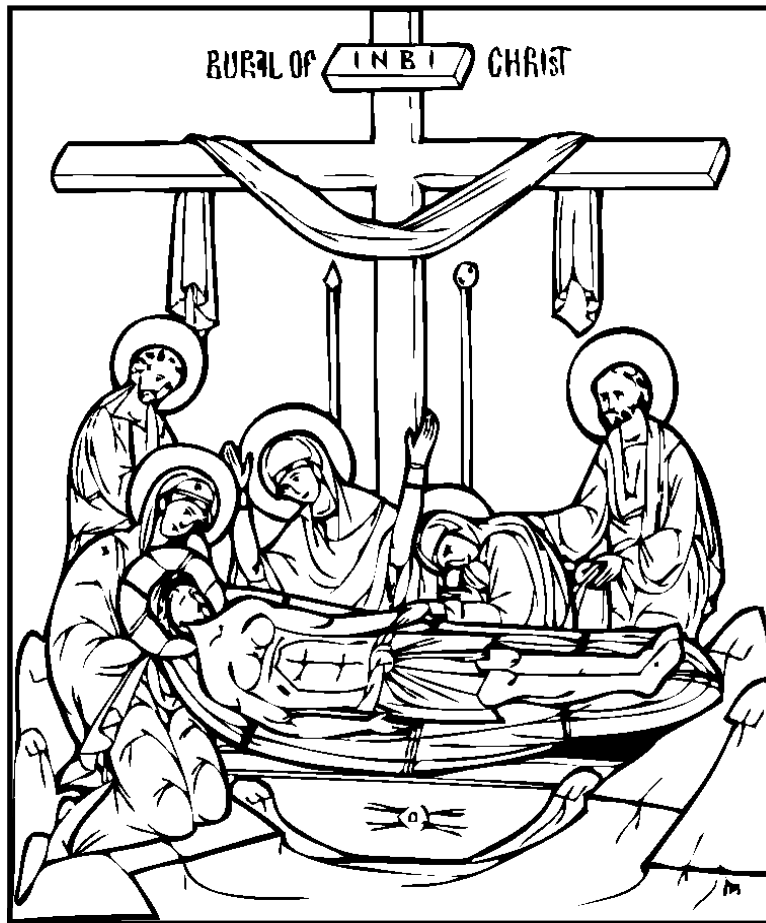


# ΤΑ ΕΓΚΩΜΙΑ

## The Lamentations Before the Holy Sepulcher

From Holy Saturday Orthros



In Modern English

Byzantine Chant

Translation by N. Takis

*Dedicated to His Eminence Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh*

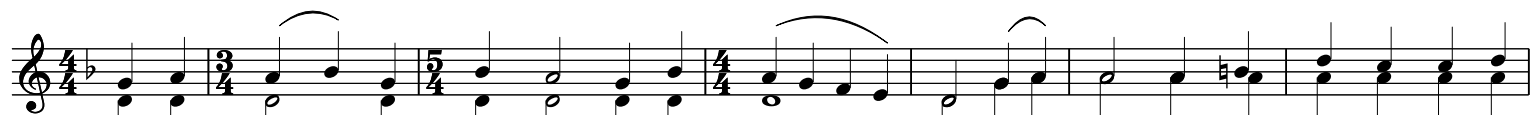
New Byzantium Publications - [www.newbyz.org](http://www.newbyz.org)

# The Lamentations

Plagal First Tone

## First Stasis

N. Takis



1. In a grave they laid You, yet, O Christ, You are Life, and the ar-mies of the



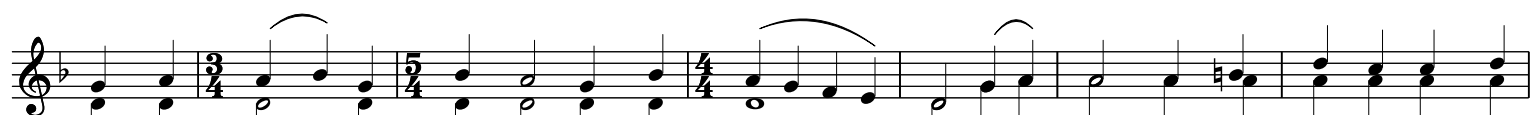
an - gels be - held a - mazed, giv - ing glo - ry that You chose to con - de - scend.




