

Third Sunday in Advent

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
December 12, 2021

Prelude

People, Look East

P. Taylor

Confession and Absolution

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.

P: Most merciful God,

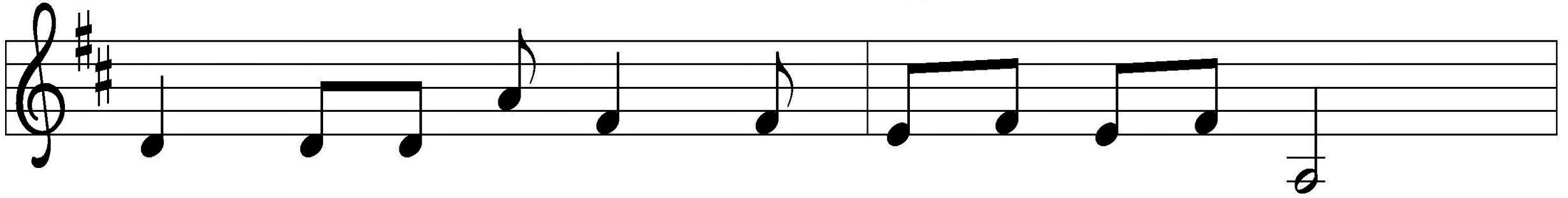
C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

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.

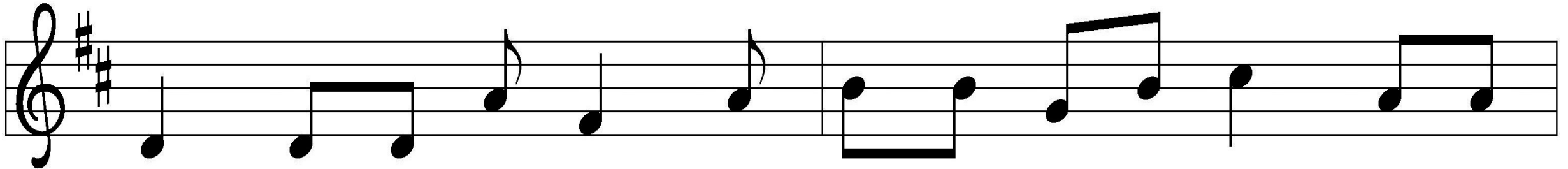
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

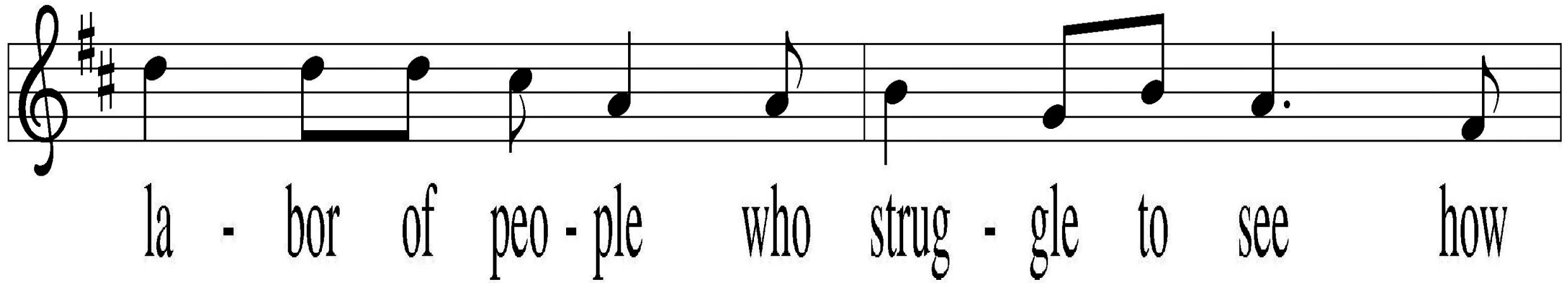
All Earth Is Hopeful

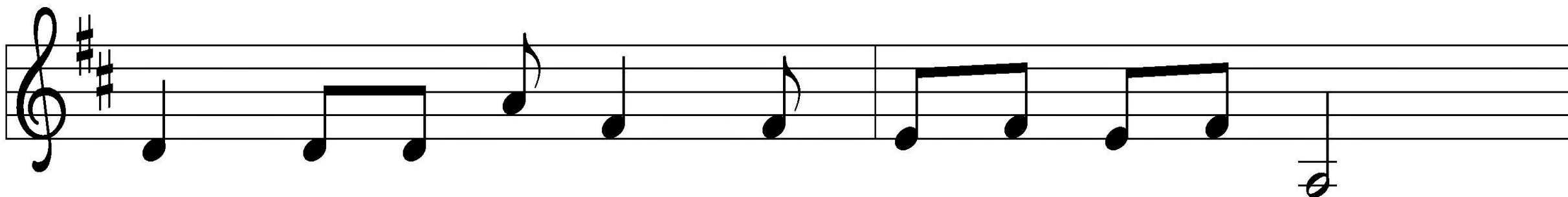


1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!

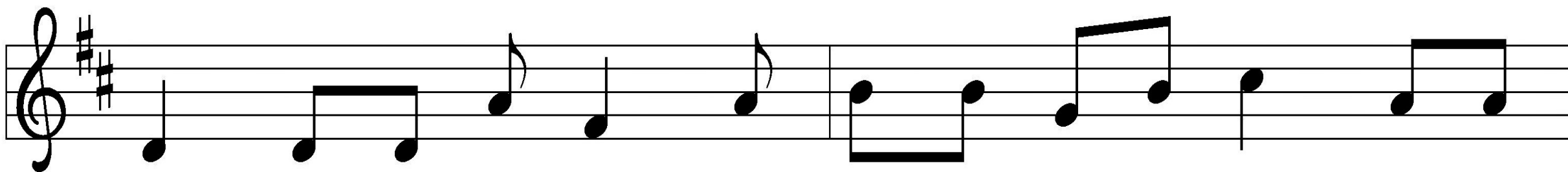


Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the

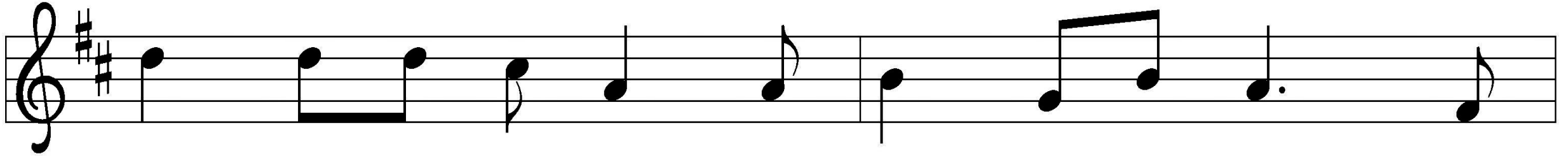




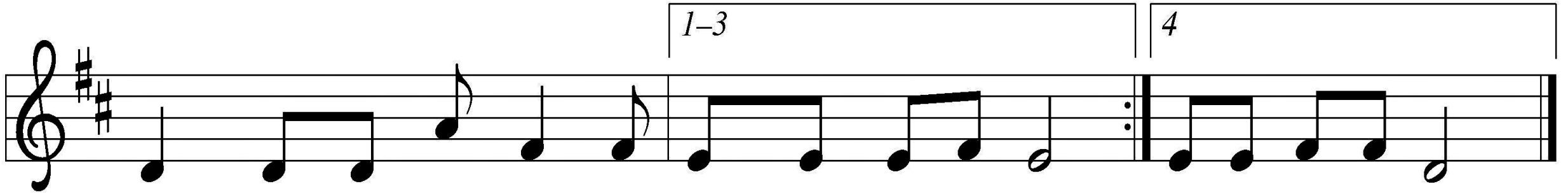
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:



