

The Nativity of our Lord

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

December 24, 2021



Prelude

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Bethlehem Carol

arranged by L. Shackley

The First Noel

arranged by J. Carter

Adeste Fideles

arranged by J. Wade

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.

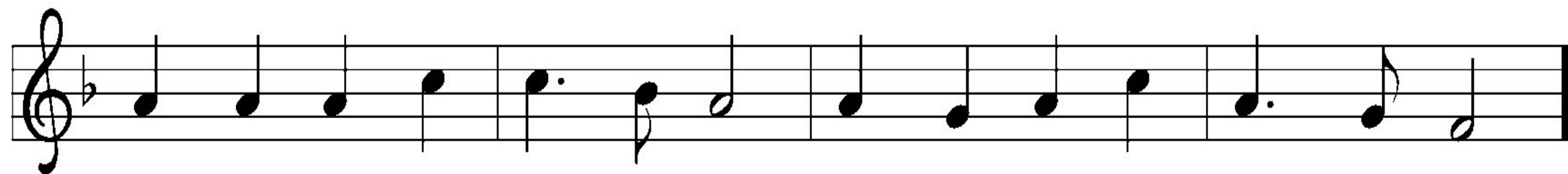
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of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

C: Amen.

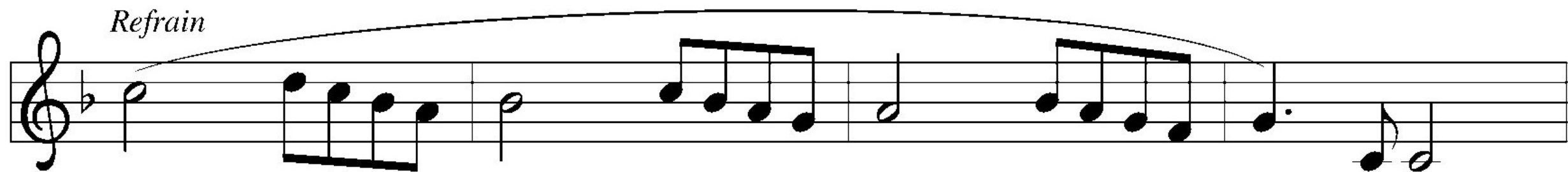
Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,

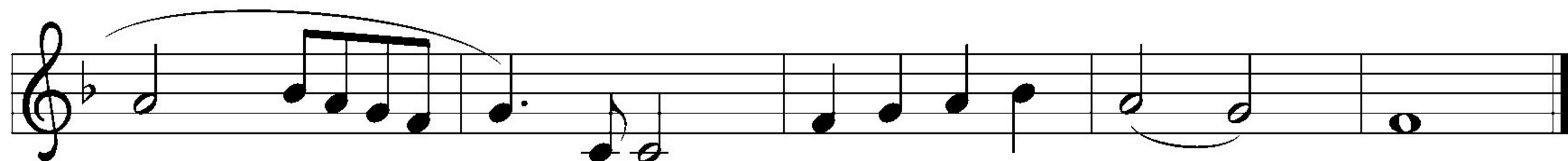
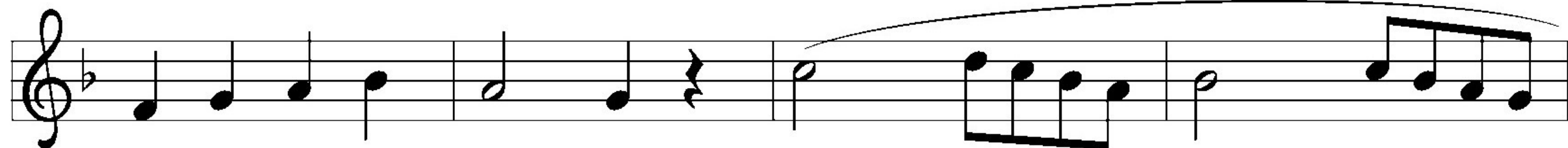


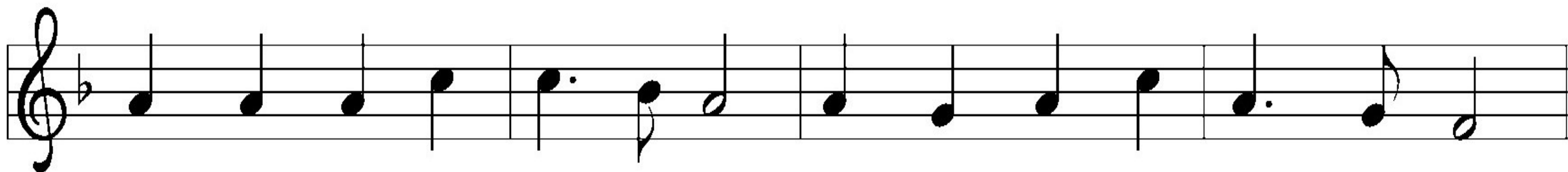
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.



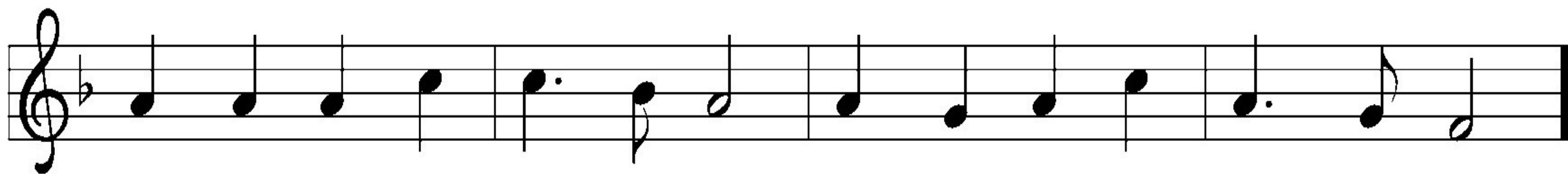
Glo

ri-a

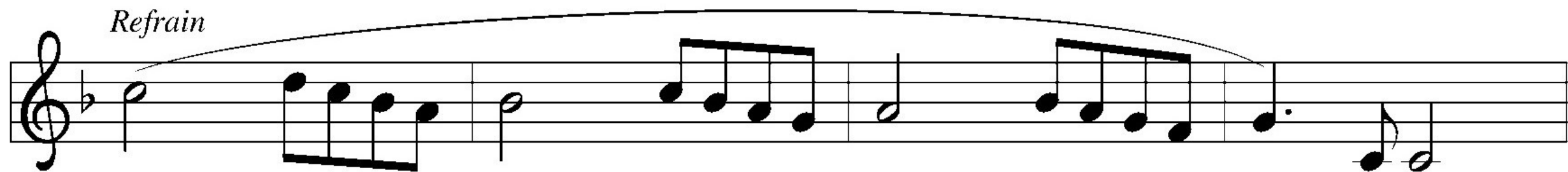




2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?

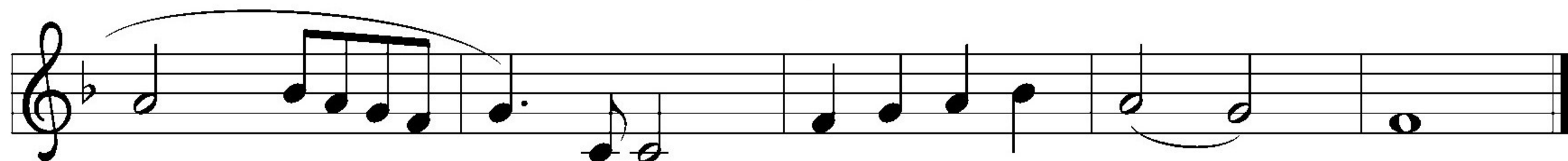
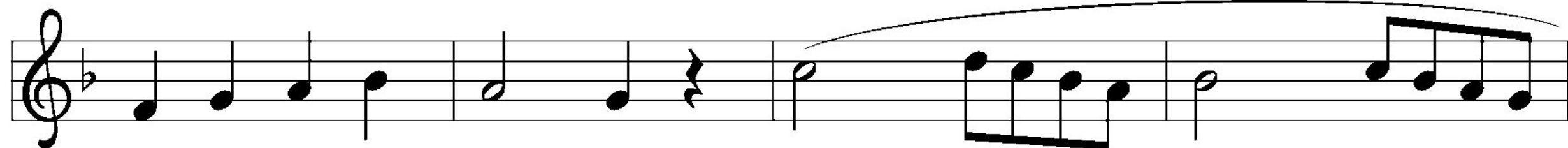


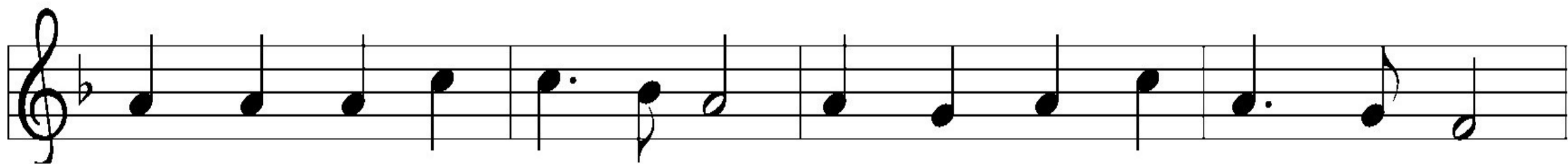
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?



