

First Sunday of Christmas

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

December 28, 2025



As we celebrate the Christmas season, we become aware that not everyone was thrilled about the coming of Jesus into the world.

Herod, the insecure king cared little about the birth of a rival. In fact, he ordered all male children under the age of two to be killed.



Since an angel had revealed his intent to Joseph in a dream, the Christ child lived. Today, we give thanks for God's action in our lives and in our world.



**We welcome all who worship today
here at St. Peter's Lutheran Church
and those who are worshiping online.**

We give thanks for your presence today and
we pray that you will be inspired in your
worship as we begin a new year this week.

Please take a moment to register your attendance on the pad in your pew. Guests are also invited to sign the register in the narthex.

From Pastor Scott and Karen Scott:

We celebrate the beginning of a new year with you at St. Peter's, we give thanks for the relationships we have formed here. And we are particularly grateful for the monetary gift you provided for us at Christmas.

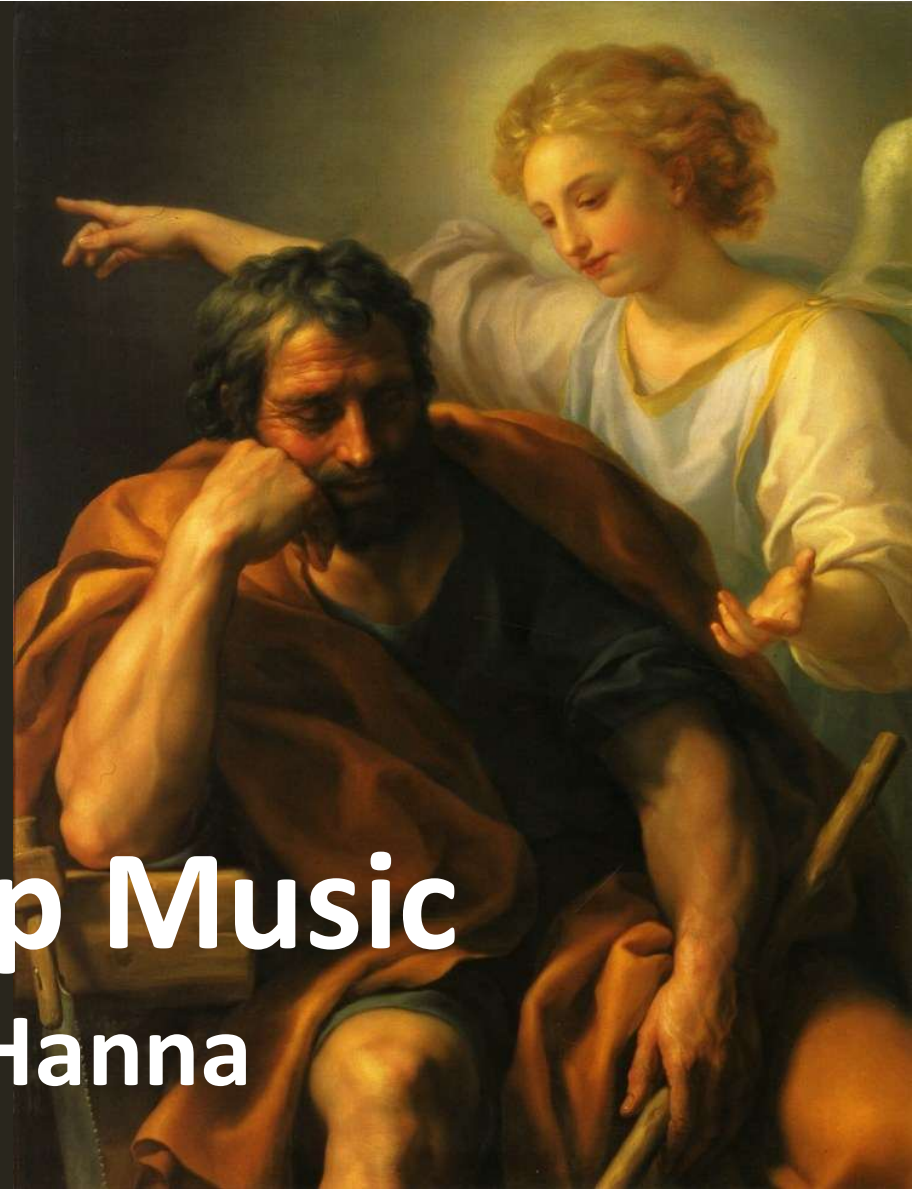


Truly God has been at work in St. Peter's Lutheran Church!

As we begin a new year, we will continue to give thanks and to pray for a great outcome as the congregation enters the call process as the year progresses.

Pre-Worship Music

Mr. Garry Hanna



The Song of Two Marys

**On Christmas eve in Bethlehem
A child was born to sweet Mariah
This child would bring salvation in
And Live and serve as God's Messiah.**

**Alone in lowly Beth'lem town
A baby lay in mother's arms.
Mariah was this mother's name.
She dreamed he would be free from harm.**

**The soldiers into Beth'lem came.
The wails of loving mothers crying
Could not be stilled in ruthlessness.
Mariah's son was quickly dying.**

**As Jesus grew in Naz'reth town
Mariah watched him grow to manhood
With pain so great she could not bear it
And sacrifice misunderstood**

**She watched him heal the sick and lame
And heard him preach the Gospel story.
She mourned the child that she had lost
And wondered if he did find glory.**

**One day she heard of Jesus' trial.
She journeyed to Jerus'lem city.
When she arrived she saw a cross
And felt for Jesus' mother pity.**

**Now this Mariah understood
The sacrifice of the Messiah
Was nothing less than she had suffered.
Now suffering came to sweet Mariah.**

**Beside that cross so long ago,
Two Marys now of whom I/we sing
Remembered children they had lost
And sadly praised this Christ their king.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands.

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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. 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.

C: Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

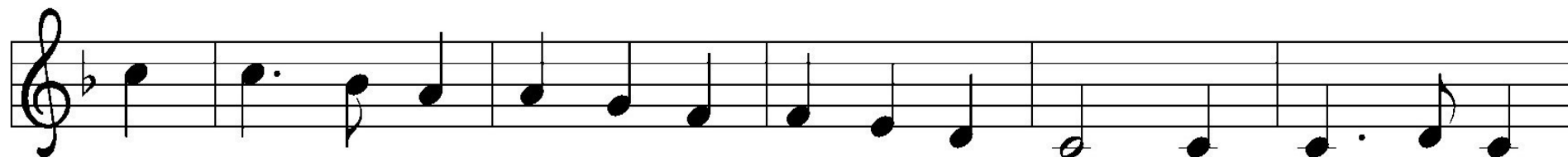
P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

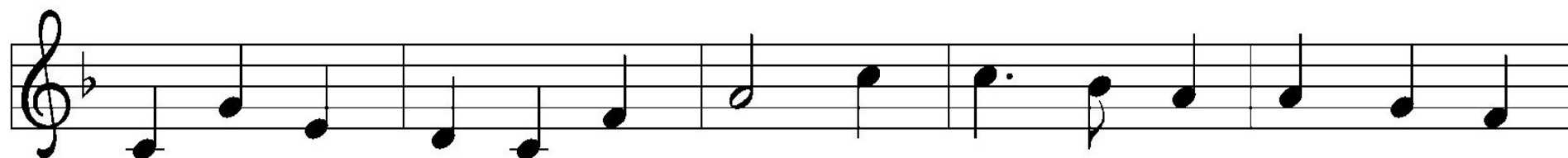
The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

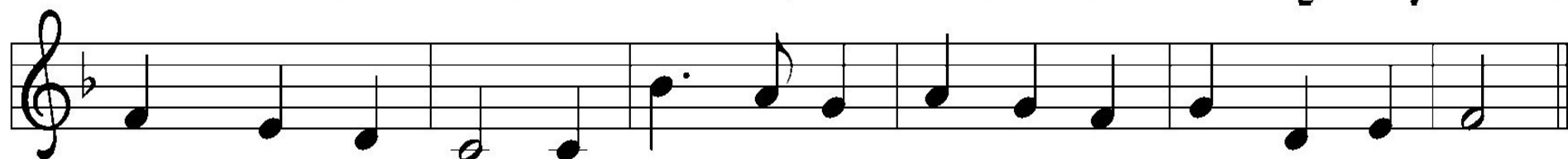
Away in a Manger



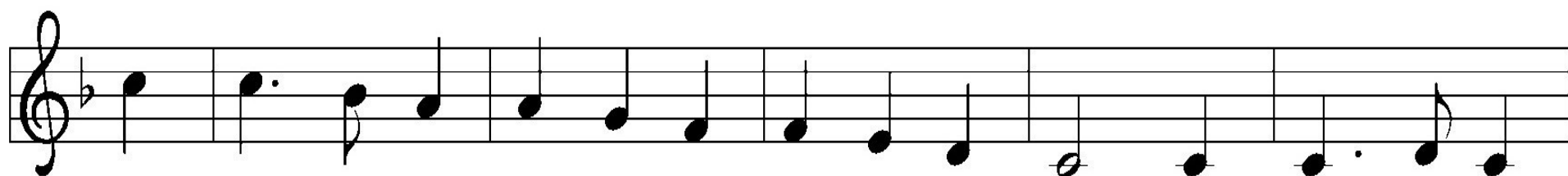
1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord



