

The image features five lit blue candles in the foreground, arranged in a slightly overlapping cluster. The candles are lit, with small yellow flames visible. Behind the candles, the word "ADVENT" is written in large, white, three-dimensional serif capital letters. The background is a solid black, which makes the white text and the blue candles stand out.

ADVENT

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
December 11, 2022



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Pre-Worship Music

Mr. Garry Hanna

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,

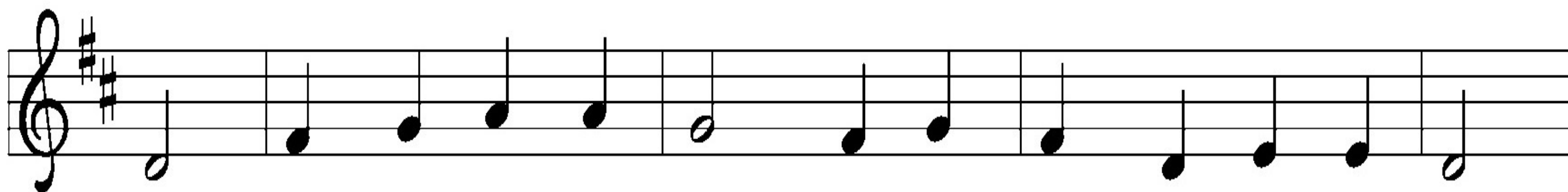
**C: we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves. We have
sinned against you in thought, word,
and deed, by what we have done and by
what we have left undone.**

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

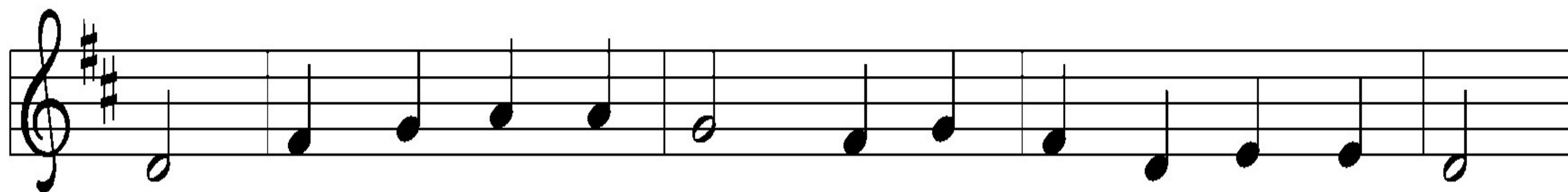
P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of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

C: Amen.

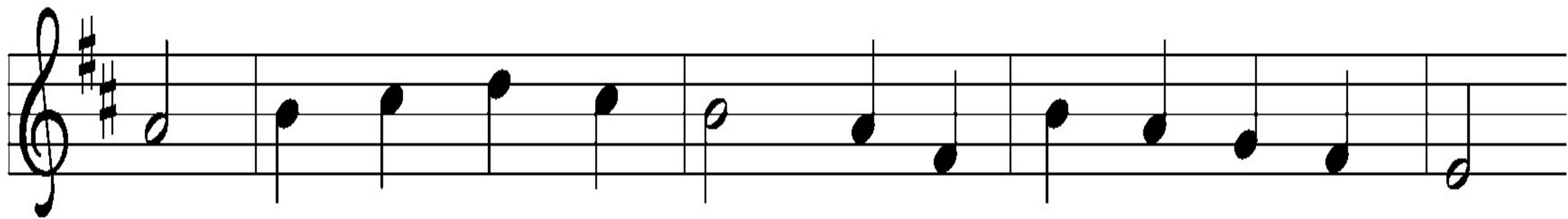
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?



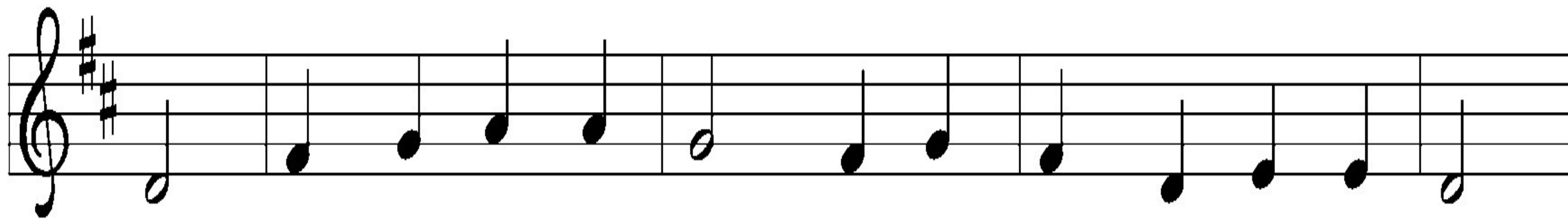
Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!



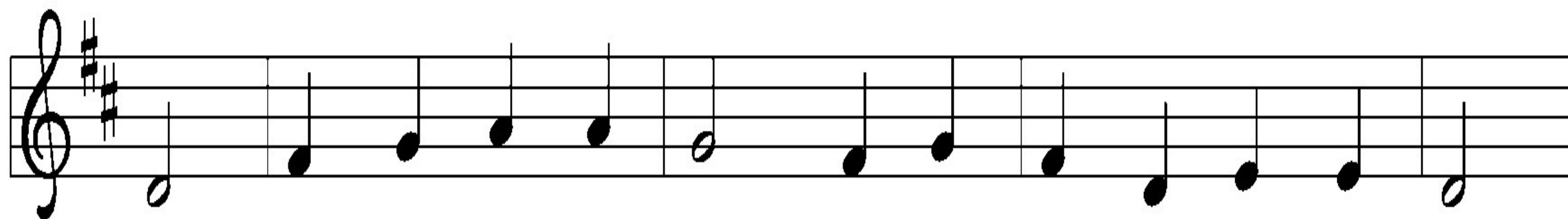
Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast



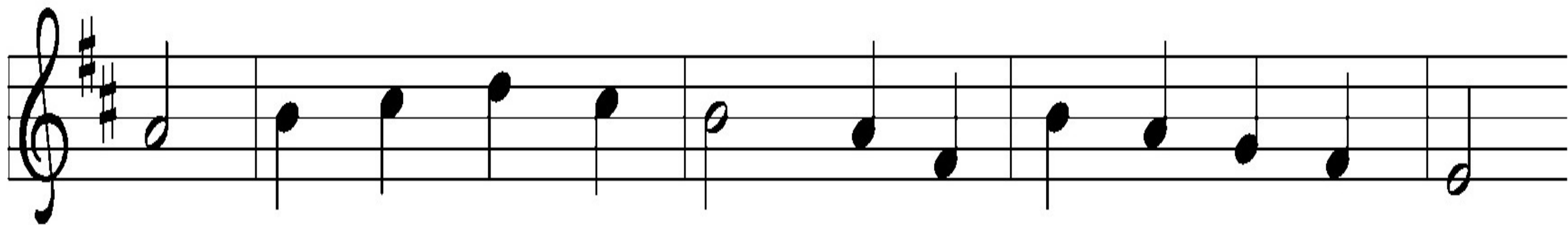
to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.



2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.



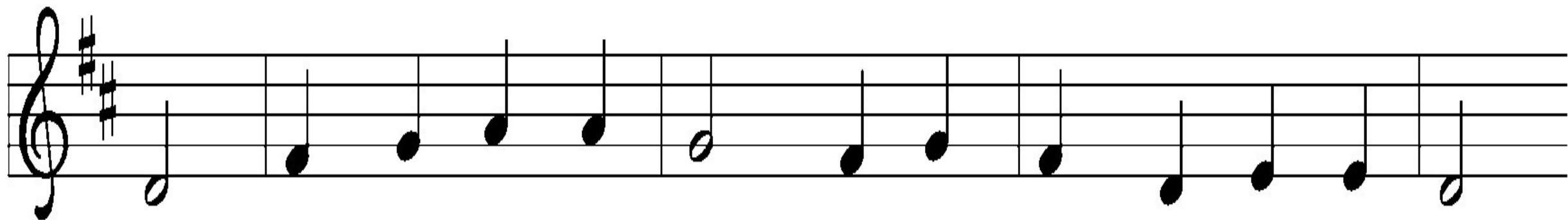
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.