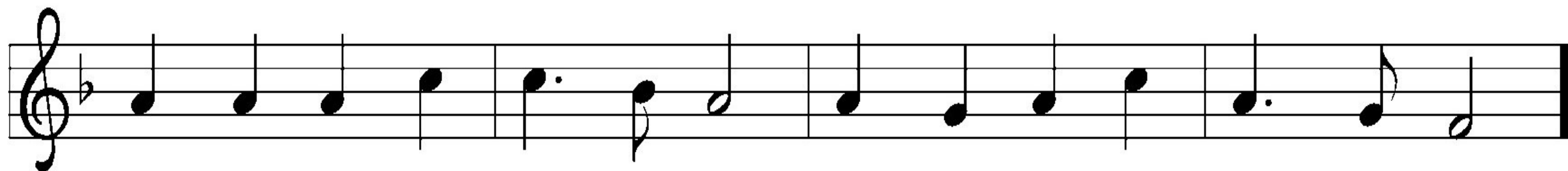
Glo

ri-a





3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -

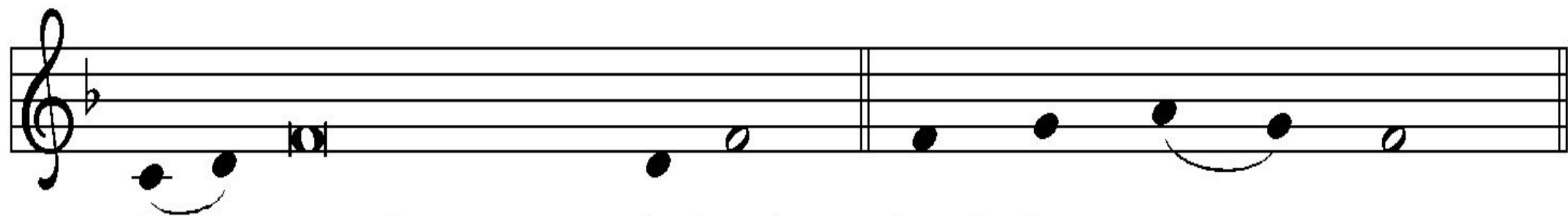
- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

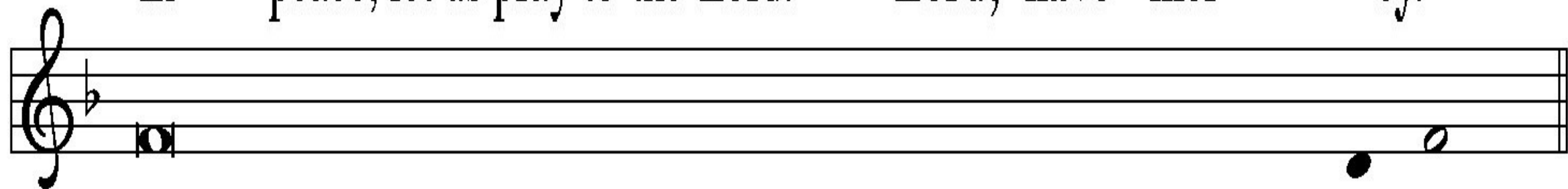
Music: GLORIA, French carol

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

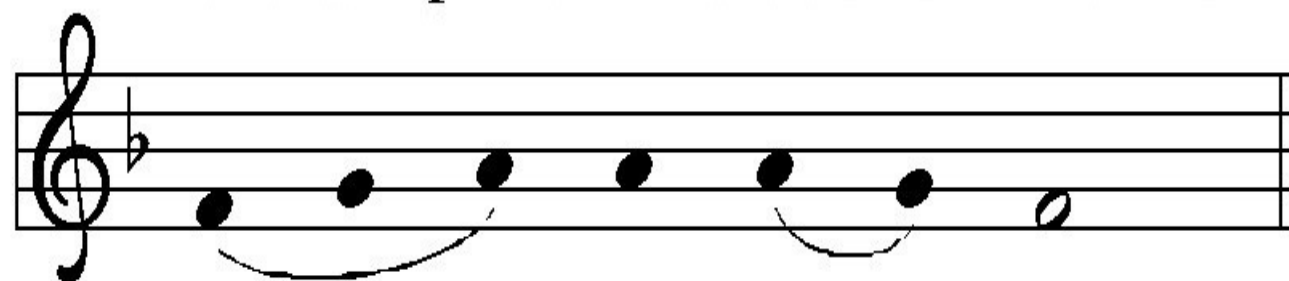
C: And also to you.



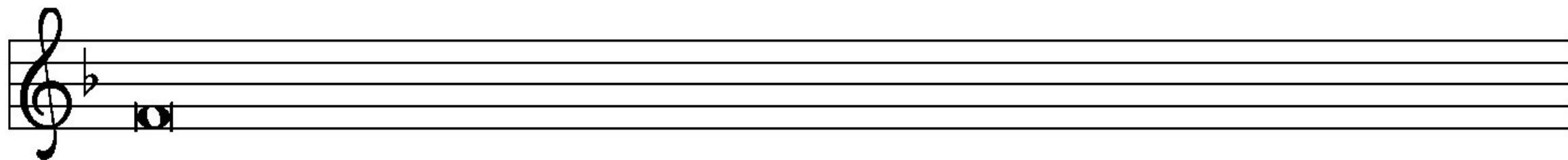
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



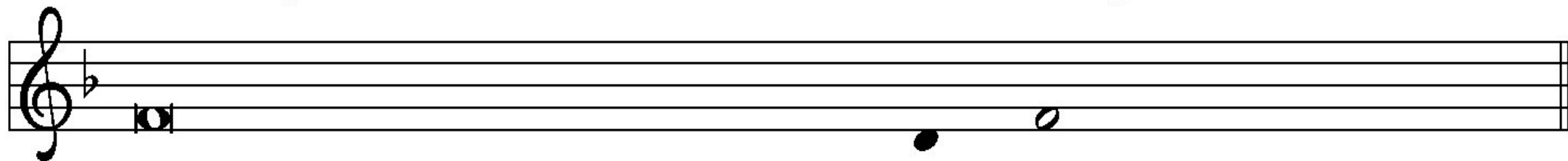
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



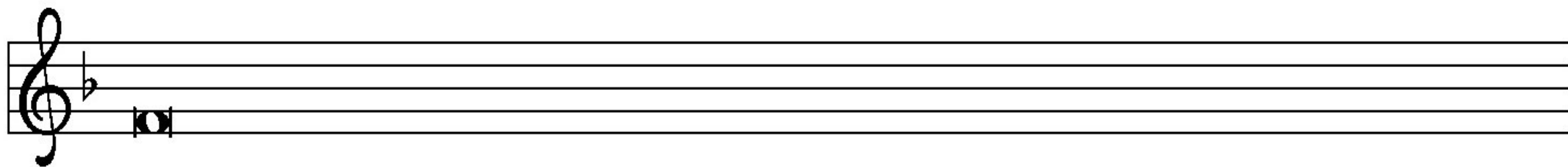
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.

