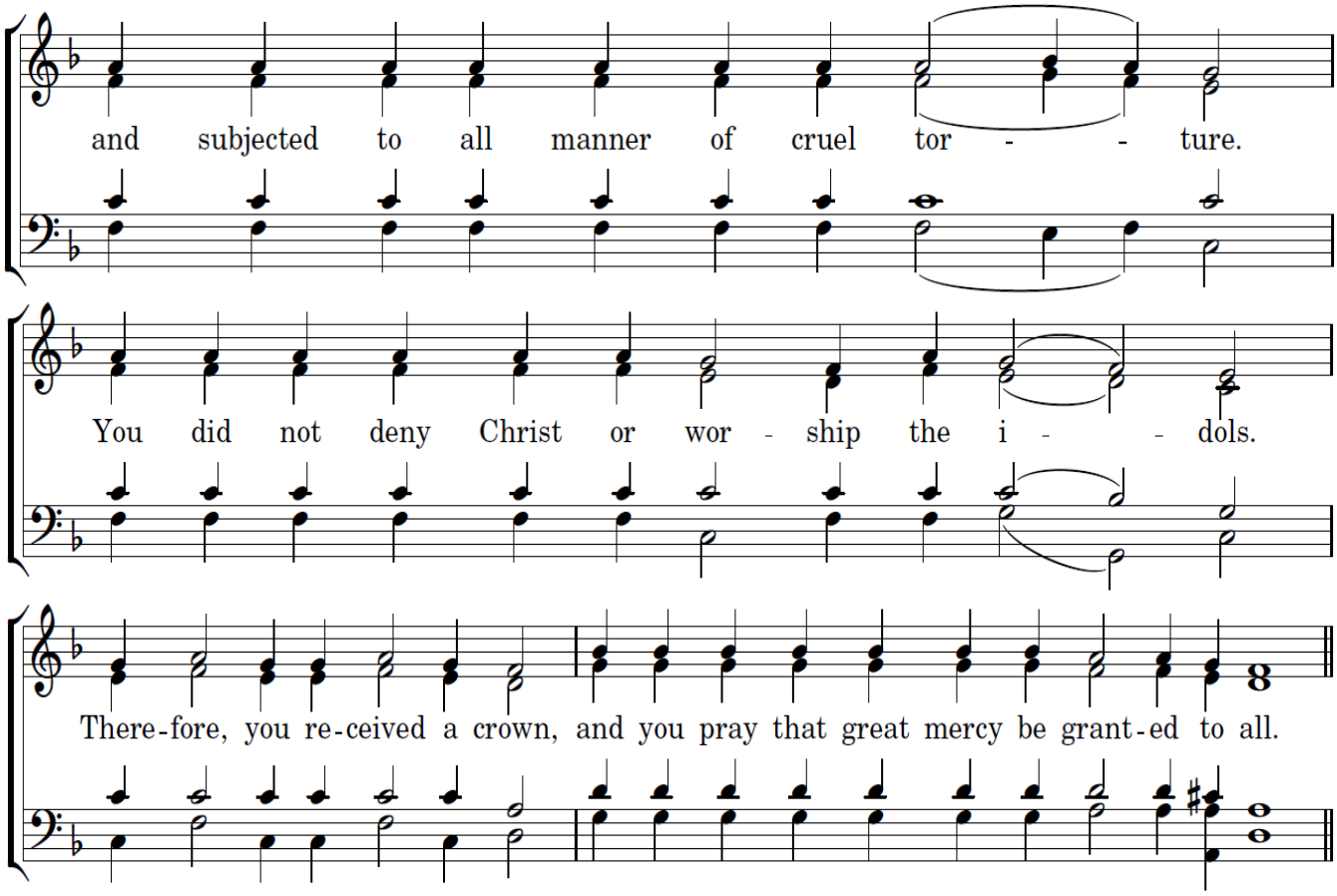




Reader: Praise the Lord, all nations, praise Him, all peoples.

You were dragged and pierced, O blessed one,
and subjected to all manner of cruel torture.
You did not deny Christ or worship the idols.
Therefore, you received a crown,//
and you pray that great mercy be granted to all.

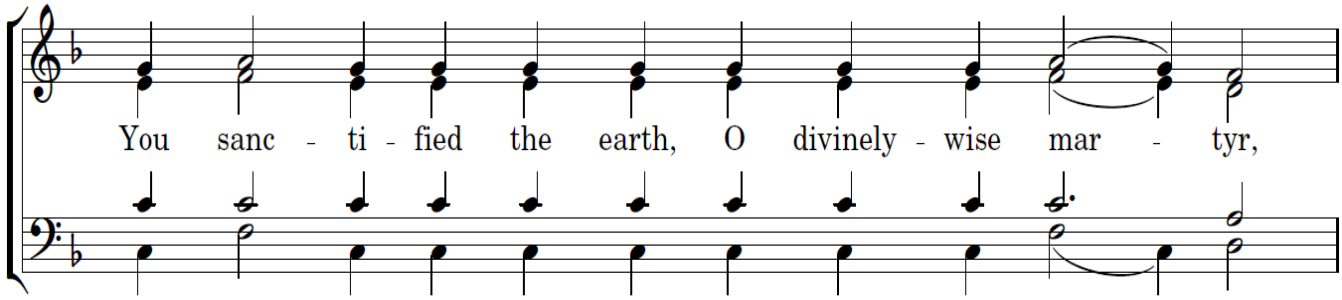


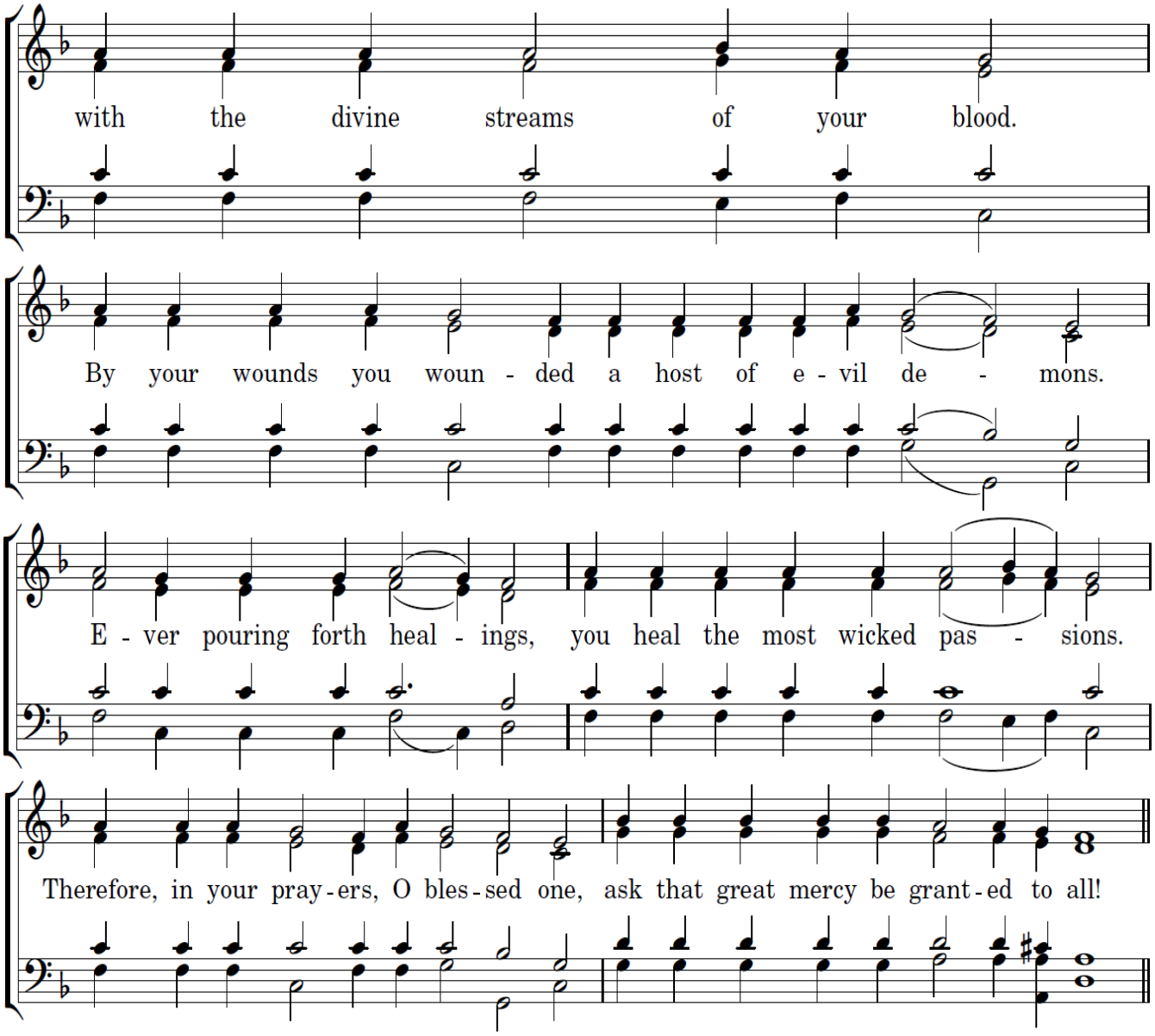


THE DOORS ARE OPENED. AT THE "GLORY … NOW AND EVER …" THERE IS AN ENTRANCE WITH THE CENSER.

Reader: For He has made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord abides forever.