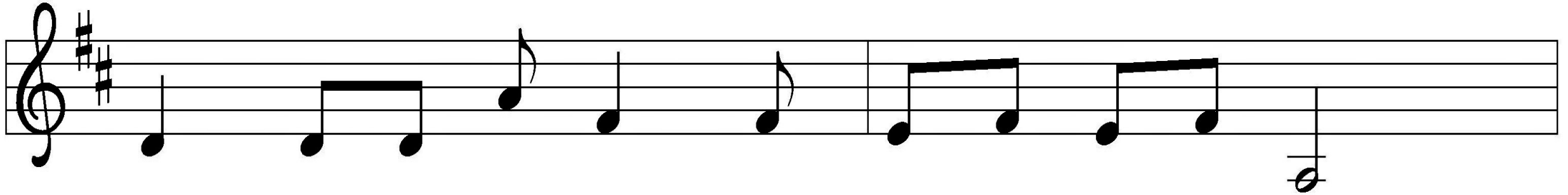
“A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el”; she con -



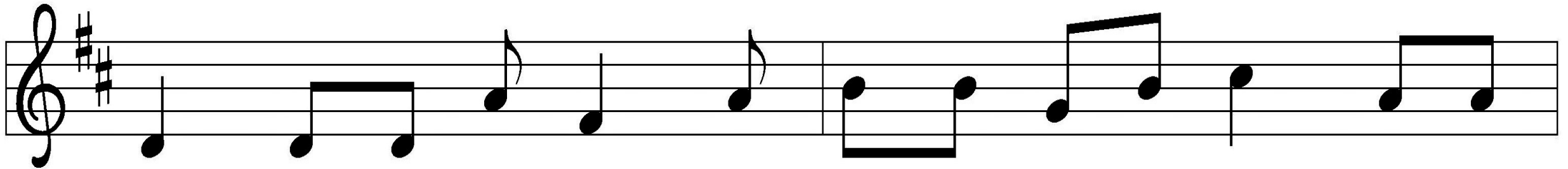
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -



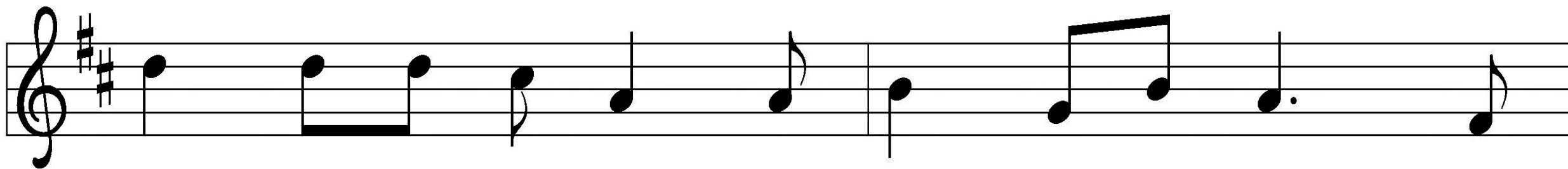
stores hope and cour-age to chil - dren of this earth. ev - er sets us free.



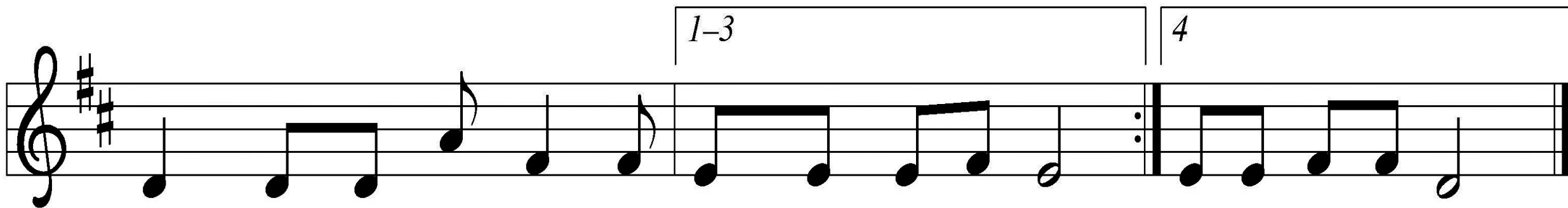
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;



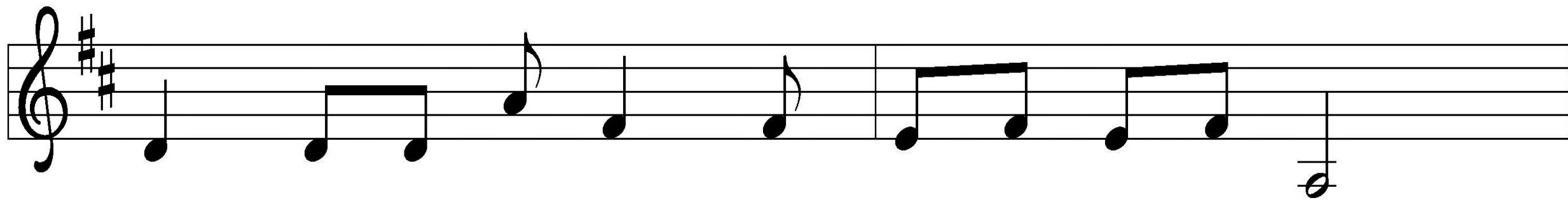
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most



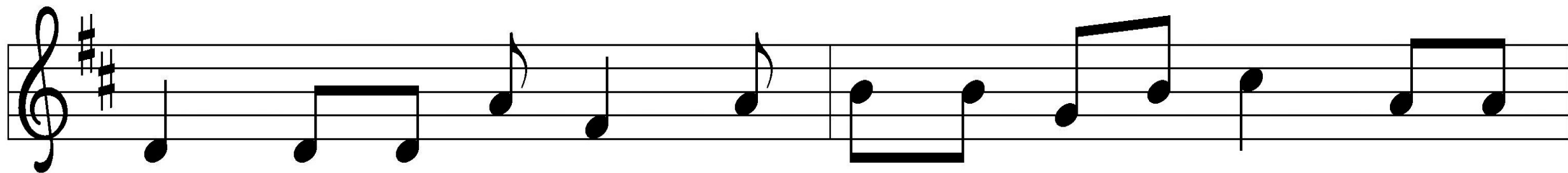
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All



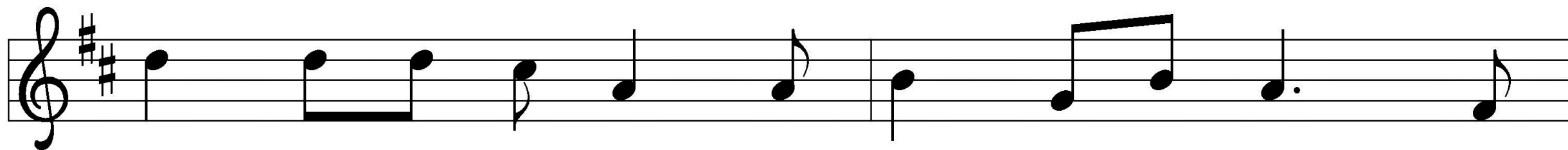
clear ev - 'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste! ev - er sets us free.



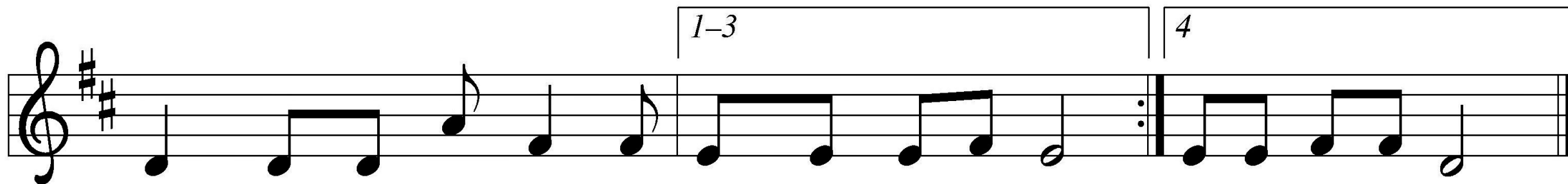
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