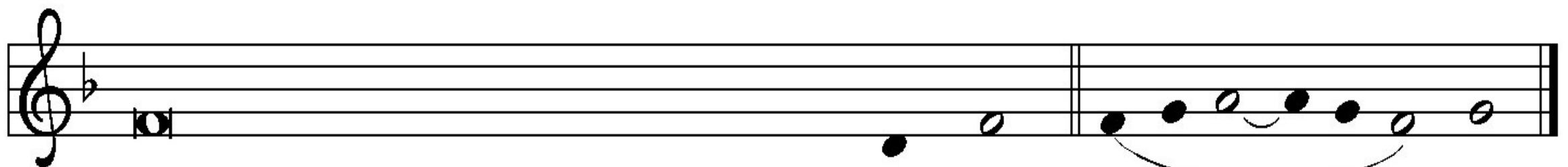


For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



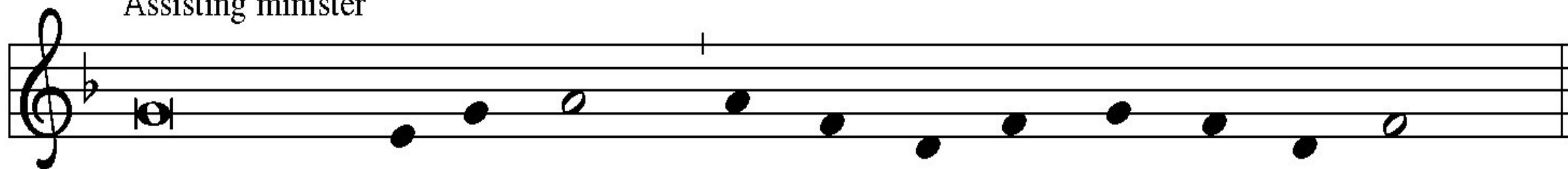
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



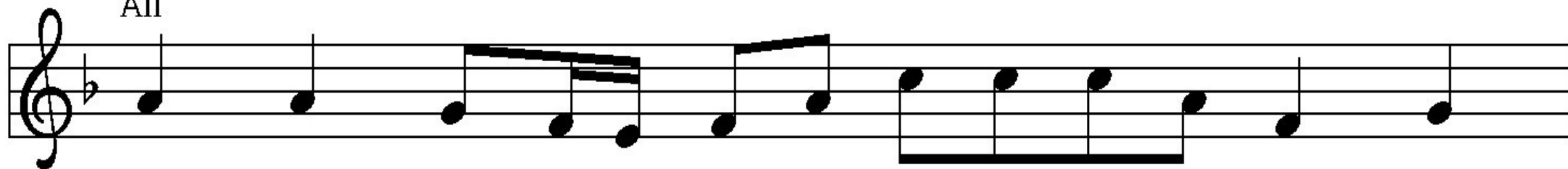
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

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.



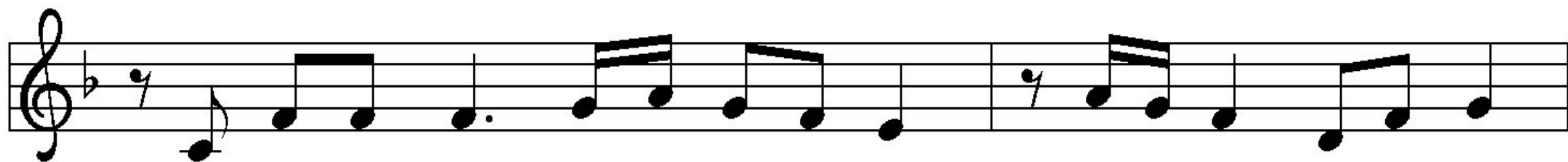
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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.

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from Isaiah.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96

The psalm for the day is sung.

¹Sing to the LORD[|] a new song;
sing to the LORD, [|] all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name [|] of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from [|] day to day.**

³Declare God's glory a- [|] mong the nations
and God's wonders a- [|] mong all peoples.

**⁴For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods.**

**⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.**

**⁶Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the
LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰Tell it out among the nations:

“The | LORD is king!

**The one who made the world so firm that it
cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples
with equity.”**

**¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field
be joyful and all that | is therein.**

**¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for
joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

**¹³You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Titus.

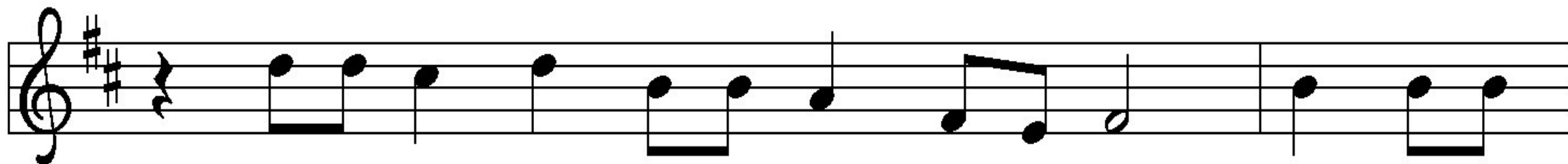
¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,
and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,
upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope
and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and
Savior, Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

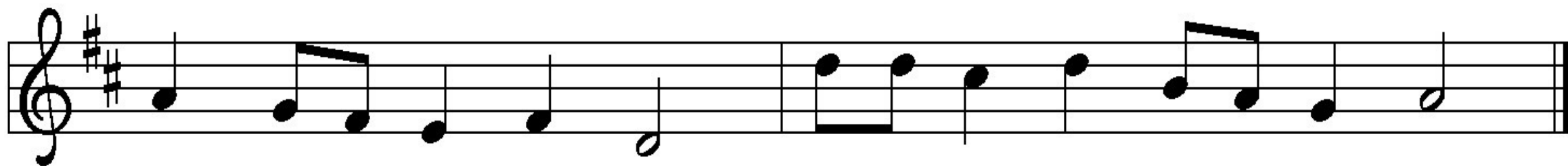
Word of God, word of life.

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 2:1-20

The holy gospel according to St. Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

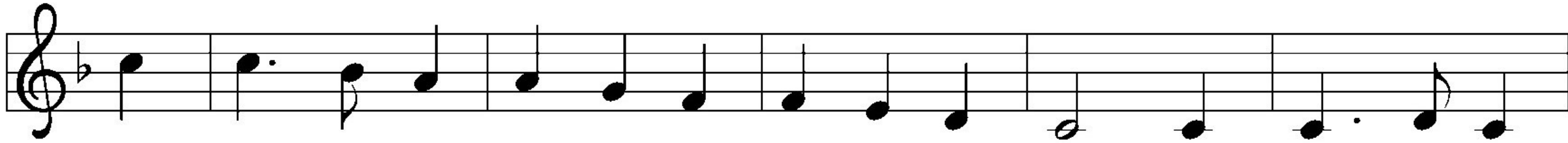
¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord

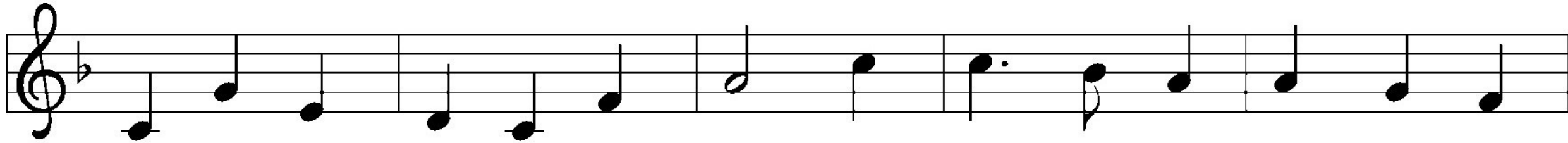
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

Away in a Manger



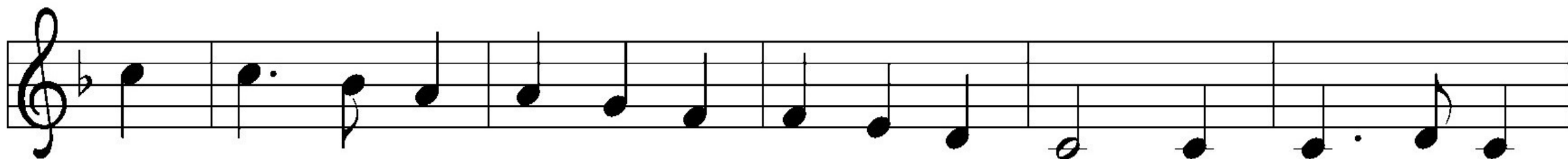
1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord



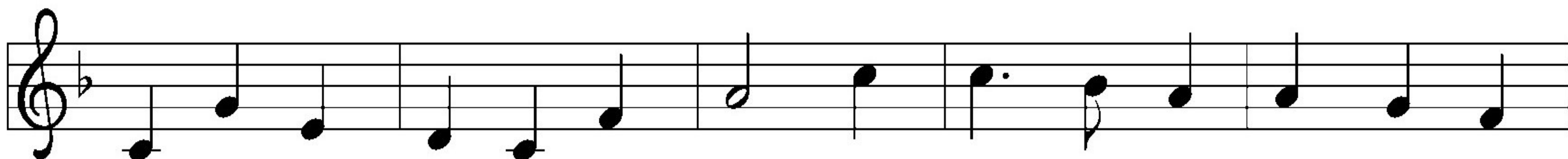
Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked



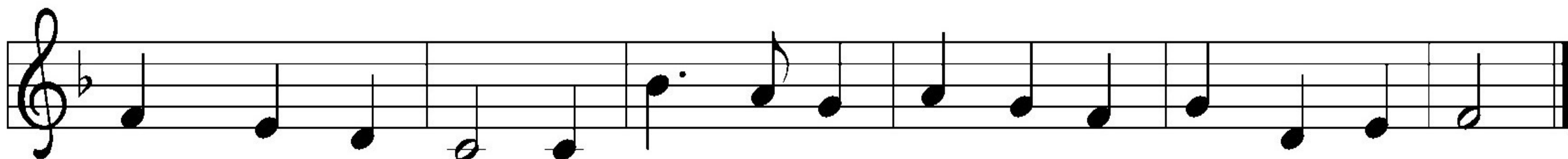
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.