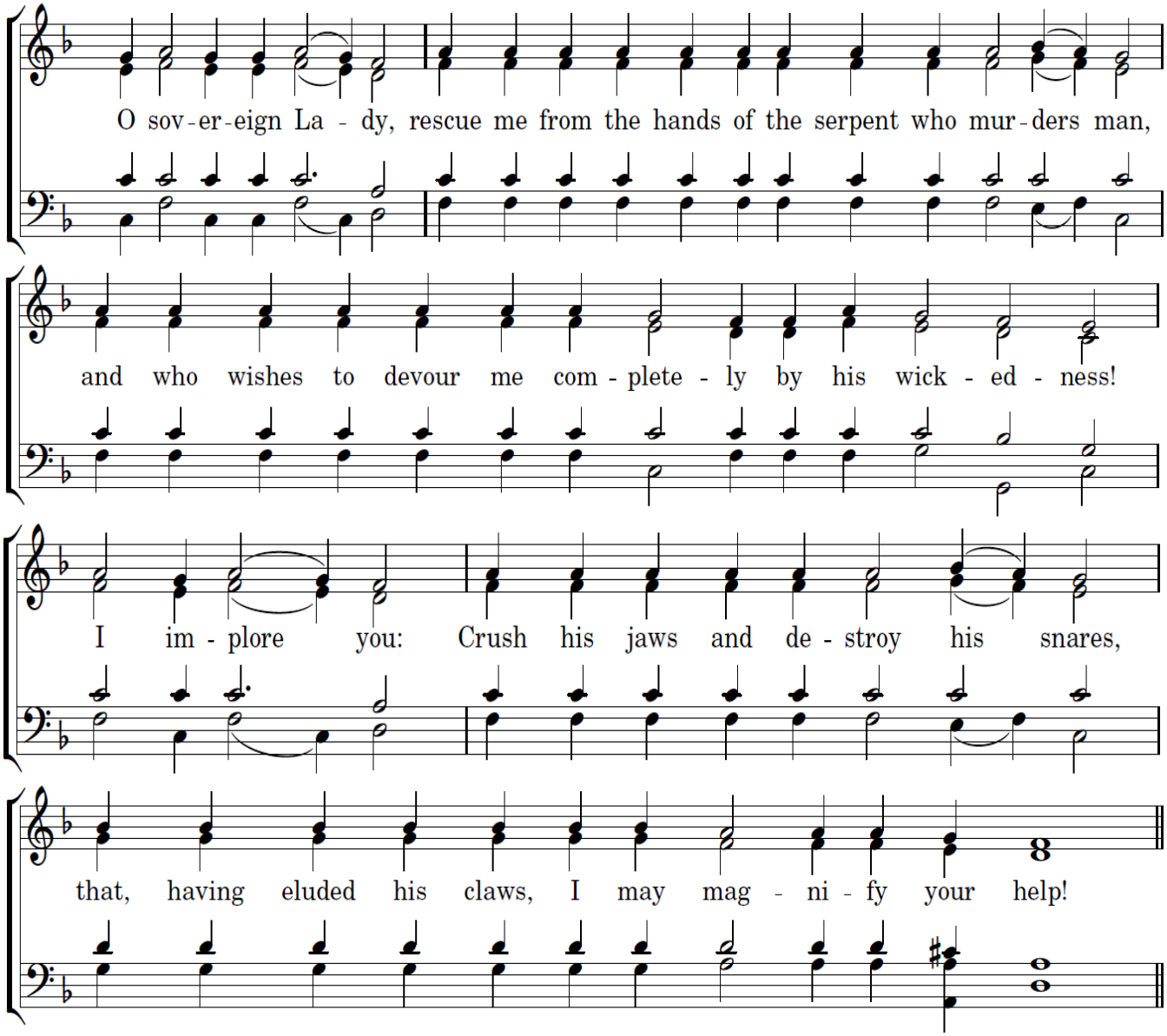
You sanctified the earth, O divinely-wise martyr,
with the divine streams of your blood.
By your wounds you wounded a host of evil demons.
Ever pouring forth healings,
you heal the most wicked passions.
Therefore, in your prayers, O blessed one,//
ask that great mercy be granted to all!





Reader: In the Eighth Tone, Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O sovereign Lady,
rescue me from the hands of the serpent who murders man,
and who wishes to devour me completely by his wickedness!
I implore you:
“Crush his jaws and destroy his snares,//
that, having eluded his claws, I may magnify your help!”

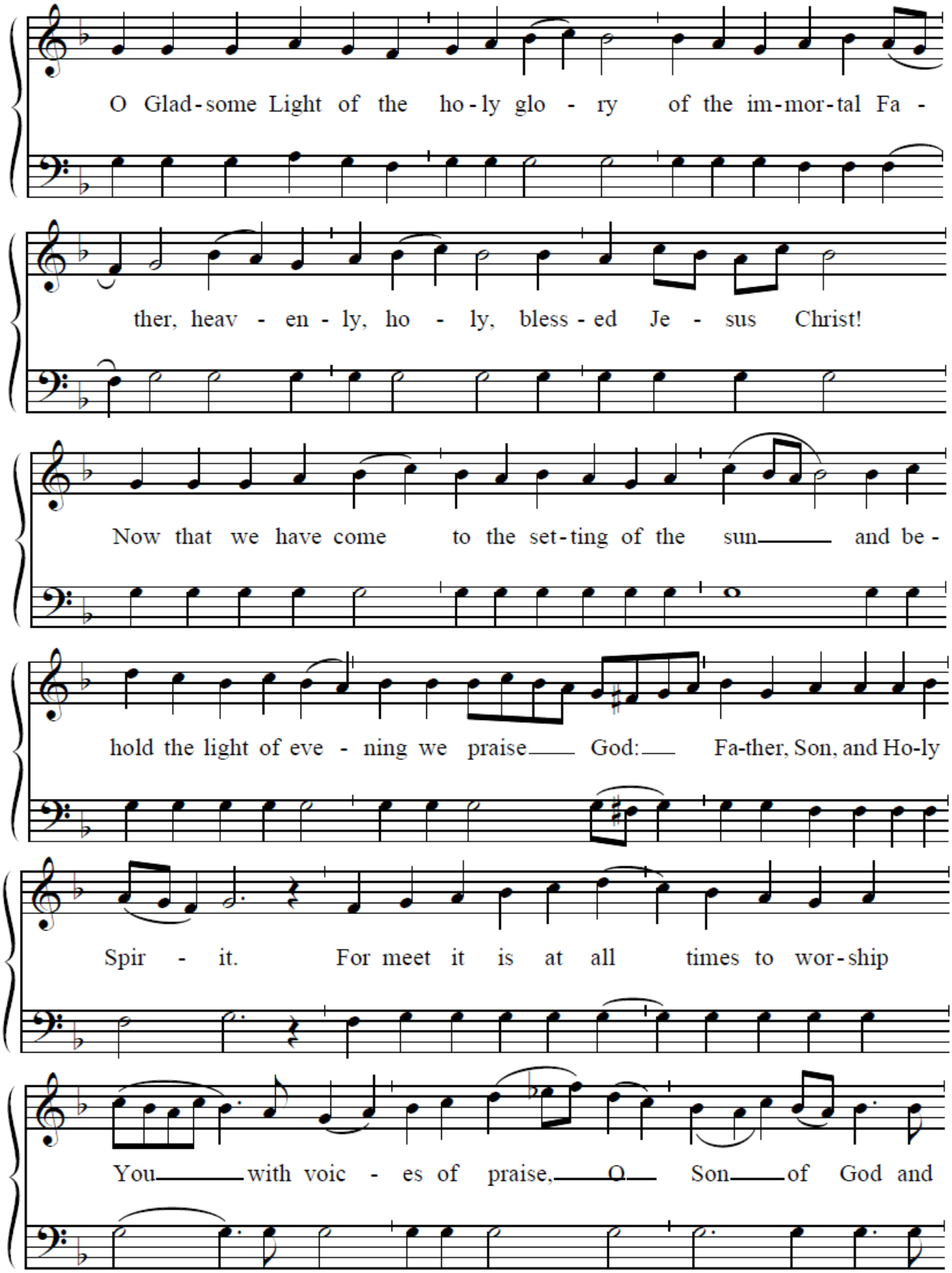


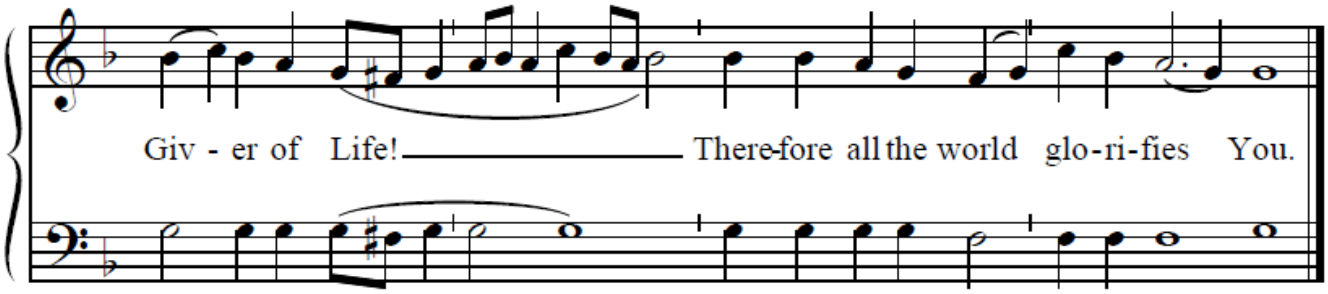
Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Gladsome Light, then Prokeimenon

O Gladsome Light of the Holy Glory of the Immortal Father, Heavenly, Holy, Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening we praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship You with voices of praise, O Son of God, and Giver of Life, therefore all the world glorifies You.