2. How, O Life, do You die? How do You live en - tombed? For you slashed through all the



bonds in the realm of death, and have raised the dead in Ha - des from their graves.




3. We, O Lord, ex - alt You, O Christ Je - sus, our King, and we ven - er - ate Your



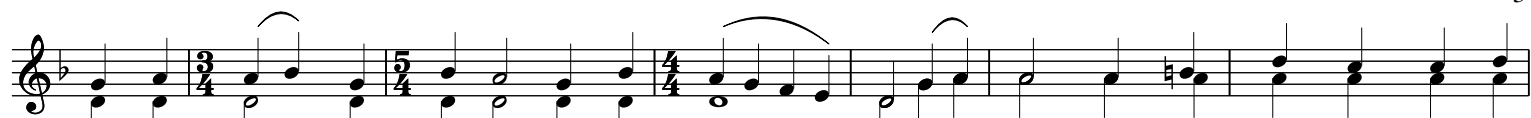
Pas - sion and bur - i - al through which You have brought re - demp - tion from our sins.




4. You have set the meas - ures of the earth, yet this day in a nar - row tomb now




dwel, Je - sus, King of all, Who have raised those who were dead up from their tombs.



5. O my own Christ Je-sus, You are King of the world. Why have You come down to



Ha - des to seek the dead? Is it not to set the race of mor - tals free?



6. He Who is the Mas - ter of cre - a - tion ap - pears as a corpse and lies en-



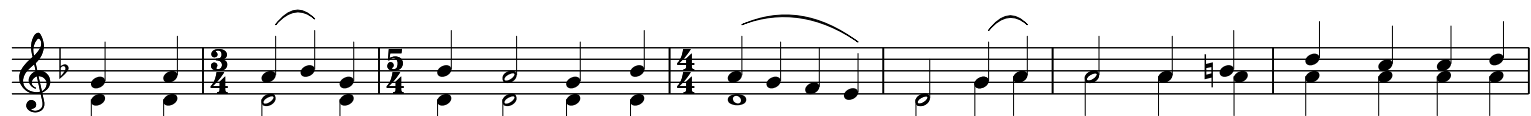
- tombed in a fresh - hewn grave, though He emp - tied eve - ry grave - site of its dead.



7. In a grave they laid You, yet, O Christ, You are Life. By Your death You have a-



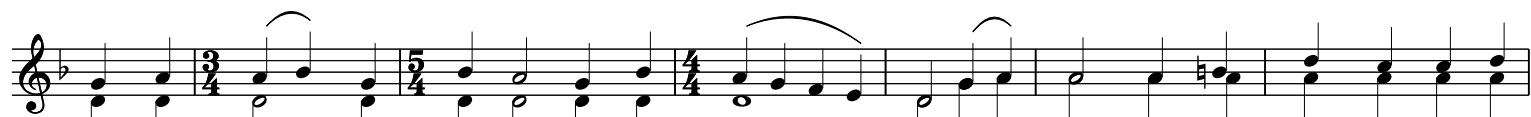
- bol - ished the realm of death, and up - on the world have poured down streams of Life.




8. Fair - er in His beau - ty, than all crea - tures on earth, He is seen now ly - ing



life - less, His beau - ty gone, yet all beau - ty in cre - a - tion springs from Him.



9. O my own sweet Je - sus, Sav - ing Light of the world, can the dark - ness of the



grave hide Your Light with - in? Nei - ther thought nor word can say what You have borne!

10. Nei - ther Na - ture's rea - son, nor the an - gels, O Christ, grasp the mys - ter - y en -

- fold - ing Your bur - i - al, be - yond all our un - der - stand - ing and all words.

11. I re - vere Your pas - sion Your en - tomb - ment I praise, and I mag - ni - fy Your

might, Lov - ing Friend of man; they have ran - somed me from pas - sions that cor - rupt.

12. When Your moth - er saw you brought to slaugh - ter, O Lamb, she was stabbed with pain - ful

tor - ment; her an - gushed sobs called the flock to join her bit - ter cries of grief.

13. "Woe is me!" the Vir - gin mourned through heart - break - ing sobs. "You are, Je - sus, my most

pre - cious, be - lov - ed Son! Gone is my light, and the Light of all the world!"