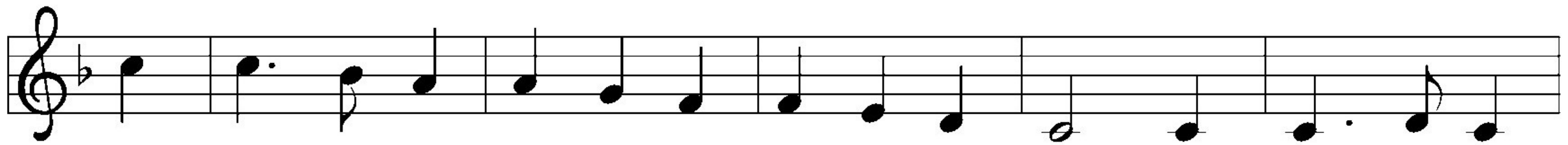
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord



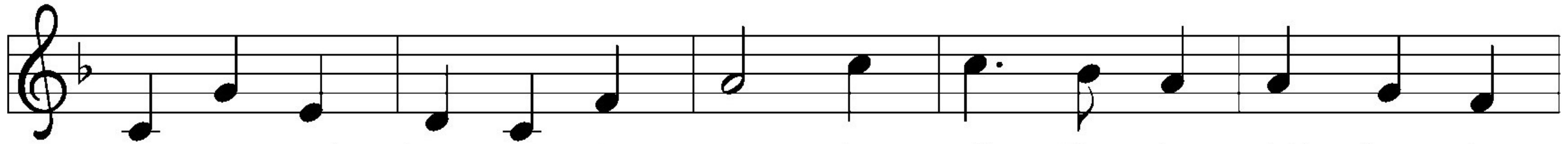
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look



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

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: Joining our voices with the heavenly host
and Christians throughout time and space,
let us pray for the church, the world, and
all in need.

A brief silence.

P/A: Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P/A: Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P/A: Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P/A: Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (*especially*). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P/A: Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind.

Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P/A: God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (*especially*).
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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

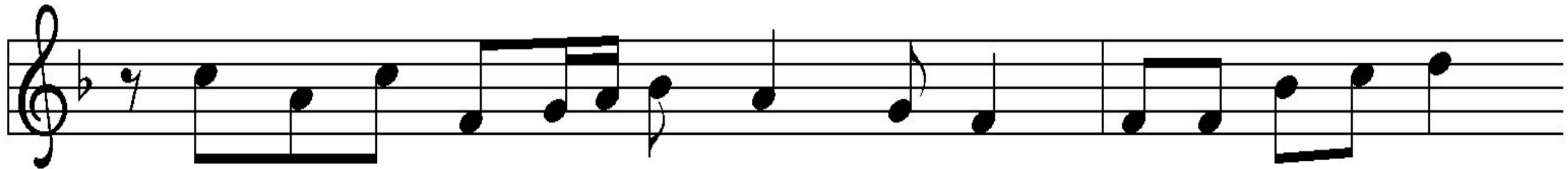
Once in Royal David's City

H. Gauntlett

Stand as you are able

Create in Me a Clean Heart

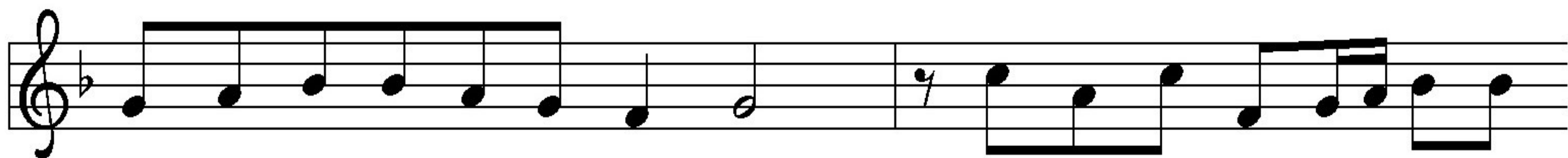
Offering Song



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

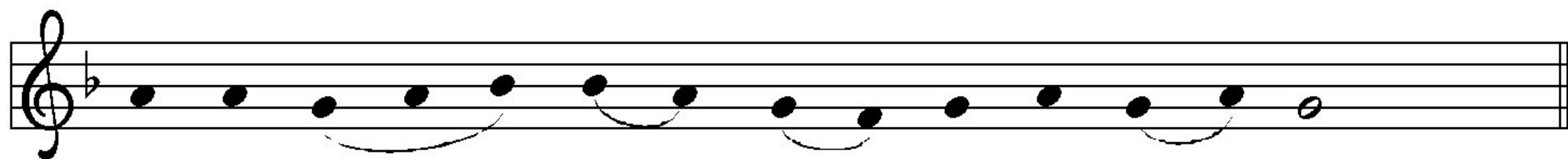
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

P/A: Let us pray.

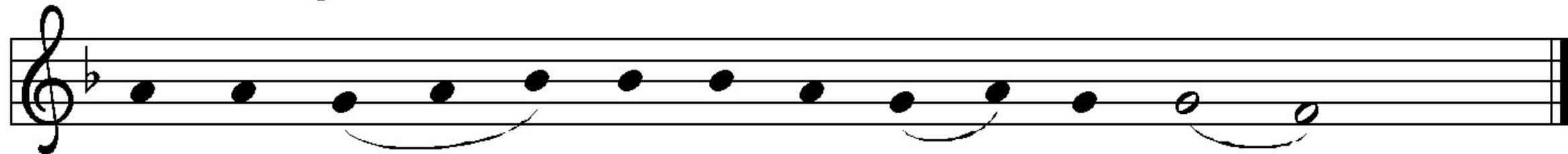
Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.





Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



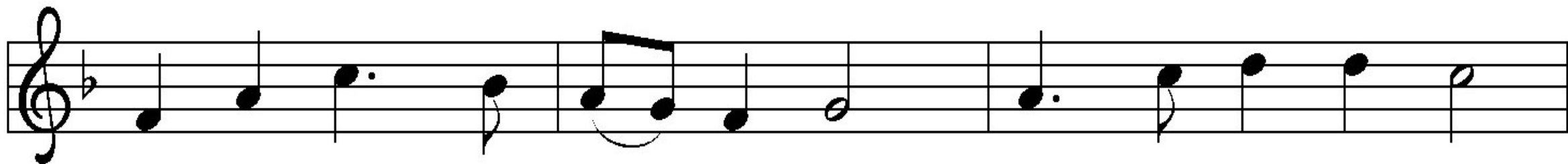
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
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.**

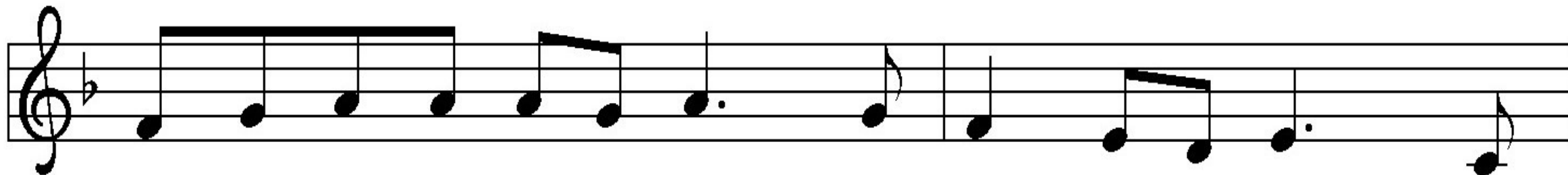
P: Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