Je - sus is with us, and

ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

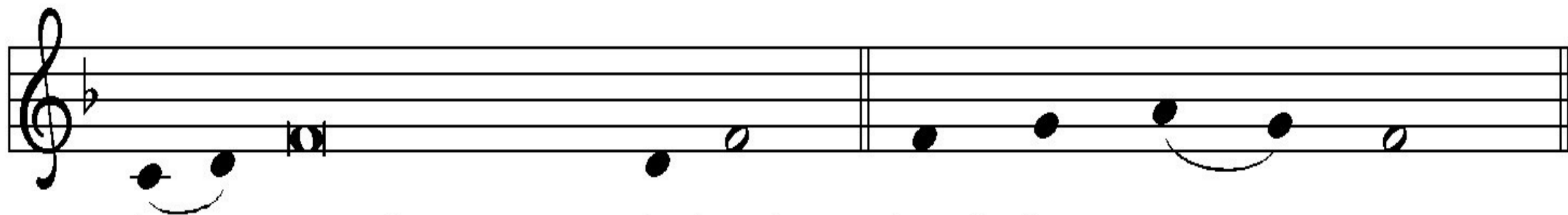
Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

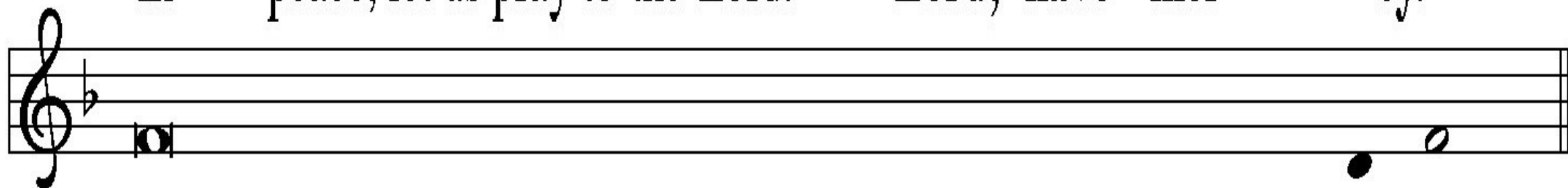
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also to you.

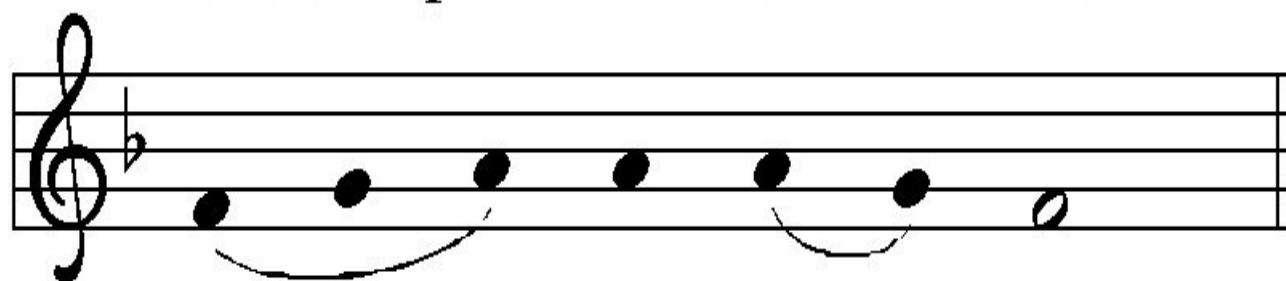
THE KYRIE



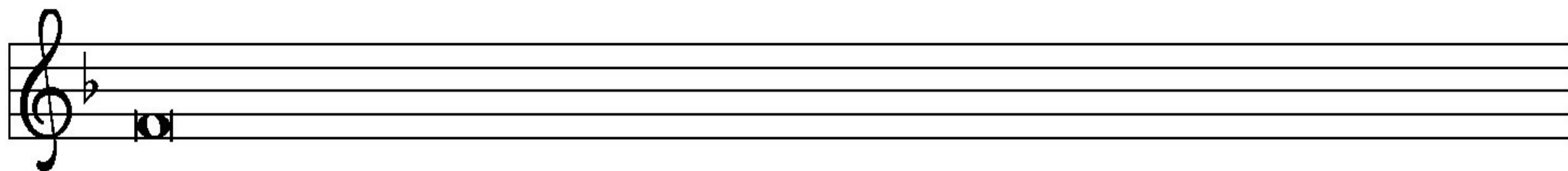
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



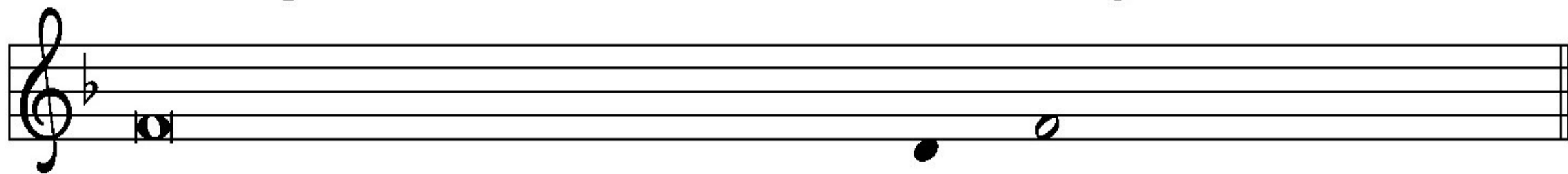
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



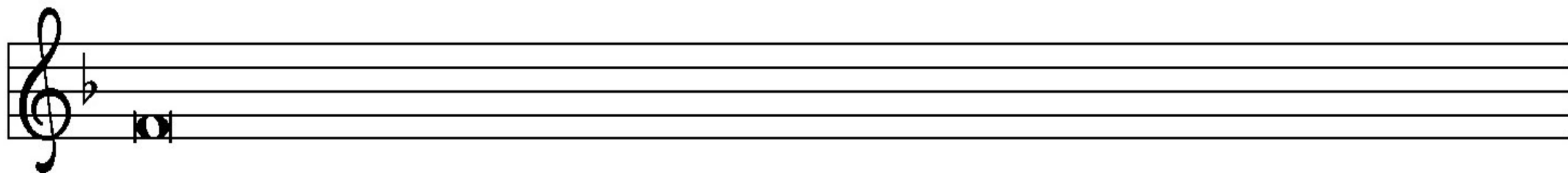
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

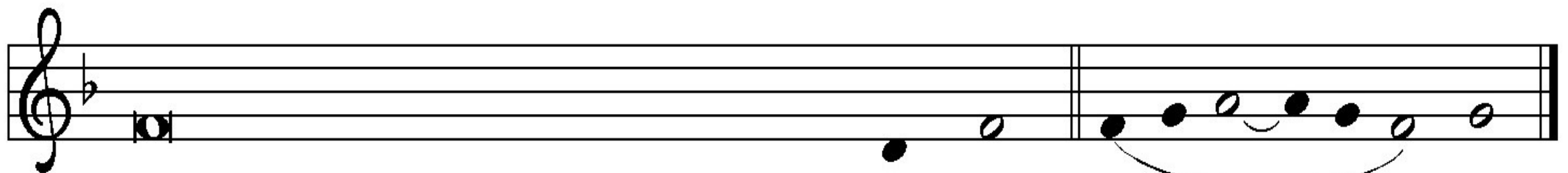


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.



Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 3

P/A: We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

C: As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory.

P/A: Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need.

**C: Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day
draws near. Amen.**

Light three candles.

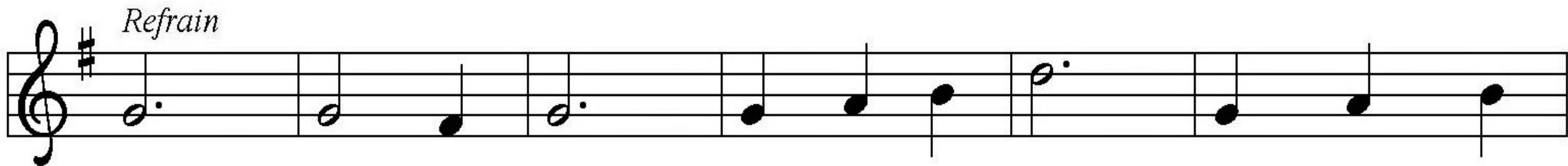
Christ, Be Our Light

1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for

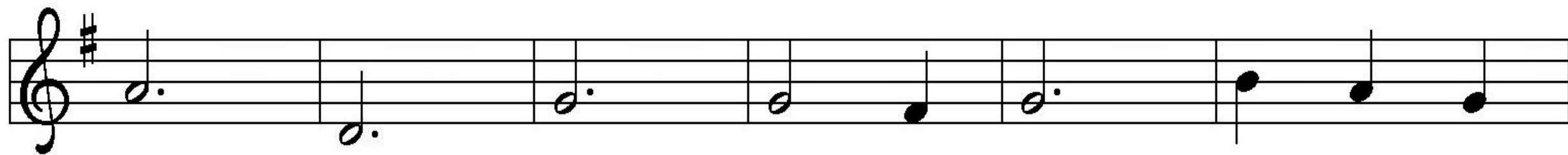
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,

your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.