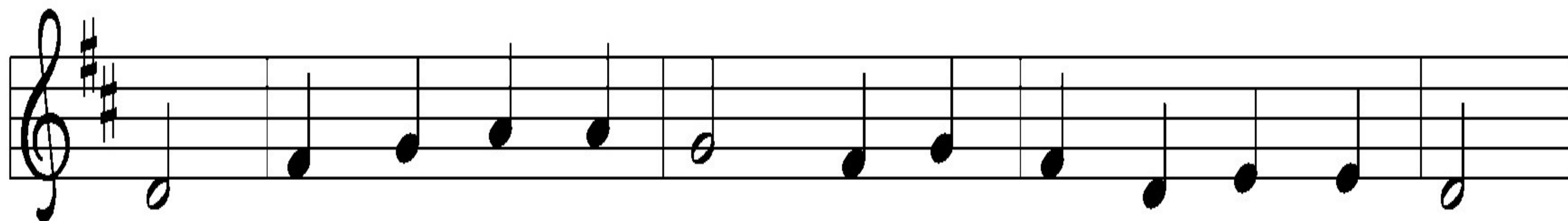
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high



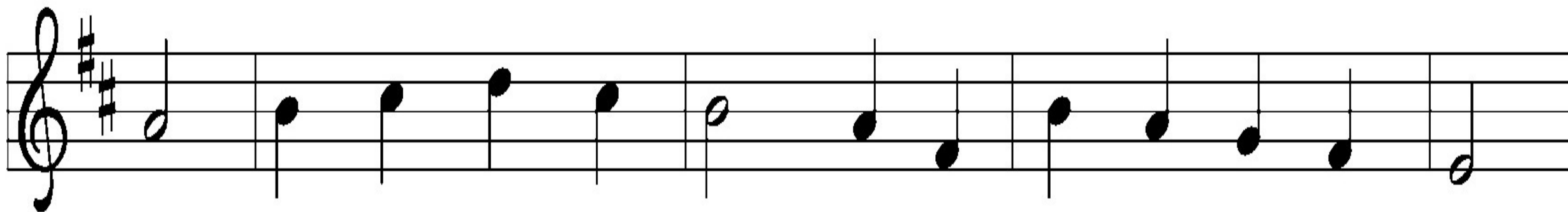
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.



3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.



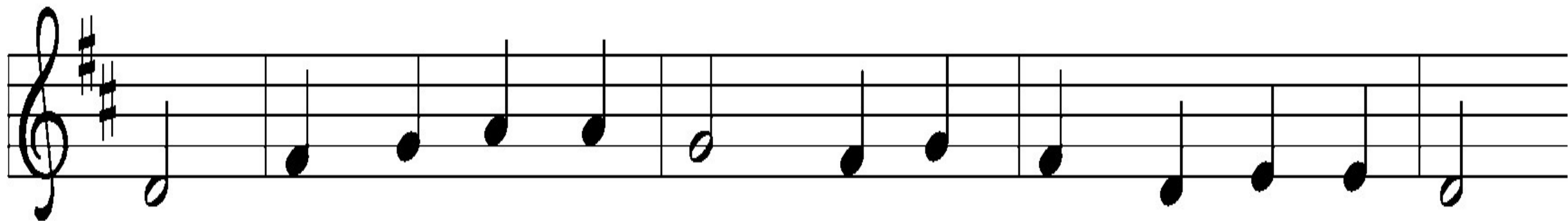
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



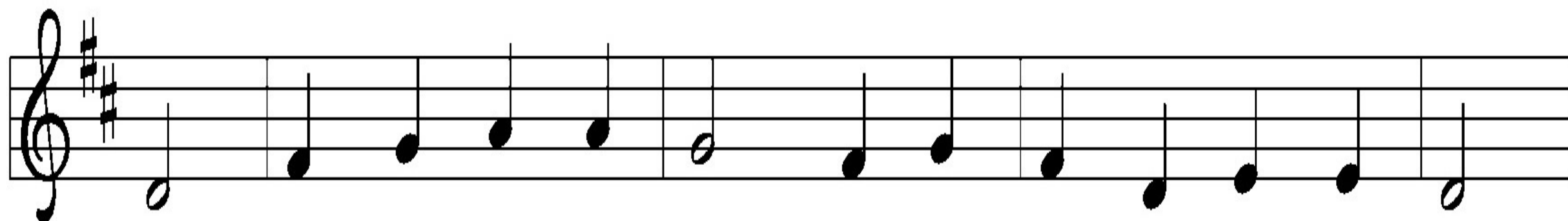
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace



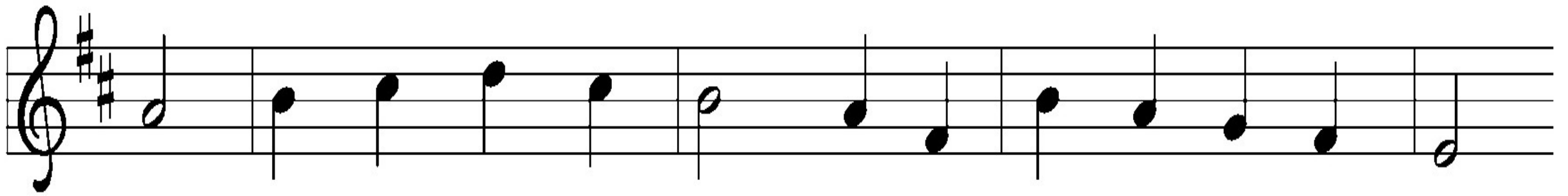
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.



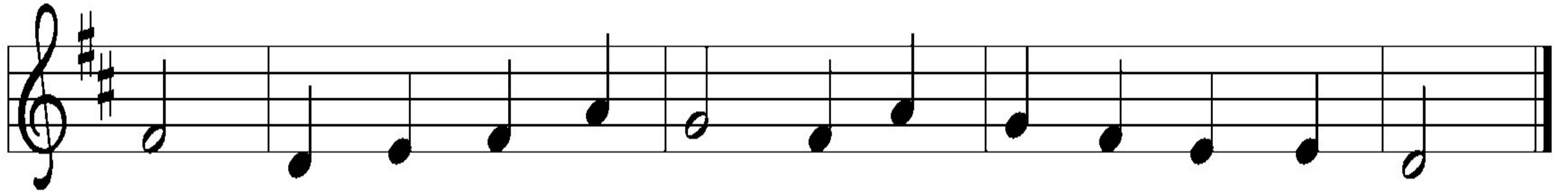
4 Re - jice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

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.



Third Sunday of Advent

Advent has been observed since the 4th century.

Originally, it was a time when converts to Christianity readied themselves for baptism.

During the Middle Ages, Advent became associated with preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.

At that time, Advent lasted from November 11, the feast of St. Martin, until Christmas Day.

For a long time, Advent was considered a pre-Christmas Season similar to Lent before Easter, when Christians devoted themselves to prayer and fasting. The color of the Season was purple.

Today, many Christians observe Advent as both a Season to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus and the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas. Hence the color of the season has been changed to Blue, a color for Hope.

Third Sunday of Advent

Let us pray:

Praise to you, O God,
who holds our joy and sorrow.

You bring water to parched ground
and life out of death.