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

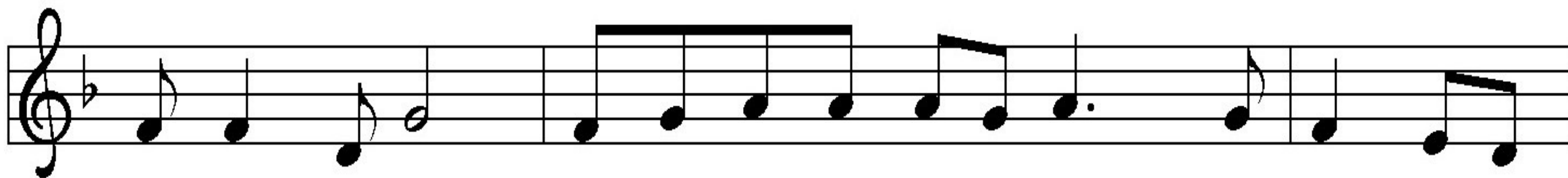
Lamb of God

Assembly may be seated

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

In the Bleak Midwinter
arranged by L. Shackley

Partita No. 2 in D Minor, S. 1004
J.S. Bach

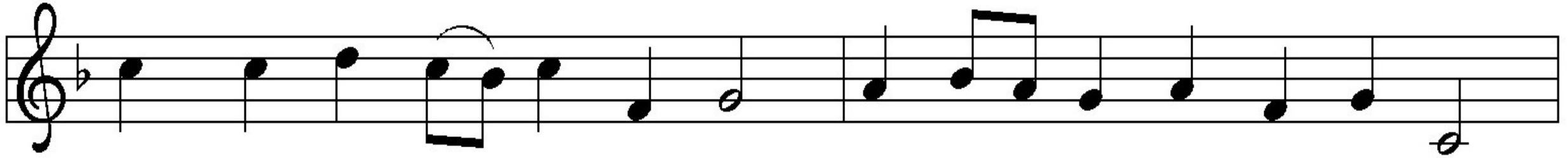
After all have returned to their places, stand as you are able

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

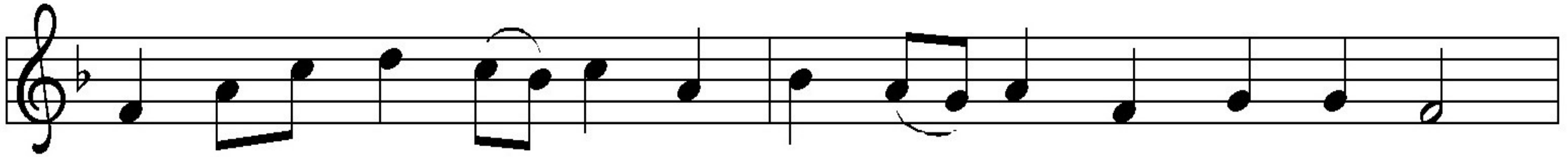
C: Amen.

Stand as you are able

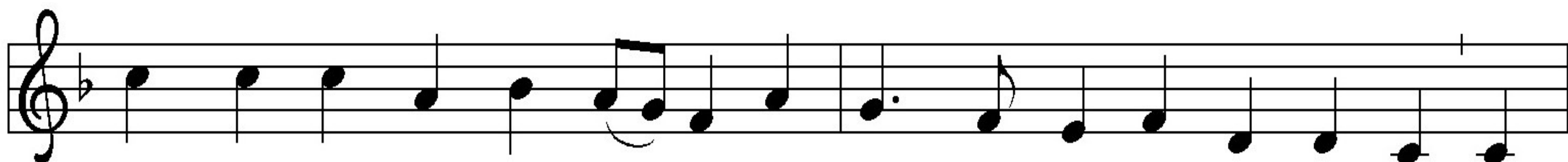
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



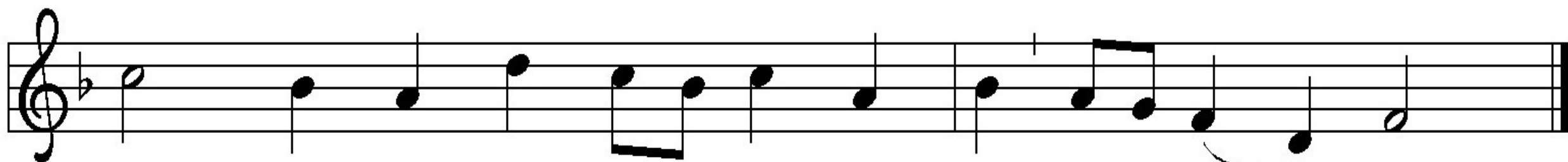
Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



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.

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.

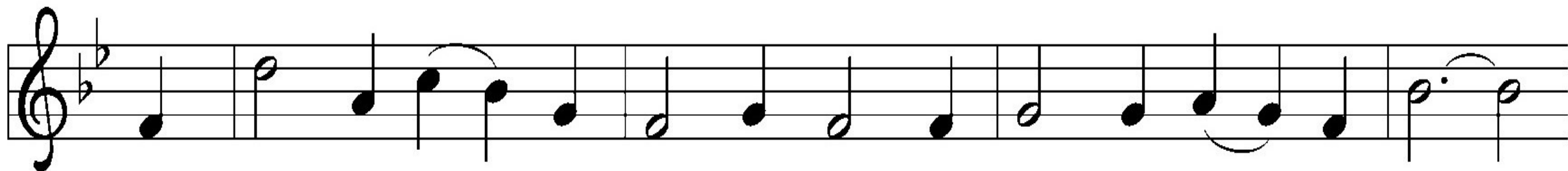
A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit candle in a white ceramic holder. The candle is white with a small flame. The background is dark and filled with many out-of-focus, glowing lights, suggesting a large gathering of candles in a dimly lit room.

**The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.**

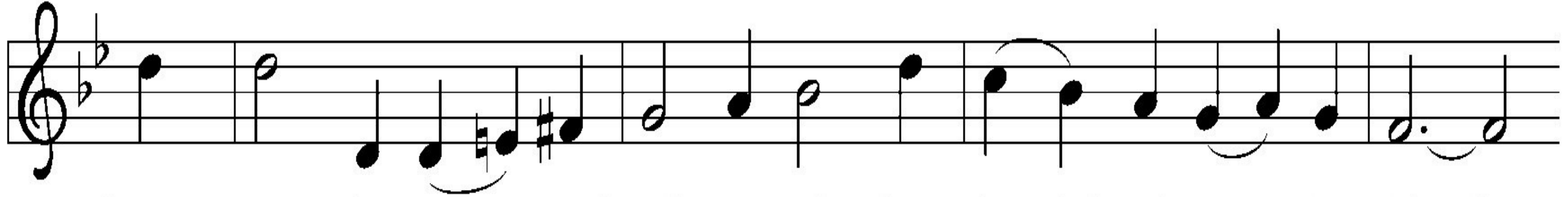
It Came upon the Midnight Clear



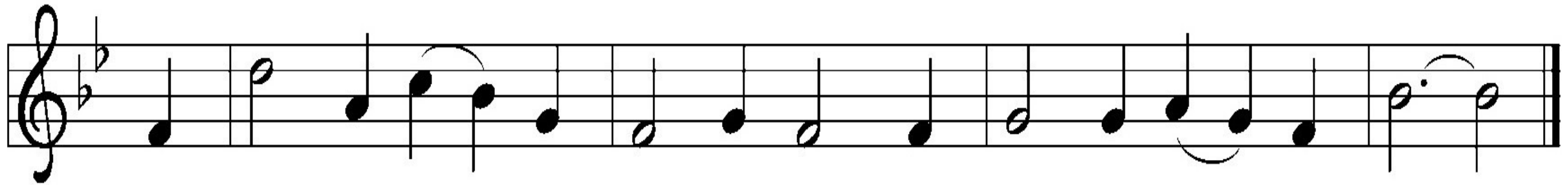
1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,



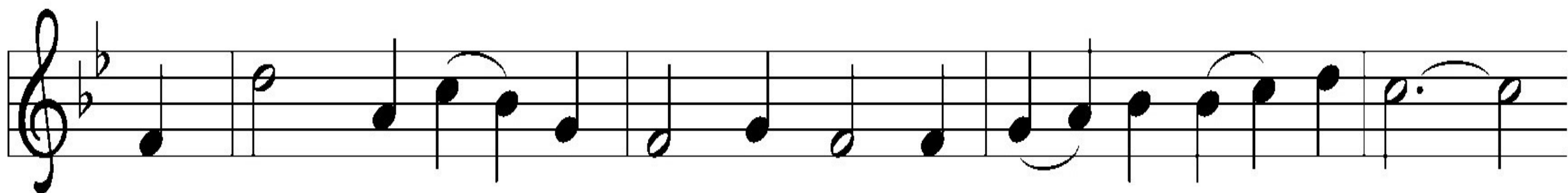
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:



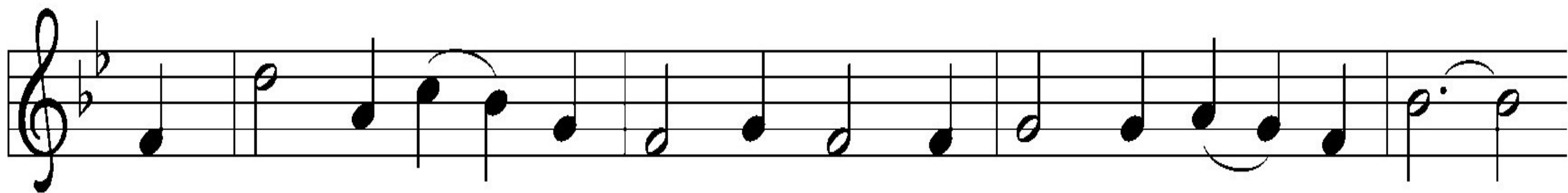
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav’n’s all - gra - cious king.”