14. "God and Word e - ter - nal, O my Glad - ness and Joy! How shall I en - dure Your

three days in - side the tomb when my heart is break - ing with a moth - er's grief?"

15. "Who will give me wa-ter, and a foun - tain of tears," cried the Vir-gin Bride of

God in her deep de - pair, "that in grief for my sweet Je - sus I might weep?"

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

16. We will sing Your prais-es, Word and God of all things, with Your Fa-ther and Your

Ho - ly Spir - it You are praised, and we glo - ri - fy Your bur - i - al di - vine.

Both now and ever and un to the ages of ag - es. A - men.

17. You are known as bless-ed, The-o - to - kos, most pure. With our faith-ful hearts we

hon - or the bur - i - al suf - fered three days by your Son, Who is our God.

18. In a grave they laid You, yet, O Christ, You are Life, and the ar-mies of the

an - gels be - held a - mazed, giv - ing glo - ry that You chose to con - de - scend.


## Second Stasis



1. Tru-ly it is right that we mag-ni-fy You Who be - stows Life, Who up-



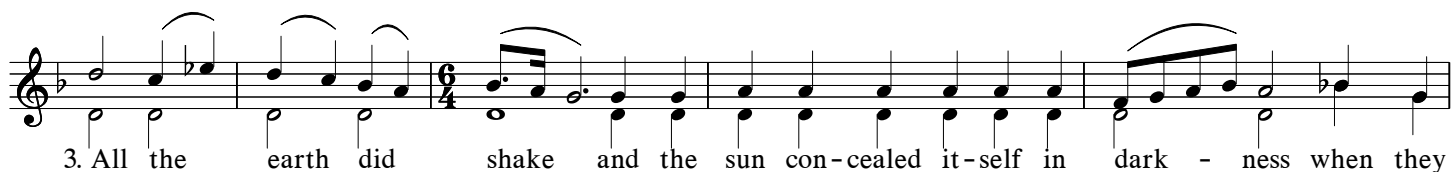
- on the Cross with Your out-spread Hands all the po-wer of the e-ne-my have crushed.




2. Tru-ly it is right that we mag-ni-fy You, our Cre - a - tor; through Your



pain have we been re-leased from pain, and from all cor-rup-tion we have been set free.



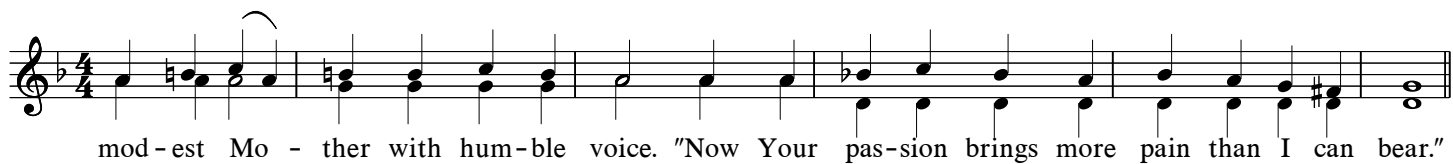
3. All the earth did shake and the sun con-cealed it-self in dark - ness when they




set Your bo - dy in-to the tomb, Christ, the Sa-visor and the ne-ver-set-ting Sun.



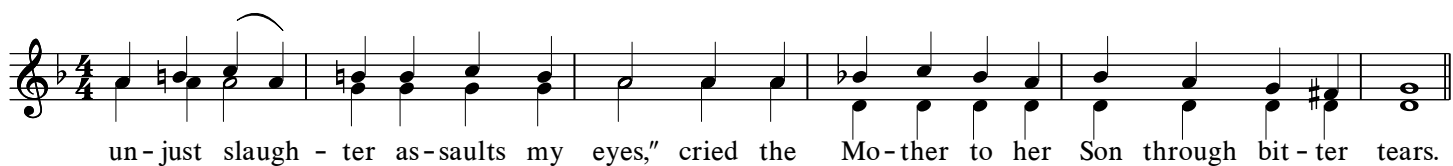
4. "Free from pain, my Child, I, a - lone a-mong all wo-men, bore You." said Your



mod-est Mo - ther with hum-ble voice. "Now Your pas-sion brings more pain than I can bear."