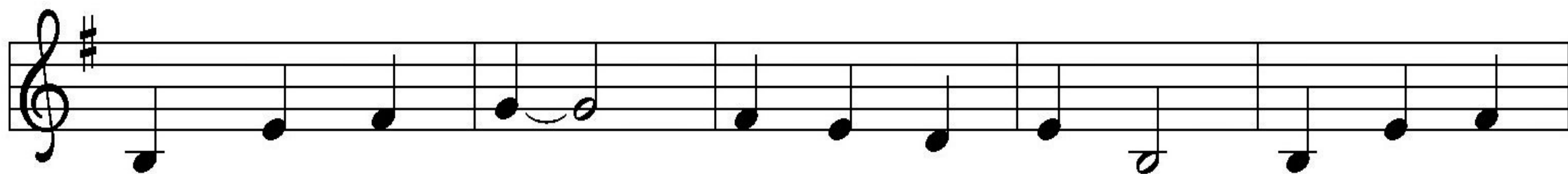
Bless us as this light grows,
and send sorrow and sighing to flee away.

Give us strength and patience,
trusting that you are true to your promises.
Transform the lives of all who suffer
with your wonders near at hand.

Amen.

Light the Three candles.

Christ, Be Our Light



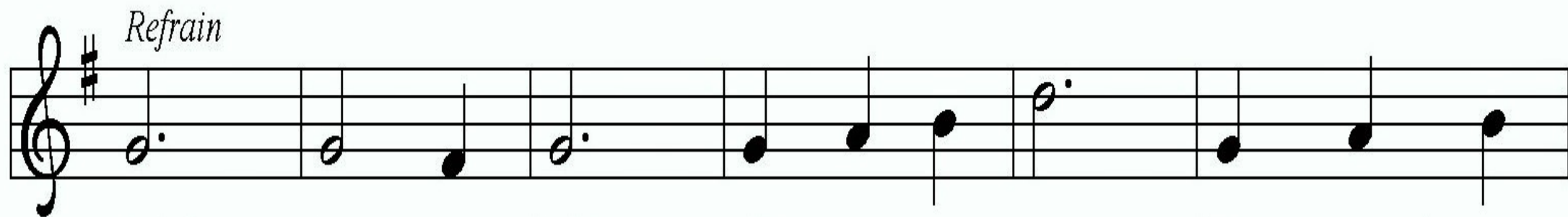
1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for



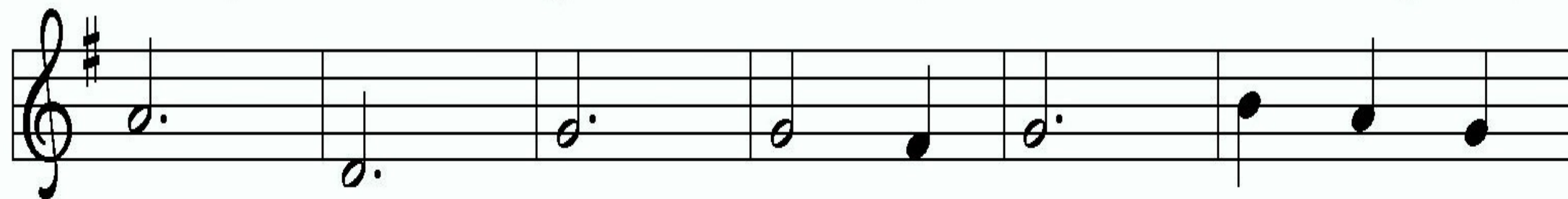
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,



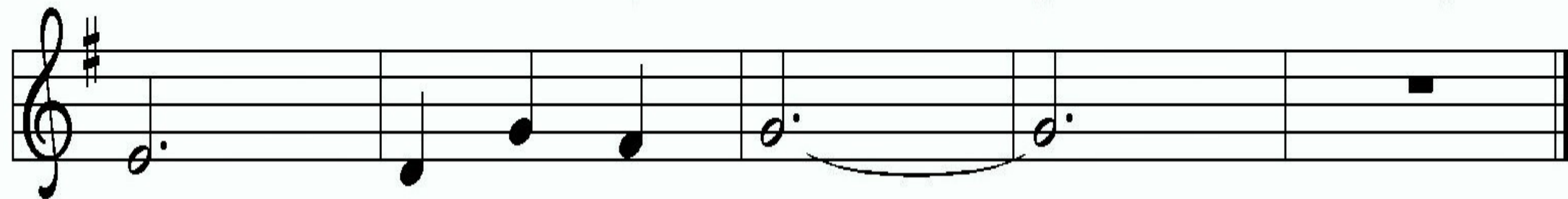
your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.



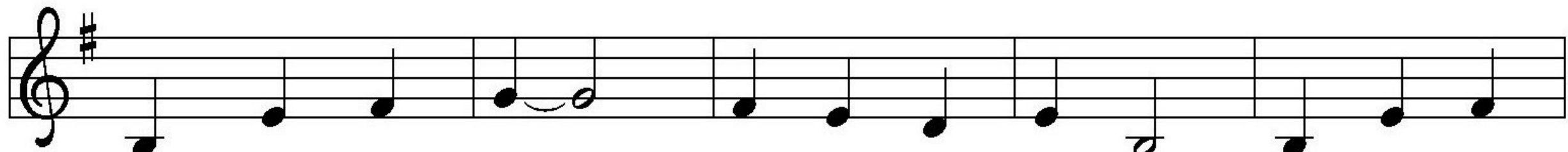
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



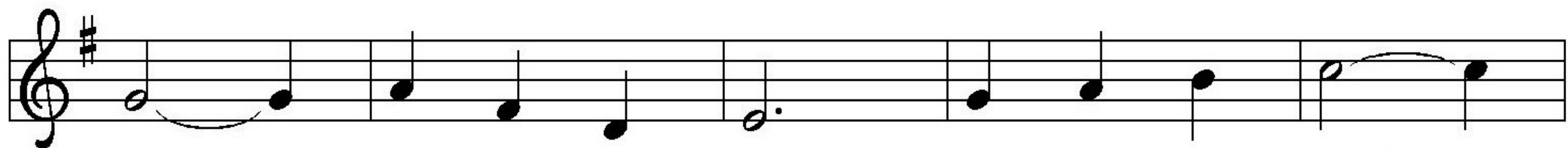
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



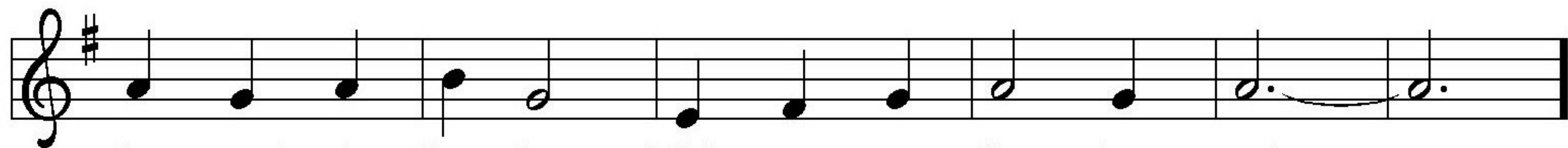
church gath - ered to - day.