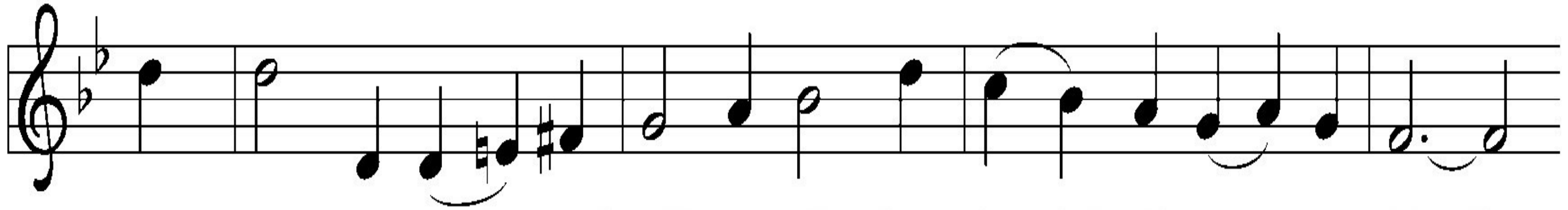
The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.



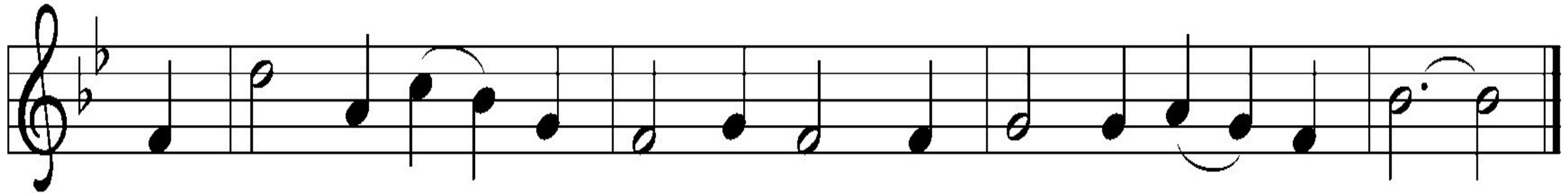
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,



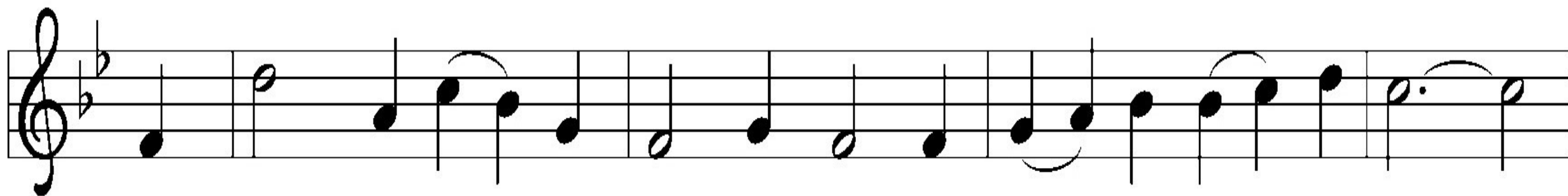
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.



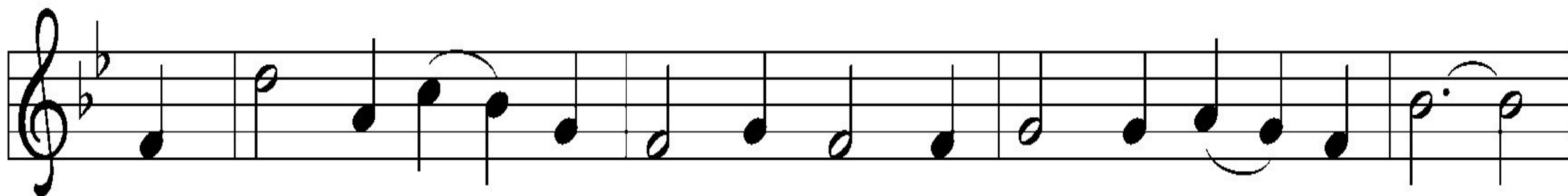
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,



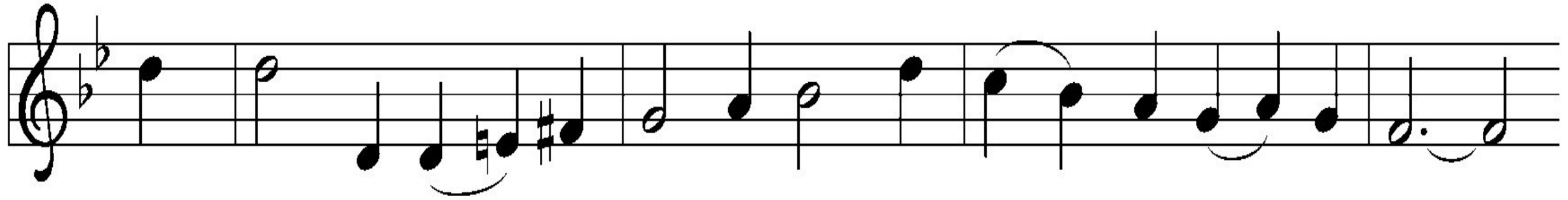
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.



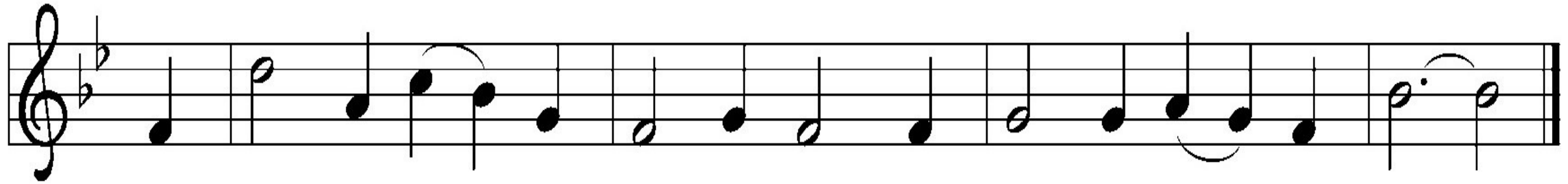
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,



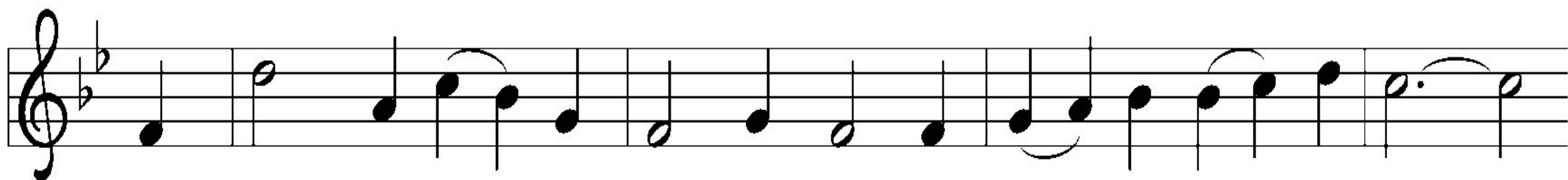
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:



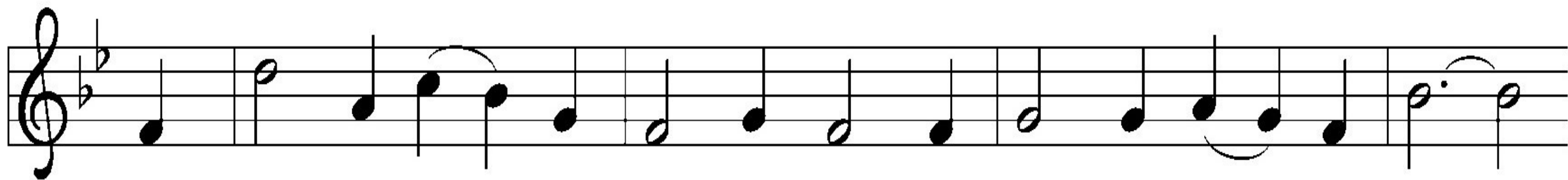
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;



and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.