5. "Torn a - part am I, and my womb, O Word, is wrenched with - in me as Your

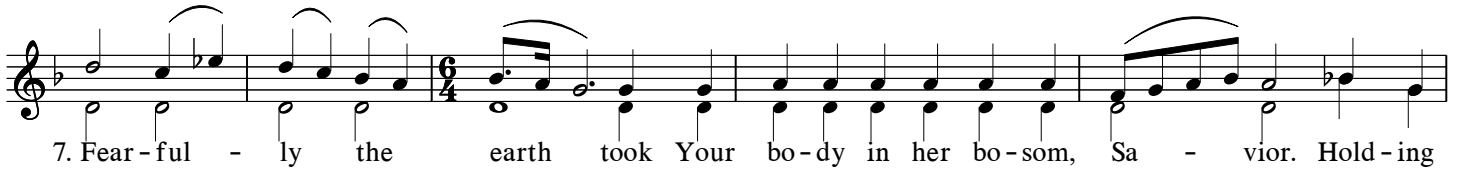


un-just slaugh - ter as-saults my eyes," cried the Mo-ther to her Son through bit - ter tears.

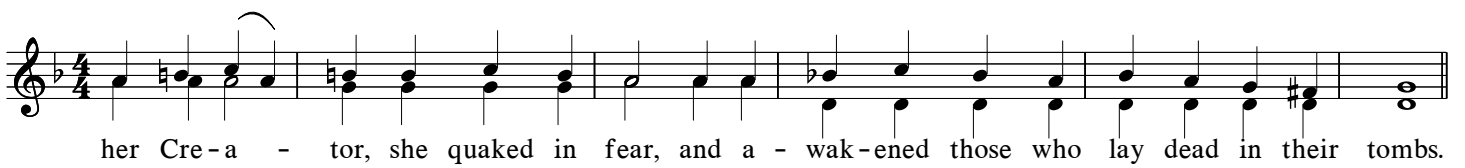


6. "Eyes that are so sweet, and Your lips, O Word, how shall I close them?" Jo-seph

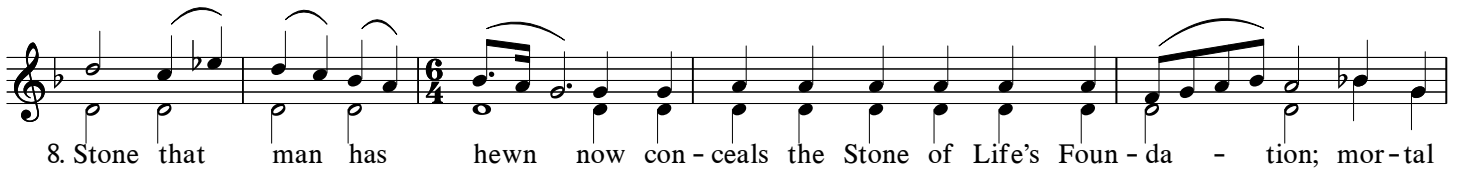
cried ap-palled, tremb-ling in dis-may." How shall I en-tomb You as be-fits the dead?"




7. Fear-ful-ly the earth took Your bo-dy in her bo-som, Sa-vior. Hold-ing



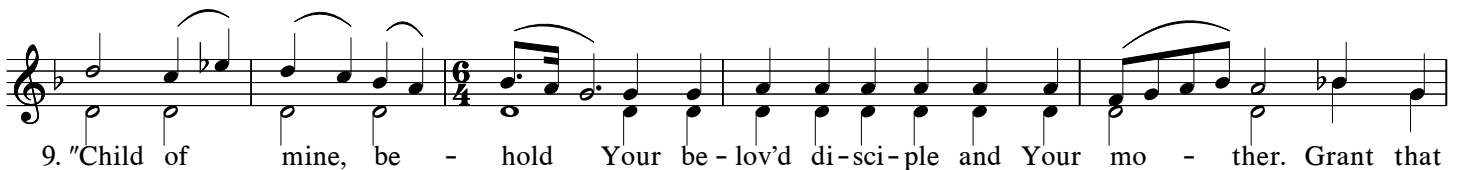
her Cre-a-tor, she quaked in fear, and a-wak-ened those who lay dead in their tombs.



