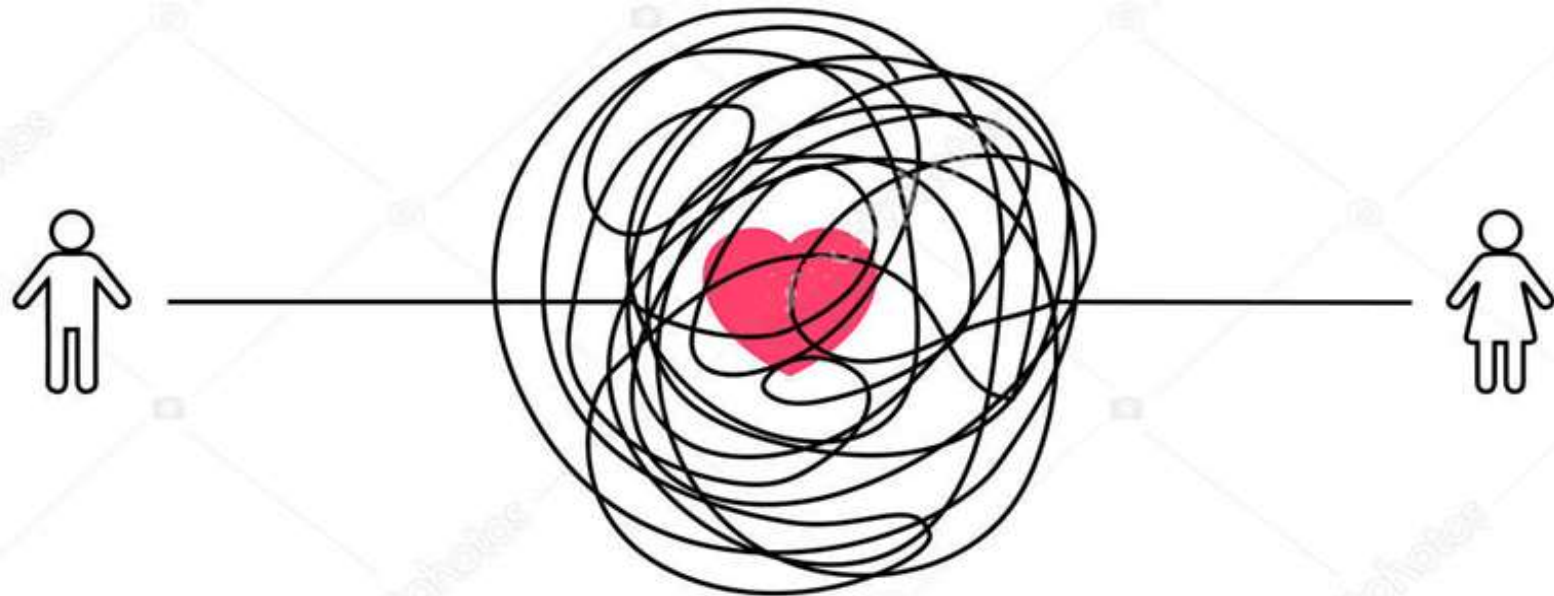


# **St. Peter's Lutheran Church**



**Seventh Sunday in Epiphany**  
**February 23, 2025**

# **Welcome to worship at St. Peter's Lutheran Church**

We give thanks for your presence in worship this day and we pray you will find inspiration and hope in this worship experience. Our service is contained on the projected slides you see on the screens. If you wish paper copies of the hymns, they are available as well.

**Please take the time to  
register your presence  
this day on the pad in your pew.**

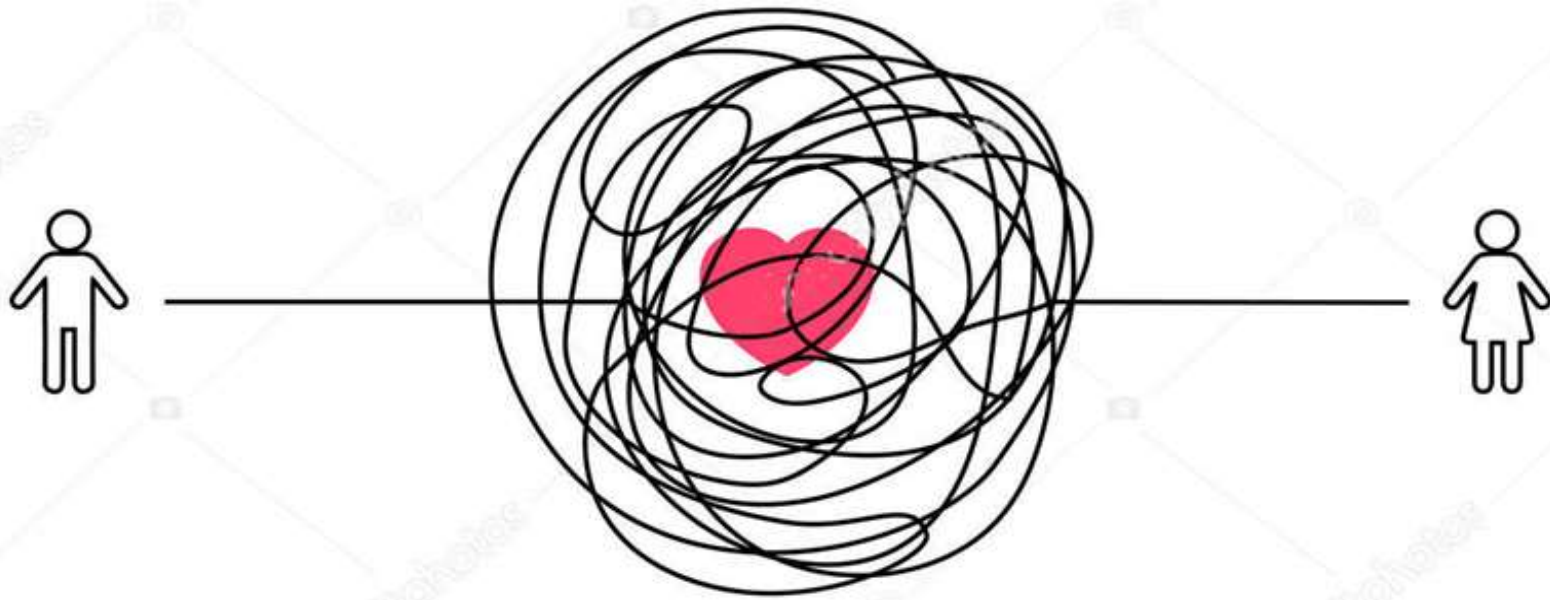
**If you're watching on Facebook give  
us a "like".**

## **Our Gospel lesson today continues the Sermon on the Plain in Luke's Gospel.**

Today, that lesson is paired with the familiar story of Joseph and his brothers. And, in many respects this ancient story provides a “show and tell” for our Gospel. Loving people we dislike is really one of life's great challenges. Yet, changes in relationship open the way to new life and new hope for individuals and for nations.

**Please note that our annual congregational meeting occurs after our morning service today.**

We give thanks for many gifts during the past year. Please remain to hear how our congregation is serving 15-20,000 people in Georgetown County.