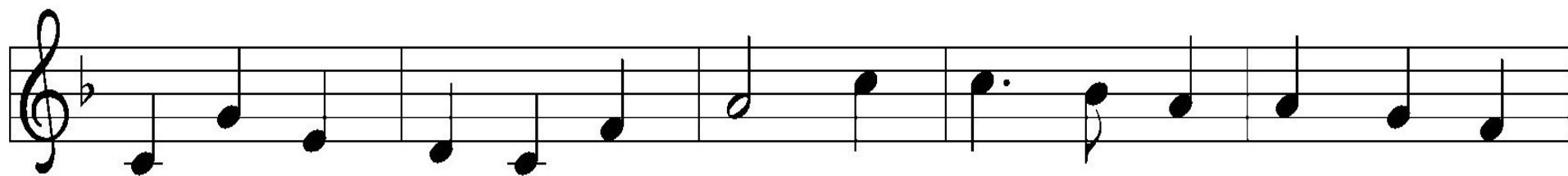
Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked



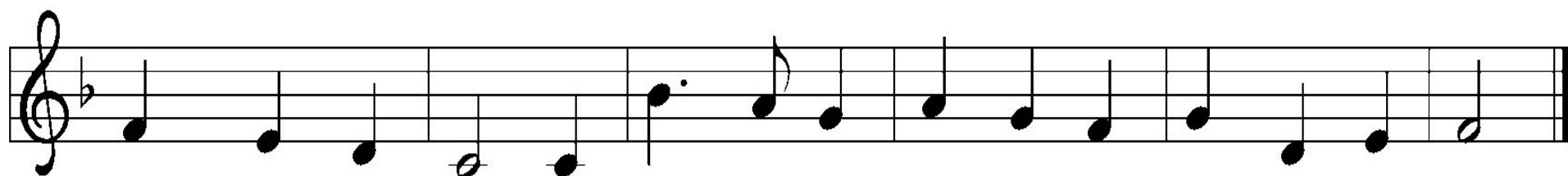
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.



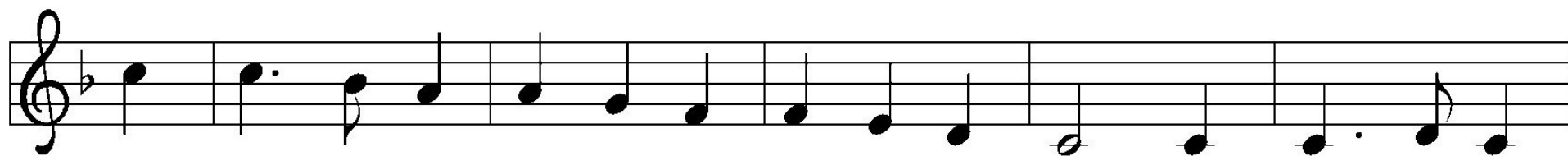
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord



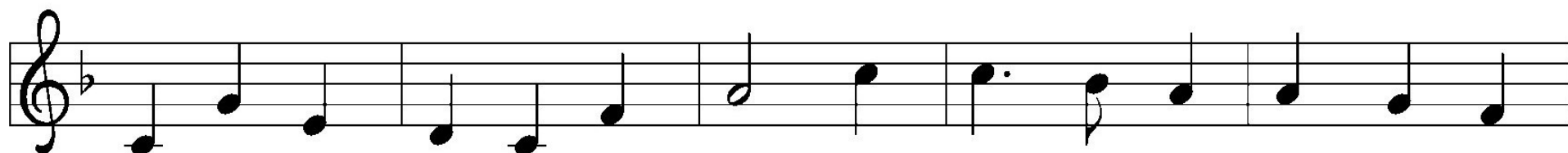
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look



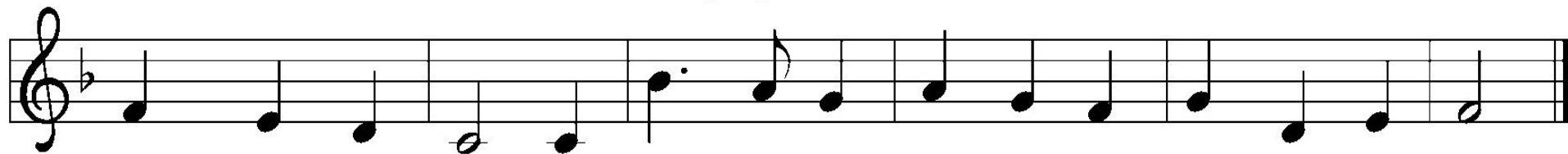
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.



3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



your ten - der care and fit us for heav-en, to live with you there.

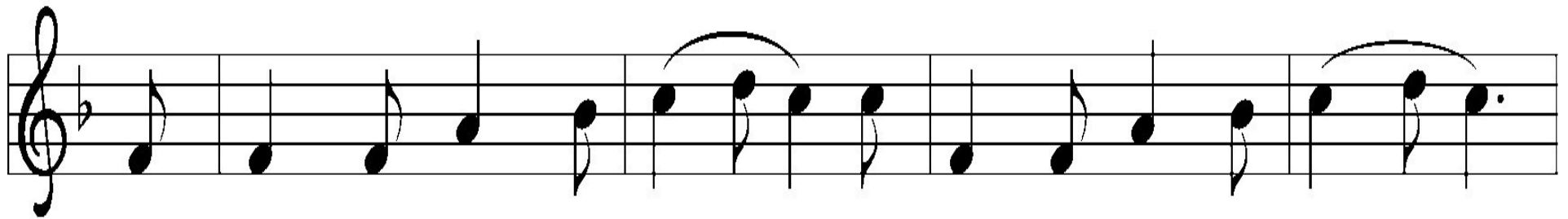
Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

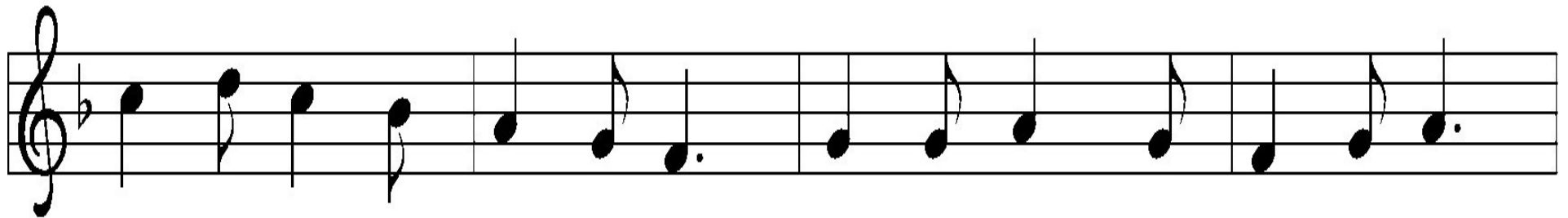
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also to you.