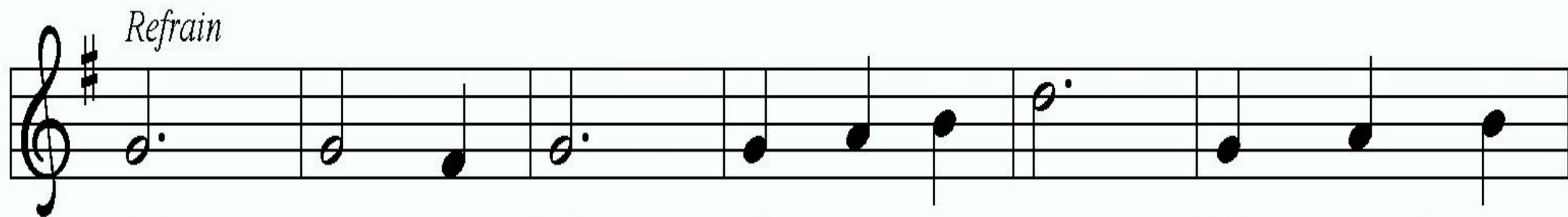
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for



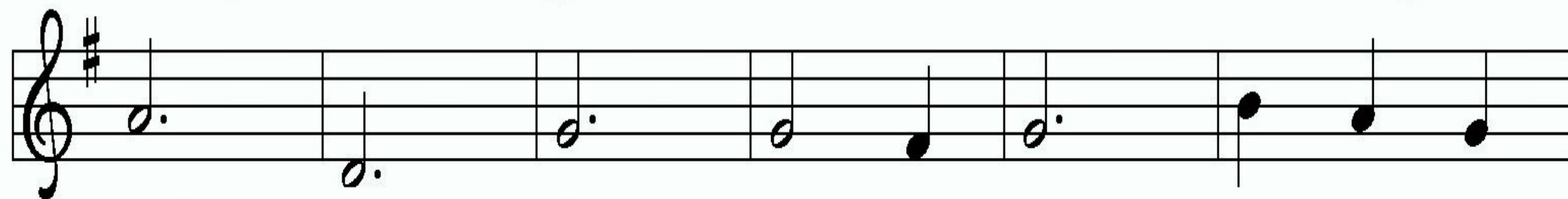
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone



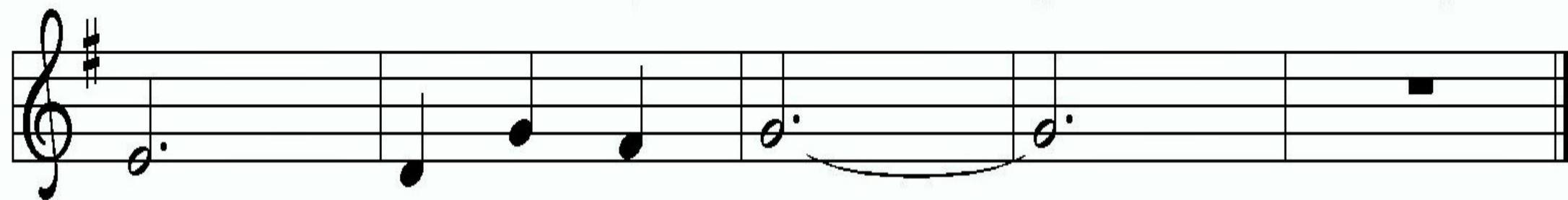
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.



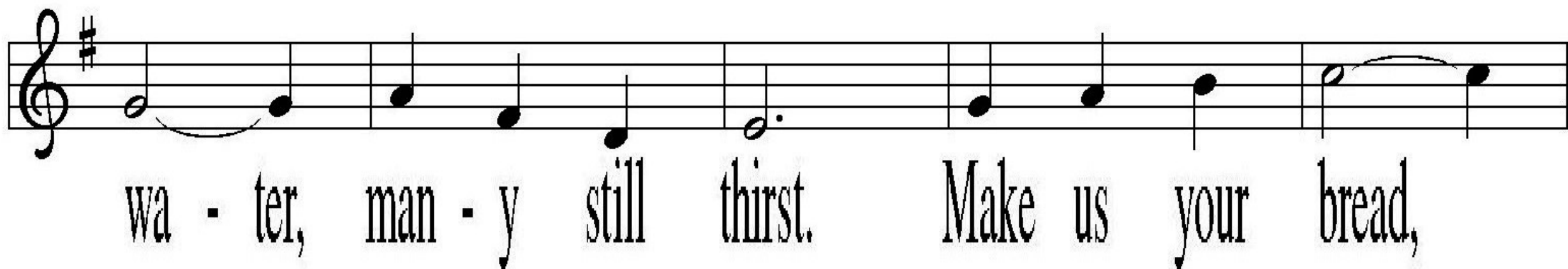
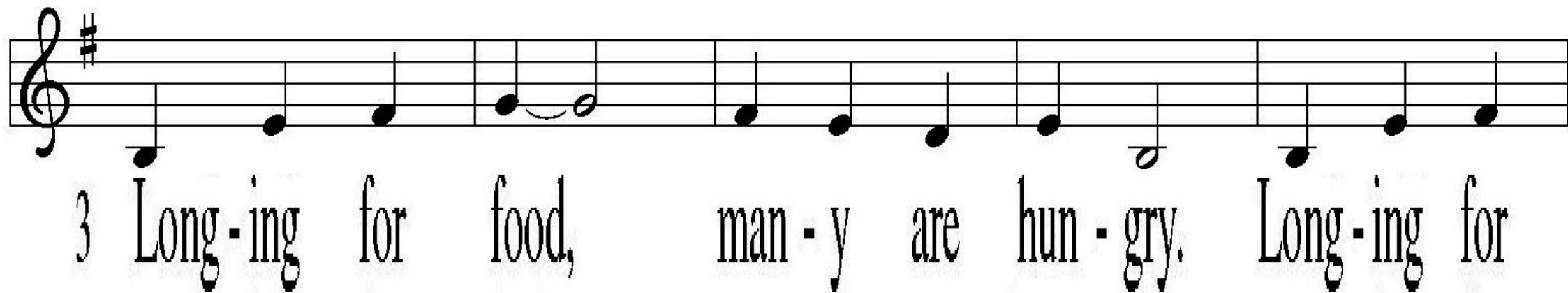
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



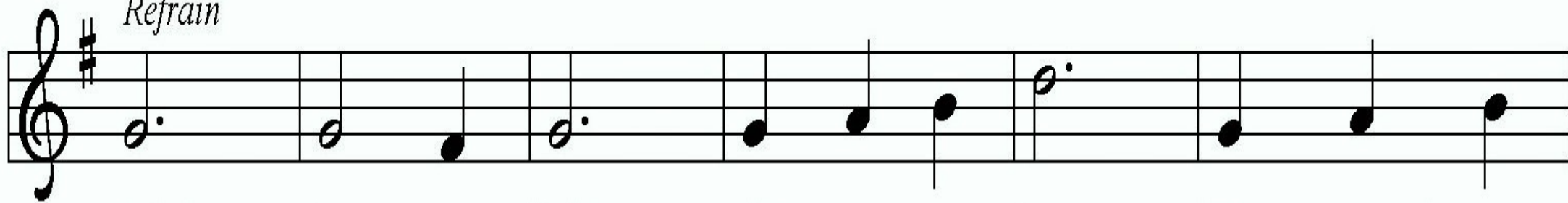
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



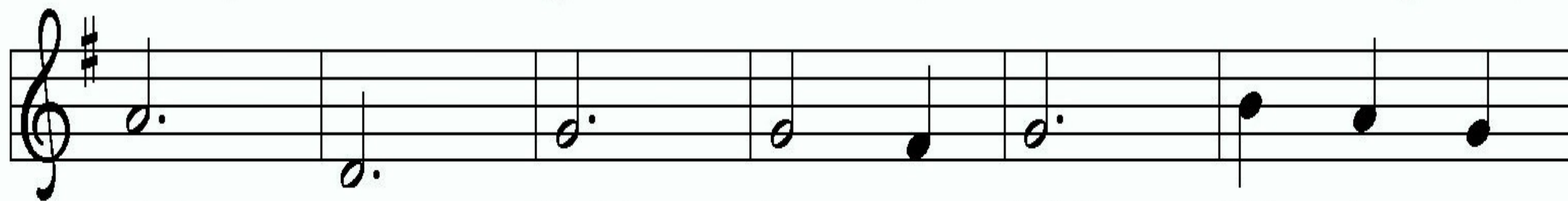
church gath - ered to - day.