**Prelude**  
**Mr. Garry Hanna**

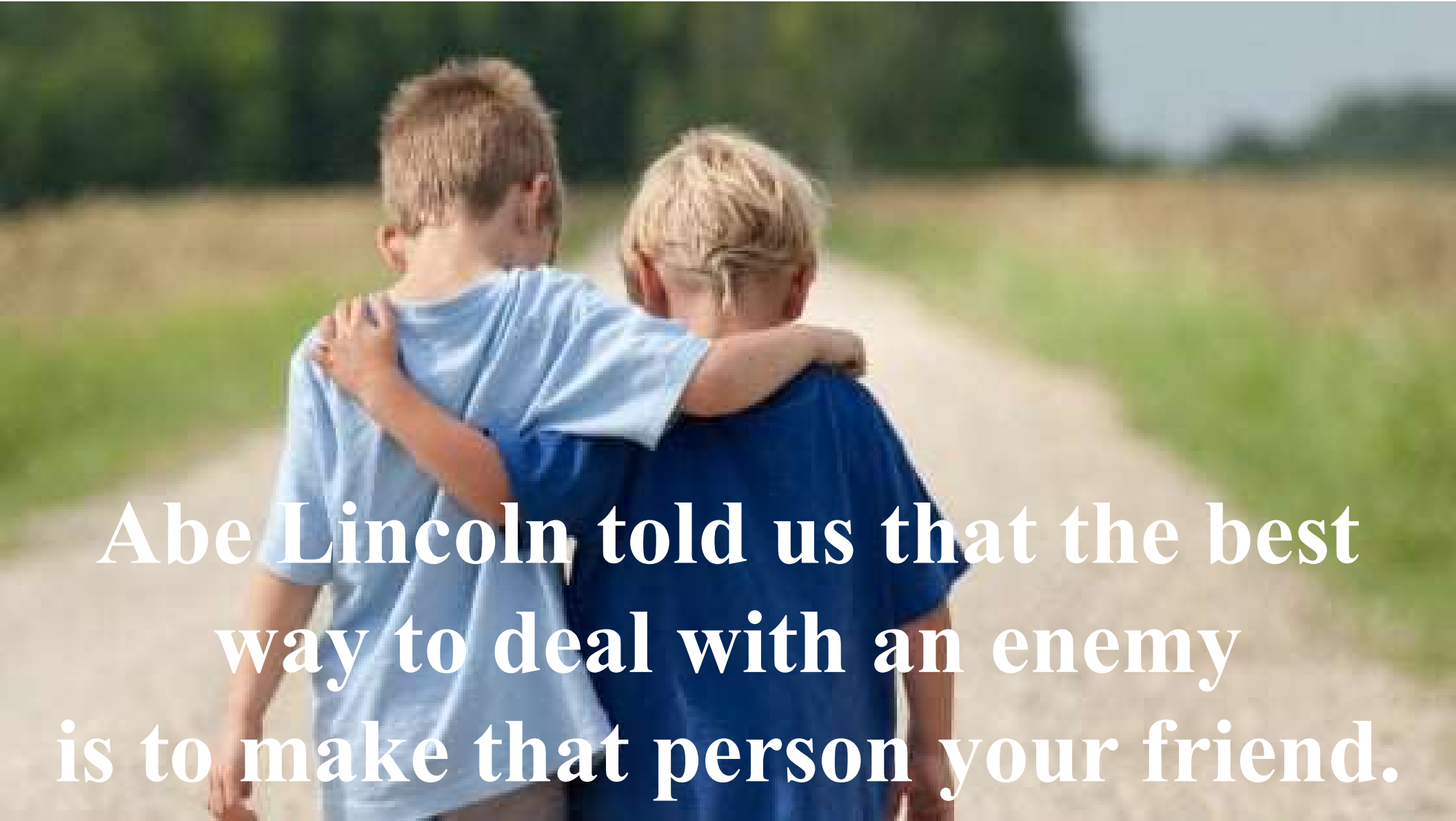
# **Frenemies**

**In a paradoxical world,  
frenemies is a word.**

**All of us have encountered  
untrustworthy “friends”.**

**Yet, somehow, we managed  
to form relationships.**





**Abe Lincoln told us that the best way to deal with an enemy is to make that person your friend.**



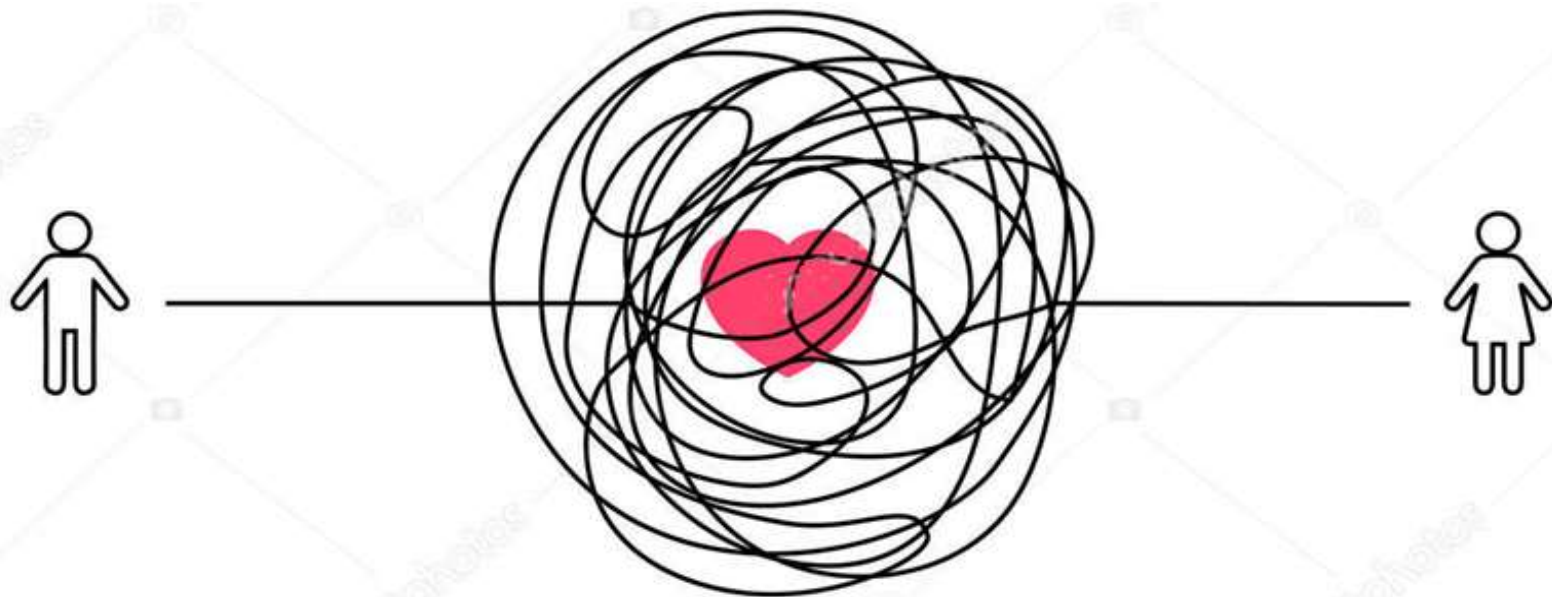
**“Easier said than done!”**

**We respond as we bask  
in anger enhanced  
blood pressure.**

**Better to ignore the enemy  
than to experience love.**



**Love is rewarding but complicated.  
Loving requires giving ourselves.  
Ultimate loving gives completely.**





**Loving enemies challenges assumptions,  
but brings new realities and  
expectations, hope — and God's love  
at work within us.**



**Paradox is God's way.**

# CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: In the name of the Father, and of  
the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart;**




**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**C: Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for  
us, and for his sake God forgives  
us all our sins. As a called and  
ordained minister of the church of  
Christ, and by his authority,

I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

# PEACE

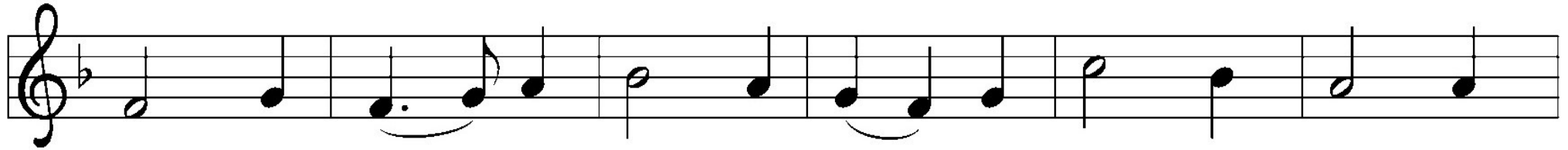
*The ministers may exchange the peace with the baptized, with their sponsors and parents, and with the congregation.*

P: Peace be with you.

C: **Peace be with you.**

*All return to their places.*

## Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us



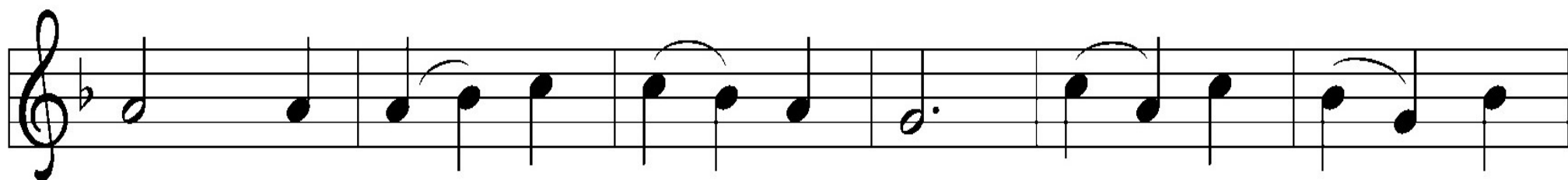
1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



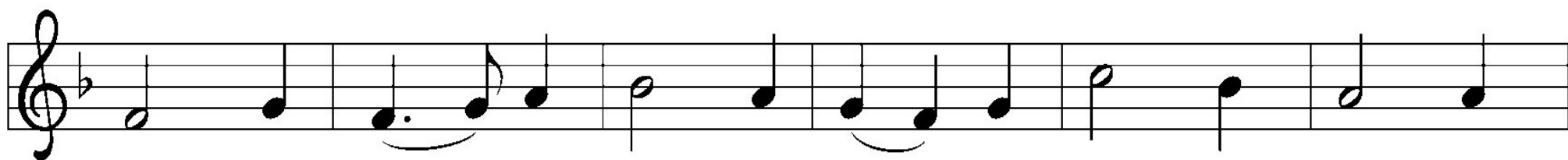
men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en



bless - ings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful



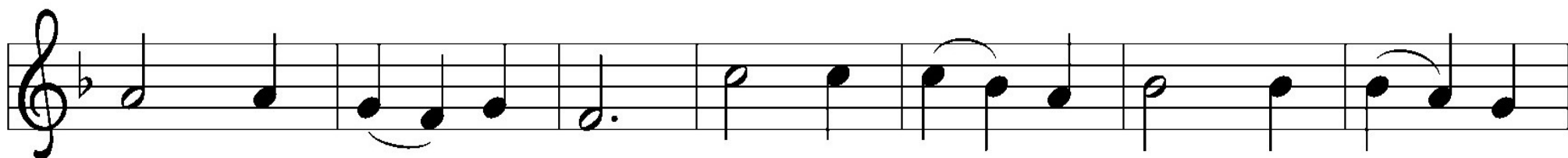
and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand:



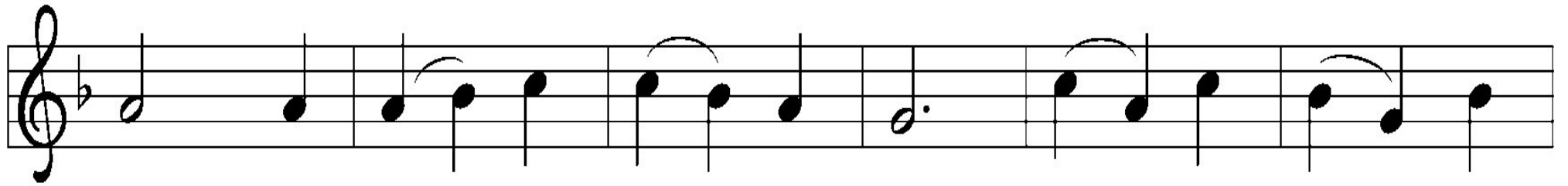
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,



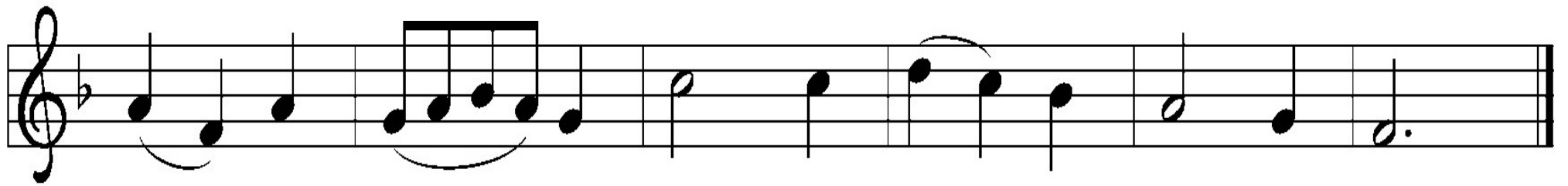
of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our



thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,

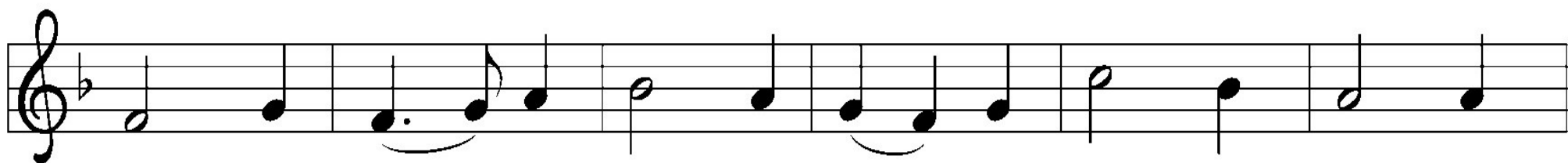


warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py



and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.