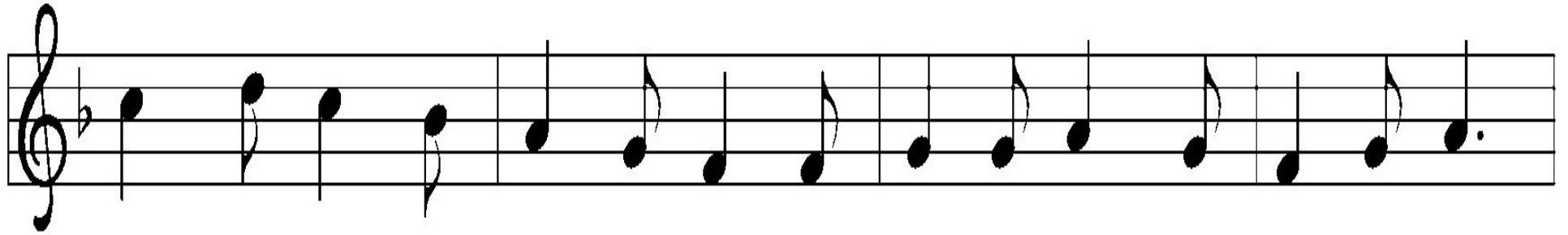
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



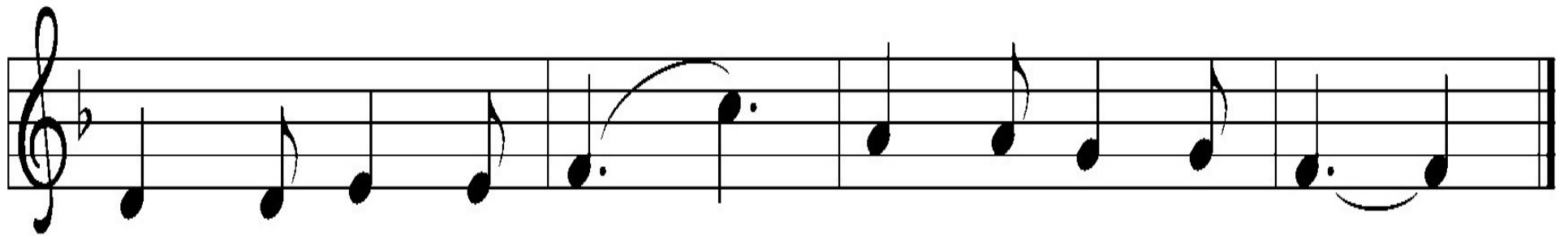
1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;

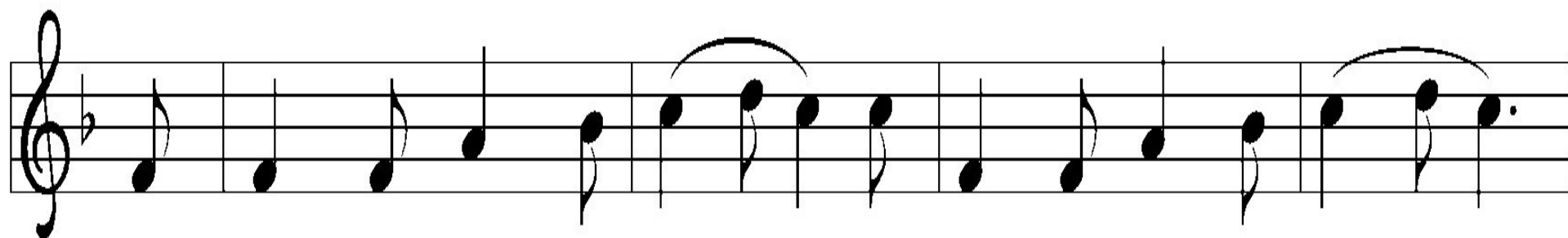


ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.

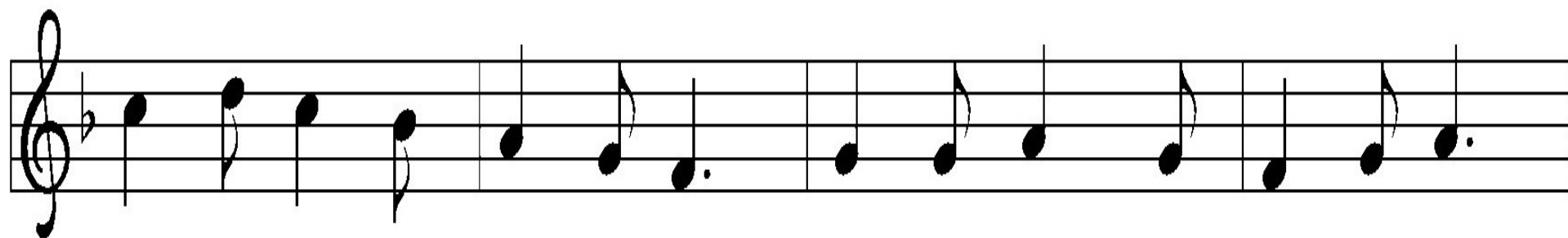


Christ is born to - day!

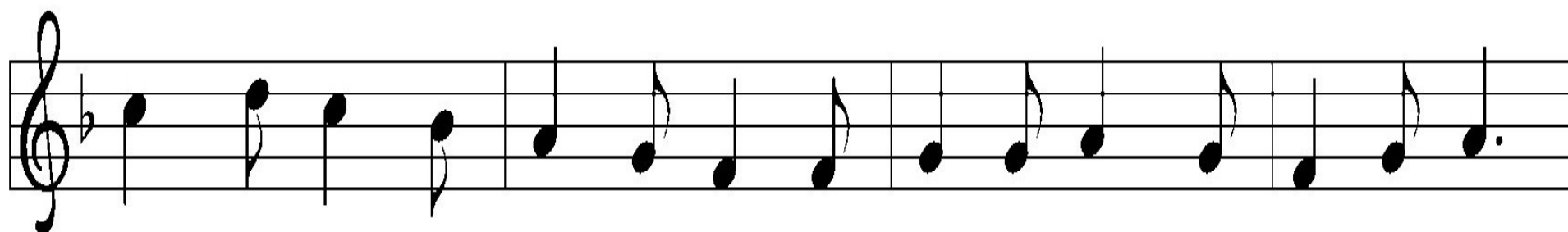
Christ is born to - day!



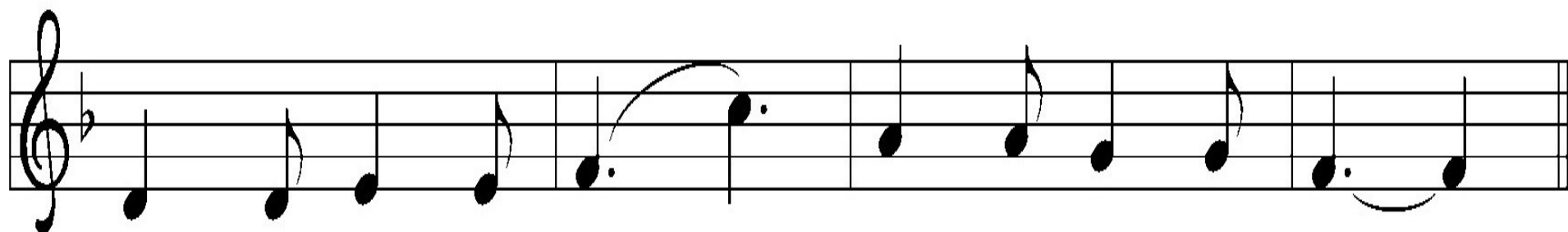
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!

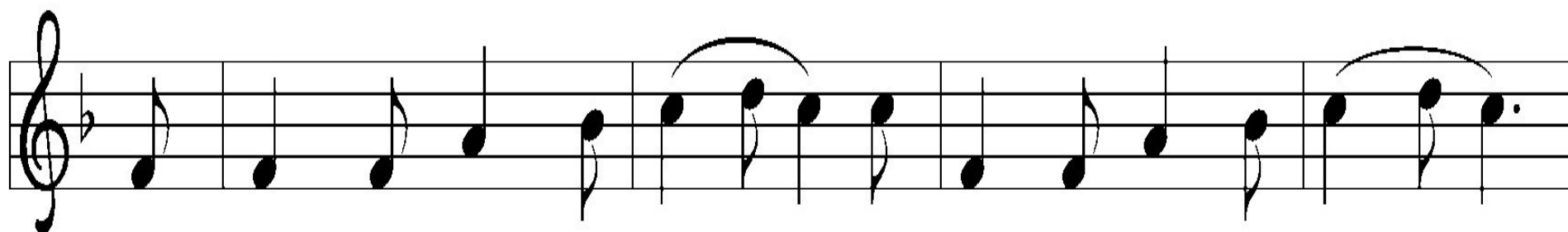


He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.

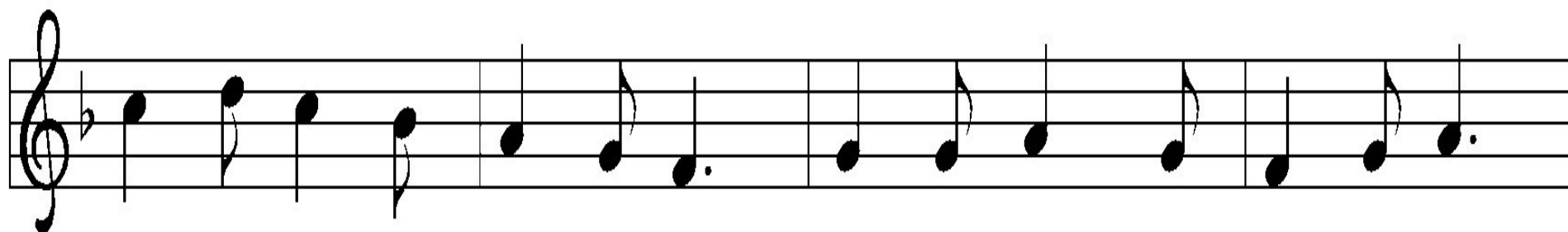


Christ was born for this!