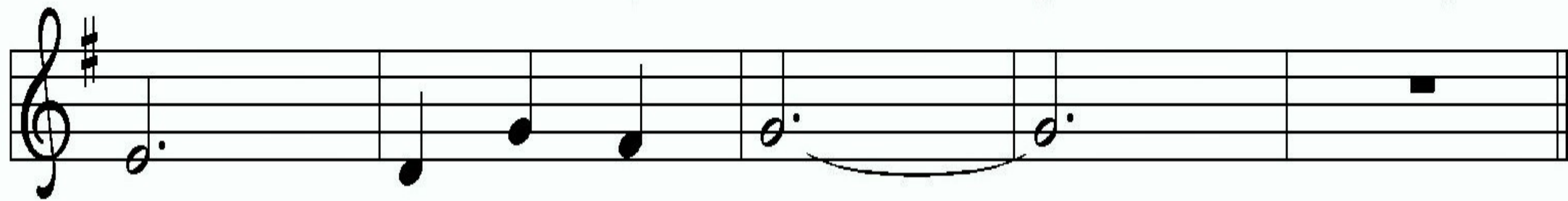
Refrain



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.

P: Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

- 7 the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- 8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10

⁵ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob |
for their help,

whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶ **who made heaven and earth, the
seas, and all that | is in them;**

who keeps promis- | es forever;

⁷ who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.

The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸ **The LORD opens the eyes of the
blind; the LORD lifts up those who |
are bowed down;**

the LORD | loves the righteous.

⁹ The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰ **The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all
generations. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

A reading from James, the 5th chapter.

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near.

⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another,
so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is
standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of
suffering and patience, beloved, take the
prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?”

⁴ Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by

the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

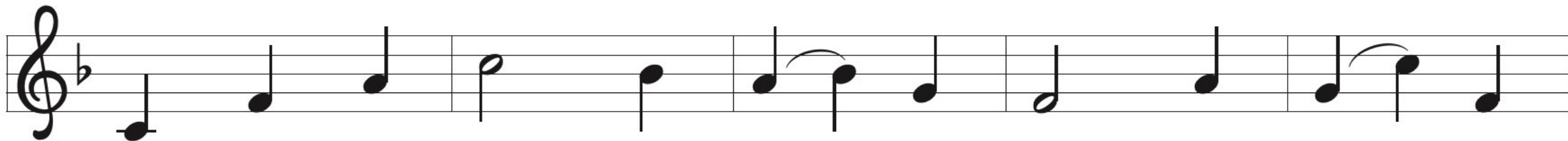
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

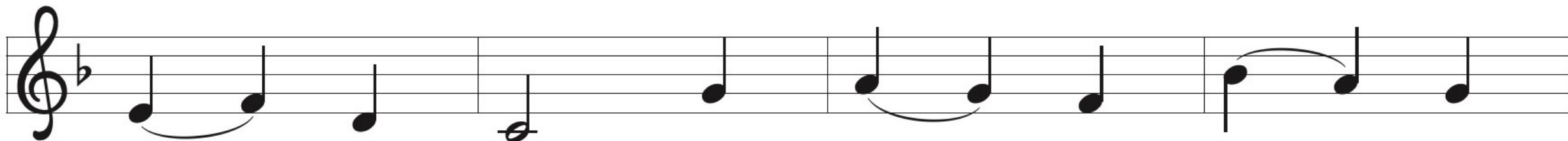
HOMILY



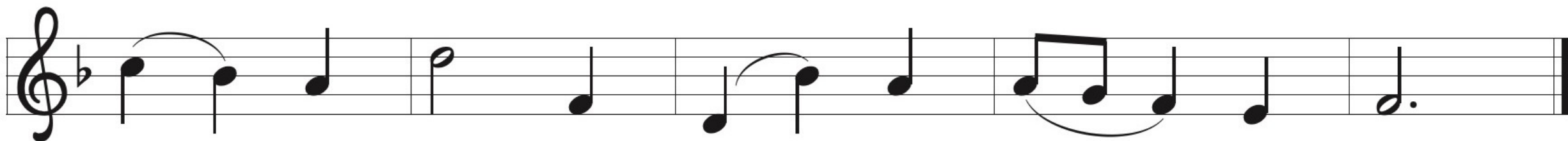
Hark, the Glad Sound!



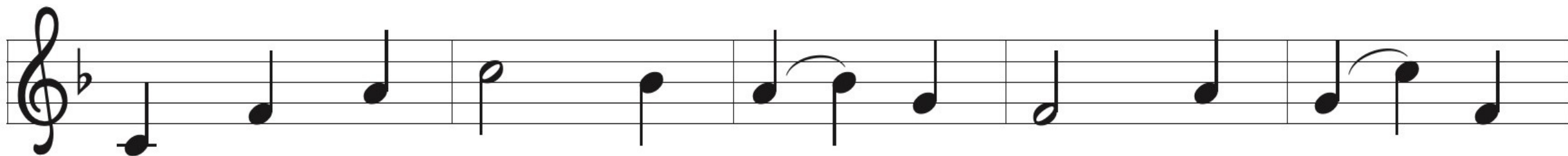
1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -



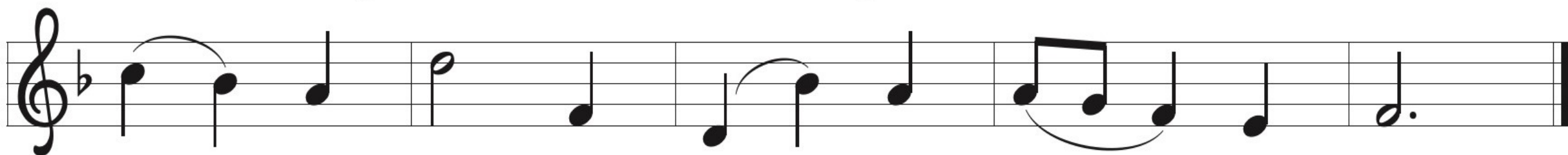
pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.



2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's



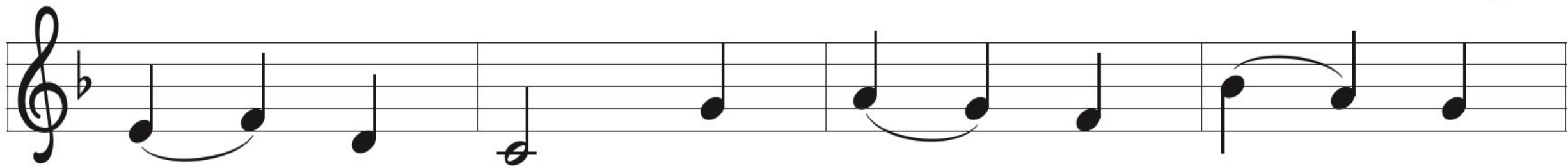
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -



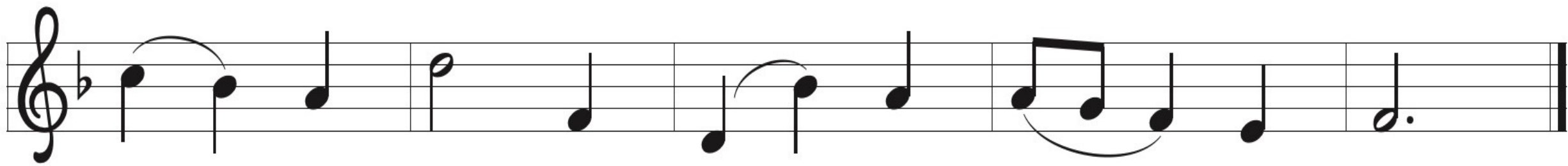
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.