3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest



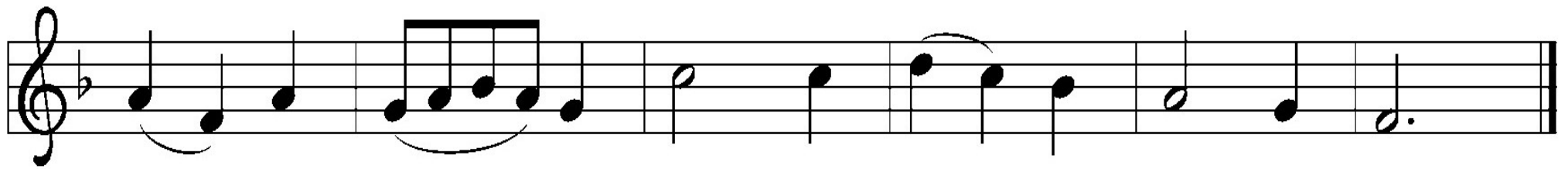
char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have



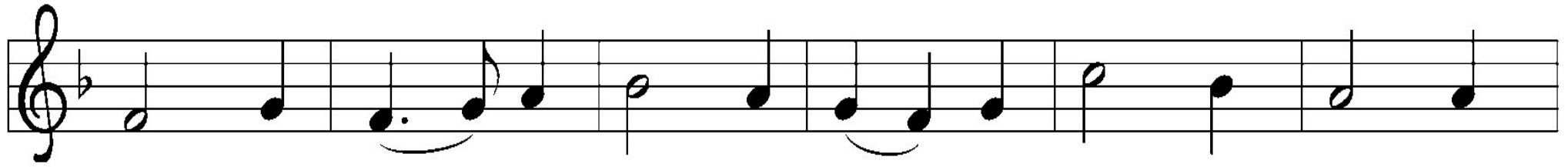
done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—



in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your



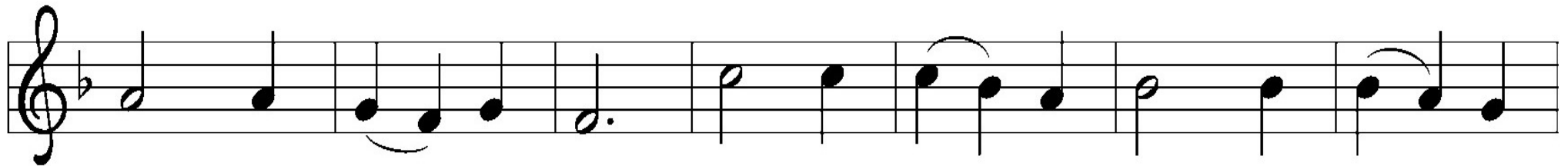
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."



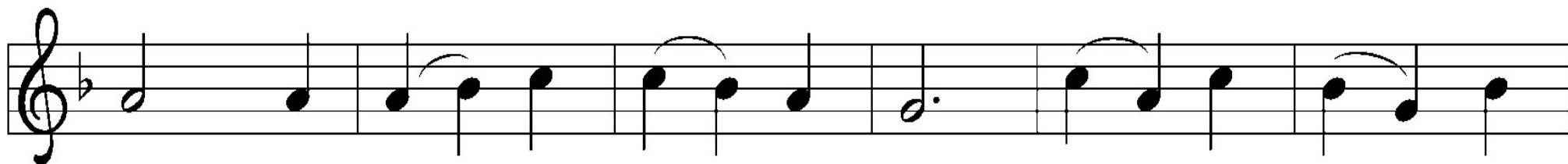
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood



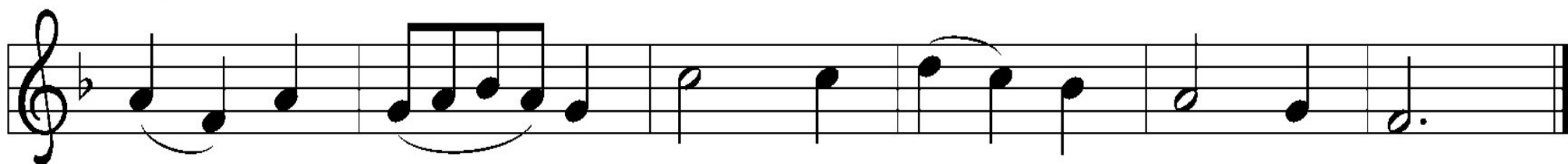
as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -



men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,



hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

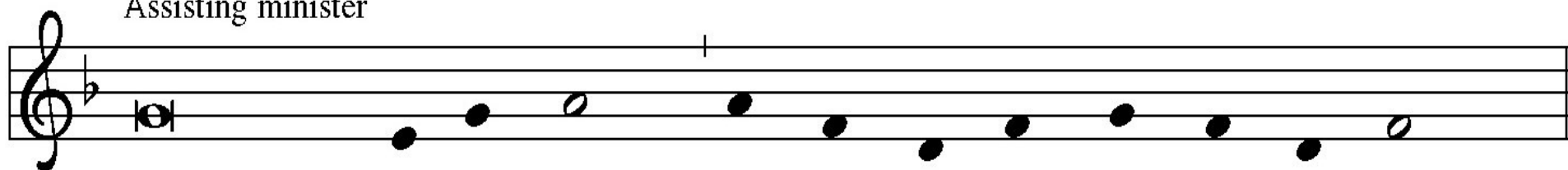
Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be  
with you all.

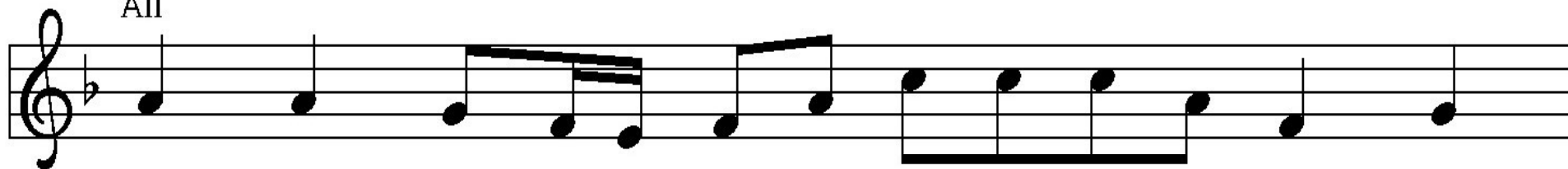
**C: And also to you.**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



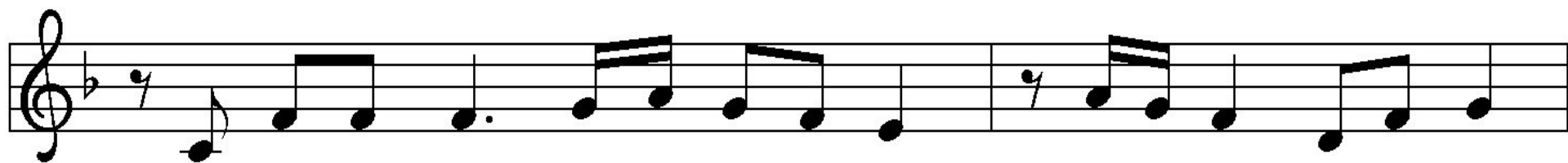
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



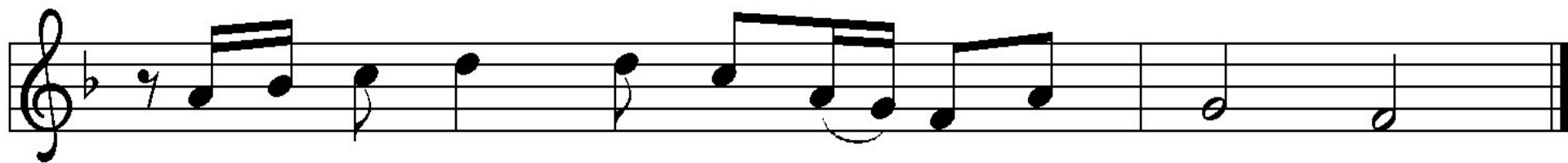
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



# Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope.

Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:Amen.**

# FIRST READING: Genesis 45:3-11, 15

*The reading may be announced*

A reading from Genesis the 45<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine

has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house

and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all

that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ”

<sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# PSALM: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

*The psalm for the day is sung*

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by | evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither | like the  
grass,  
and like the green grass | fade  
away.**

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> **Take delight | in the LORD,  
who shall give you your | heart's  
desire.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust |  
in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your  
vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like  
the | noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who  
prosperes, the one who succeeds in | evil  
schemes.

<sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to  
evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- |  
sess the land.

<sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall | be no  
more;  
even if you search out their place, they  
will | not be there.**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes  
from | you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in | time of  
trouble.**

40 You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue  
them;

you will rescue them from the wicked and  
deliver them, because in you | they seek  
refuge.

# SECOND READING

## 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

*The reading may be announced*

A reading from 1 Corinthians the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not



come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

<sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.

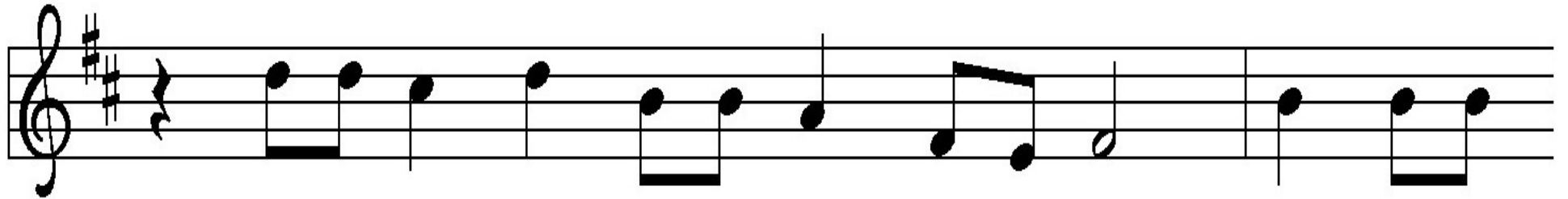
<sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please Stand as you are able*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

# **GOSPEL: Luke 6:27-38**

*The gospel is announced.*

**P:** The holy gospel according to Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.



<sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.

<sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

<sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

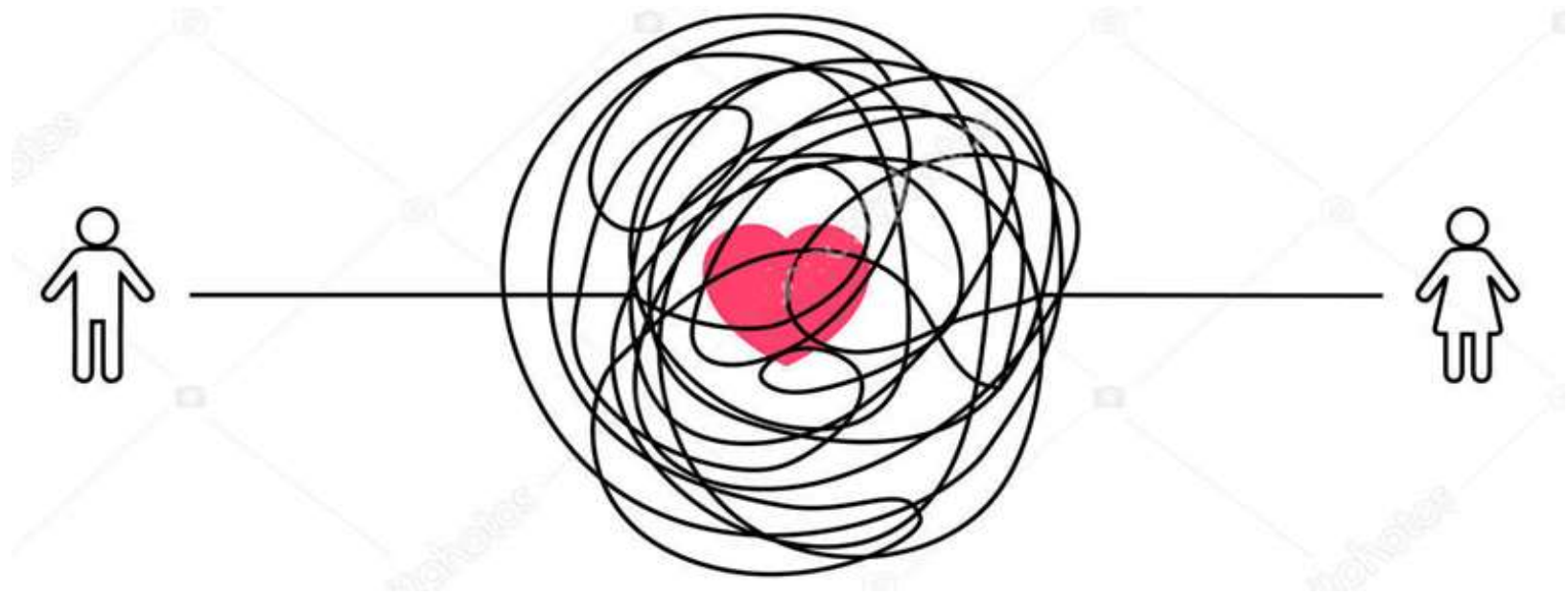
<sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> “Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you.

A good measure, pressed down,  
shaken together, running over, will be  
put into your lap; for the measure you  
give will be the measure you get  
back.”

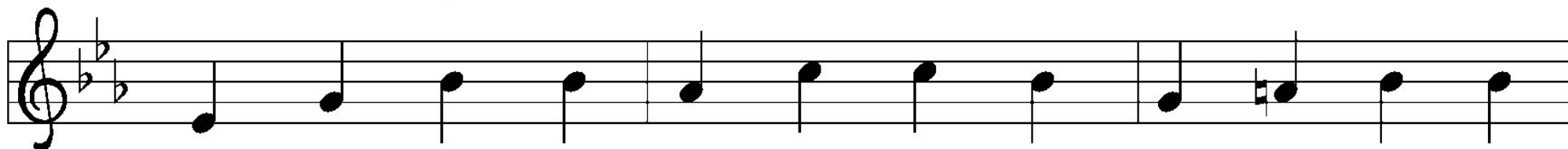
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

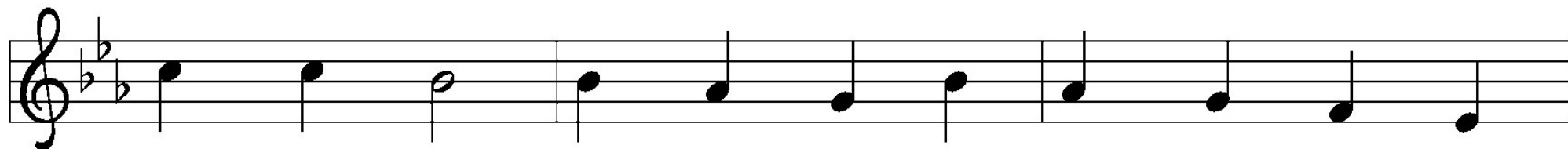


# Sermon - Frenemies

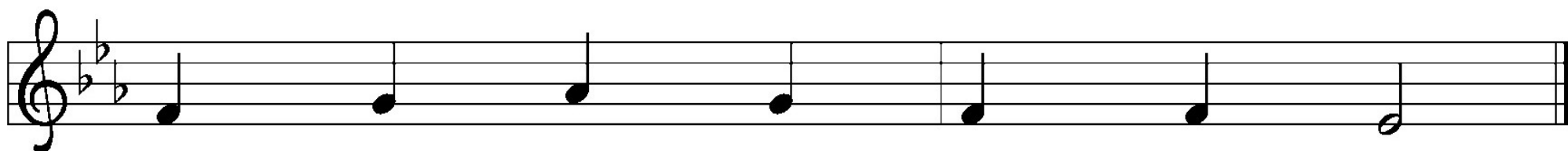
## God, When Human Bonds Are Broken



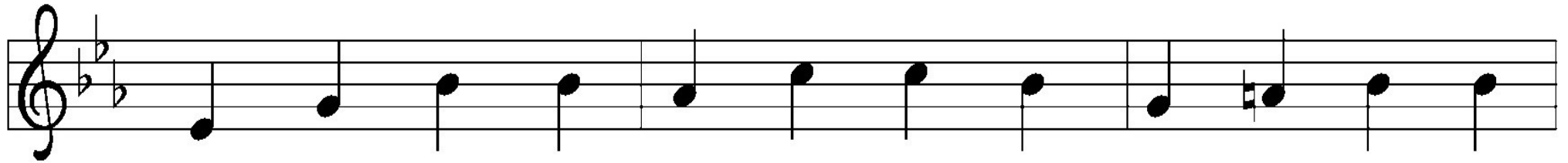
1 God, when hu - man bonds are bro - ken and we lack the



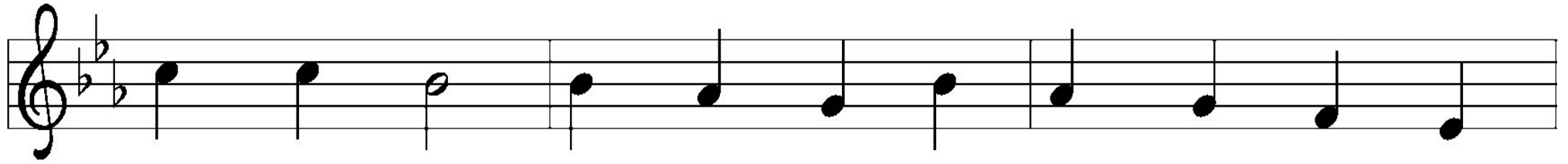
love or skill to re - store the hope of heal - ing,



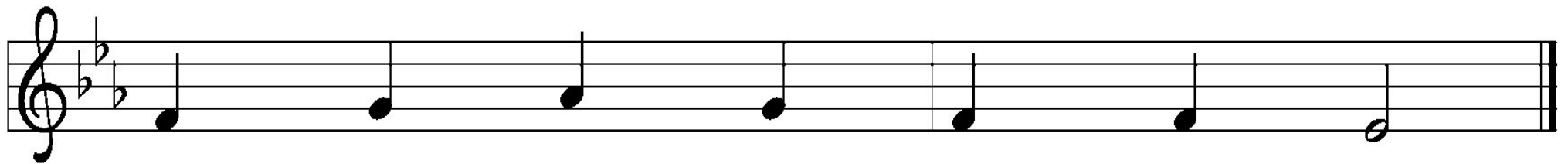
give us grace and make us still.