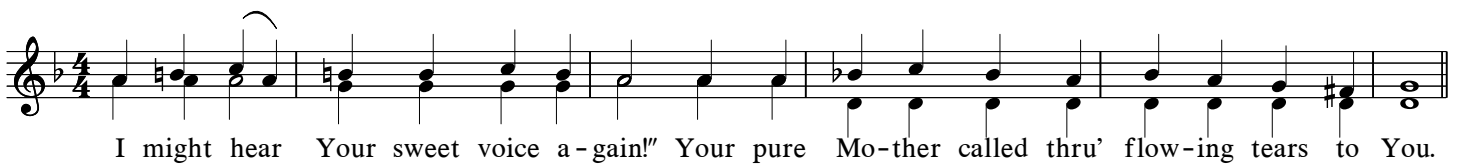
8. Stone that man has hewn now con-ceals the Stone of Life's Foun-da-tion; mor-tal



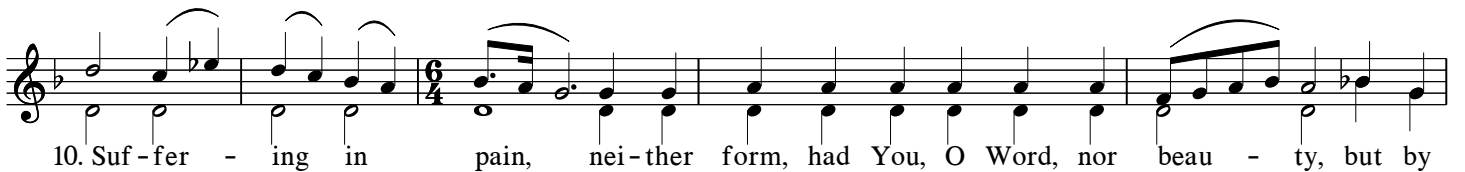
men en-tomb God as mor-tal man, caus-ing You, O earth, to trem-ble in dis-may.



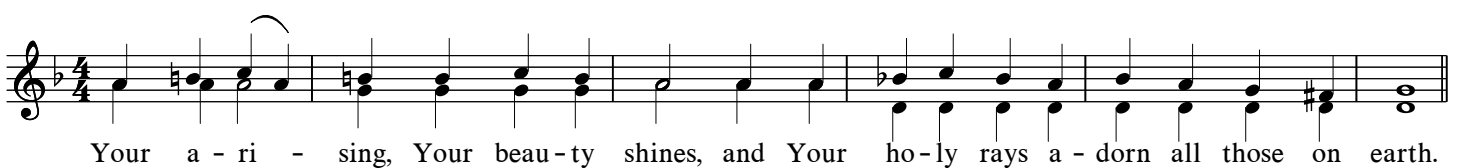
9. "Child of mine, be-hold Your be-lov'd di-sci-ple and Your mo-ther. Grant that



I might hear Your sweet voice a-gain!" Your pure Mo-ther called thru' flow-ing tears to You.



10. Suf-fer-ing in pain, nei-ther form, had You, O Word, nor beau-ty, but by



Your a-ri-sing, Your beau-ty shines, and Your ho-ly rays a-dorn all those on earth.

11. Sun and moon as one turned to dark-ness in their sor-row, Sa - vior, and like

faith-ful ser - vants, they wore their grief, when they wrapt them-selves in black-ness like a shroud.

12. Struck with fear, the sun saw Your light in - vi - si - ble as You lay life - less

and con-cealed in the grave, my Christ, and it shud-dered and re - lin-quished its own light.

13. Weep-ing bit - ter tears, Your pure Mo-ther mourned to see You life - less ly-ing

in the tomb, yet You are, O Word, the in - ef - fa - ble and ev - er - last - ing God.

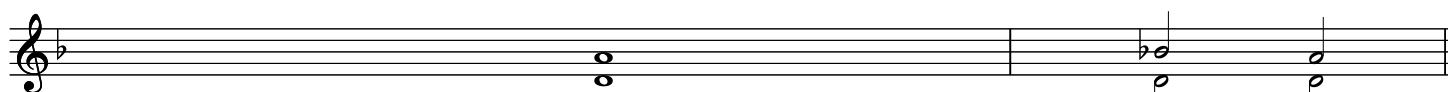
14. Wit-ness to Your death, through her bit-ter tears Your all-pure Mo - ther weep-ing,

cried a - loud un-to You, O Christ: "Do not lin-ger with the dead, for You are Life!"