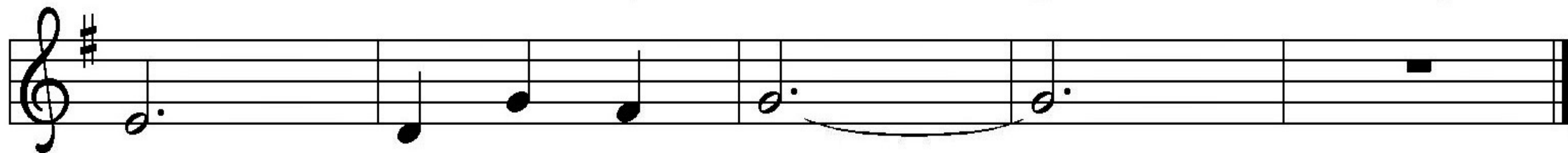
The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Christ, Be Our Light'. It consists of three staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the start of the first line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with whole and half notes, and some phrases are connected by slurs. The lyrics are: '1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.'



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



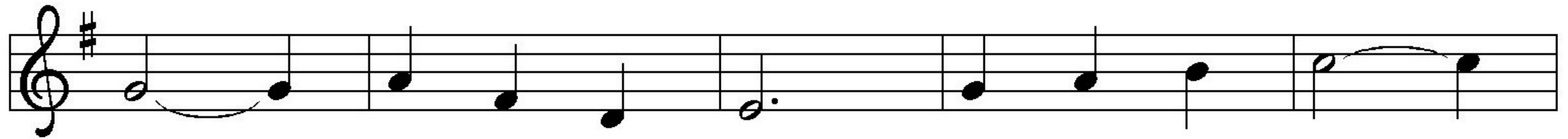
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



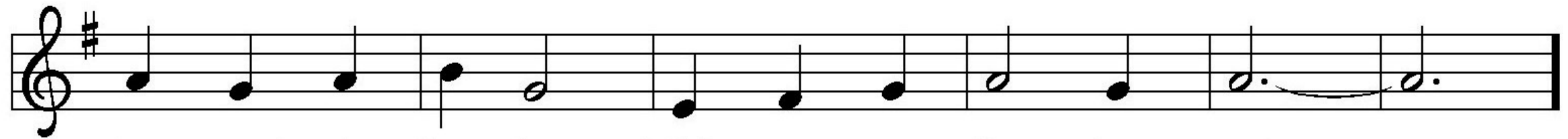
church gath - ered to - day.



2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for

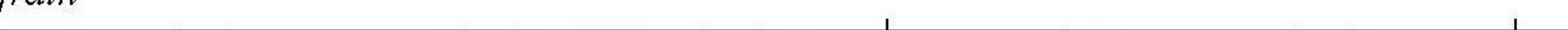


hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone



has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.

Refrain

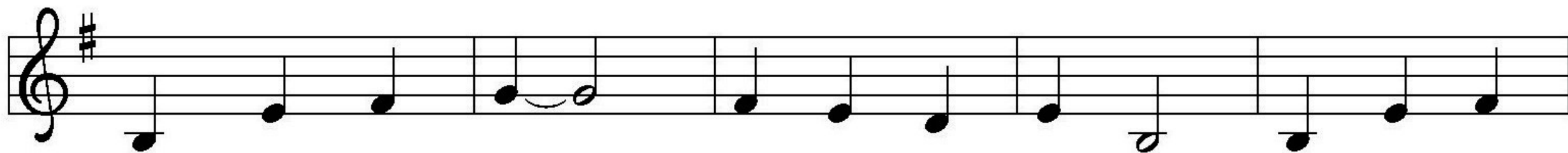


The musical notation for the Refrain is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of the following notes: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter). The notes are grouped into measures by vertical bar lines.

[illegible]

The first staff of music is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains the following notes: a dotted quarter note on G4, an eighth note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, a dotted half note on C5, and a dotted half note on C5. The staff is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

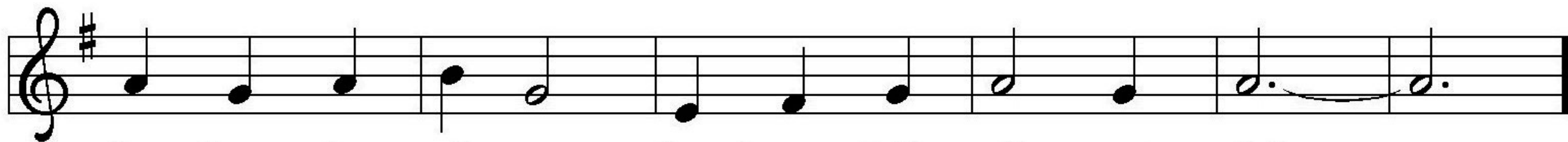
church gath - ered to - day.



3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for



wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,



bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

The psalm for the day is sung.

² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not | be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might,
and has become | my salvation.

³ **With joy you | will draw water
from the wells | of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD, call | on God's name;
make known the deeds of the LORD among the
nations; proclaim that this name | is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD,**
for he has done | gloriously;
let this be known in | all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O | royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy | One of Israel.

SECOND READING: Philippians 4: 4-7

A reading from Philippians.

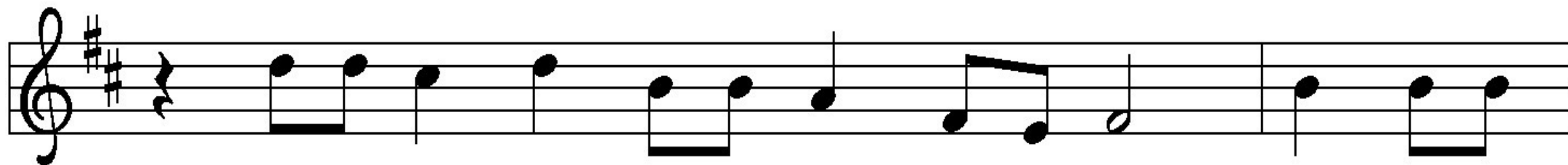
⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

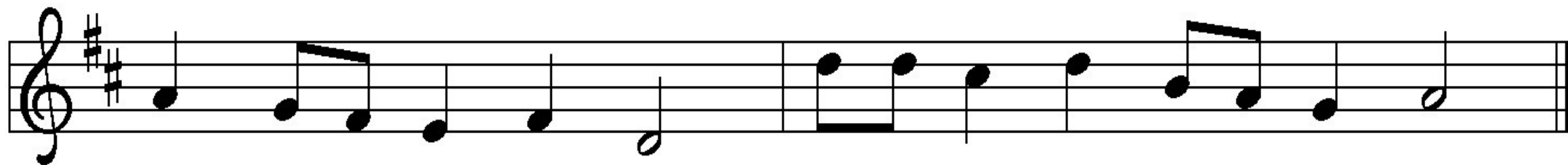
Word of God, word of life.