2 Through that still - ness, with your Spir - it come in - to our

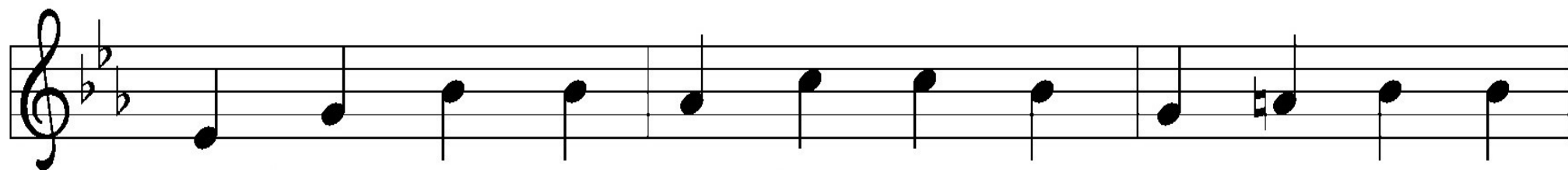


world of stress, for the sake of Christ for - giv - ing



all the fail - ures we con - fess.

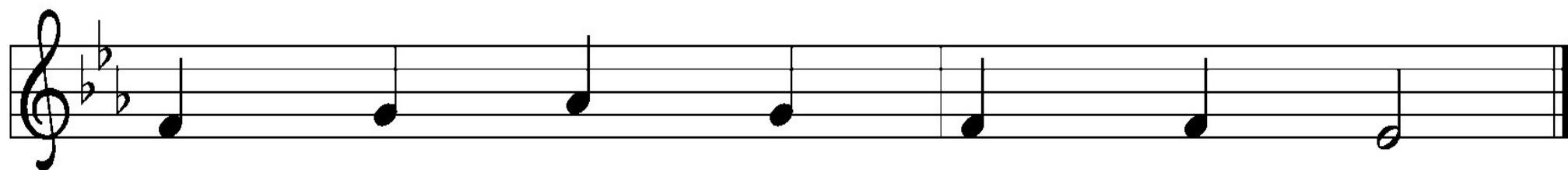




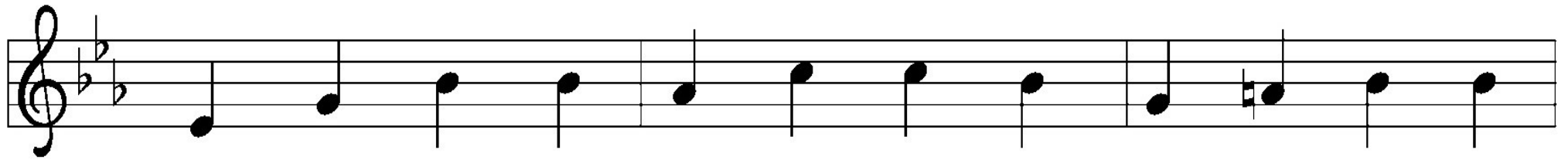
3 You in us are bruised and bro - ken: hear us as we



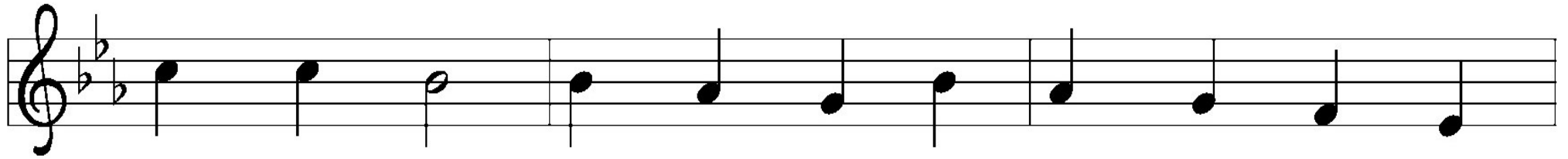
seek re - lease from the pain of ear - lier liv - ing;



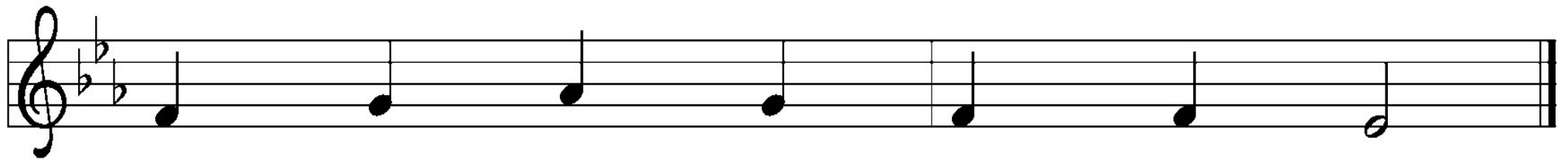
set us free and grant us peace.



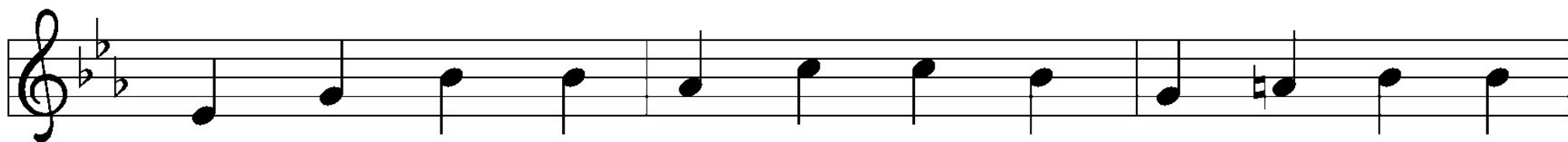
4 Send us, God of new be - gin - nings, hum - bly hope - ful



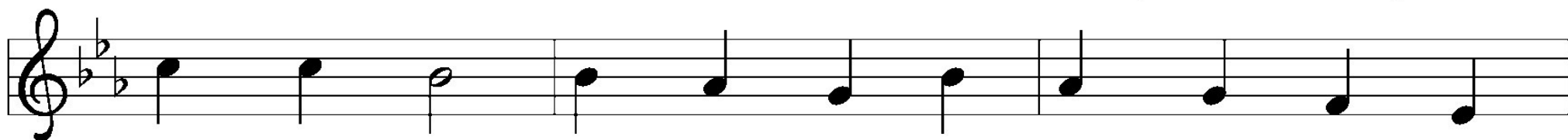
in - to life. Use us as a means of bless - ing:



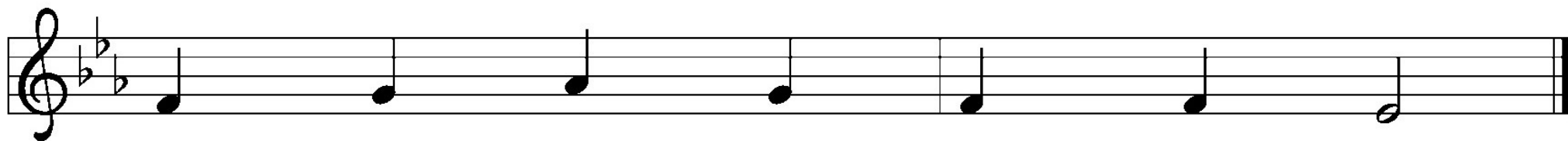
make us stron - ger, give us faith.



5 Give us faith to be more faith - ful, give us hope to



be more true, give us love to go on learn - ing:



God, en - cour - age and re - new!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

# **Apostles' Creed**

**P/A: Claimed by God in Baptism we  
declare what we believe.**

**I believe in God, the Father  
almighty, creator of heaven  
and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
God's only Son, our Lord, who  
was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was  
buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven, he is  
seated at the right hand of the  
Father, and he will come to judge  
the living and the dead..**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

# PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*



P/A: Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P/A:** As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P/A:** We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P/A:** We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care (*especially*). God of grace,

**C:** **hear our prayer.**

**P/A:** Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P/A: We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C: Amen.**

The image features a blurred background of a crowd of people, with many hands raised in the air, suggesting a church service or a public gathering. The text "The Offering" is overlaid on the image in a cursive font. "The" is written in white, and "Offering" is written in a light blue color. The overall mood is one of community and devotion.

The  
Offering



**You can easily give to St. Peter's through our website; please go to**

**[www.stpeterspawleys.org](http://www.stpeterspawleys.org)**

**and click “Give “ or you can use your phone's camera to scan the code to the right which will take you right there!**



# Presentation of the Gifts



*The offering is gathered and the Table is set.*

*The Assembly stands and sings*

We Give Thanks

Mark Scott

(Sing twice)



We give thanks to the Lord for a new day, for the new way He has taught us to live. We give



thanks to the Lord for cre - a - tion and in all ways we share and we give.

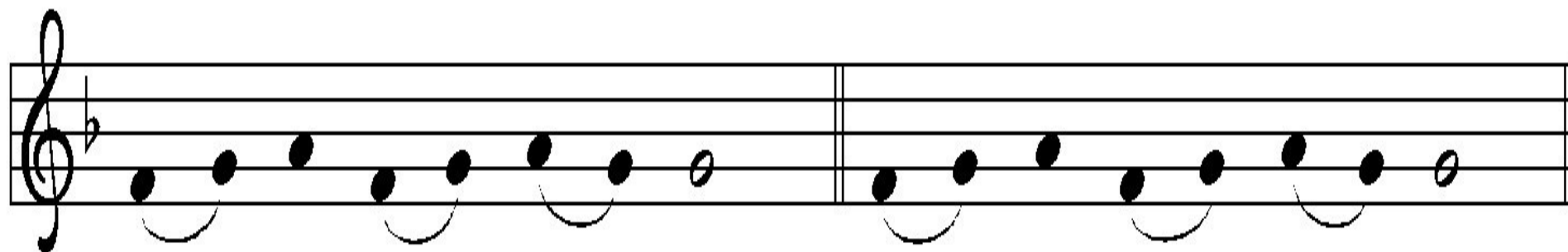
P/A: Let us pray.