4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

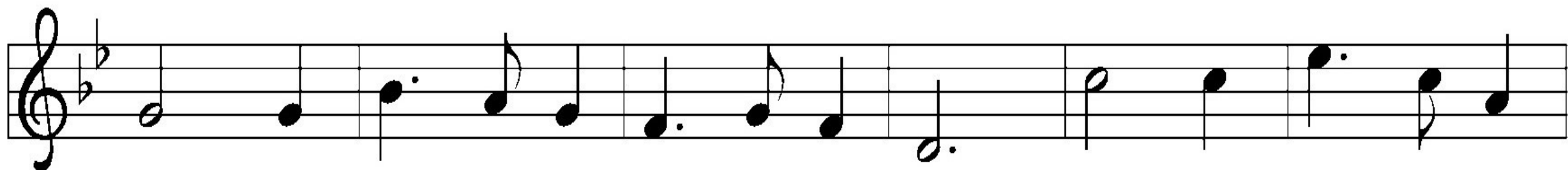
Silent Night, Holy Night!



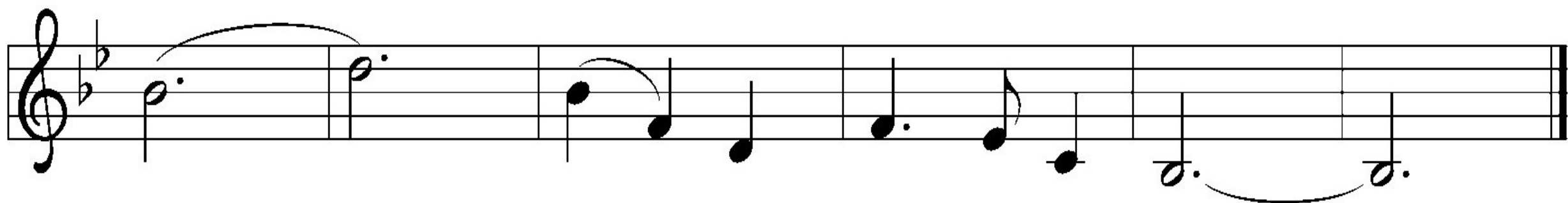
1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly



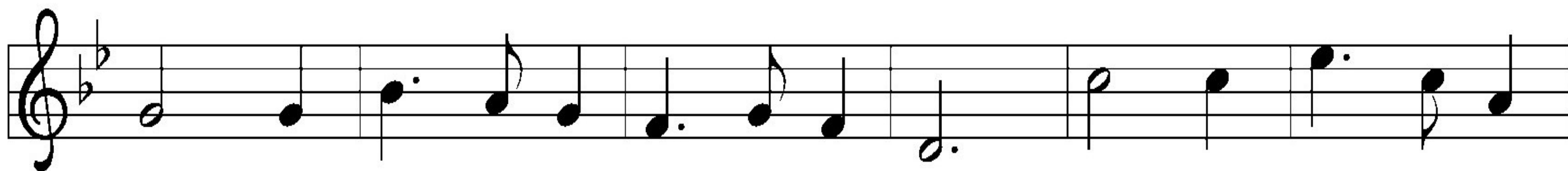
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.



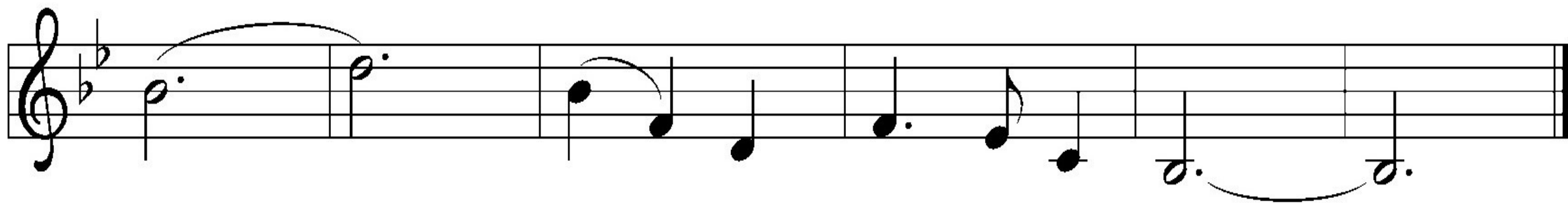
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake



at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,



heav'n-ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is



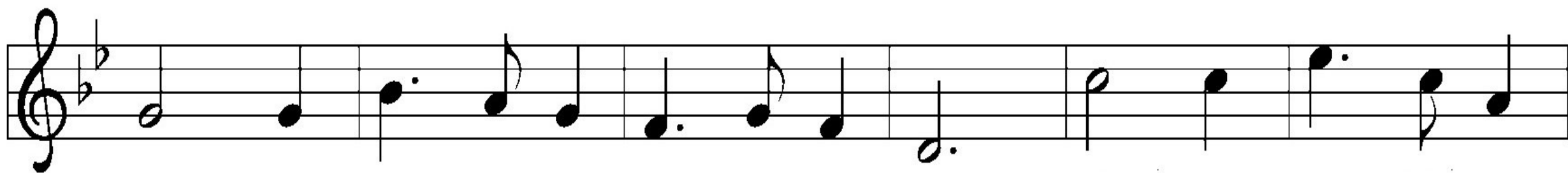
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!



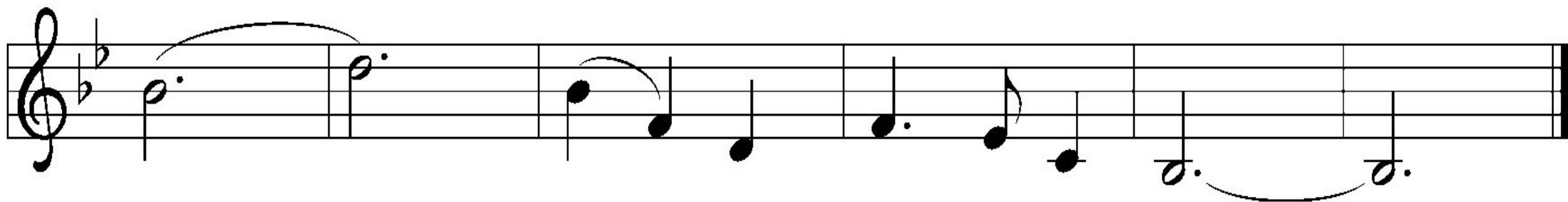
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885

Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

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.