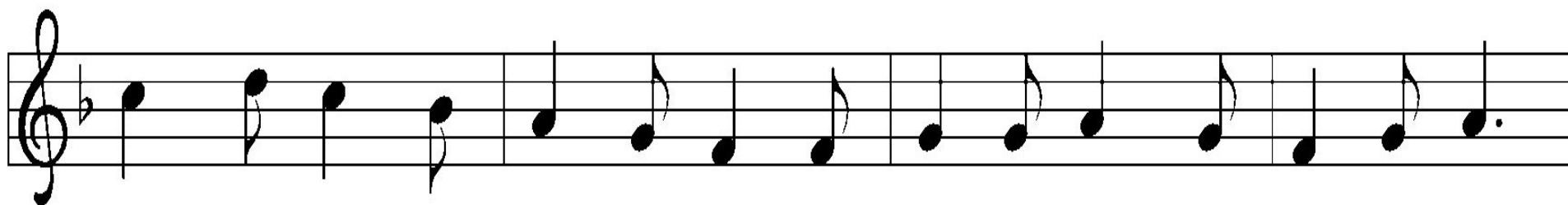
Christ was born for this!



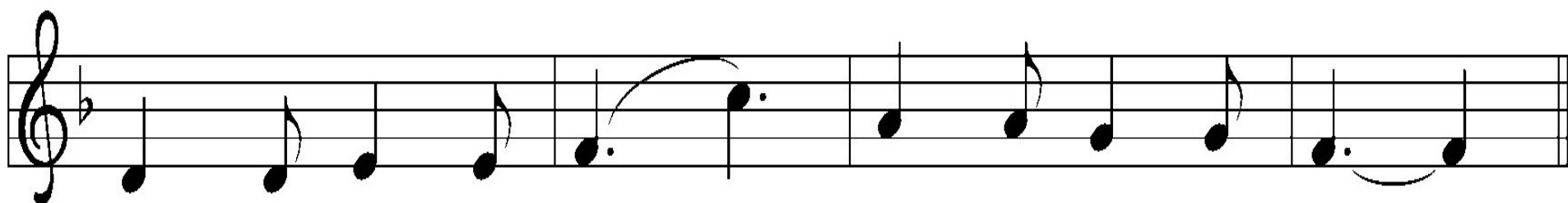
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ was born to save!

Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866

Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah, the 63rd chapter.

⁷ I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel

that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸ For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior ⁹ in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and pity it was he who
redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all
the days of old.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 148

The psalm for the day is sung.

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;

praise God | in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;
sing praise, all you | hosts of
heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;
sing praise, all you | shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of
heavens,
and you waters a- | bove the
heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name **l** of the LORD,
who commanded, and they **l** were
created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forev- l**
er and ever,
giving them a law that shall not l
pass away.

⁷ Praise the LORD | from the earth,
you sea monsters | and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's
will;**

⁹ mountains | and all hills,
fruit trees | and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,
creeping things and | flying birds;**

11 sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,
princes and all rulers | of the world;

12 **young | men and maidens,**
old and | young together.

¹³ Let them praise the name ^l of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose
splendor is over ^l earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for
the people and praise for all ^l faithful
servants,
the children of Israel, a people
who are near the LORD. ^lHallelujah!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:10-18

A reading from Hebrews, the 2nd chapter.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

¹³ And again, “I will put my trust in him.”

And again, “Here am I and the children whom God has given me.”

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free

those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of

atonement for the sins of the people.

¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The holy gospel according to St.
Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.”

¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled,
because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,
²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.”

²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

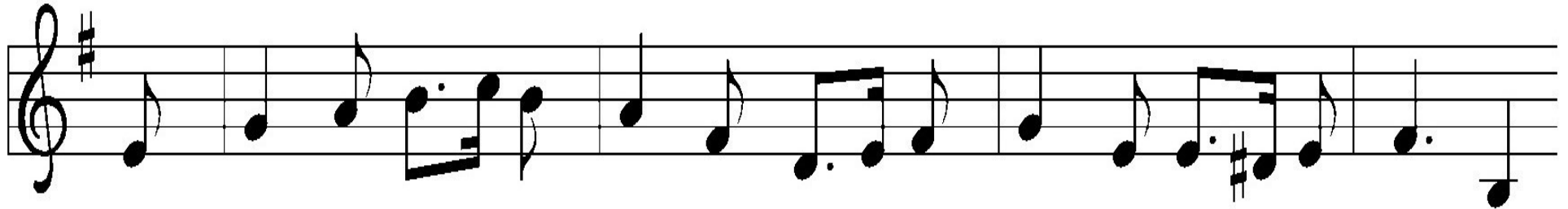
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

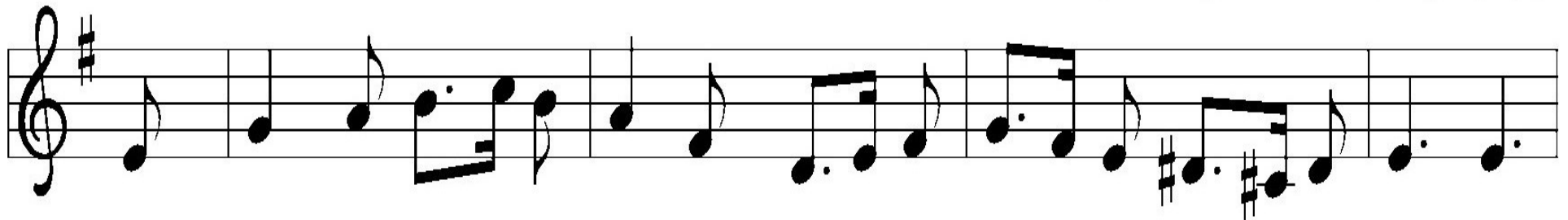
SERMON – Two Marys



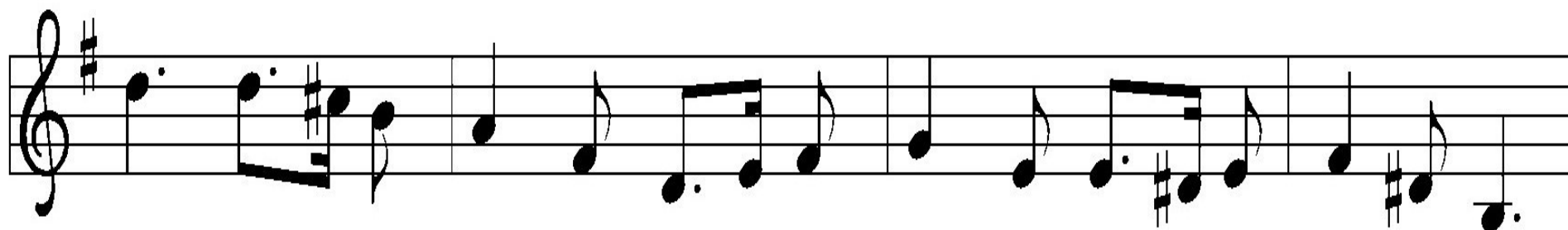
What Child Is This



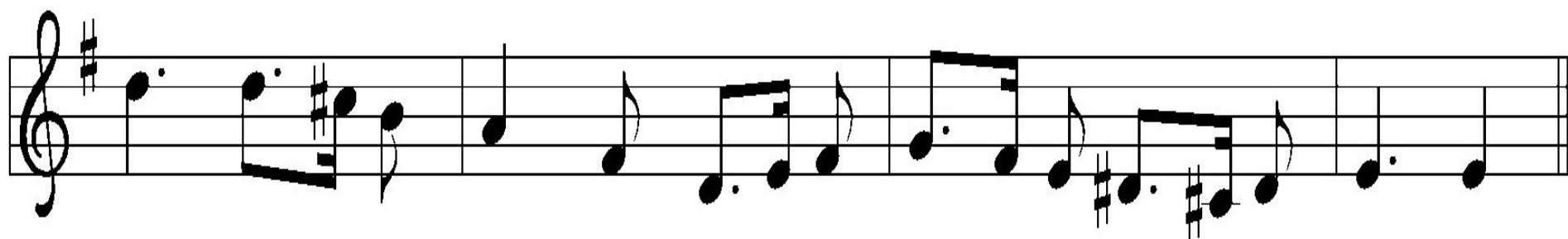
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?