C: 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 3: 7-18

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming;

I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

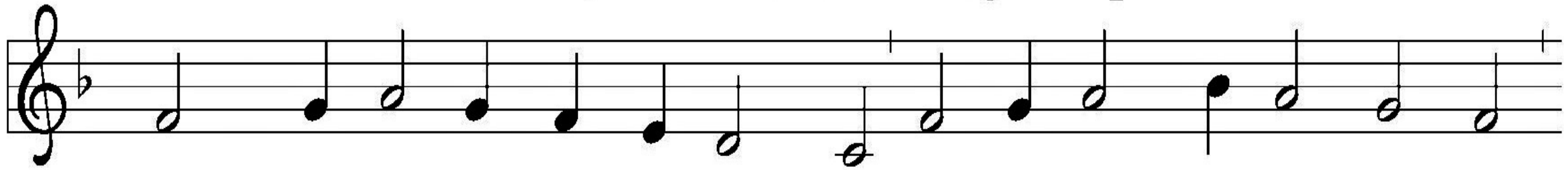
¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

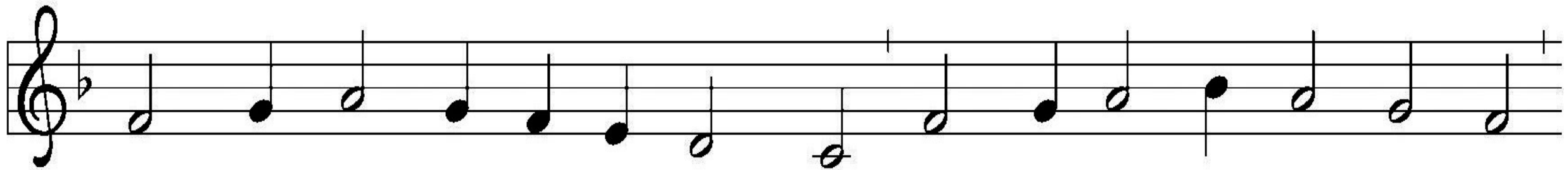
Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

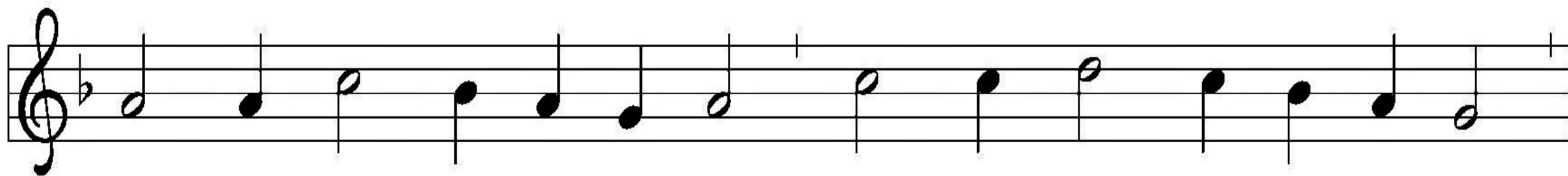
Comfort, Comfort Now My People



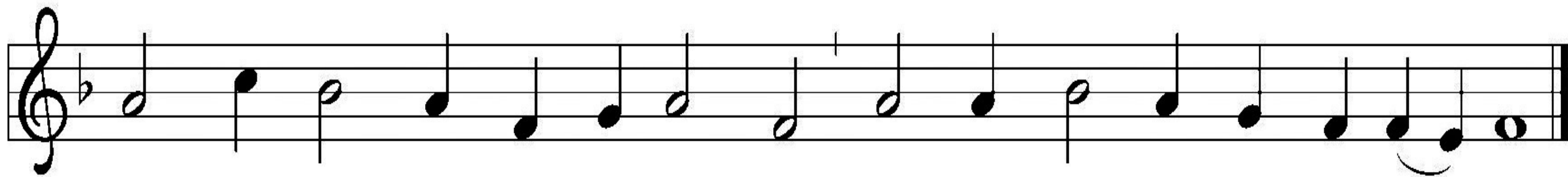
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.



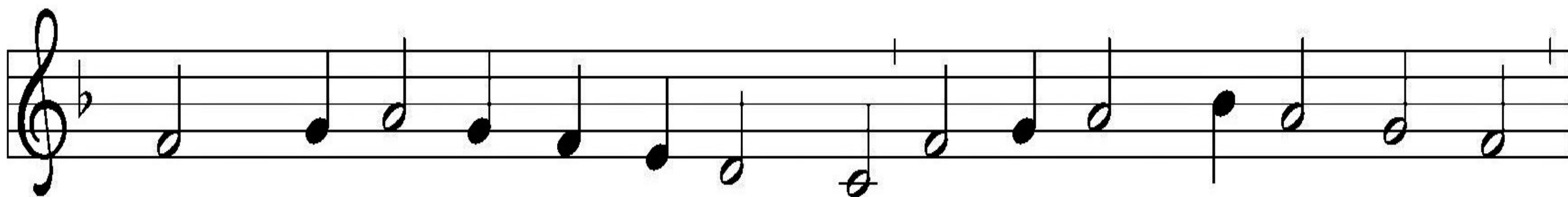
Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.



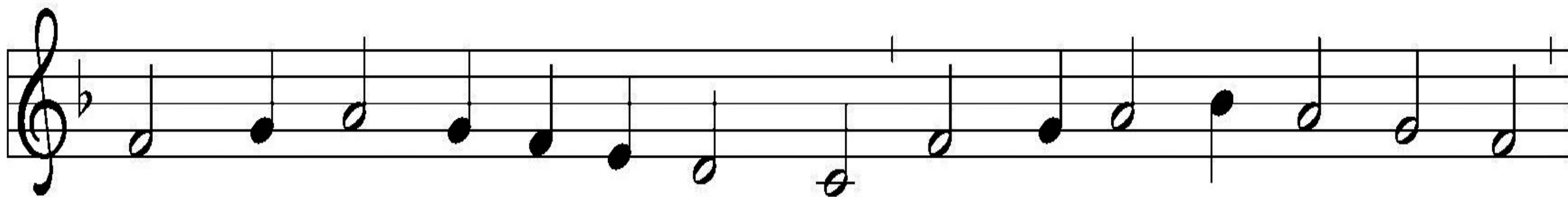
To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.



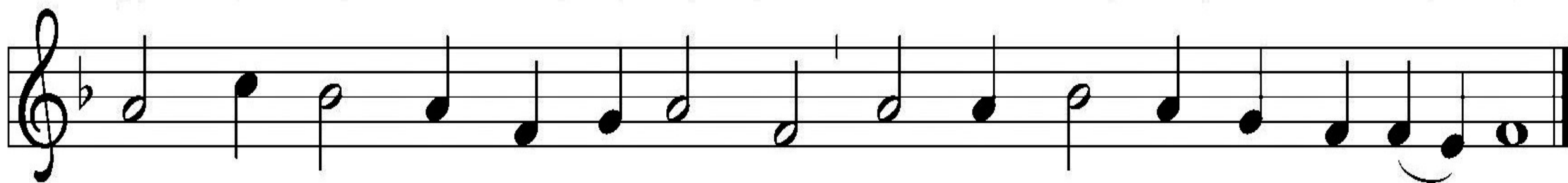
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,



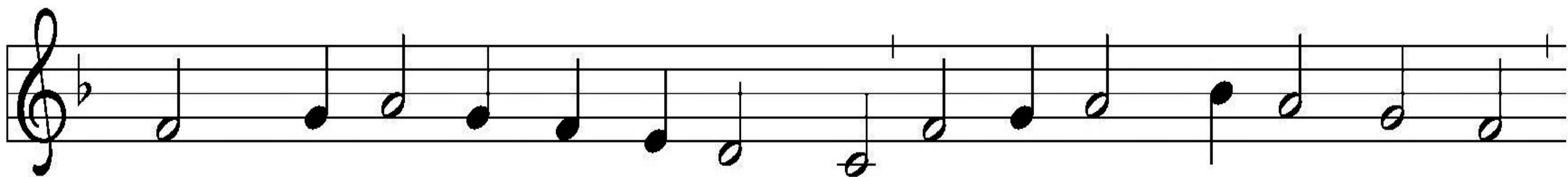
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.



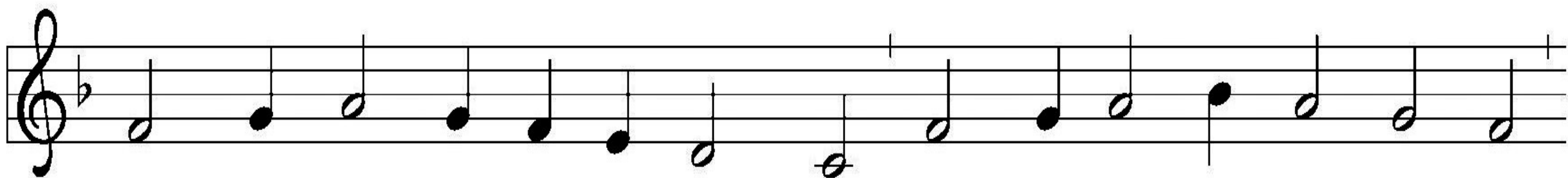
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.