15. Sing-ing hymns, O Christ, all the faith-ful now sound forth the prai - ses of Your

cru - ci - fi - xion and bu - ri - al for by Your en - tomb - ment we are freed from death.





Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy

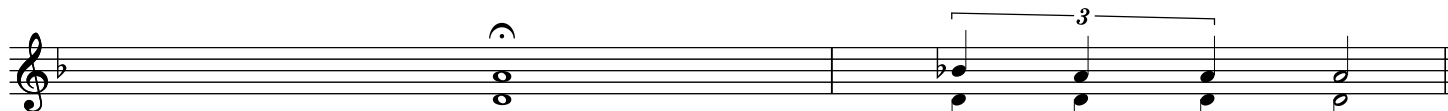
Spi - rit,



16. God be - yond all time, with the Word and Spi-rit e-ver - last - ing! Strength-en



eve - ry scep - ter, O right-eous Lord, of the Or-tho-dox a - gainst our eve - ry foe!



both now and forever and unto the ages of

a - ges. A - men.



17. Life was born of You who are ho-ly and most pure, O Vir - gin. Grant Your



church pro-tec - tion from all dis - sent and re - ward us with the bles-sing of Your peace.



18. Tru-ly it is right that we mag-ni-fy You Who be - stows Life, Who up-



- on the Cross with Your out-spread Hands all the po-wer of the e-ne-my have crushed.