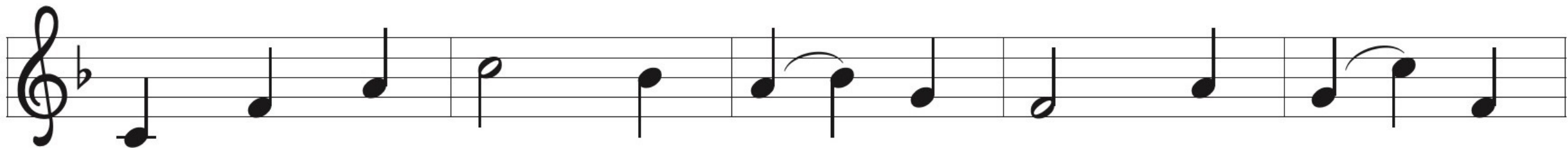
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing



soul to cure, and with the trea - sures



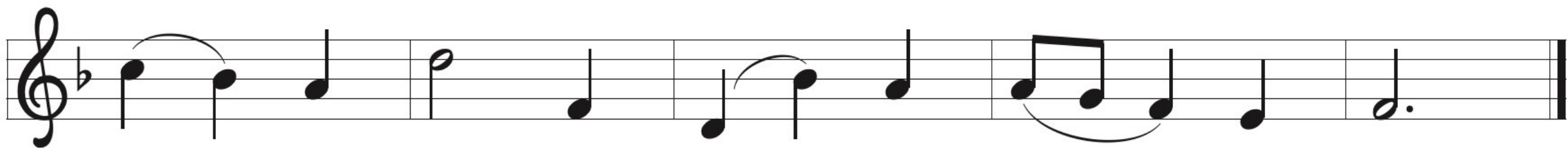
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.



4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

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.**

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

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

P/A: Gracious God, we rejoice in the gifts of your Spirit. Equip the global church to magnify your love and peace in every land. We pray for the work of the Lutheran World Federation and ELCA Global Mission. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P/A: Abundant God, we rejoice in your creation. Revive lands we have squandered and depleted. Make gardens flourish in cities and neighborhoods. Cleanse polluted air and water so living things may breathe, drink, and praise you. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P/A: Righteous God, we rejoice in your justice.
End racism and oppression. Deliver all
who are unjustly imprisoned or
persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples
in conflict. Help us pray for our enemies.
God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P/A: Healing God, we rejoice in your compassion. Comfort any in distress because of worry, illness, or loss (especially). Strengthen and protect health care workers, rescue teams, crisis counselors, and all who risk themselves to keep others safe. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P/A: Abiding God, we rejoice in your company.
Give us calm and patient hearts as we
gather with family and friends. Keep us
mindful of those for whom this season is
not happy. Console the grieving and
surround them with loving support. God,
in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P/A: Faithful God, we rejoice with Mary,
Mother of our Lord, and with all the
saints, that your mercy endures for all
generations. Look with favor on those
who have died and lead us to joyfully sing
of your everlasting promises. God, in your
mercy,

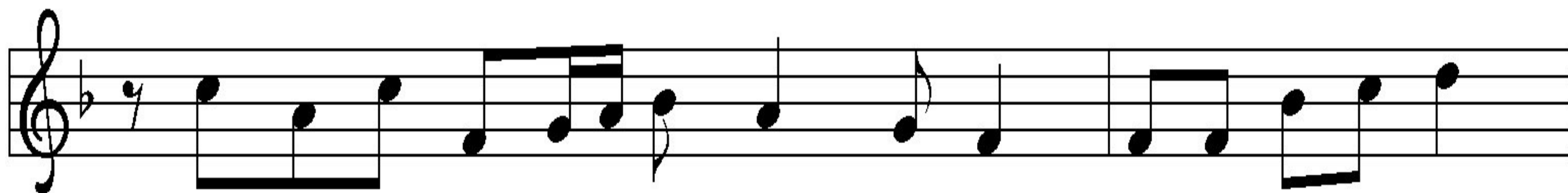
C: hear our prayer.

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C: Amen.

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.

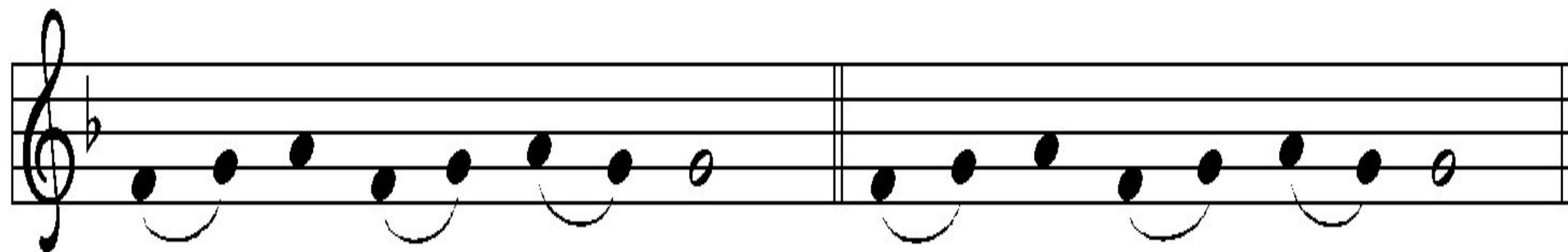
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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.



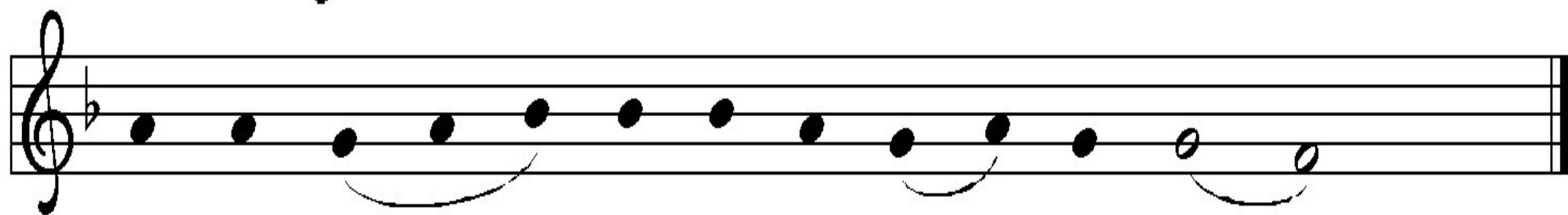
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, 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,

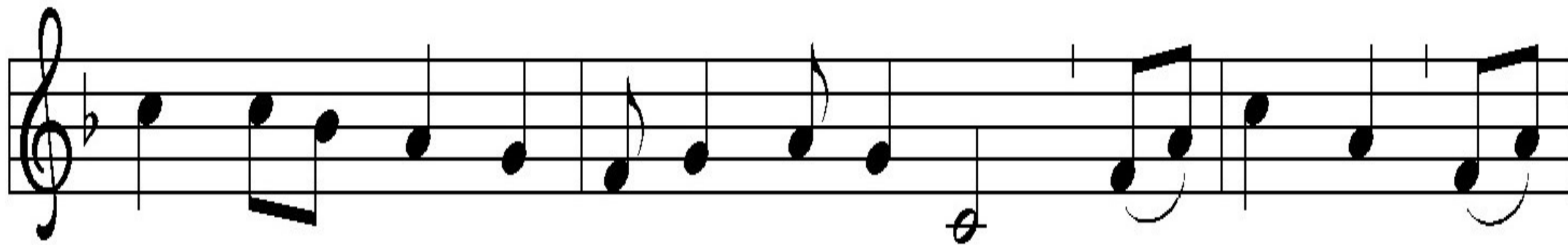
through whom you will
also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the
world in righteousness.