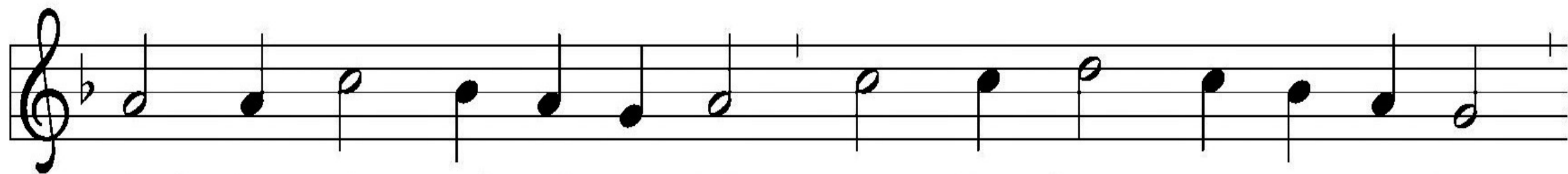
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.



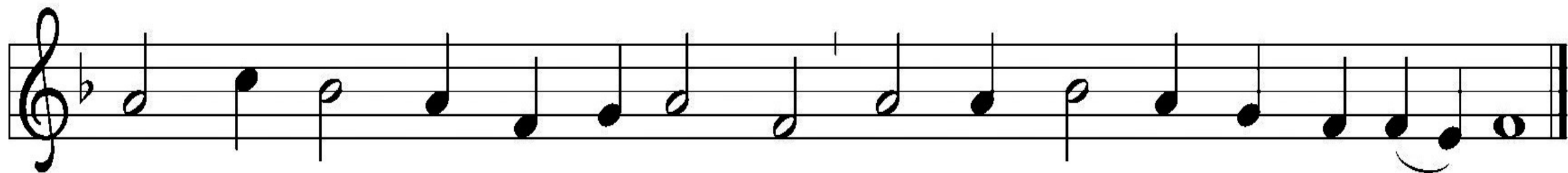
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

Nicene Creed

**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: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

P/A: Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P/A: Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing.
Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the
ministry of church musicians (*especially*). With
instruments and dance, join our voices to the
song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P/A: We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (*especially*). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

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.

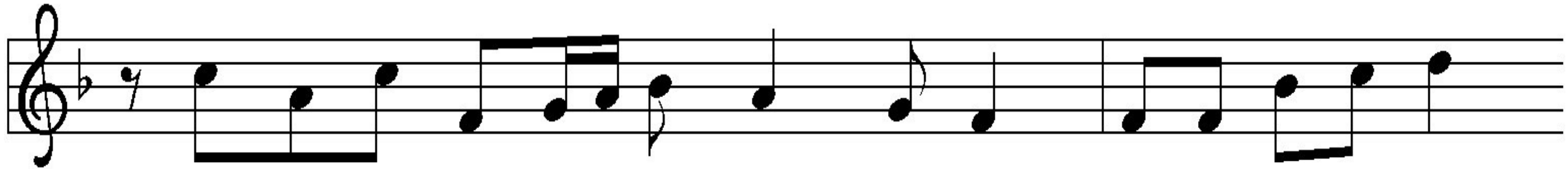
The assembly is seated.

**Presentation of the
Bread and Wine for
the Eucharistic Feast**

Stand as you are able

Create in Me a Clean Heart

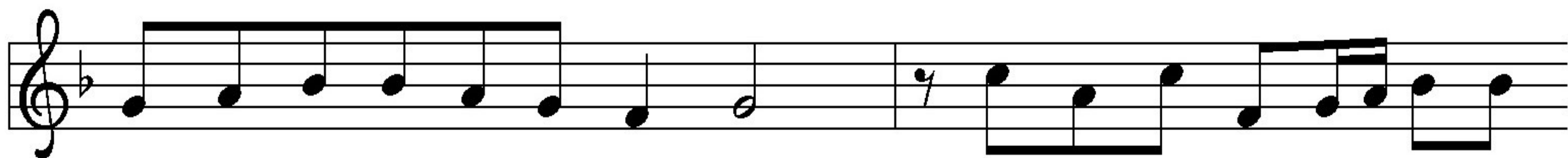
Offering Song



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right



spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

P/A: Let us pray.

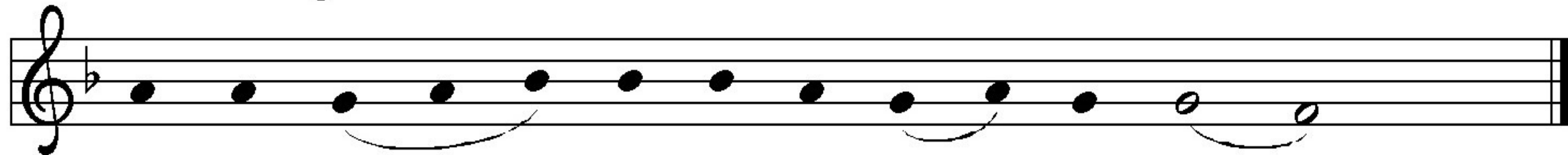
God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.





Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Presiding Minister

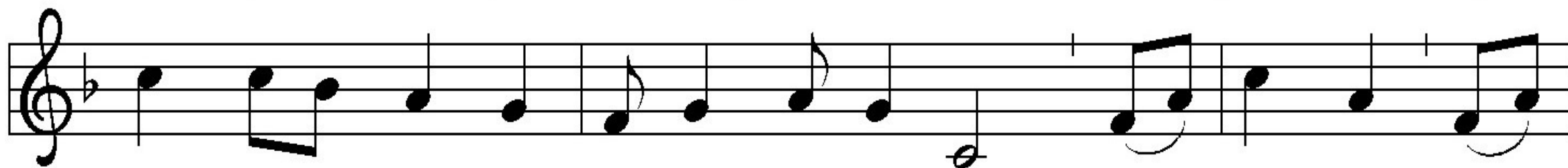
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending 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: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and
forever.

C: Amen, amen, amen.

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

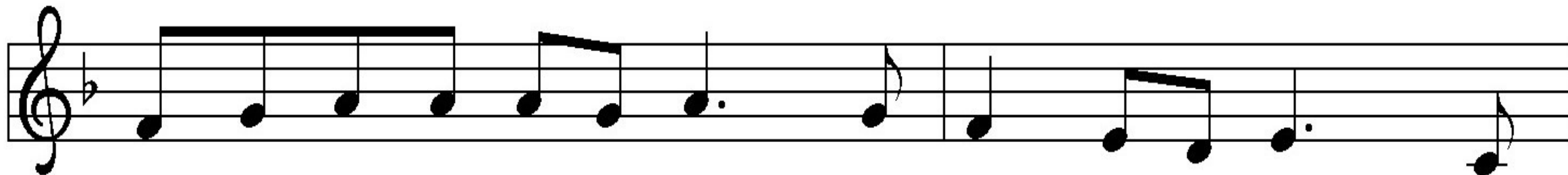
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

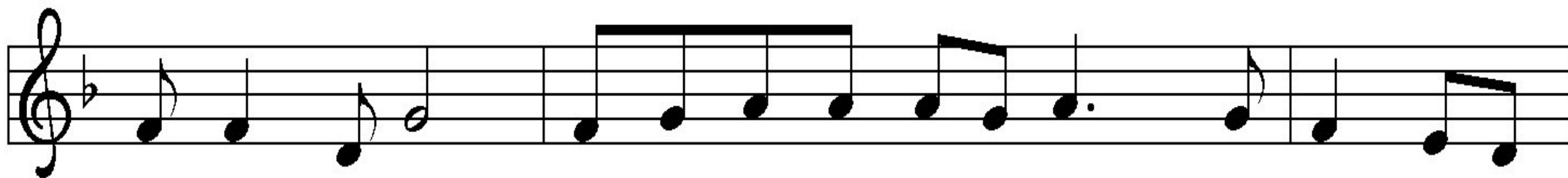
P: Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

**C: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

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.