# Third Stasis

## Third Tone

1. Eve - ry ge - ne - ra - tion of - fers a - dor - a -  
 - tion my Christ, at Your en - tomb - ment.

2. The A - ri - ma - the - an from the Cross has brought  
 You and in Your tomb has laid You.

3. An - xious - ly the wo - men car - ry myrrh and spi -  
 - ces, my Christ, to lay be - fore You.

4. Come with all cre - a - tion, and of - fer hymns of mourn -  
 - ing to hon - or our Cre - a - tor.

5. As wo - men bear - ing myrrh did, let us in our a - ware -  
 - ness a - noint as dead the Liv - ing.

6. Three - times bles - sed Jo - seph, You shall tend the Bo -  
 - dy of Christ, Who has be - stowed Life.

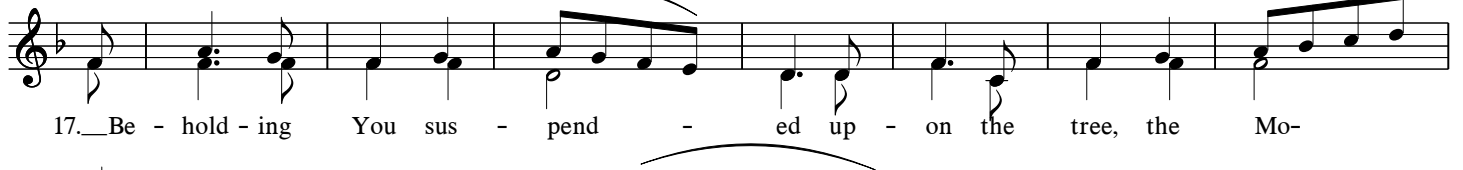
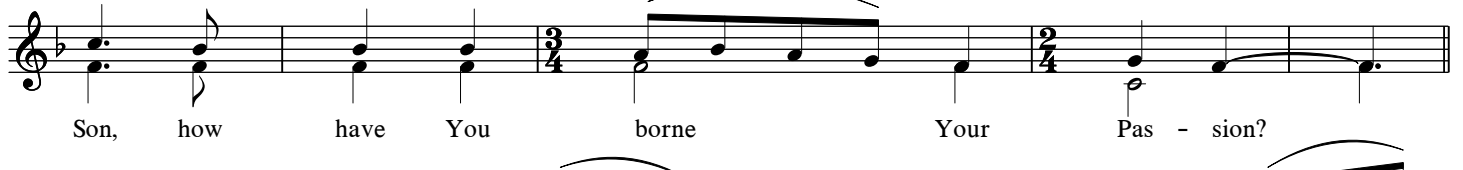
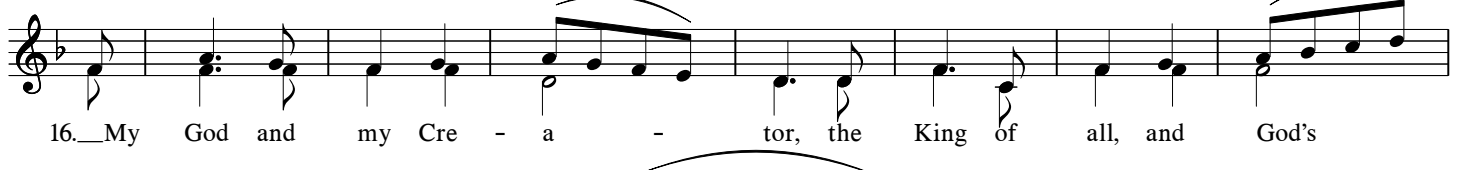
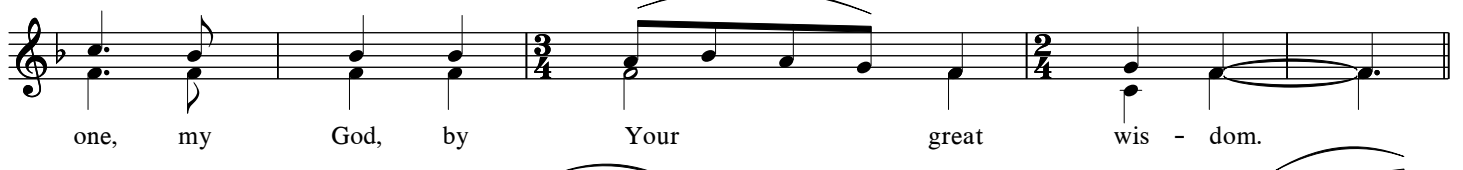
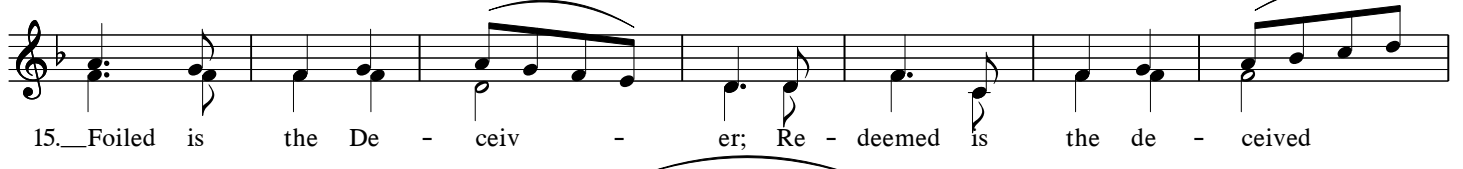
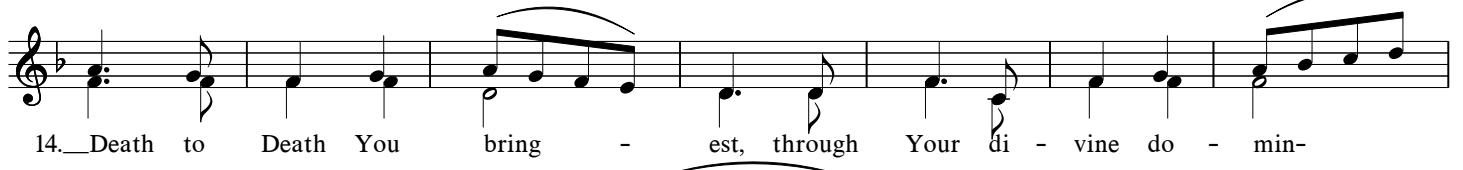
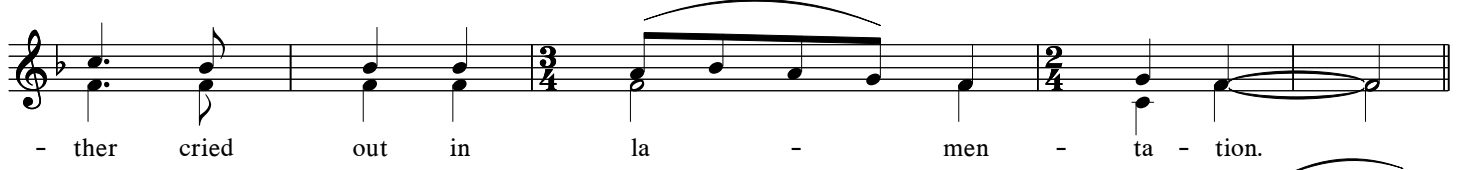
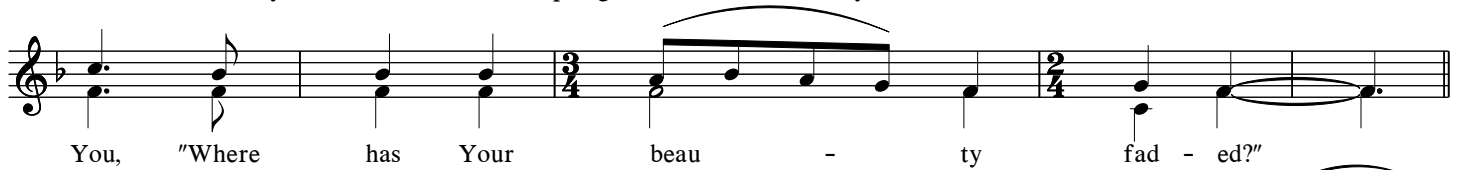
7. Those He fed with man - na have raised their heels to spurn  
 Him from Whom all things are gi - ven.