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any

way, that all may know your care;  
and prepare us now to feast on  
the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

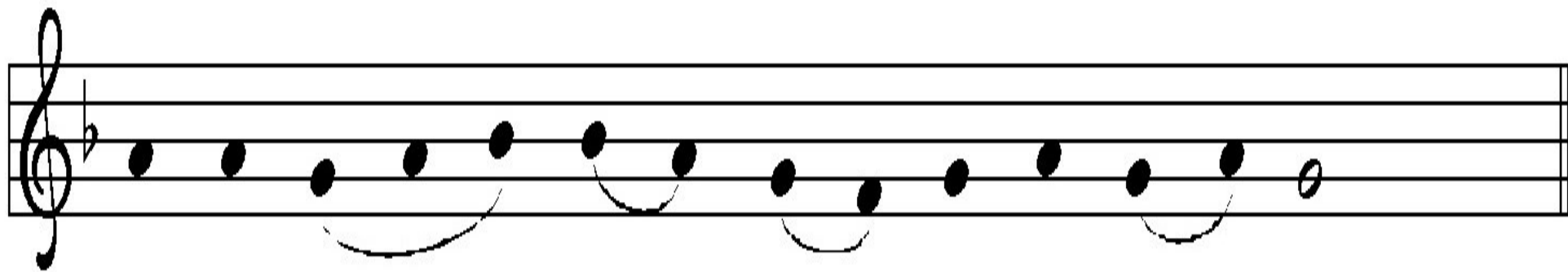
# The Great Thanksgiving



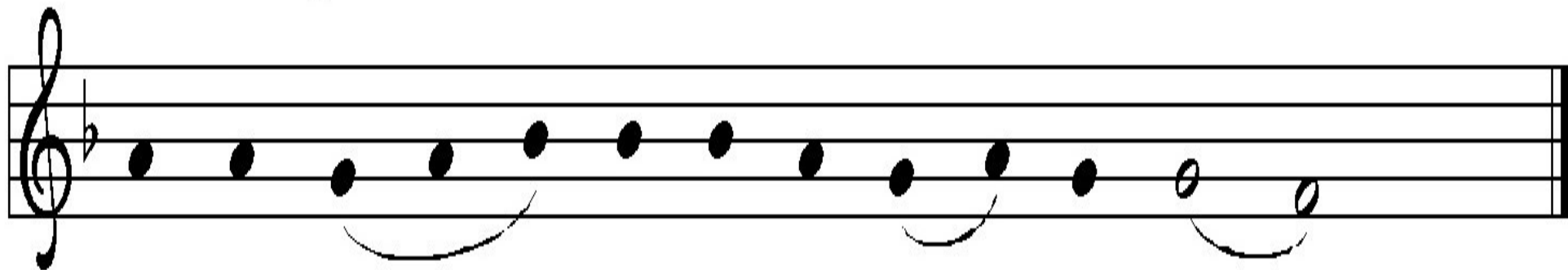
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



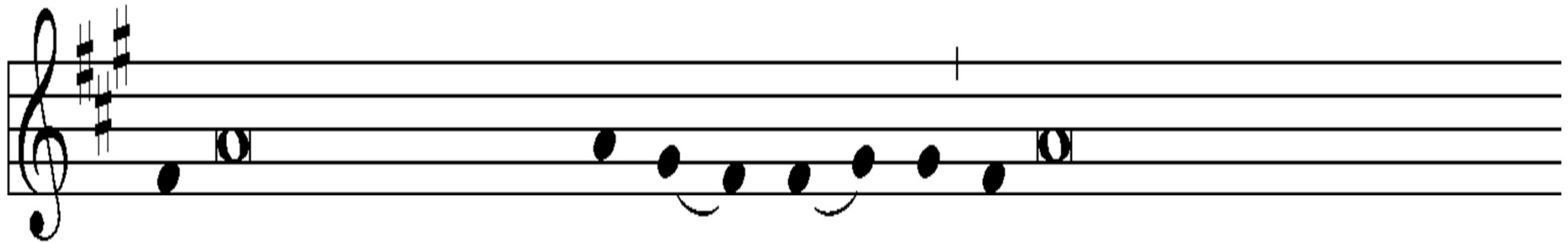
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



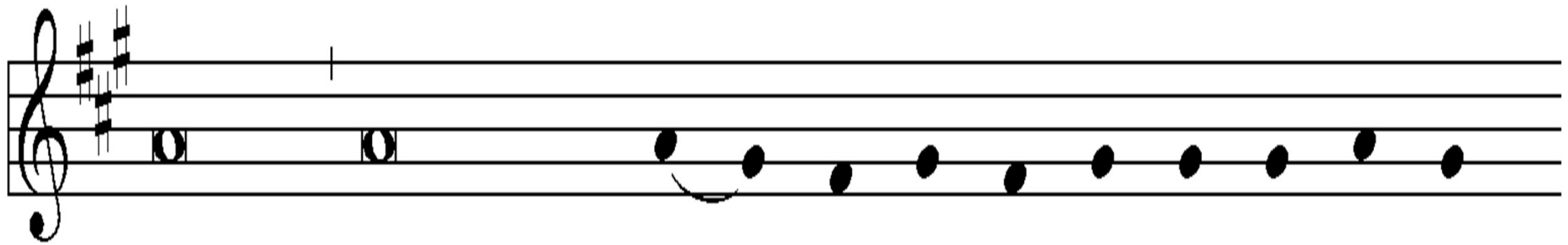
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.



**P** It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all times and in

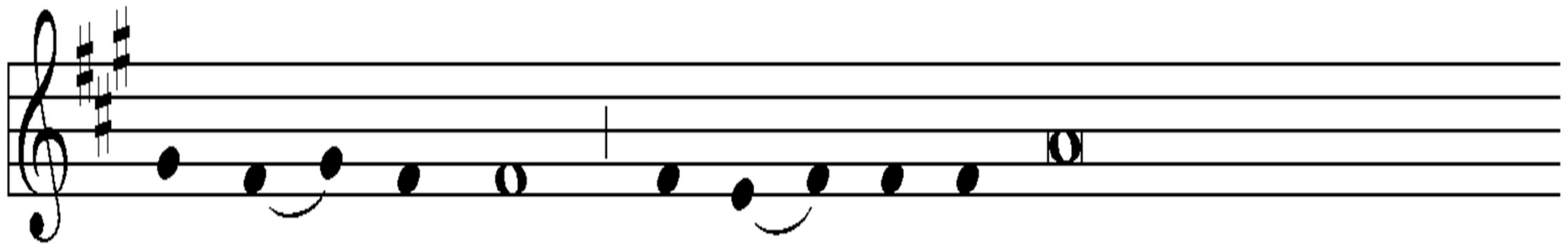


all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, ho - ly Fa - ther,

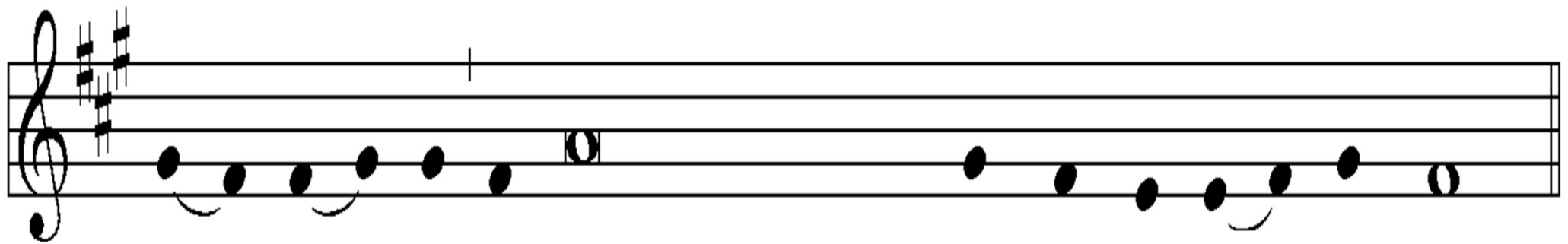


through Christ our Lord. Shar - ing our life, he lived among us to reveal

your glo-ry and love, that our darkness should give way to his



own bril - liant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts



of heav - en, we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

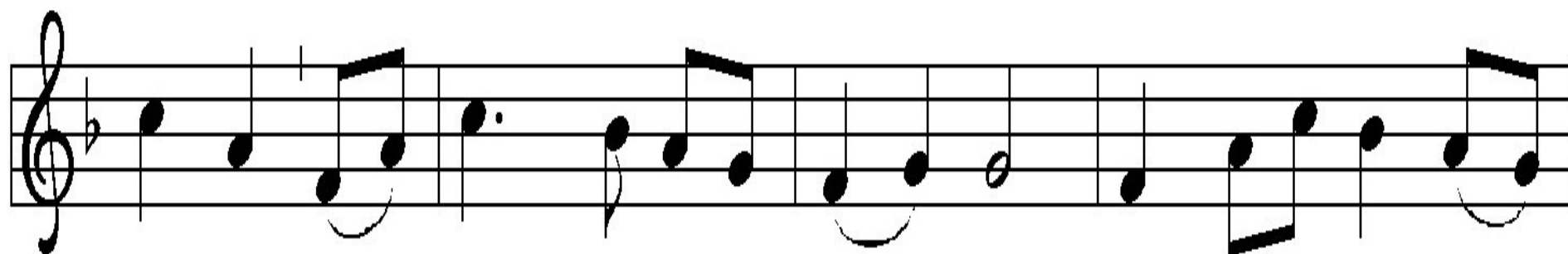
*Congregation sings*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end,  
the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of  
creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in  
the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to  
your people.