At the Table

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

M. Hayes

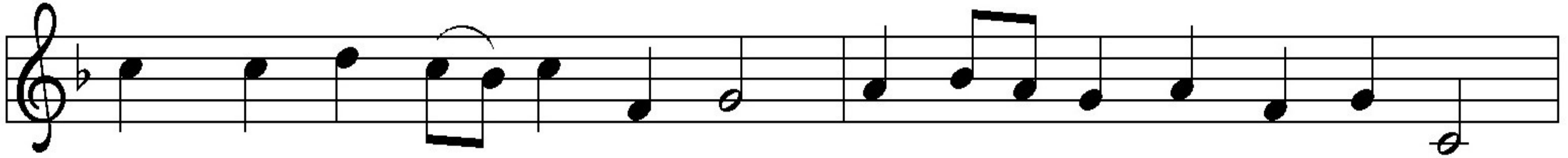
After all have returned to their places, stand as you are able

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

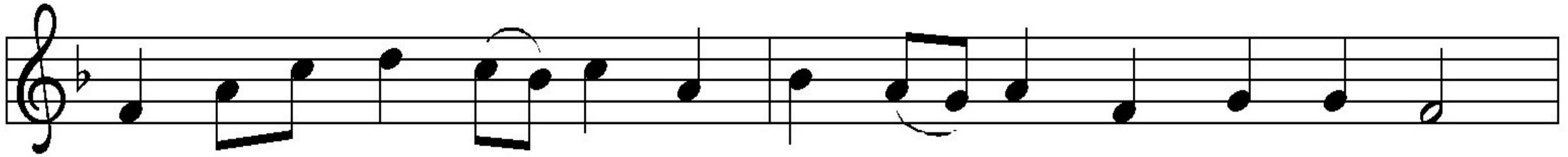
C: Amen.

Stand as you are able

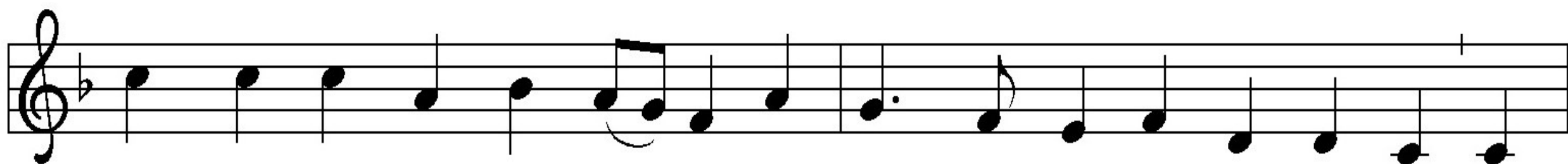
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



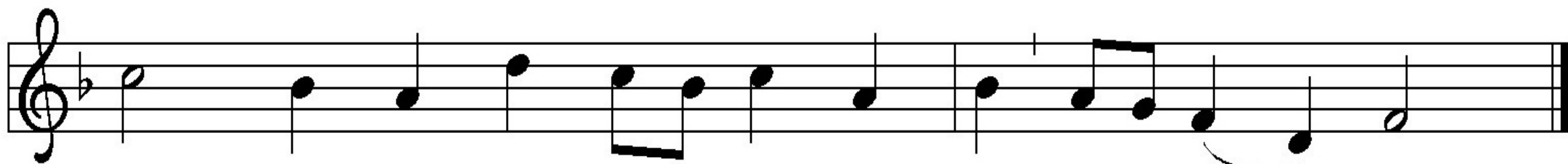
Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



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.

Stand as you are able

P/A: Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
and empower you to bless
and keep those around you.
The Lord's face shine on you
with grace and mercy,
as you share that grace
and mercy with all that you meet.

The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you ✝ peace,
and let that peace shine
through you for all the world to see.

C: Amen.

Announcements

God Sightings

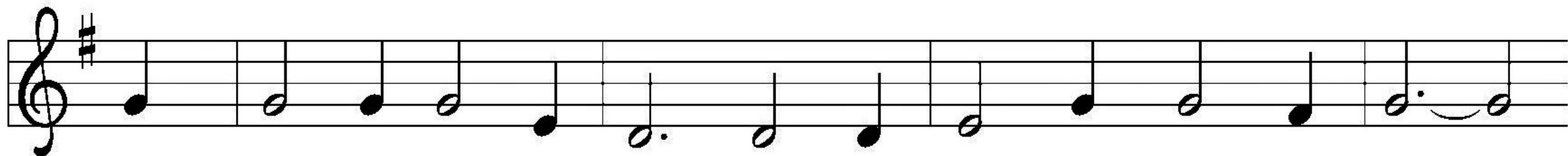
Celebrations

SENDING HYMN

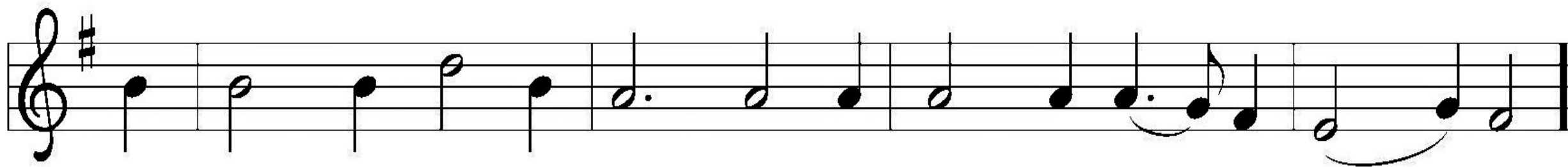
Prepare the Royal Highway



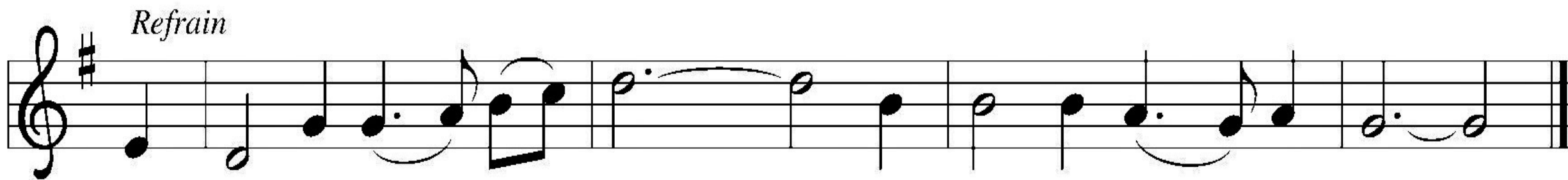
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!



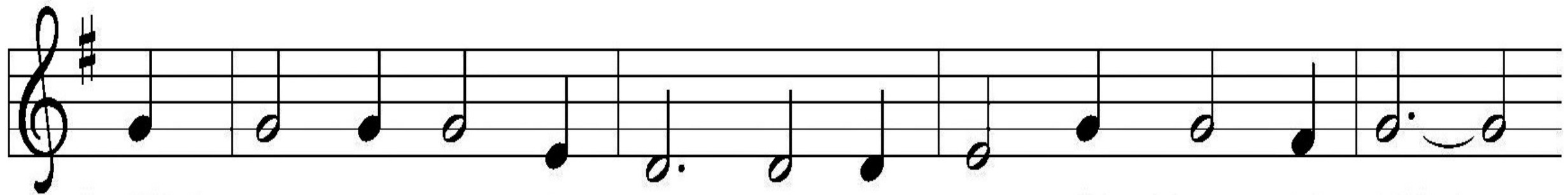
Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!