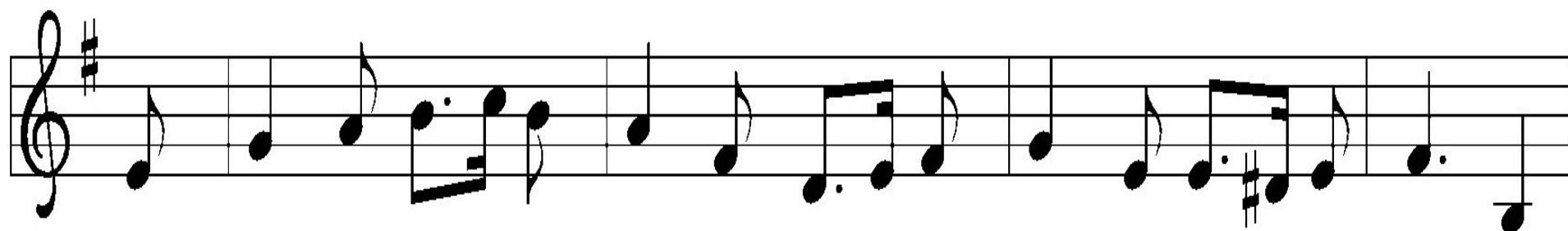
Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?



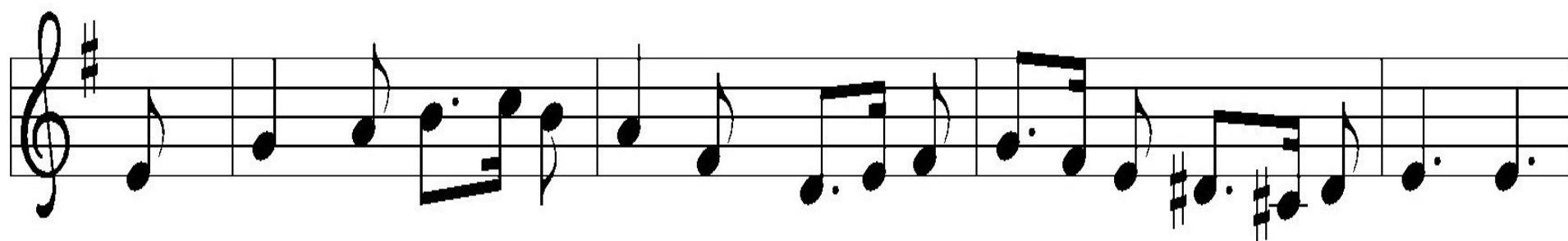
This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar-y!



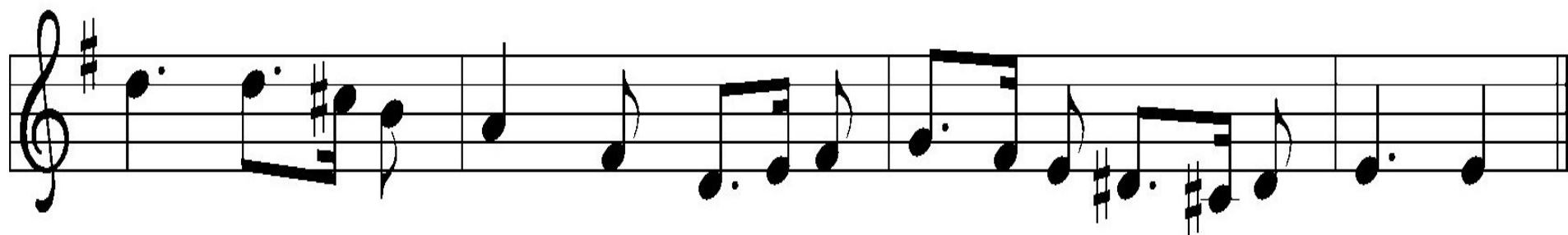
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?



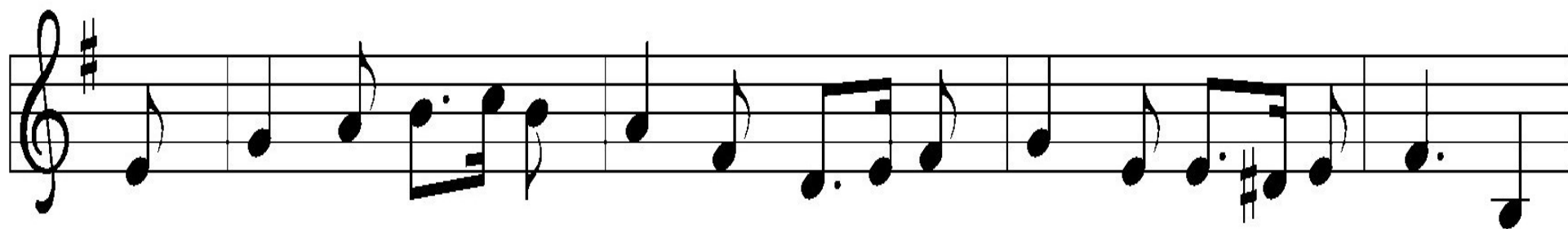
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.



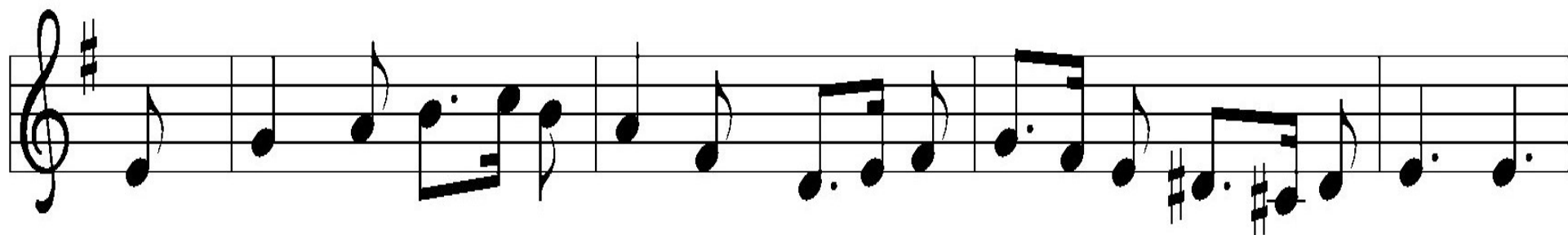
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;



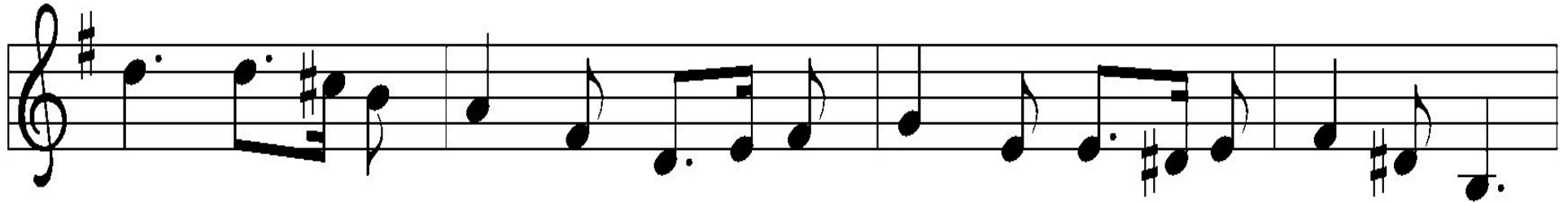
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



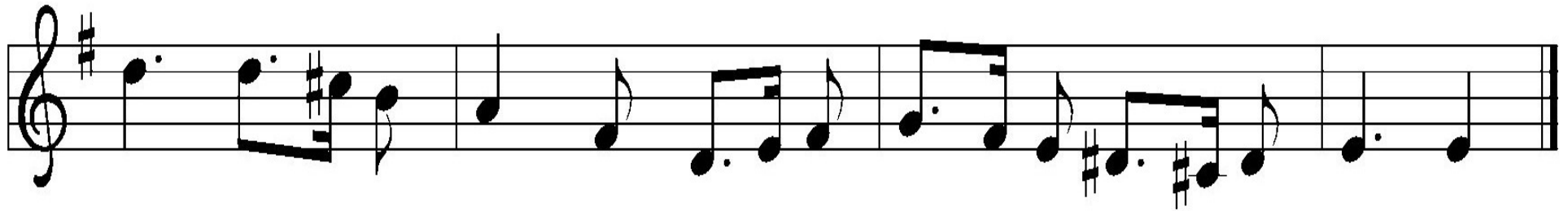
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Nicene Creed

P/A: Together we proclaim the
Christian Faith using the words
of the Nicene Creed.