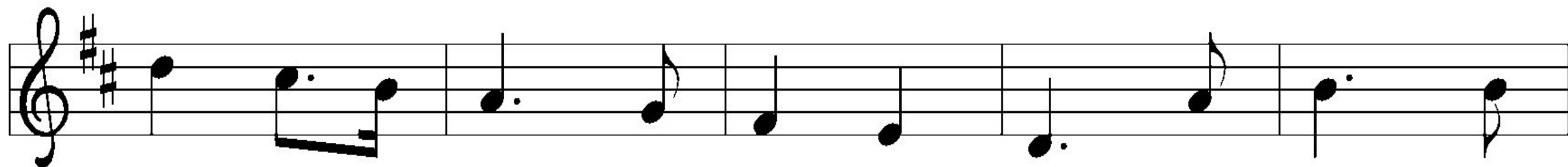
Announcements

God Sightings

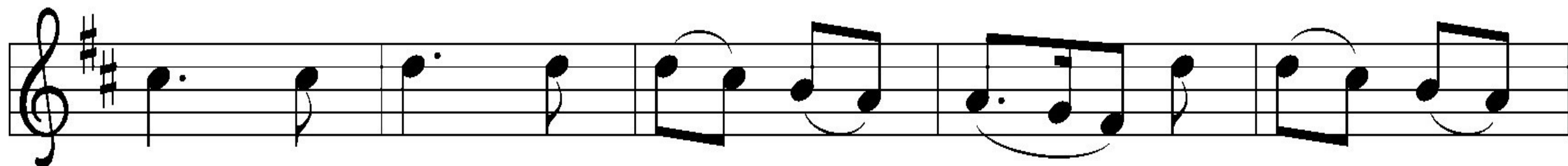
Celebrations

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

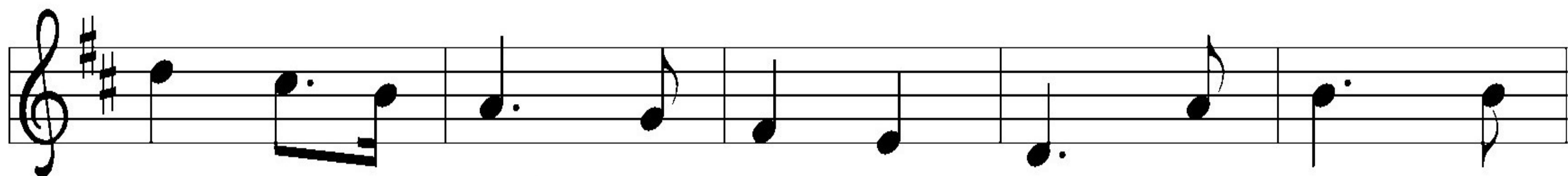


1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him

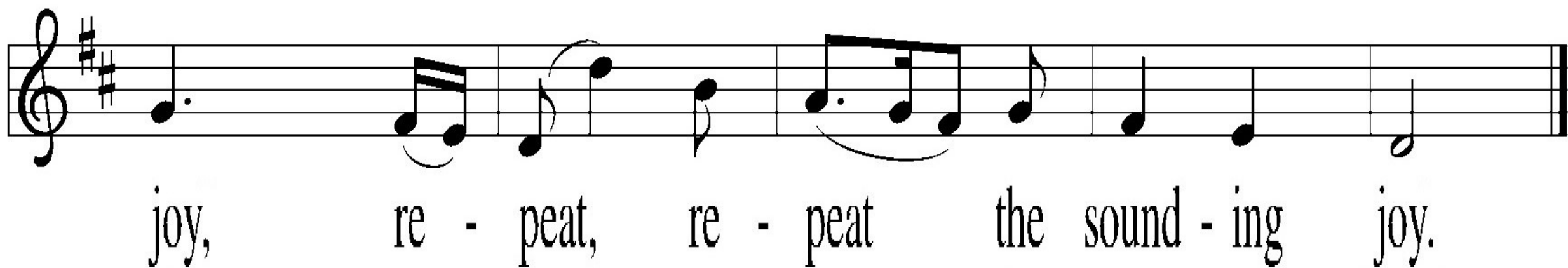


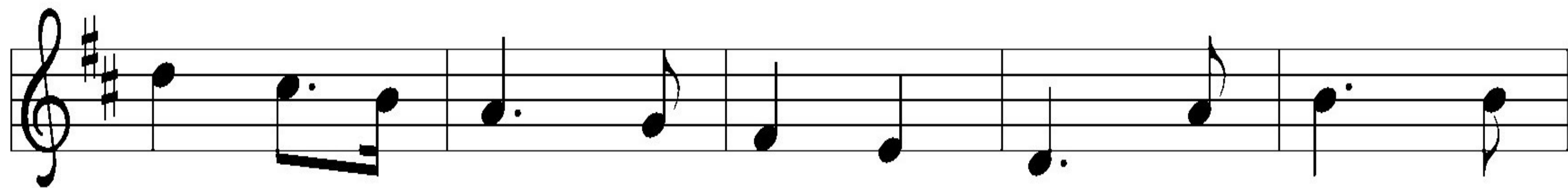


2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their



songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

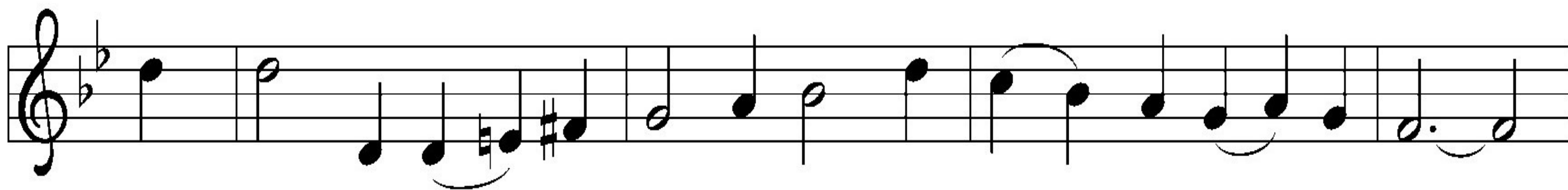




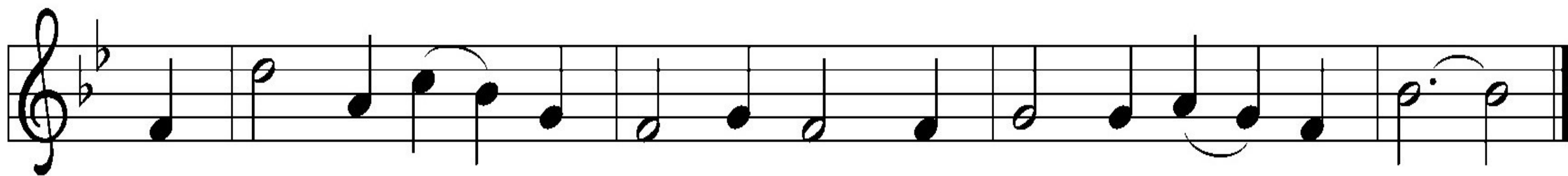
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -



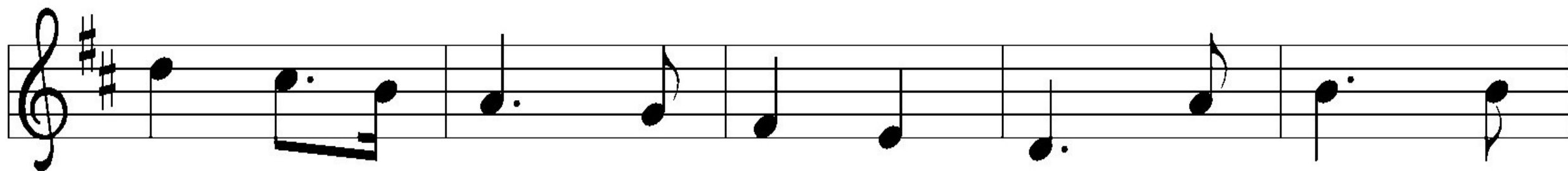
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings



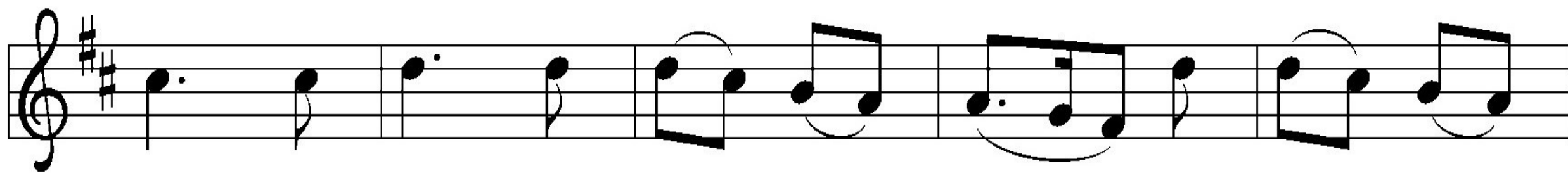
look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;



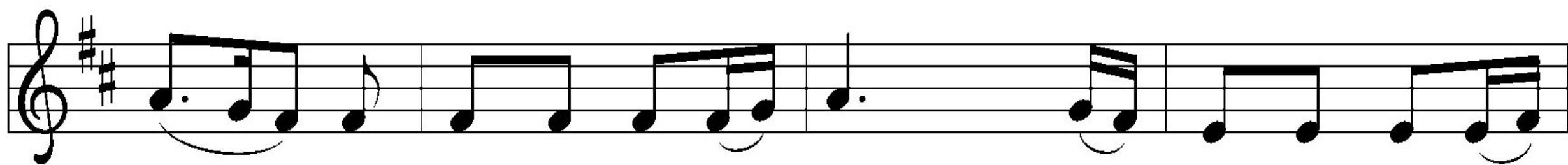
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.



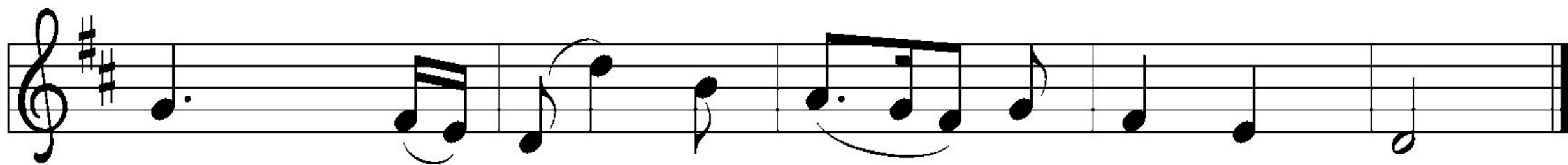
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

R. Pearsall