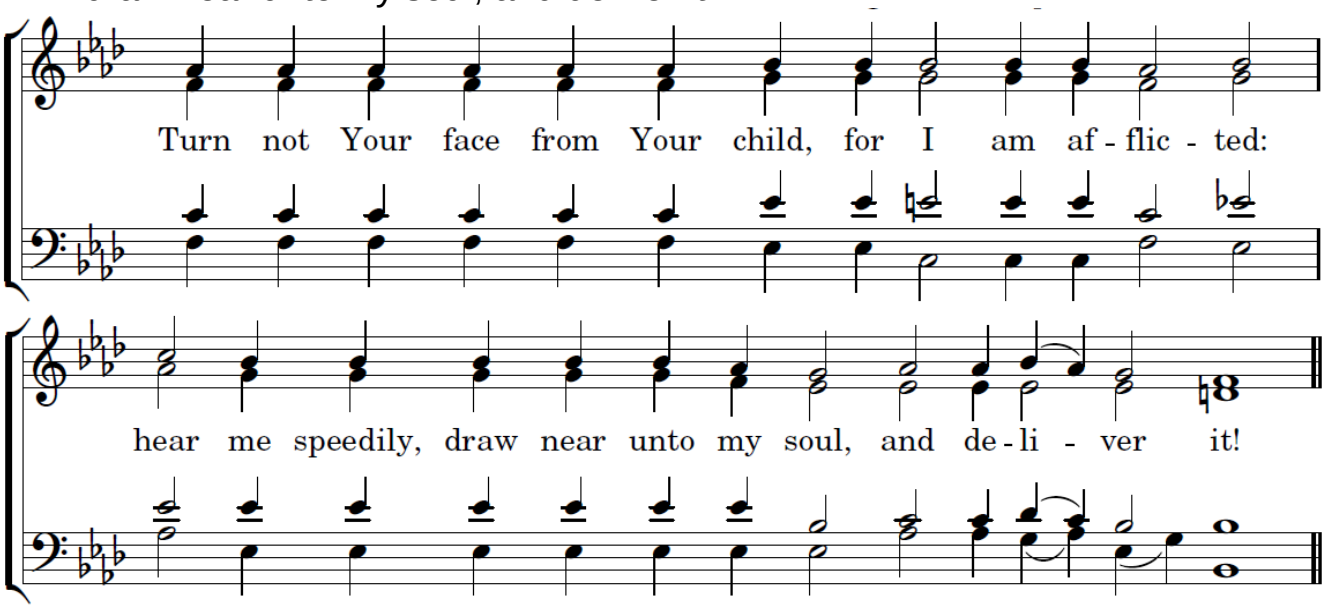
PRIEST STANDS AT THE HIGH PLACE.


O Glad-some Light of the ho-ly glo - ry of the im-mor-tal Fa -
ther, heav - en - ly, ho - ly, bless - ed Je - sus Christ!
Now that we have come to the set-ting of the sun and be -
hold the light of eve - ning we praise God: Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly
Spir - it. For meet it is at all times to wor-ship
You with voic - es of praise, O Son of God and



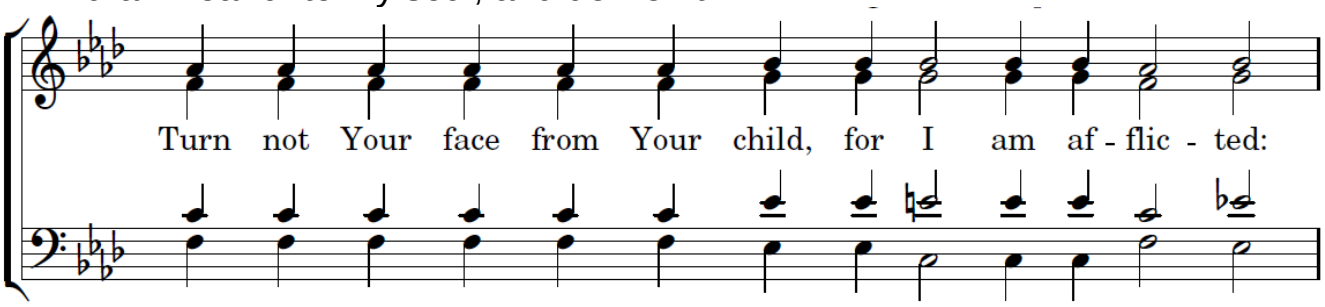
Priest: Let us attend. † Peace be to all. Wisdom. The Great Prokimenon in the *8th* tone. Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!

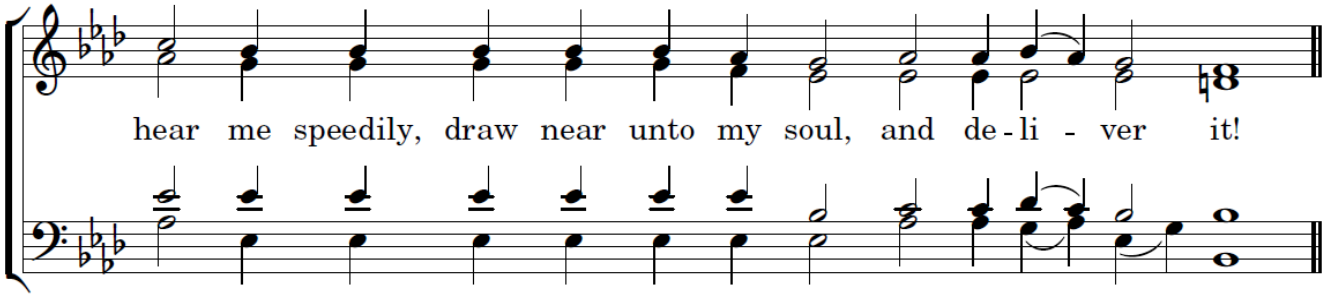
Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!



v: Let Your salvation, O God, uphold me!

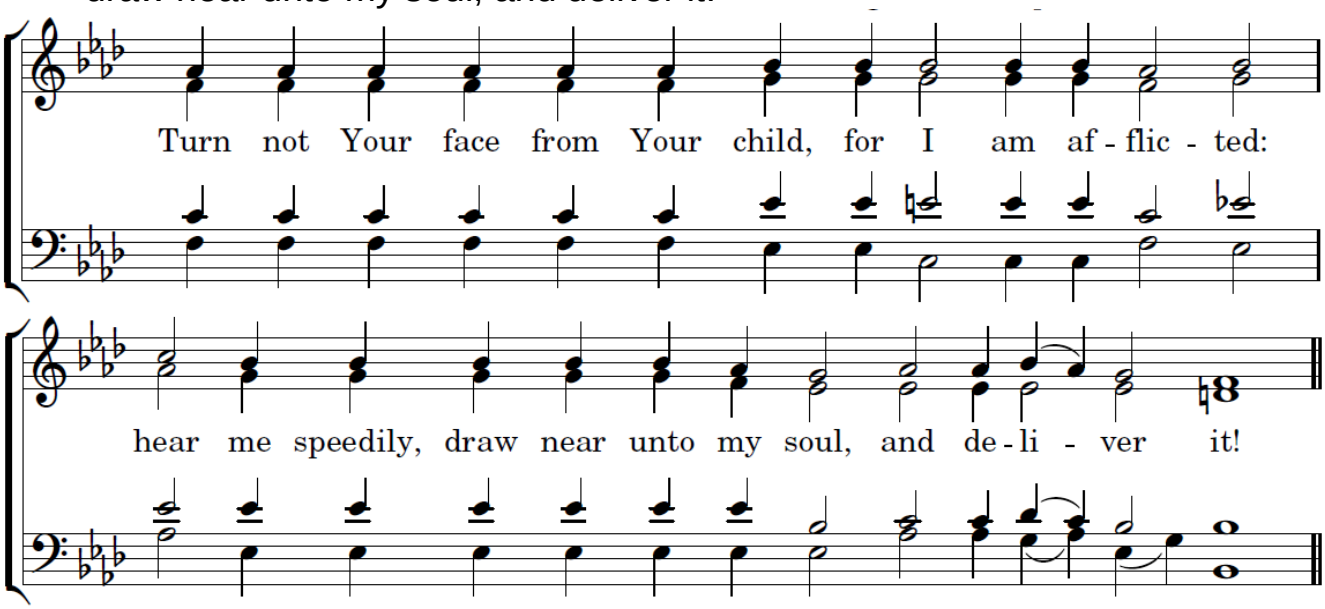
Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!





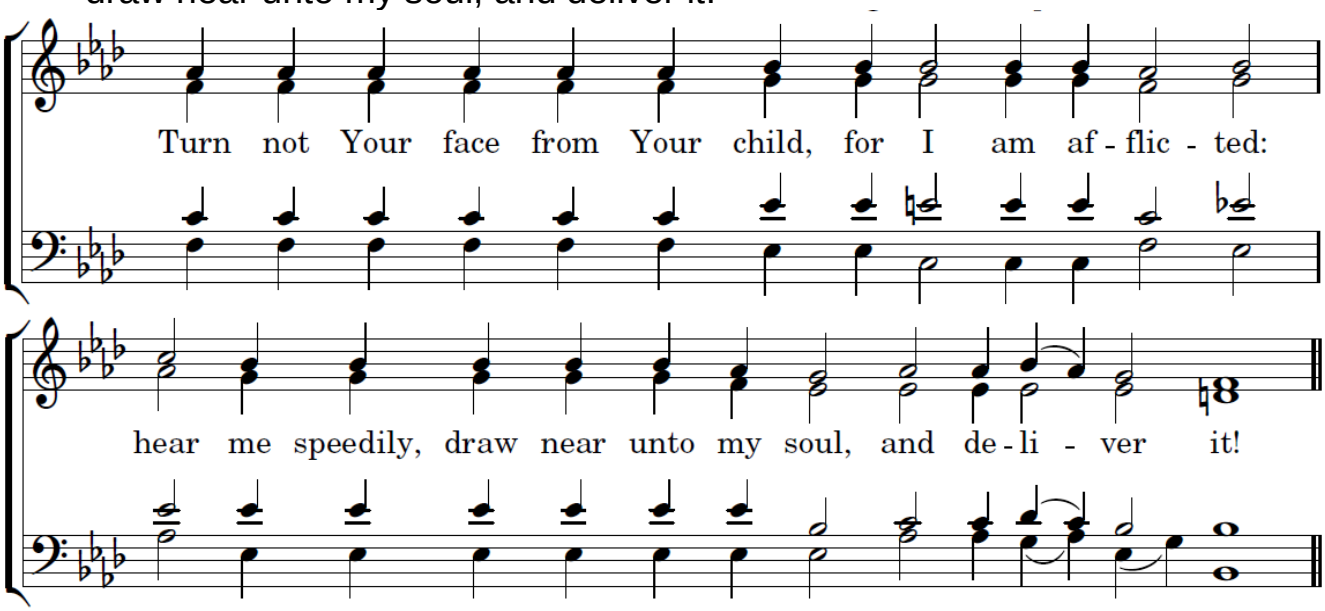
v: Let the poor see and be glad!

Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!



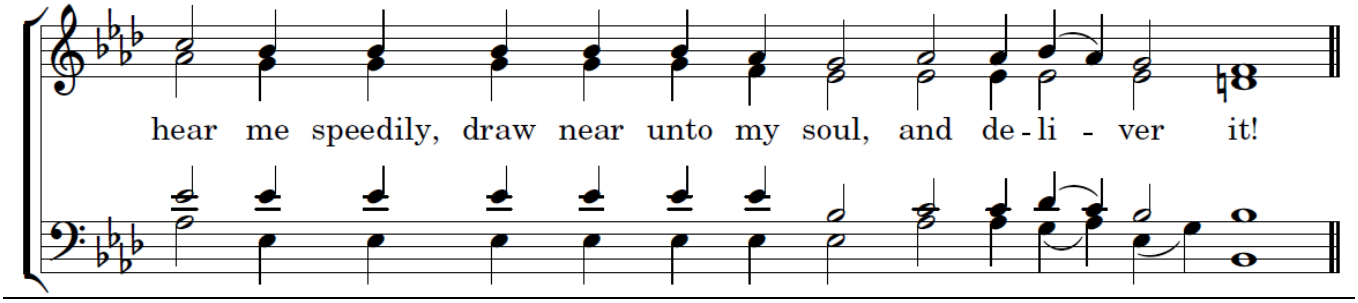
v: Seek God, and your soul shall live!

Choir: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!



v: Turn not Your face from Your child, for I am afflicted: …

Choir: … hear me speedily, draw near unto my soul, and deliver it!



THE HOLY DOORS ARE CLOSED. DURING THE "VOUCHSAFE …" THE PRIEST REMOVES HIS VESTMENTS AND PUTS ON A DARK EPITRAHELION. THE CHURCH VESTMENTS ARE CHANGED TO DARK.

Vouchsafe, O Lord …

Reader, ***chanted slowly and deliberately****:*

Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.
Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your commandments.
Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Your hands.

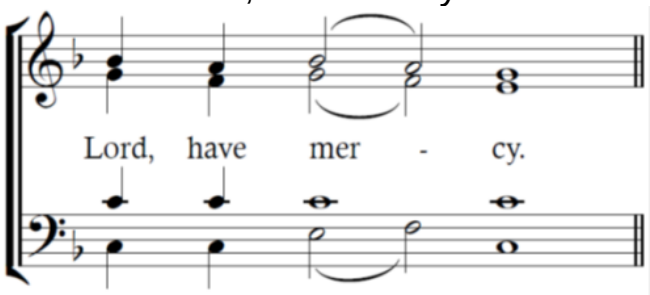
To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

FROM THIS POINT FORWARD, THE RESPONSES ARE SUNG TO THE LENTEN MELODY.

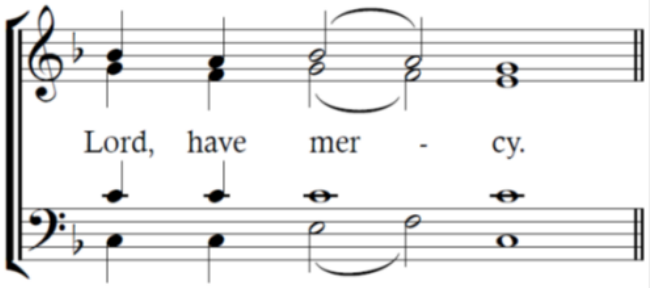
First Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



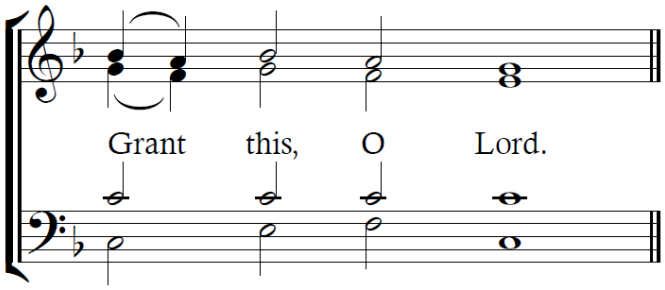
Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.



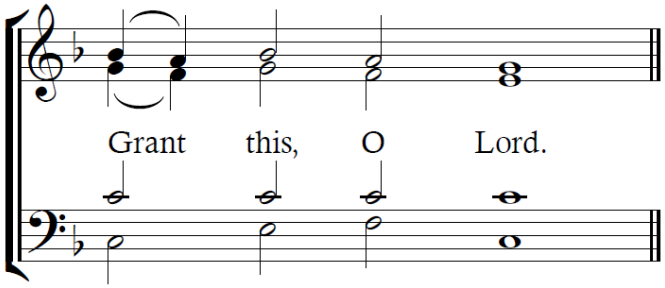
That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.



An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.



Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

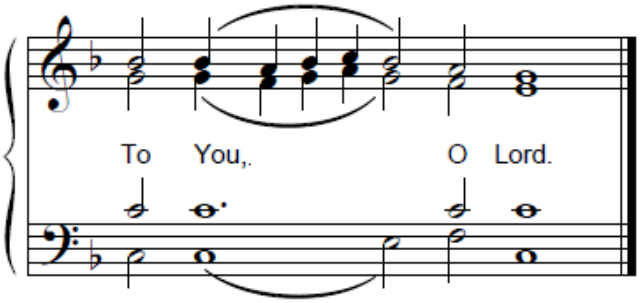
Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

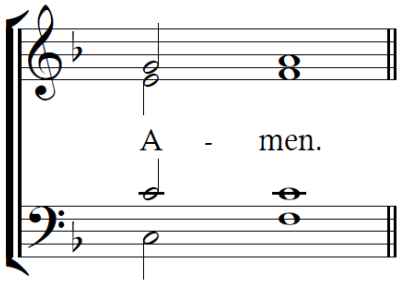
Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To You O Lord.



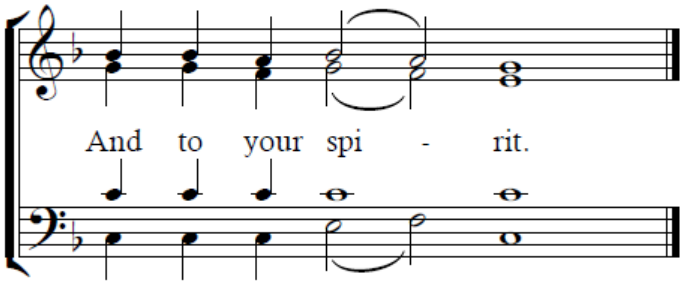
Priest, Exclamation: For You are a good God and the Lover of Mankind, and to You we send up glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.



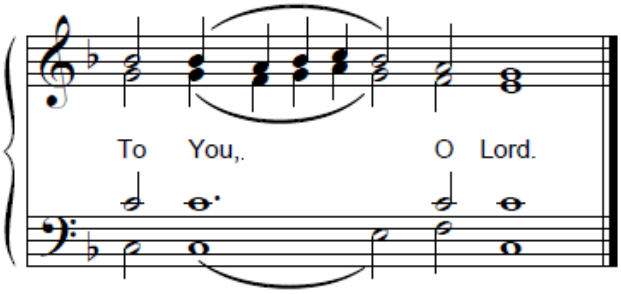
Priest: † Peace be to all.

Choir: And to Your spirit.



Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

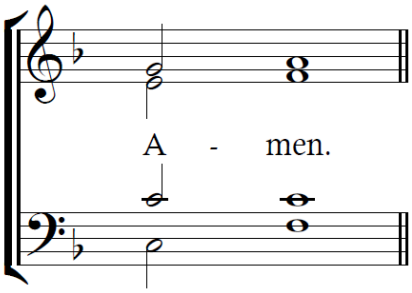


Priest (Prayer at the Bowing of Heads): O Lord our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race: Look upon Your servants and Your inheritance, for unto You, the dread Judge Who loves mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men, but Your mercy, in expectation of Your salvation, whom You protect at all times, both during the present evening and in the approaching night, from every adverse action of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Priest Exclamation: Blessed and most-glorified be the majesty of Your Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

Priest In.

Choir: Amen.



Aposticha (Tone 4)

Your grace has shone forth, O Lord:
the grace which illumines our soul.
This is the acceptable time!
This is the time of repentance!
Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,
that passing through the Fast as through a great sea
we may reach the Resurrection on the third day//
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

Your grace has shone forth, O Lord: the grace which il - lu - mines our soul.

This is the ac - cept - a - ble time! This is the time of re - pent - ance!

Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the ar - mor of light,

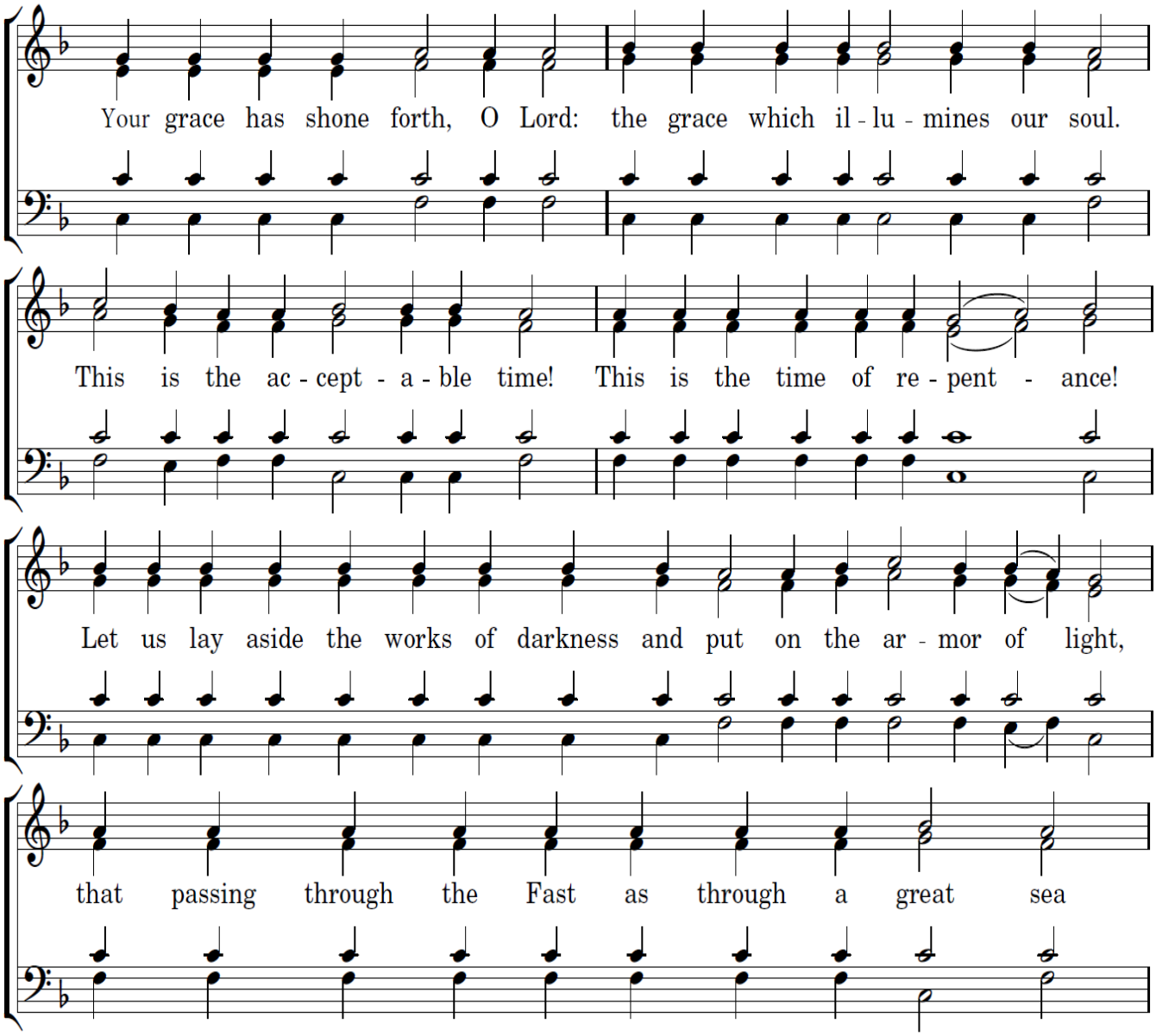
that passing through the Fast as through a great sea

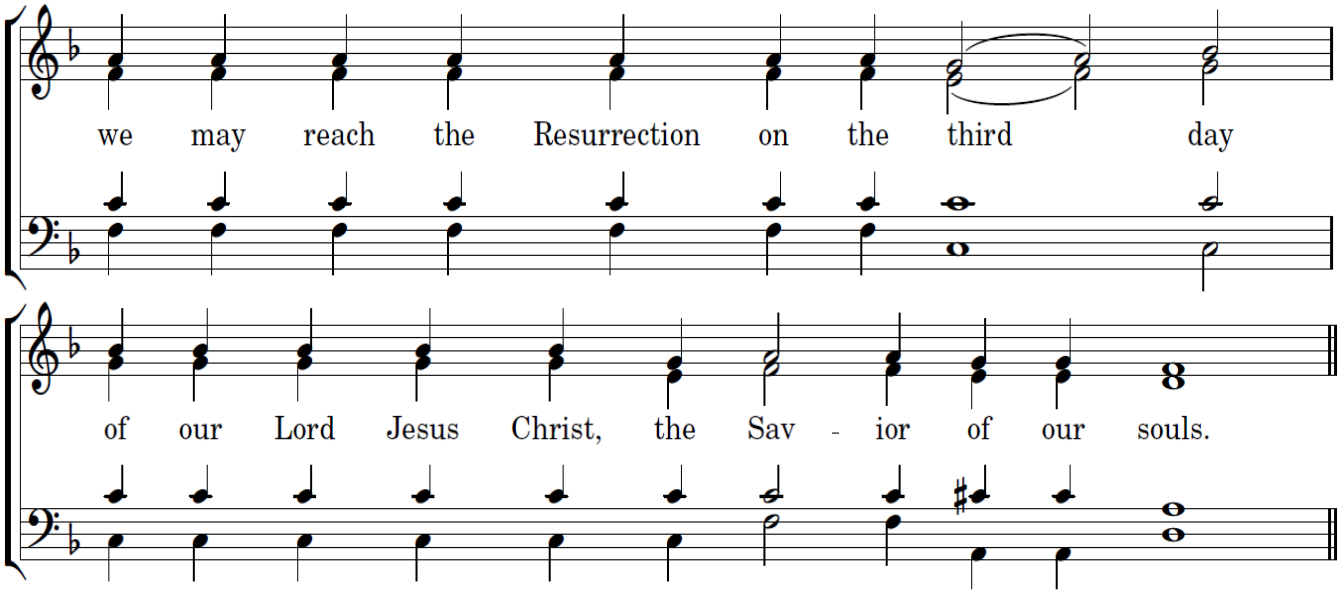
we may reach the Resurrection on the third day

of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Sav - ior of our souls.

v: I lift up my eyes to You, enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the Lord our God, till He have mercy upon us.

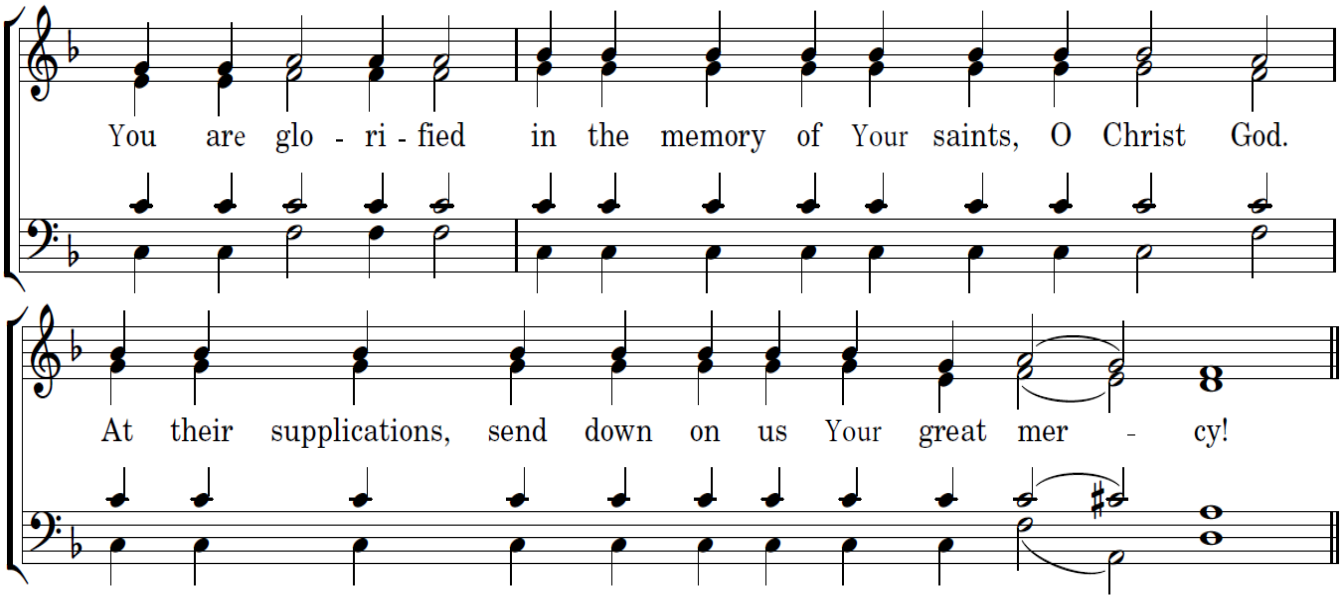
Your grace has shone forth, O Lord:
the grace which illumines our soul.
This is the acceptable time!
This is the time of repentance!
Let us lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light,
that passing through the Fast as through a great sea
we may reach the Resurrection on the third day//
of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.