Blessed are you in the  
prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for  
Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

**P:** With this bread and cup we  
remember your Word dwelling  
among us, full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his  
death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people. Fill us with  
your light. Bring the gift of peace  
on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

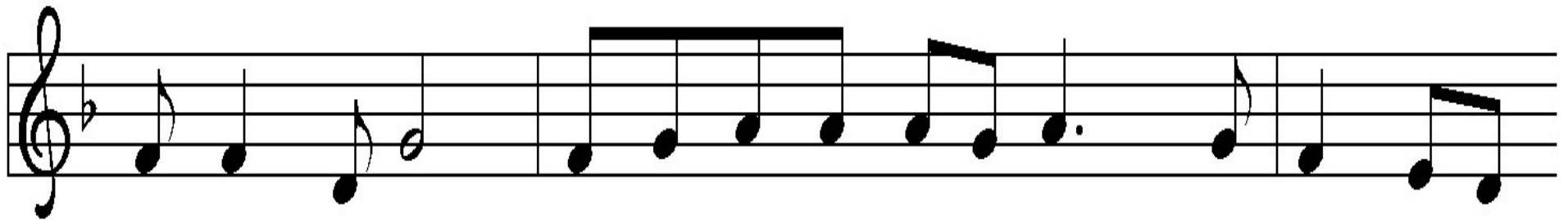
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who  
trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

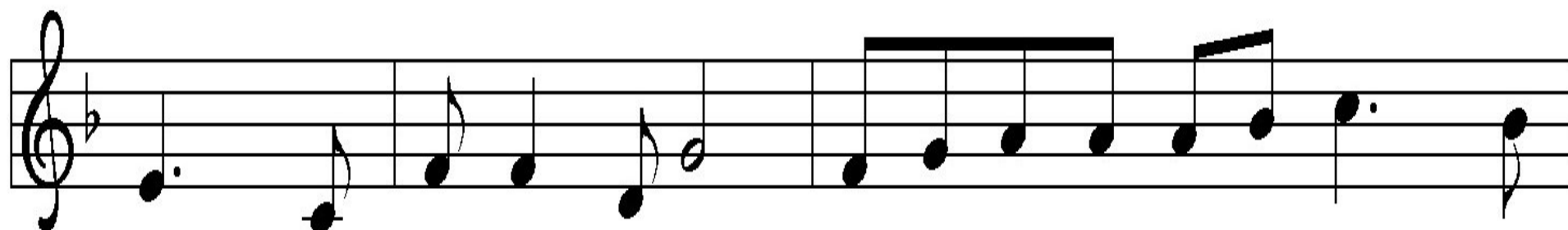
*Congregation – Please Be Seated*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Follow direction of the Usher.*

*Distribution will be at the Altar Rail.  
Worshippers on the pulpit-side  
commune first.*

*After receiving the Sacrament return to  
your pew by way of the side aisles.*





*After all have returned to their places, stand as you are able*

P: The body and blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ strengthen and keep  
you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

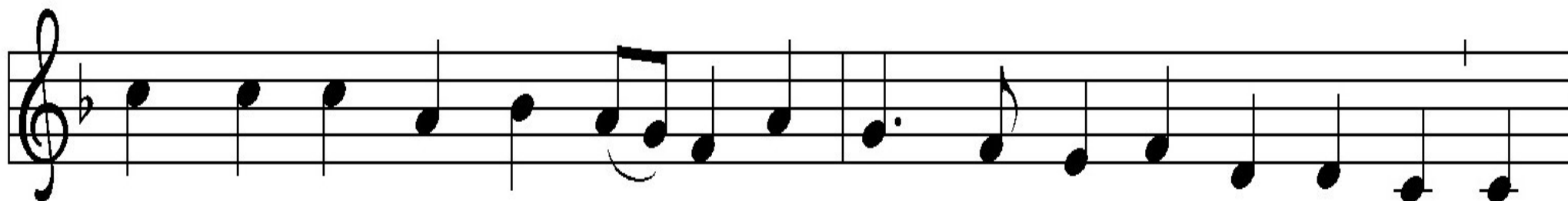
# Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom-is - es and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv - ing. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

P/A: Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ.

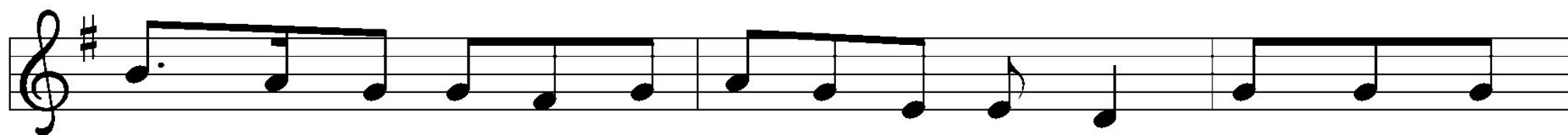
Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

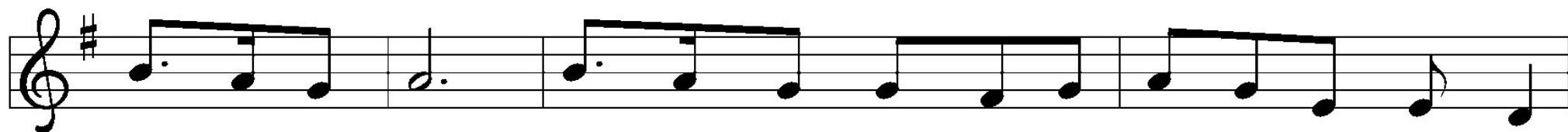
P: The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord's face shine on you  
with grace and mercy,  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you ✝ peace,

**C: Amen.**

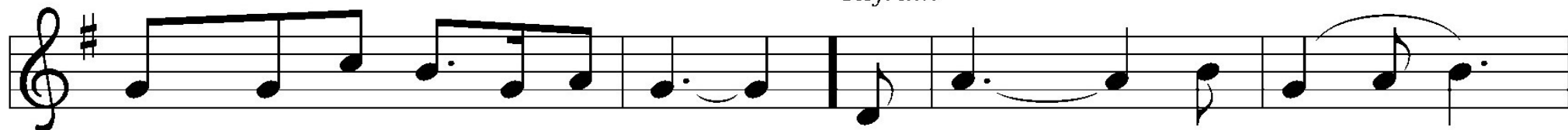
# Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



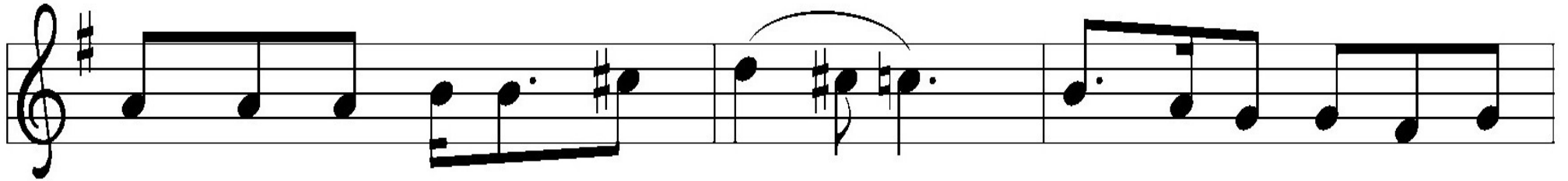
1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for



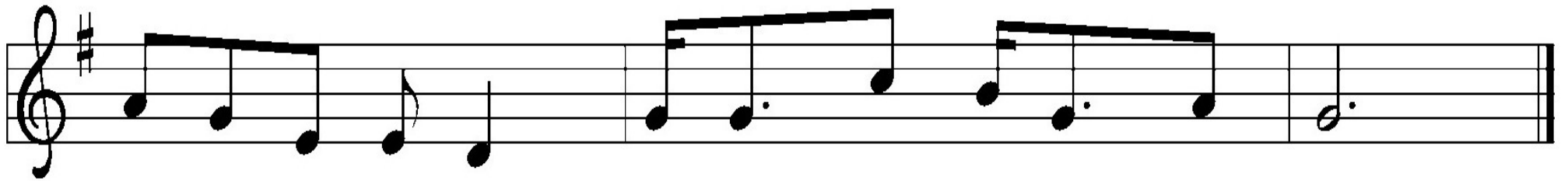
you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,



watch - ing for you and for me. "Come home, come home!"

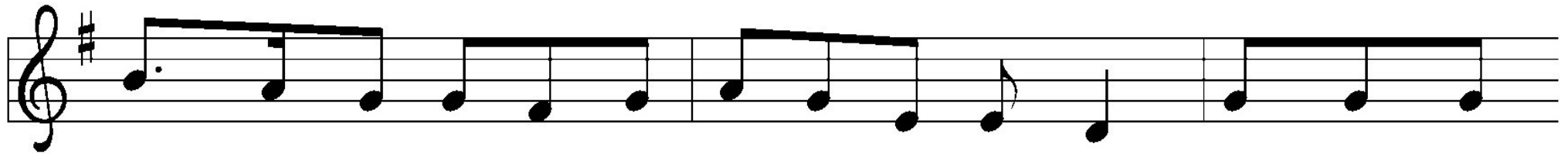


You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

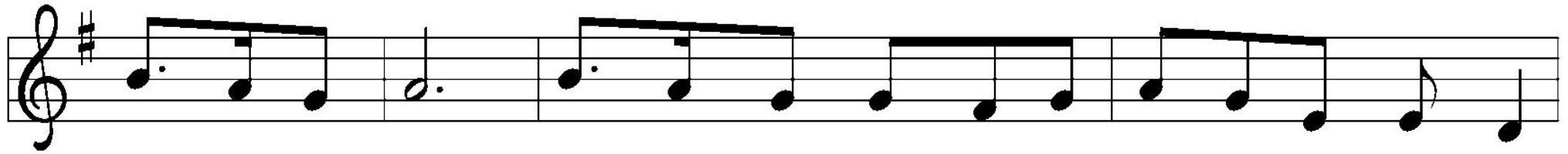


Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"