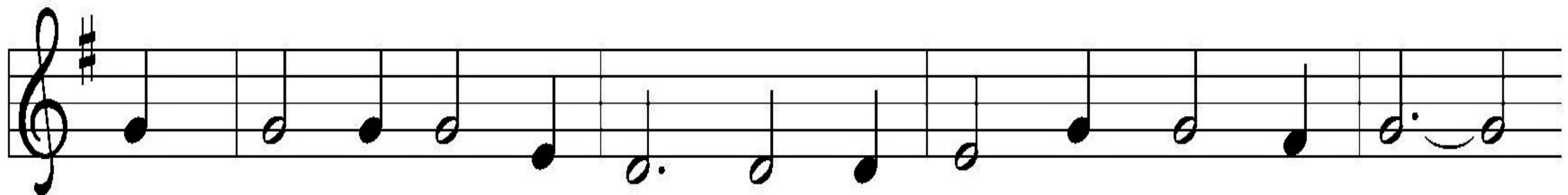
Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

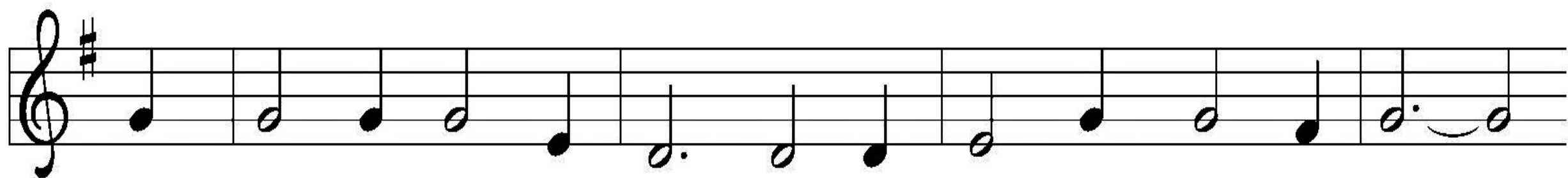


2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!

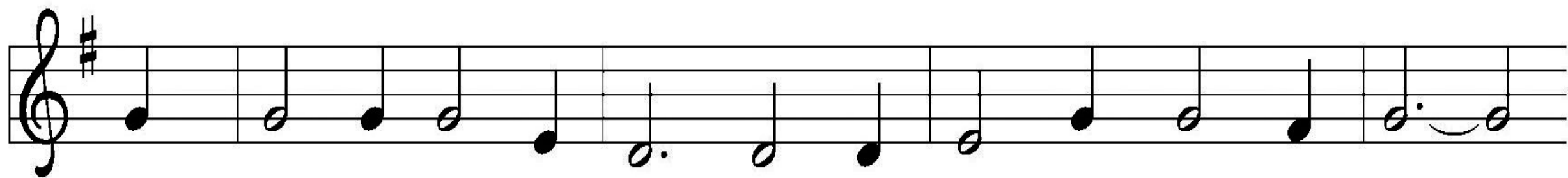


Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!

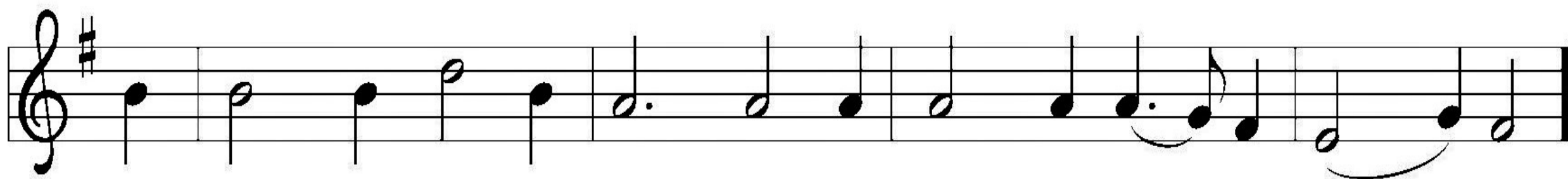




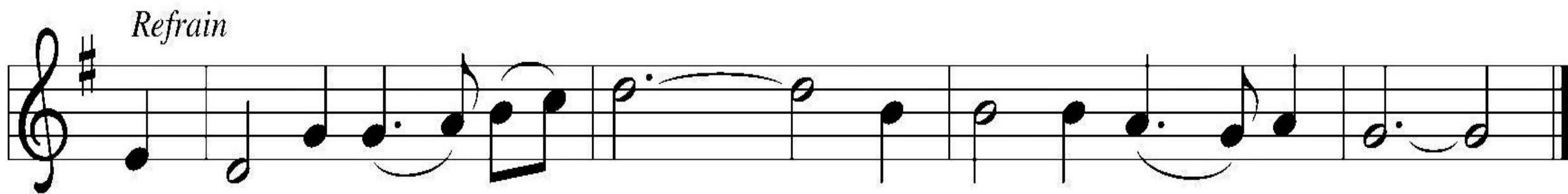
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom-ised king!



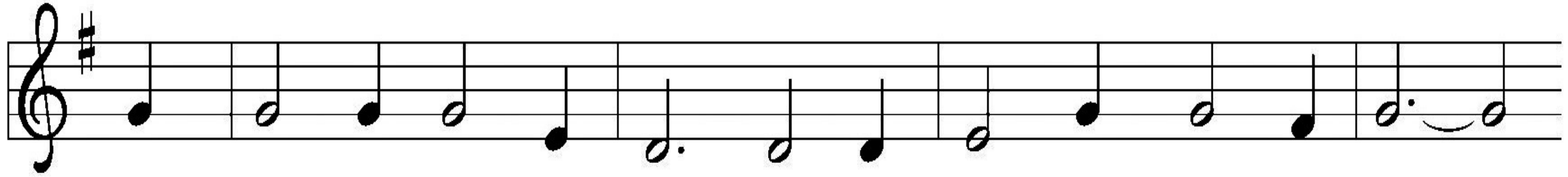
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.



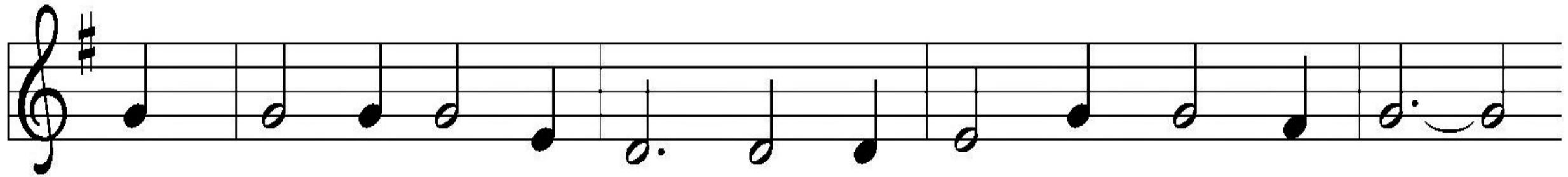
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:



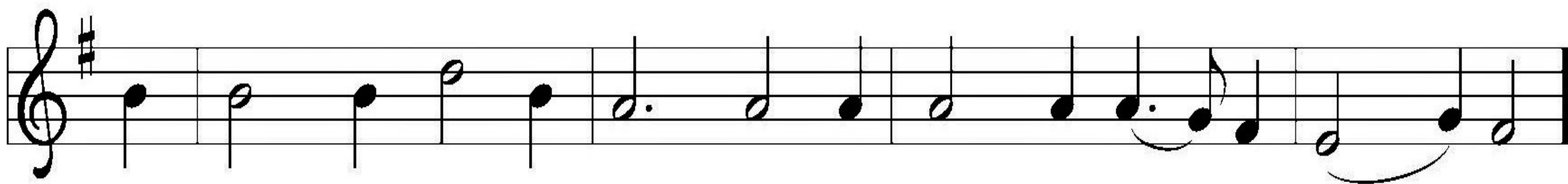
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!



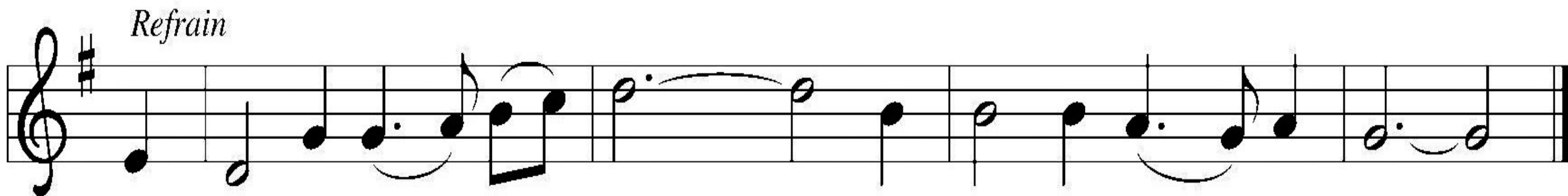
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

M. Haugen