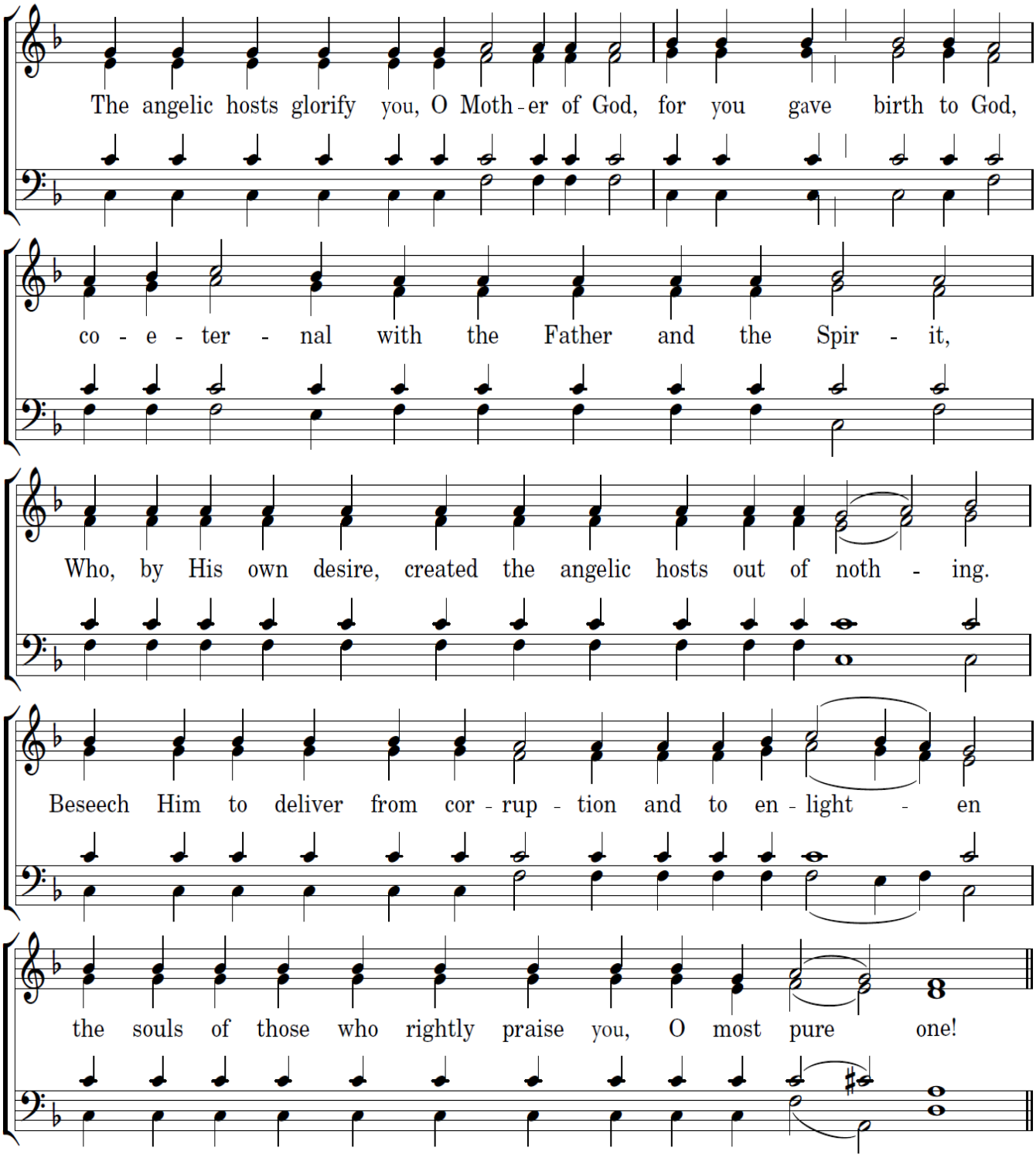
v: Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy upon us, for we have had more than enough of contempt. Too long our soul has been sated with the scorn of those who are at ease, the contempt of the proud.

You are glorified
in the memory of Your saints, O Christ God.//
At their supplications, send down on us Your great mercy!



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The angelic hosts glorify you, O Mother of God,
for you gave birth to God,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
Who, by His own desire, created the angelic hosts out of nothing.
Beseech Him to deliver from corruption and to enlighten//
the souls of those who rightly praise you, O most pure one!



The Prayer of St. Simeon

Reader (read, not sung or chanted):

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people, a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel.

Trisagion Prayers

PRIEST OUT.

Reader (chanted): Holy God! Holy Mighty! Holy Immortal! Have mercy on us. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most-holy Trinity, have mercy on us!
O Lord, cleanse us from our sins!
O Master, pardon our transgressions!
O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Your name's sake!
Lord, have mercy. *(3x)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

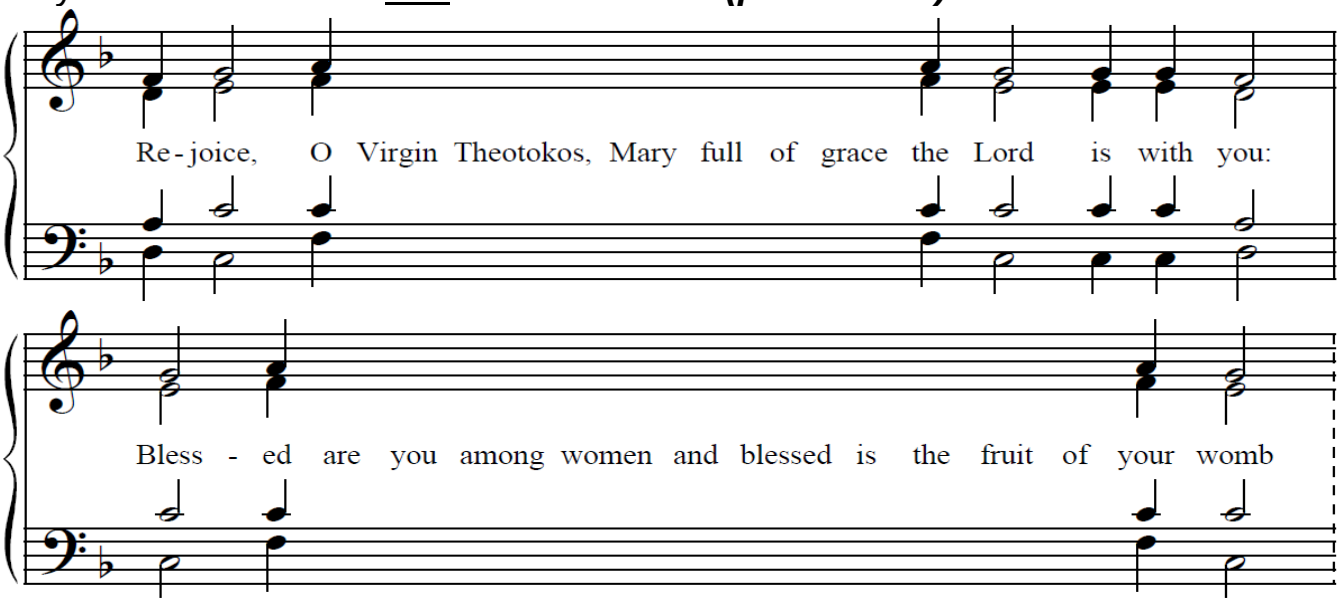
All: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

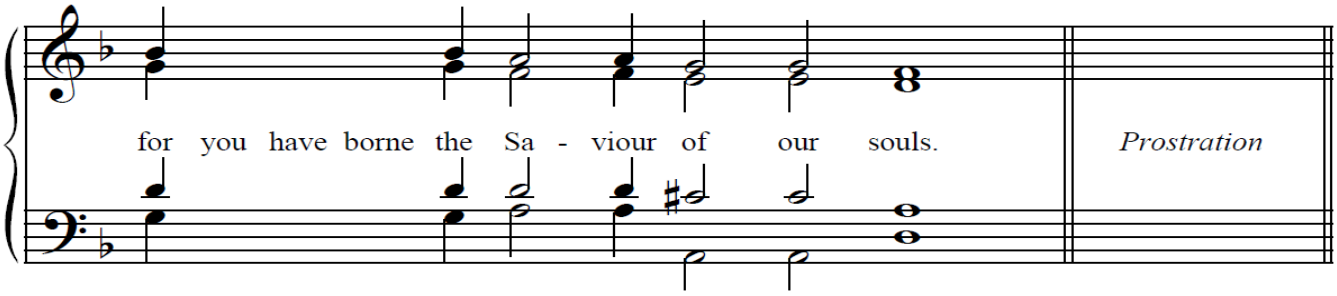
Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

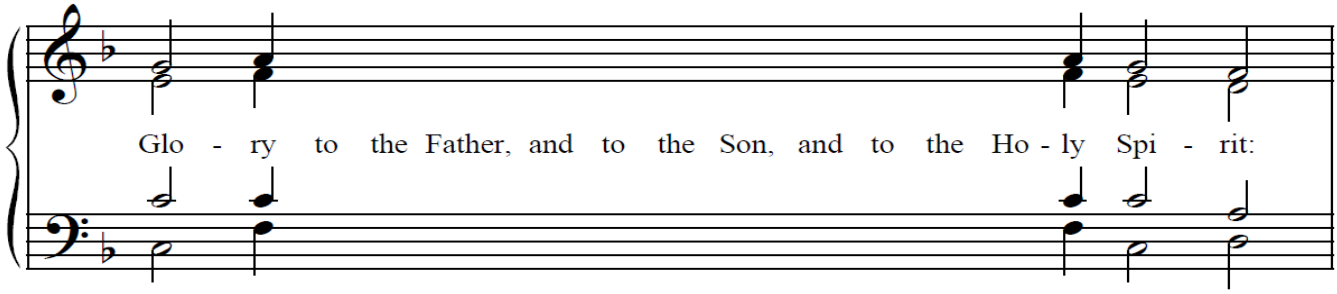
Apolytikion (Dismissal Troparion) – Tone 8

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mary full of grace! The Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb; //
for you have borne the Savior of our souls. ***(prostration)***