Christian, what do you believe?

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of
heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the
living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son, who with the Father and the
Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
prophets.**

**We believe in one
holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to
come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P/A: God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones (*especially*). Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

The Offering

**Our response
to God's Word
of Grace and Victory**



Presentation of the Gifts



The offering is gathered and the Table is set.

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



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.

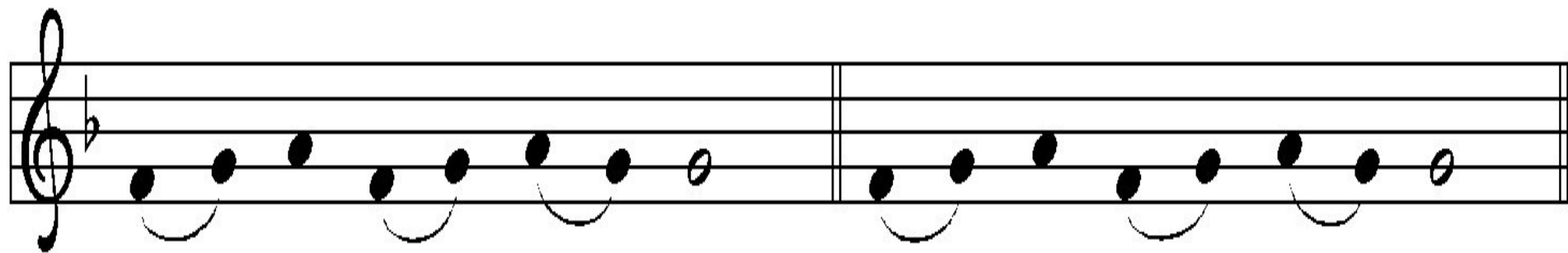
P/A: Let us pray.

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.

With the trees of the field, with
all earth and heaven, we shout
for joy at the coming of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving



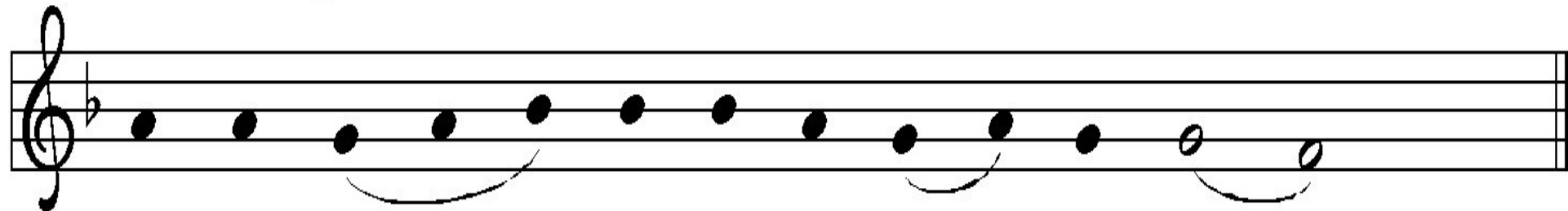
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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.

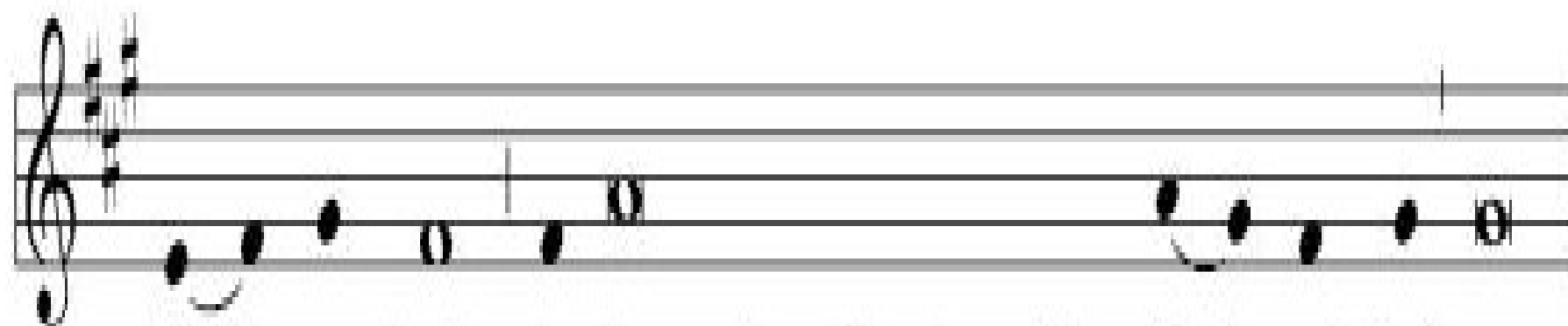
Preface for Christmas



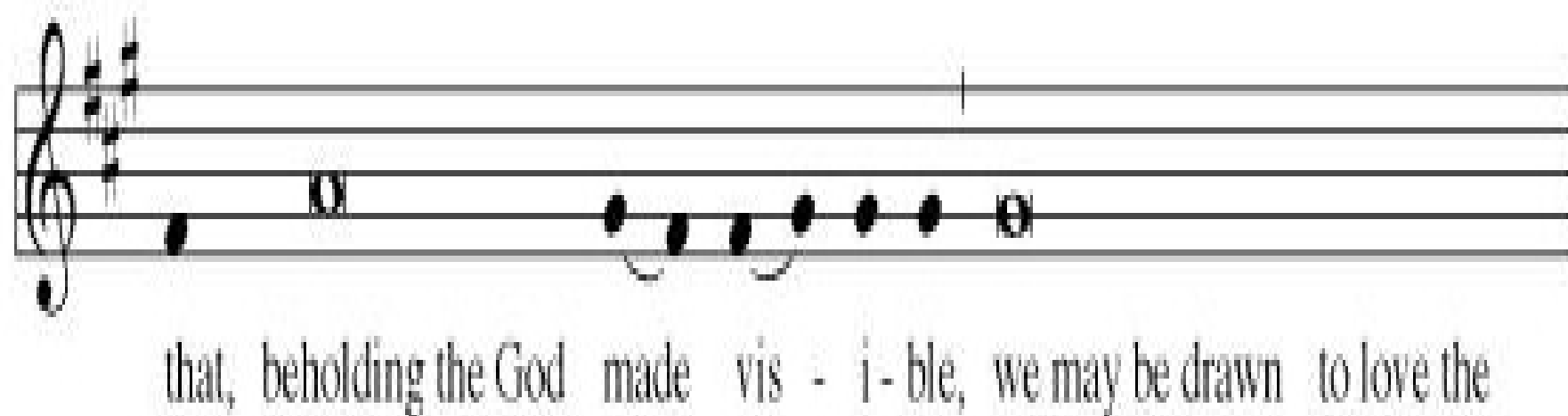
It is indeed right and sal - u - tar - y that we should at all times and in