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:

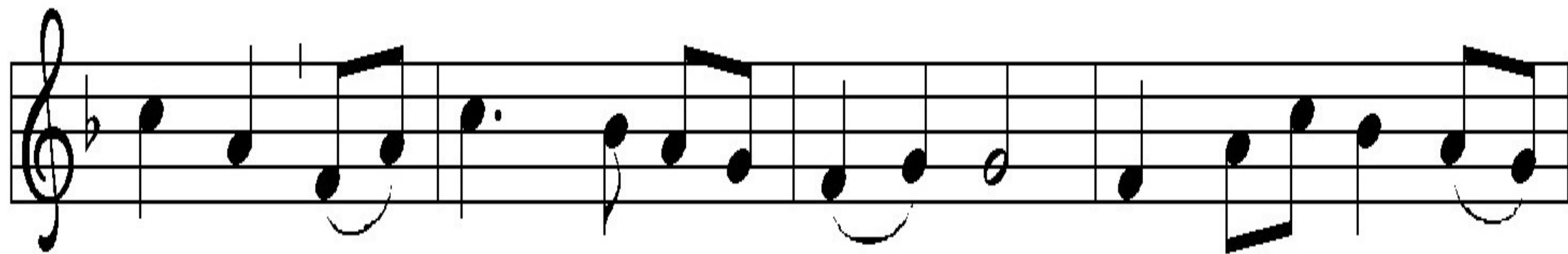
Congregation sings



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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

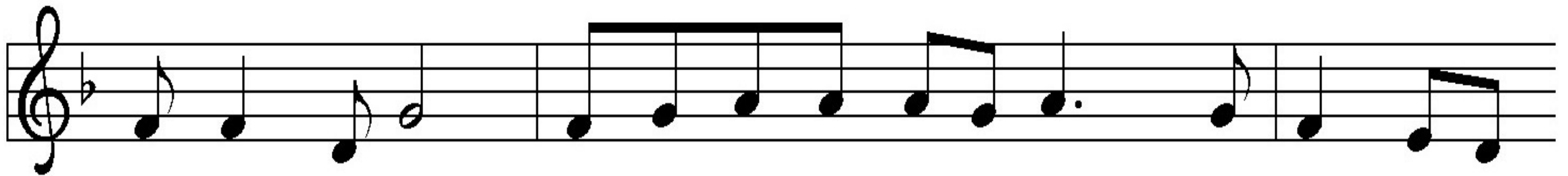
P: Behold the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

**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.



PROMISE
REJOICE
PREPARE
WAITING

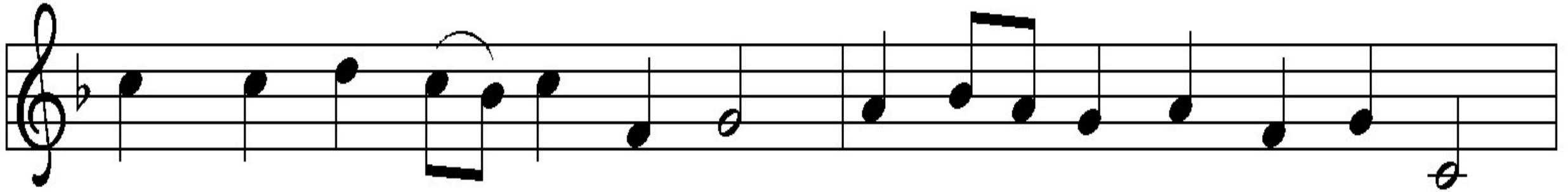
After all have returned to their places, stand as you are able

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

C: Amen.

Stand as you are able

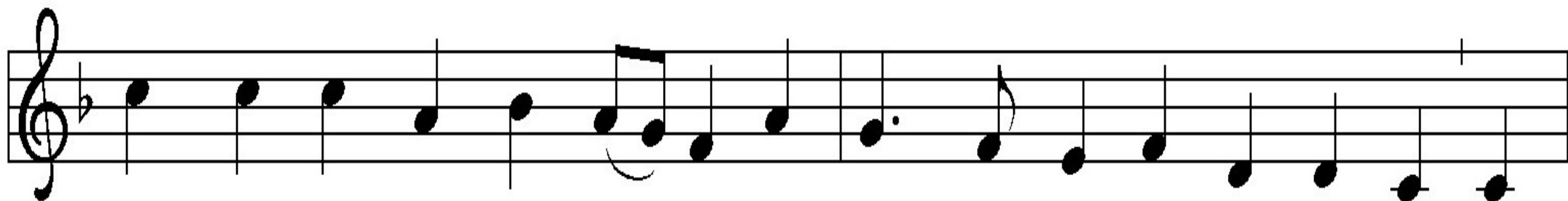
Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



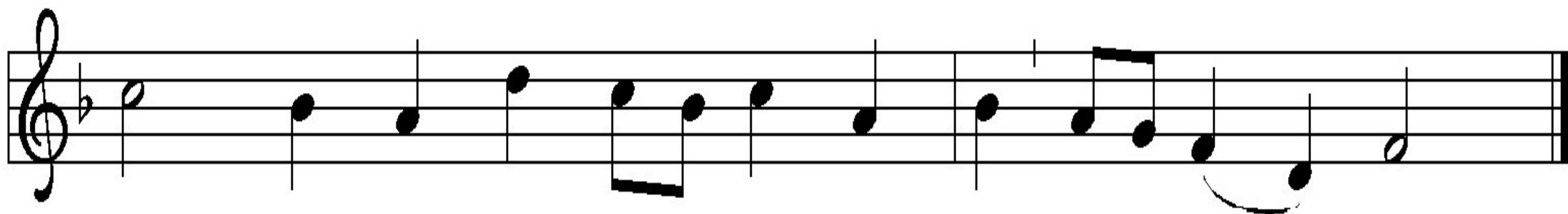
Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



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.

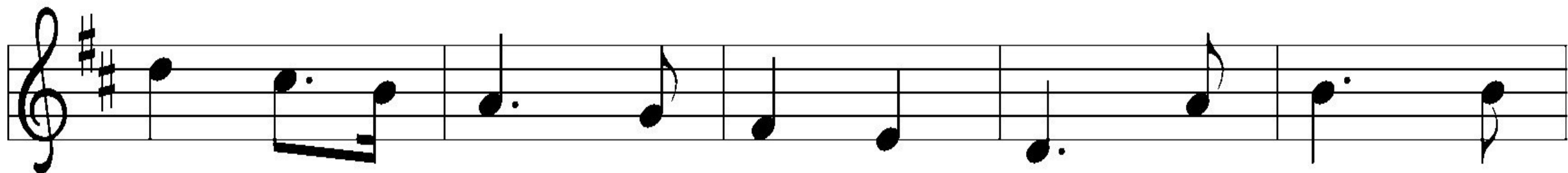
P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
and empower you to bless
and keep those around you.
The Lord's face shine on you
with grace and mercy,
as you share that grace
and mercy with all that you meet.

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.