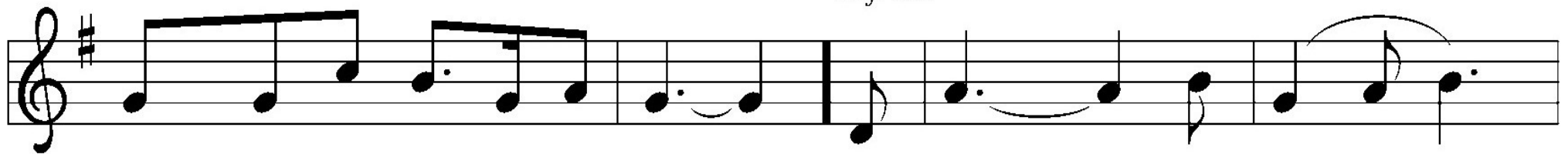


2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for

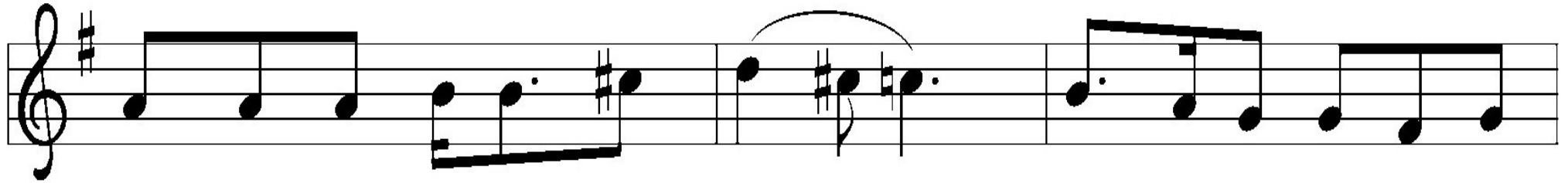


you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,

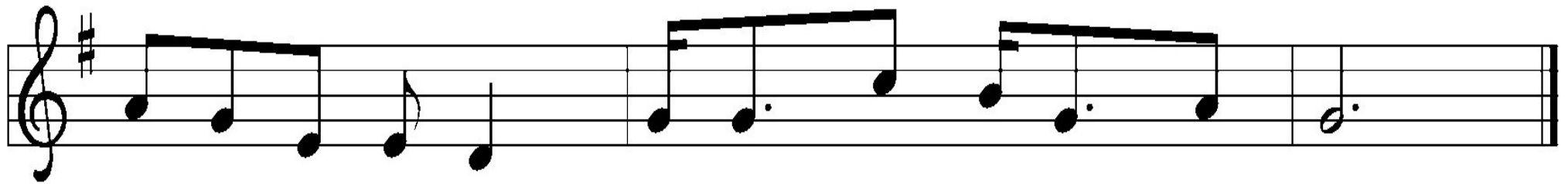
*Refrain*



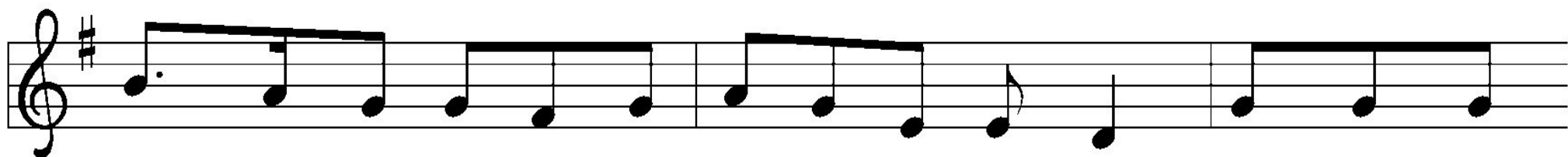
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"



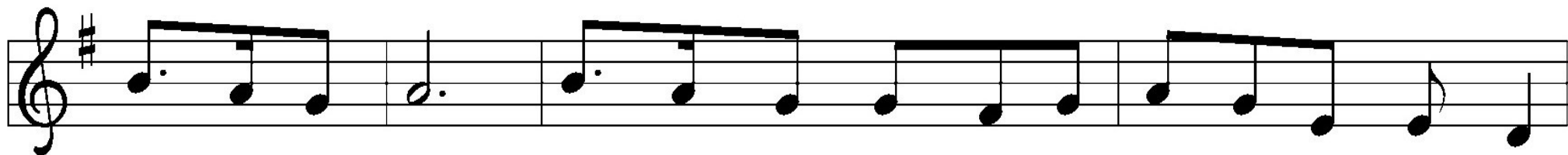
You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

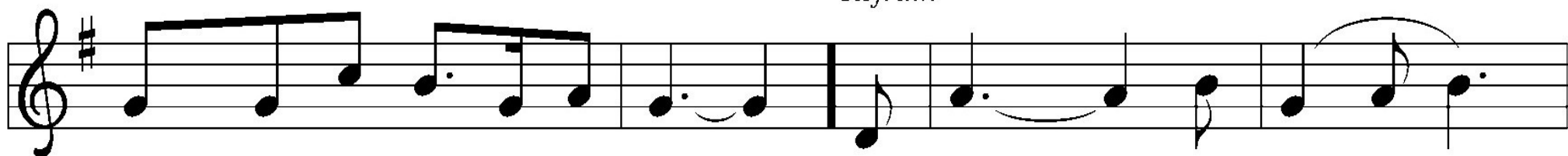


3 Oh, for the won-der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

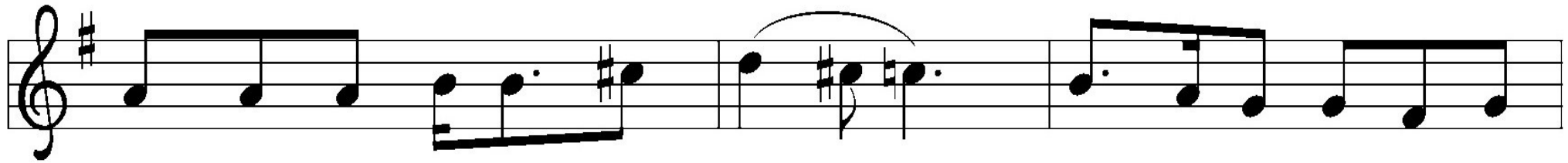


you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

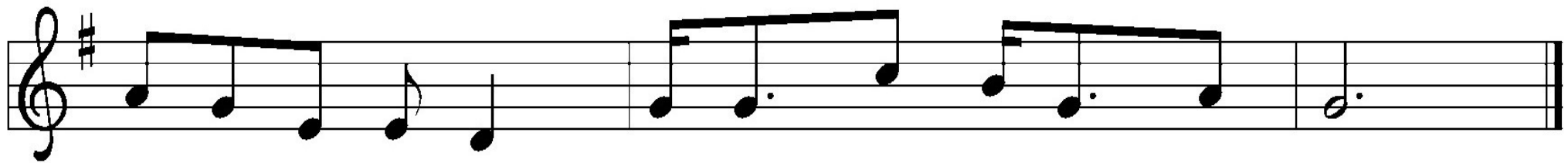
*Refrain*



par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!"



You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



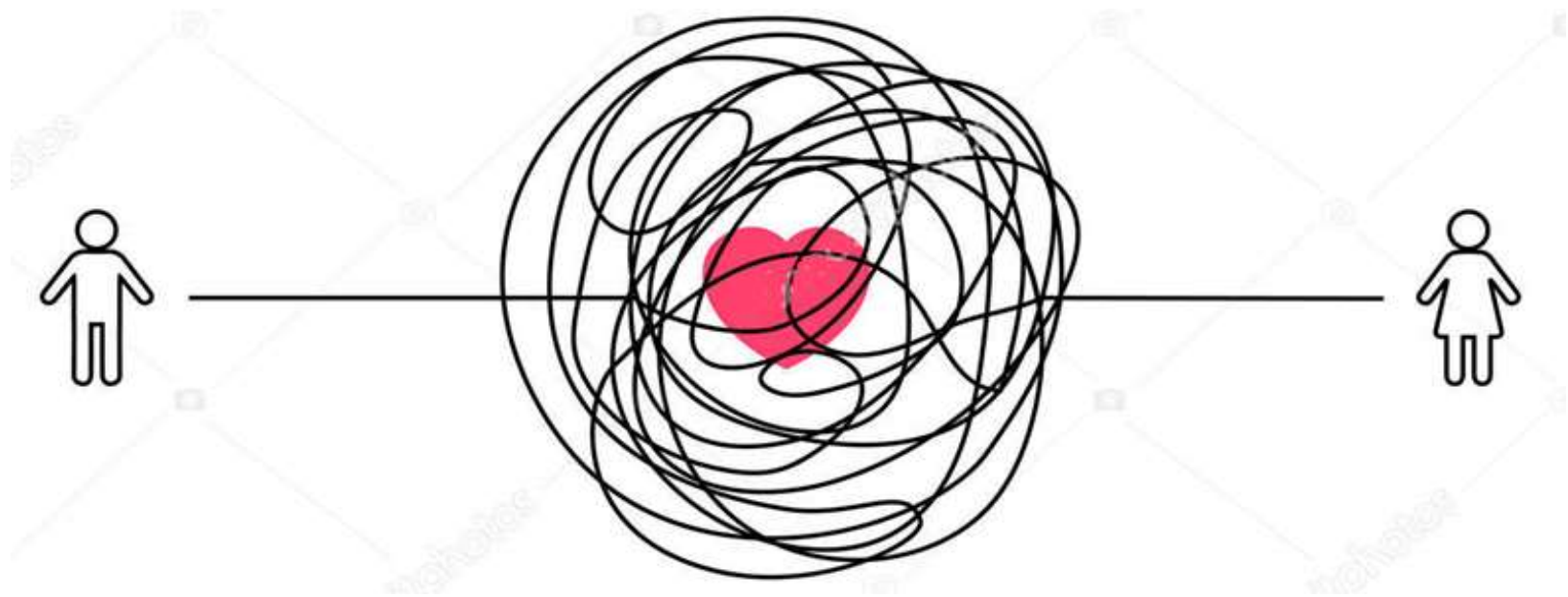
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

P: Go in Peace  
Grow in Grace  
Serve in Love!

**C: Thanks be to God.**



# **Sending Music**