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

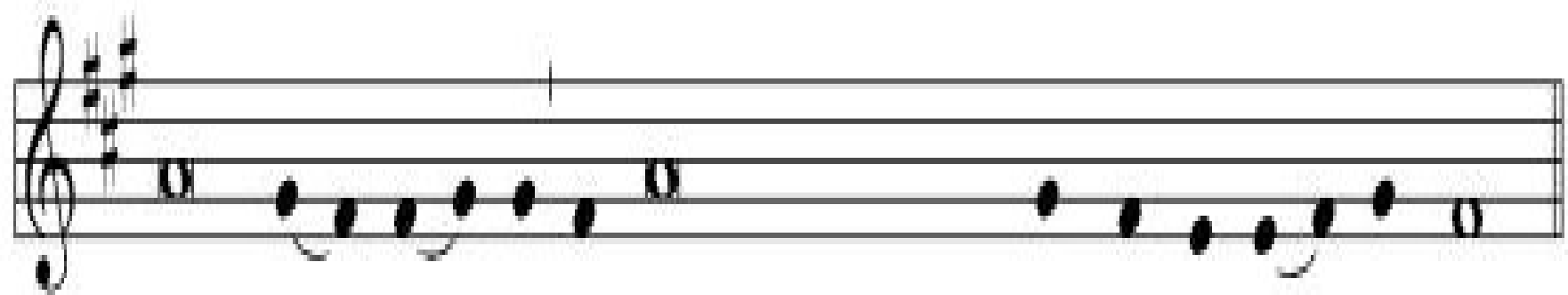


Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you



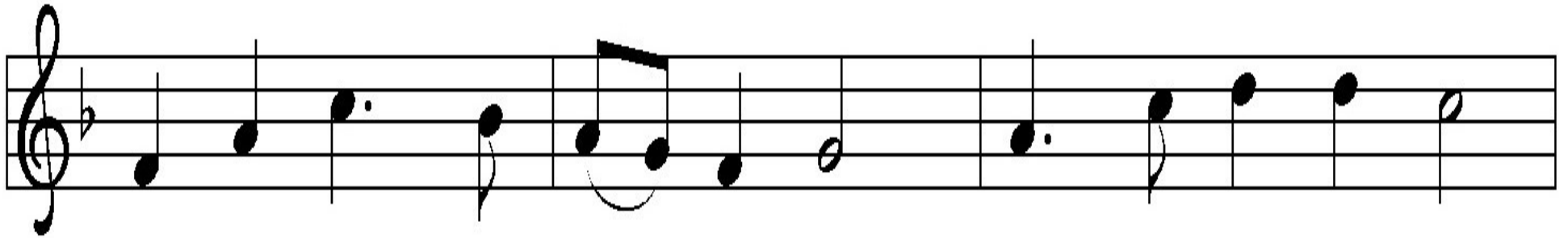


God whom we can - not see, And so, with the Church on earth and the



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

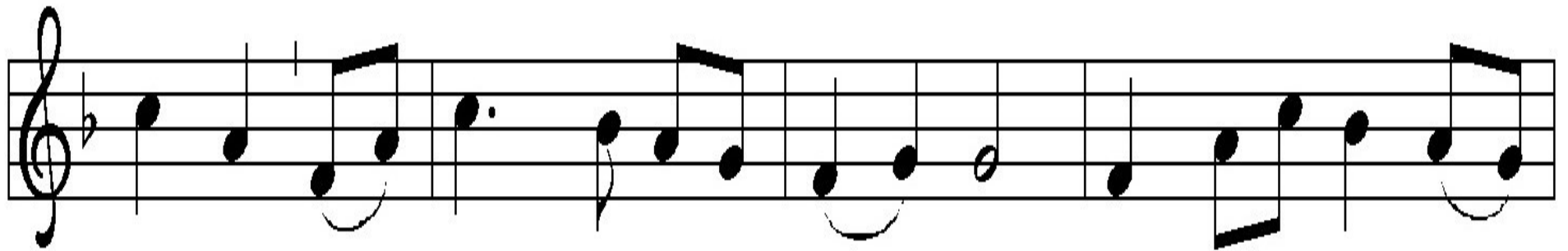
Congregation sings



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: All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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

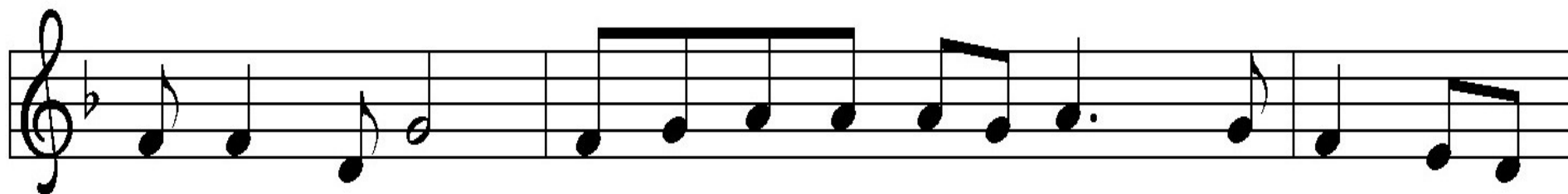
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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



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.***

Places used cup in tray on either side.



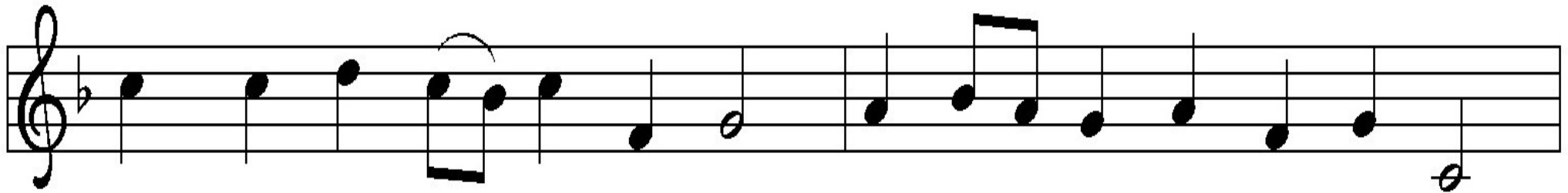
After all have returned to their places, stand as you are able

P: Now, may the body and blood of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
bless you and keep you, now and
always.

C: Amen.

Stand as you are able

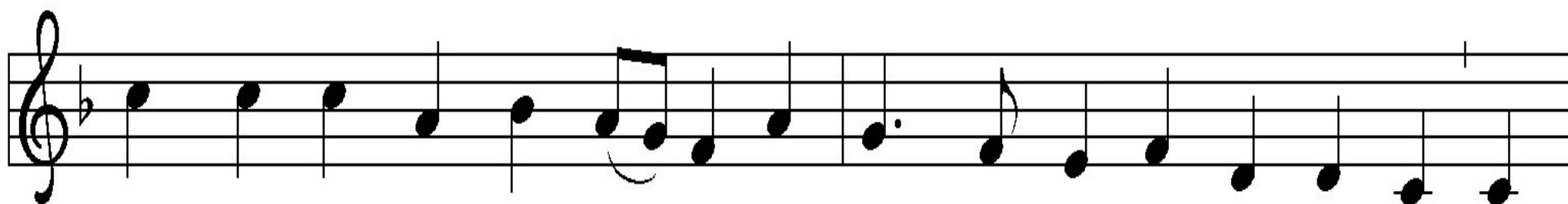
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



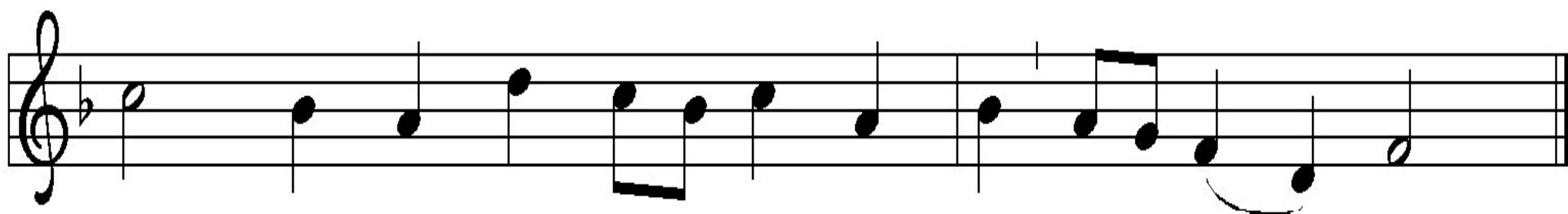
Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice 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.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

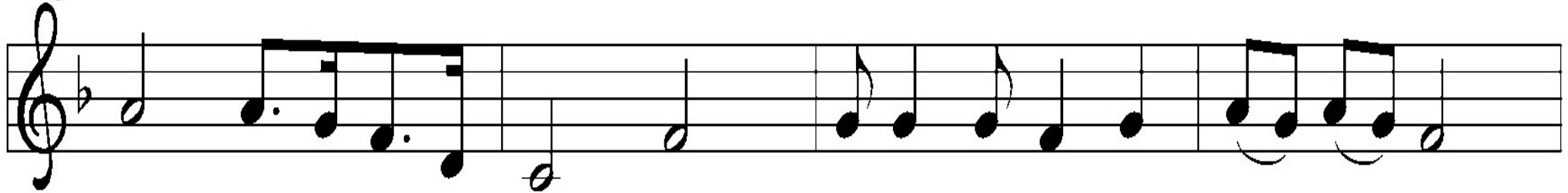
C: Amen.