Joy to the World

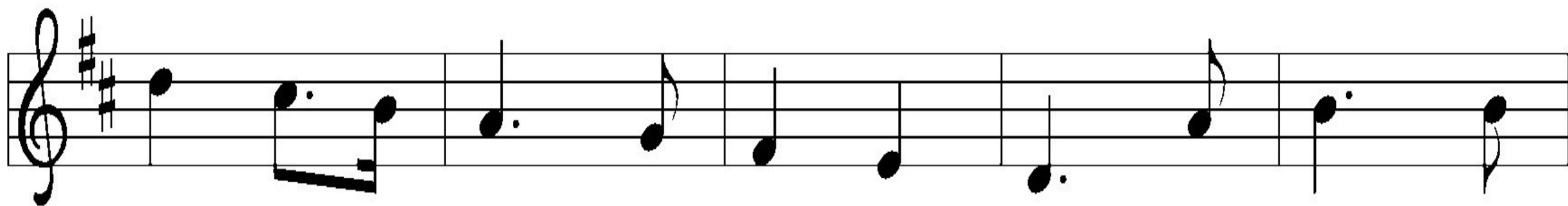


1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -

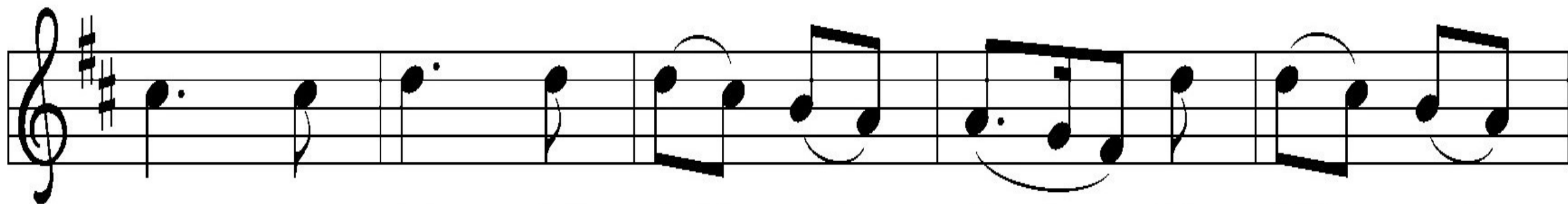


ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him

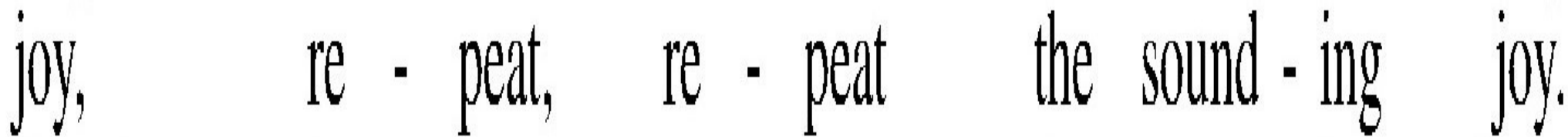


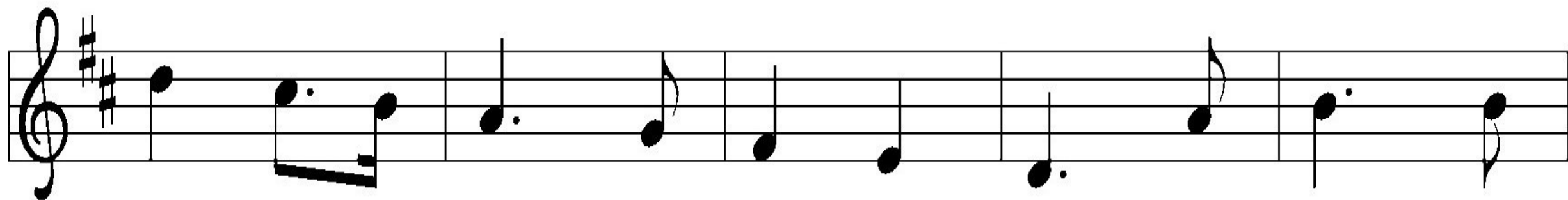


2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their

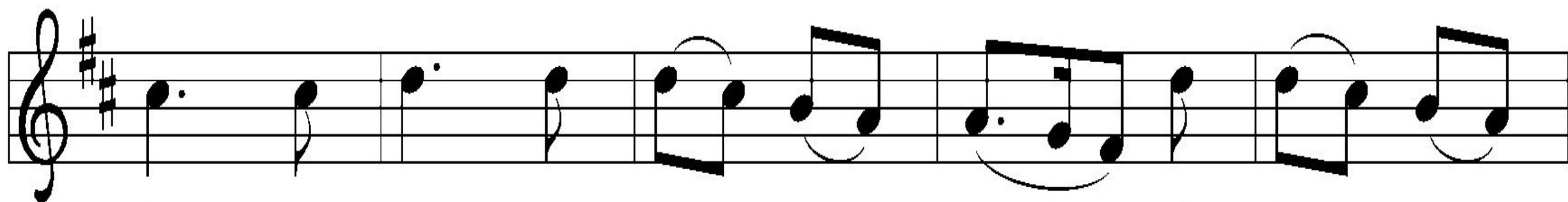


songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and





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



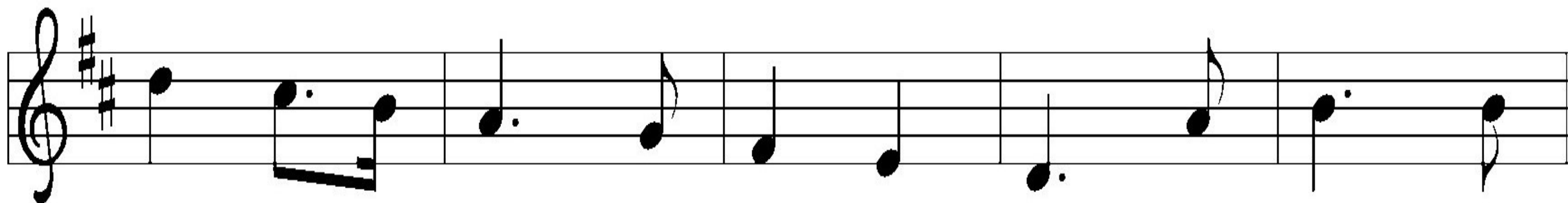
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings



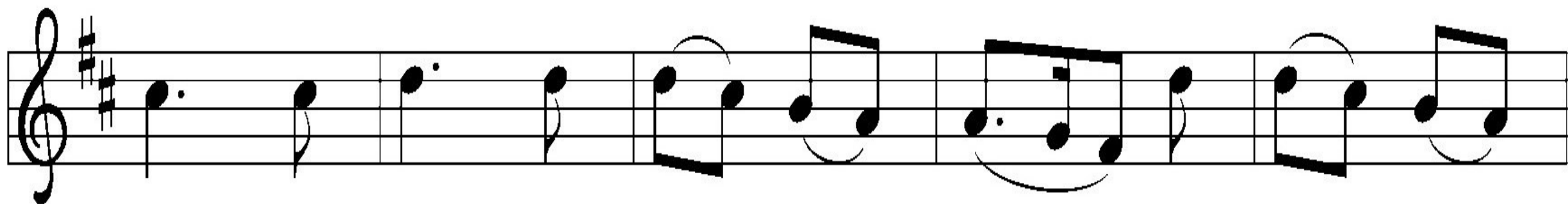
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is



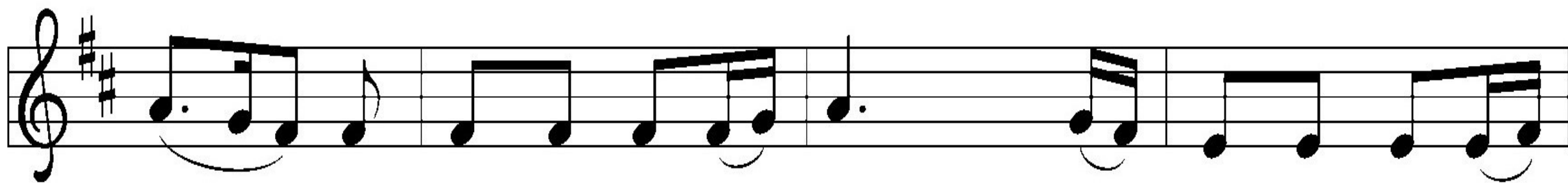
found, far as, far as the curse is found.



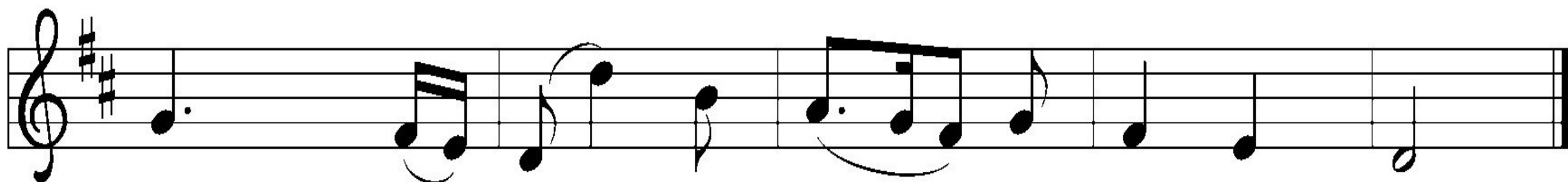
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



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

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

C: Thanks be to God.



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

C: Thanks be to God.



Sending Music