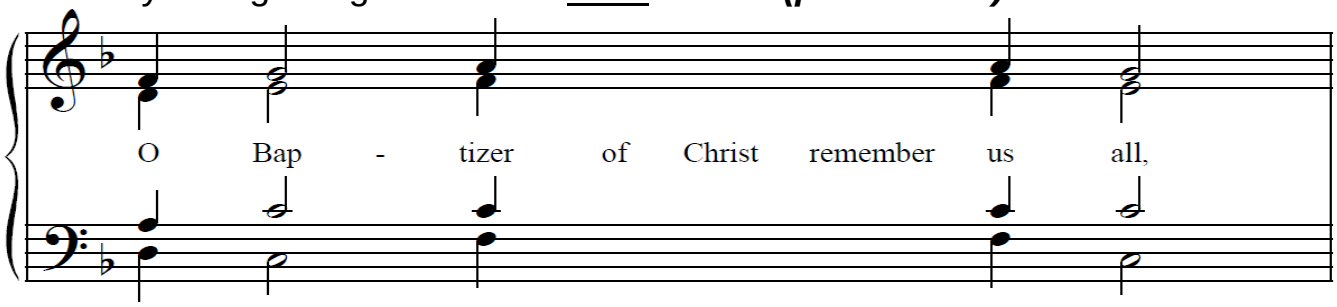


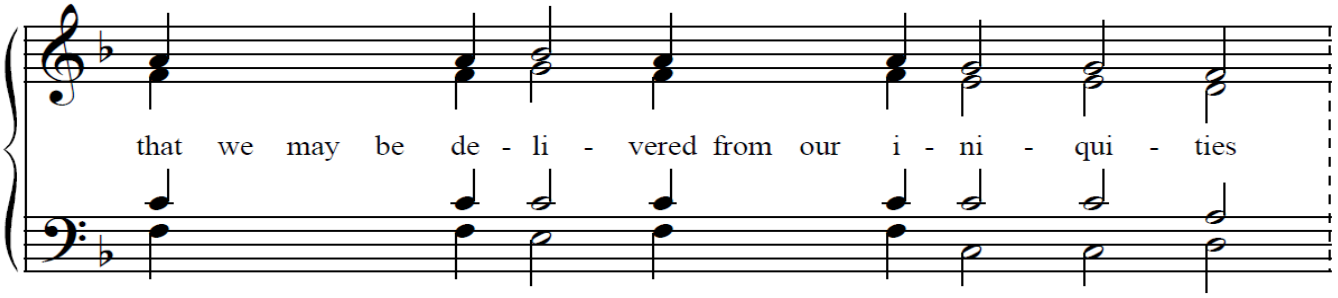


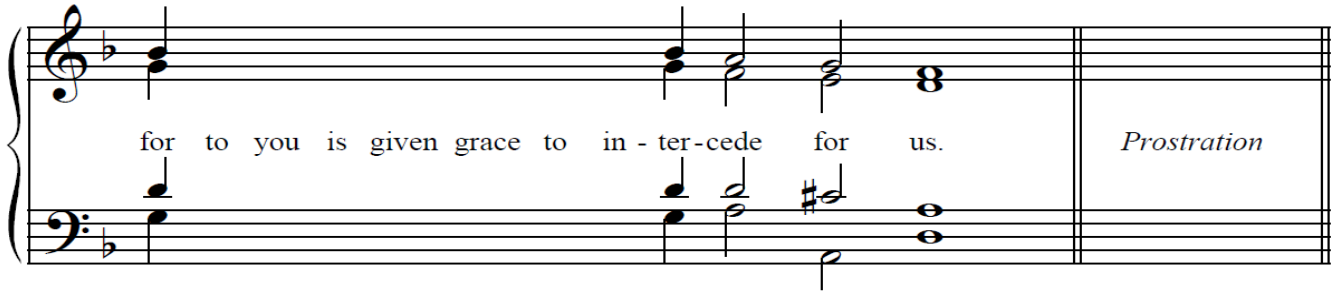
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,



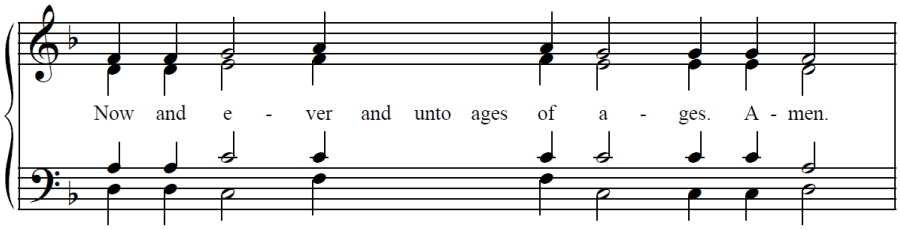
O Baptiser of Christ, remember us all,
that we may be delivered from our iniquities;//
for to you is given grace to intercede for us! ***(prostration)***



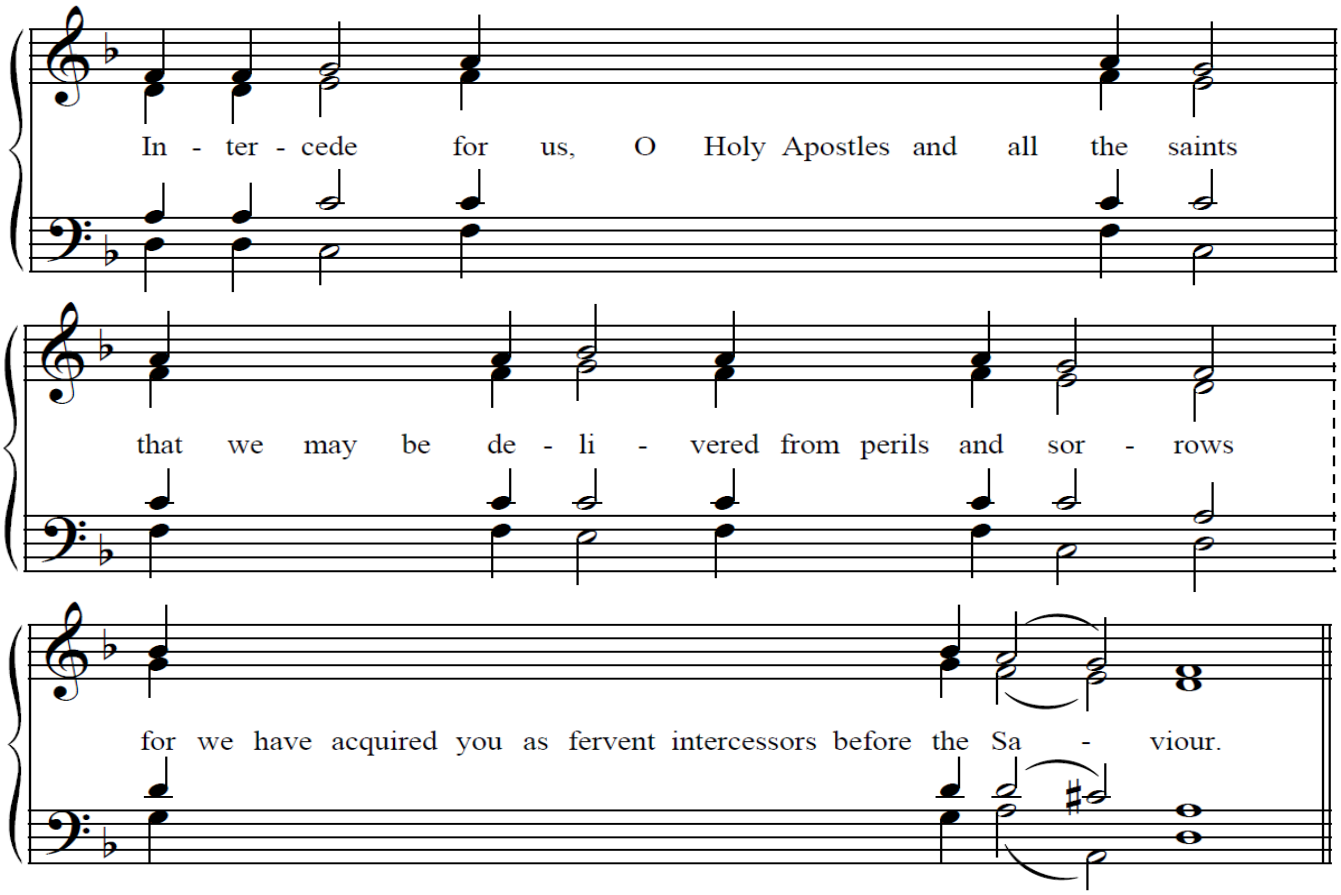




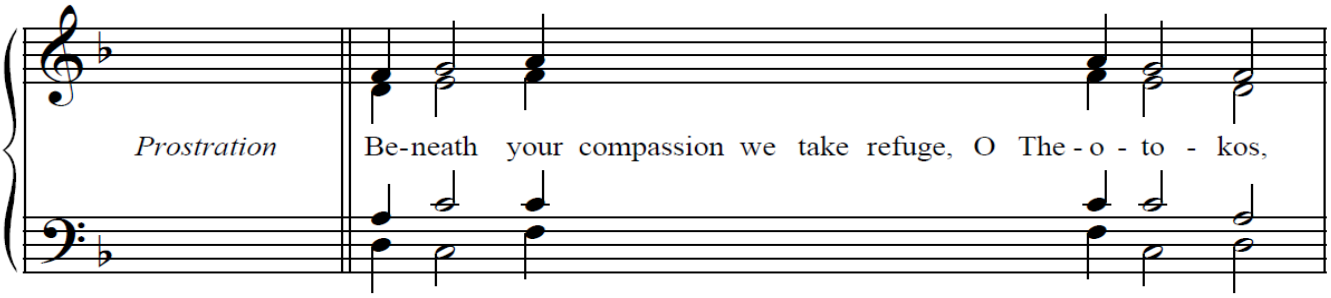
Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