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,

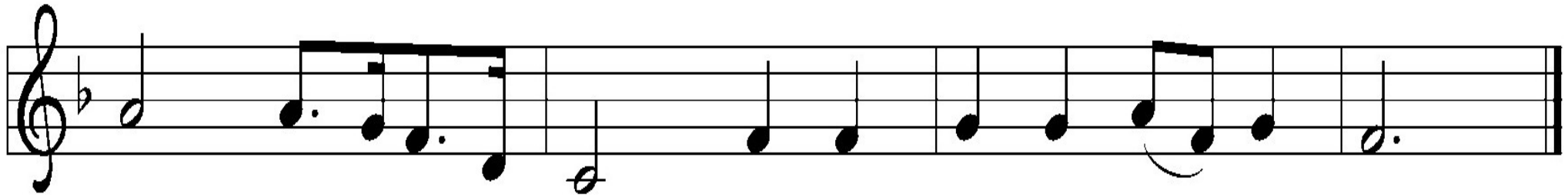
C: Amen.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

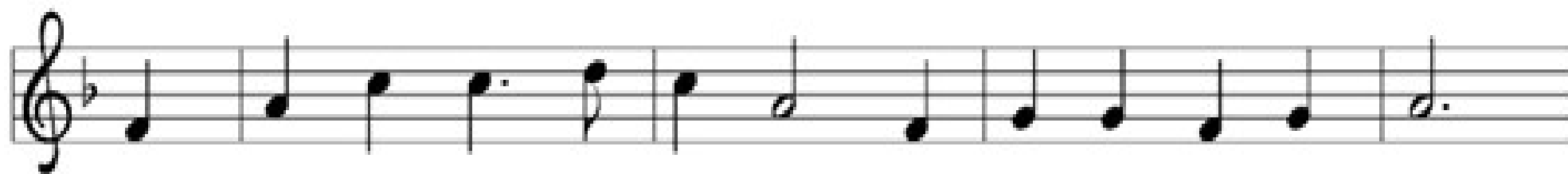
Refrain



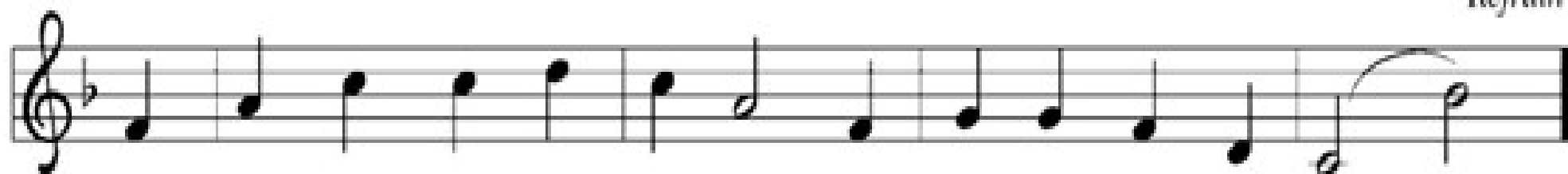
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



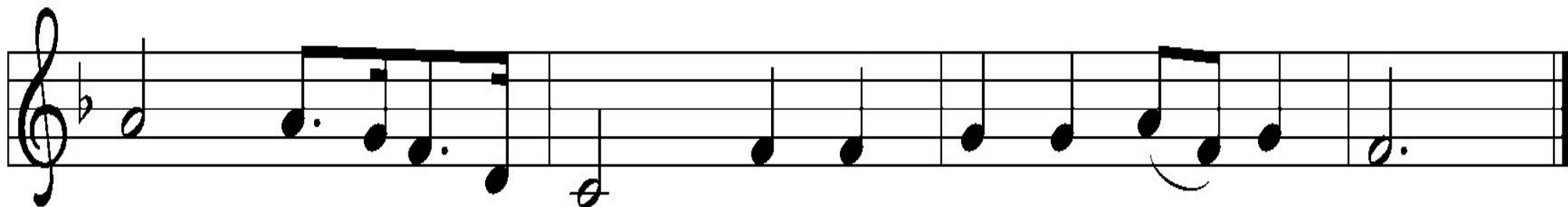
1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,



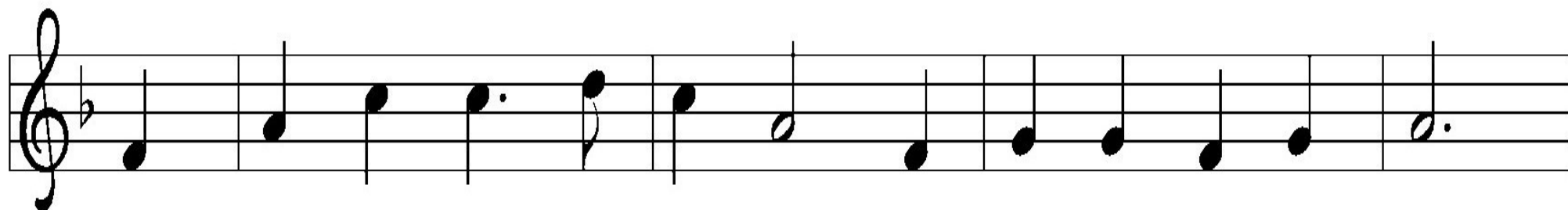
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

The first staff of music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of 12 measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4. The second measure contains a dotted quarter note on A4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on Bb4. The third measure contains a dotted quarter note on Bb4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on C5. The fourth measure contains a dotted quarter note on C5, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on Bb4. The fifth measure contains a dotted quarter note on Bb4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on A4. The sixth measure contains a dotted quarter note on A4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on G4. The seventh measure contains a dotted quarter note on G4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on F4. The eighth measure contains a dotted quarter note on F4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on E4. The ninth measure contains a dotted quarter note on E4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on D4. The tenth measure contains a dotted quarter note on D4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on C4. The eleventh measure contains a dotted quarter note on C4, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on B3. The twelfth measure contains a dotted quarter note on B3, followed by an eighth rest, and then a quarter note on A3.

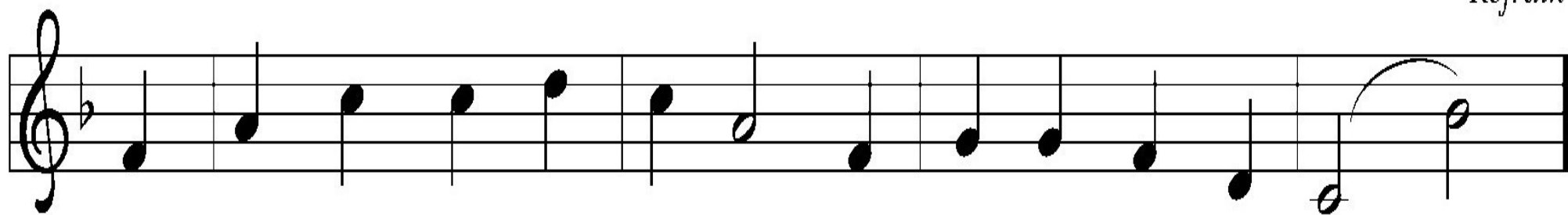
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

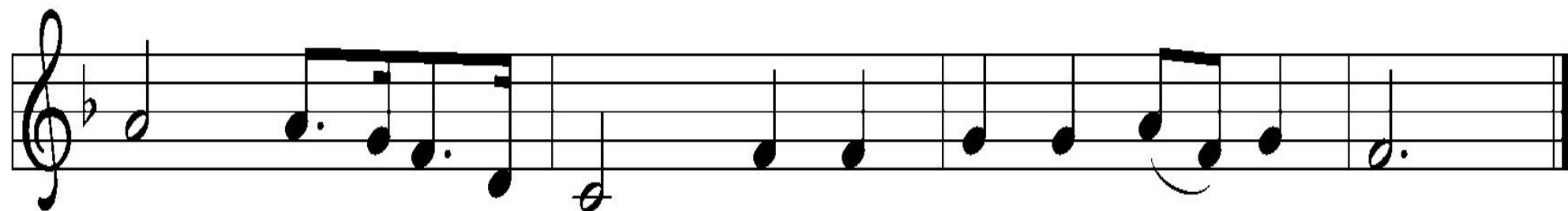


2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth



rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

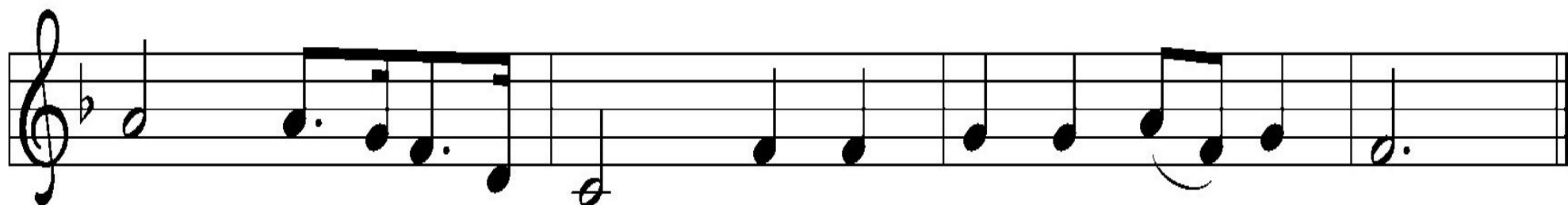
[illegible]

and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Sending Music