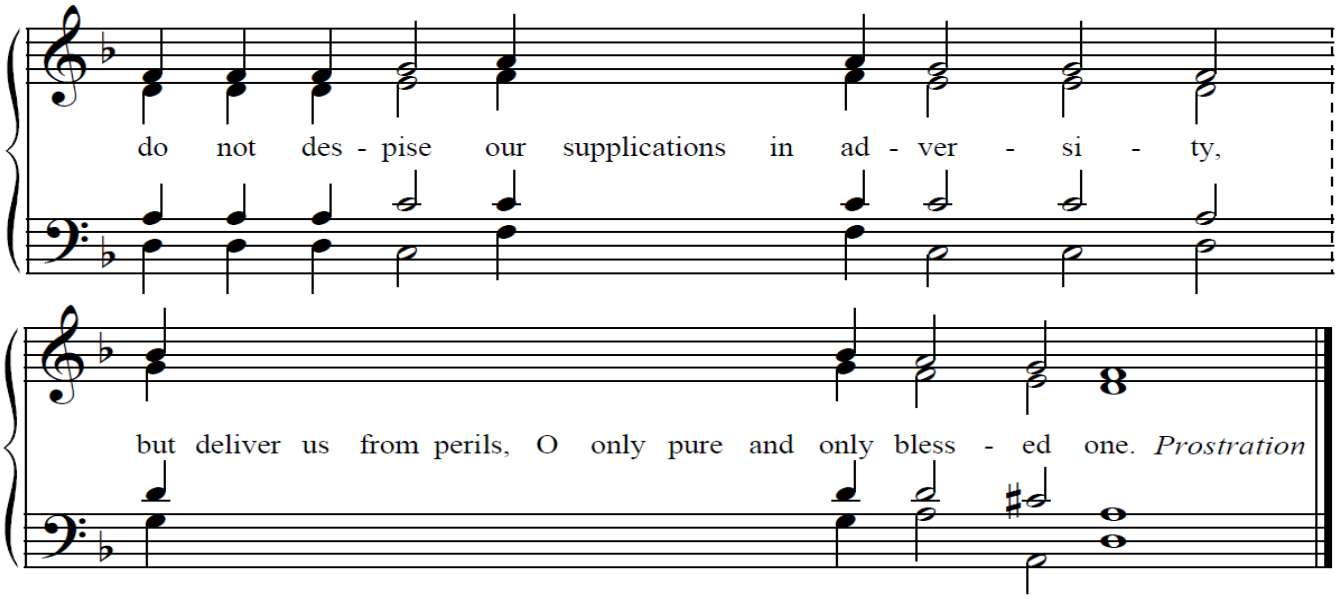


Intercede for us, O holy Apostles and all the saints,
that we may be delivered from perils and sorrows;//
for we have acquired you as fervent intercessors before the Savior!
(prostration)



Beneath your compassion we take refuge, O Theotokos.
Do not despise our supplications in adversity,//
but deliver us from perils, O only pure and only blessed one! ***(no prostration)***





Reader: Lord, have mercy! *(x 40)*

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify You.

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless!

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen. O Heavenly King, establish the Orthodox Christians, confirm the faith, quiet the heathen, give peace to the world, place our departed fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, in the tabernacles of the Righteous, and accept us who sorrow and repent, for You are good and love mankind.

The Prayer of St. Ephraim

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. **(*prostration*.)**

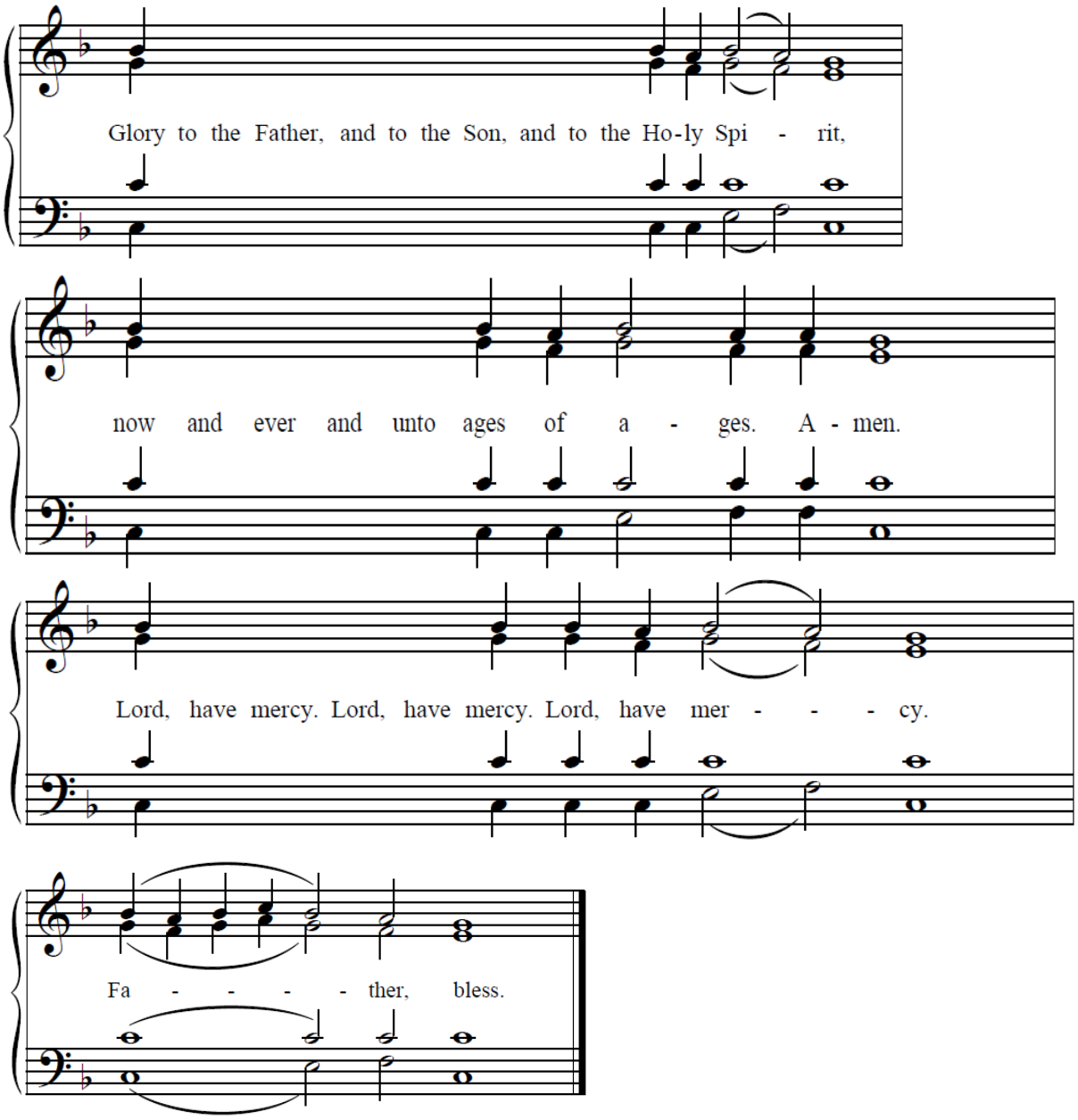
But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. **(*prostration*.)**

O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen. **(*prostration*.)**

O God, cleanse me a sinner! *(x12, with bows at each repetition)*

Priest: O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant. O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed are You unto ages of ages. Amen. **(*prostration*.)**

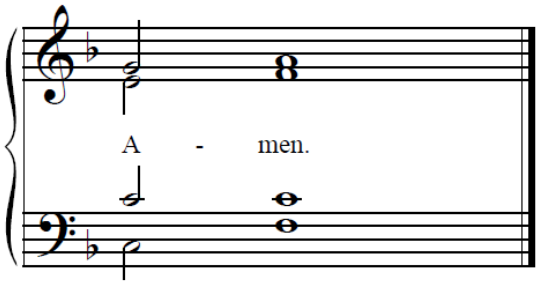
Priest: Glory to You, O Christ God, our Hope, glory to You.
Choir: Glory … now and ever … Lord, have mercy *(x3)*. Father, bless.



AND THE PRIEST PRONOUNCES THE DISMISSAL.

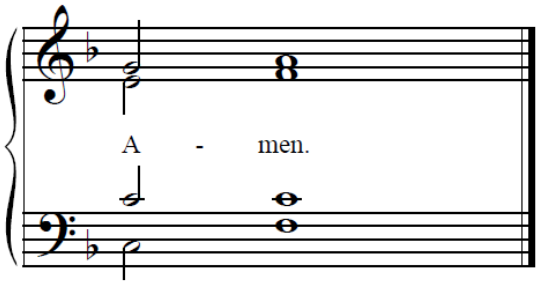
May Christ our true God, through the prayers of His Most-pure Mother; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of Heaven; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of Saint *Archippus* whom we commemorate today; of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the Saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Loves of Mankind.

Choir: Amen.



A brief homily is given, then follows the ceremony of mutual forgiveness. The priest stands beside the analogion, and the faithful come up one by one and venerate the ikon, after which each makes a bow before the priest, saying "Forgive me, a sinner." The priest also makes a bow before each "May God forgive you. Forgive me." The person responds, "May God forgive you" and receives a blessing from the priest. Meanwhile the choir sings quietly the Irmoi of the Paschal Canon, or else the Paschal Aposticha. After receiving the priests blessing, the faithful also ask forgiveness of each other.

When all have asked forgiveness, the priest says:

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.