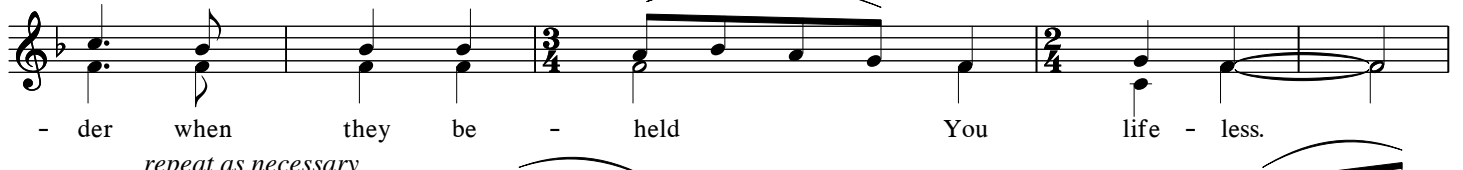
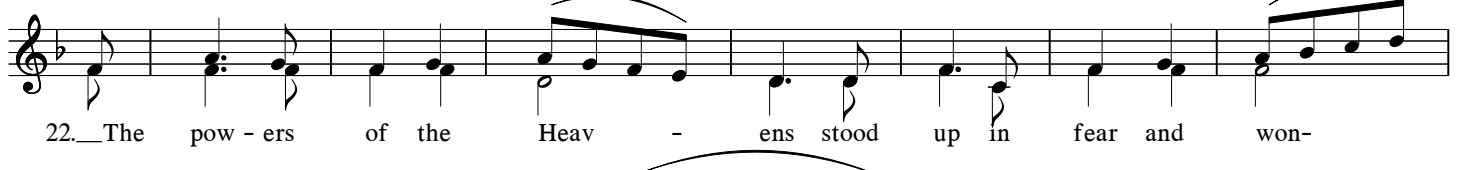
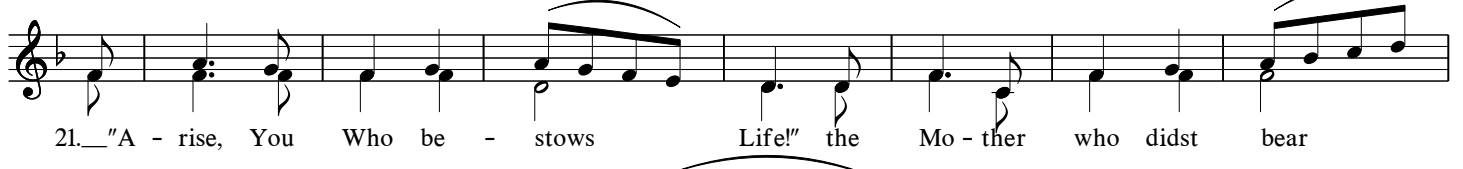
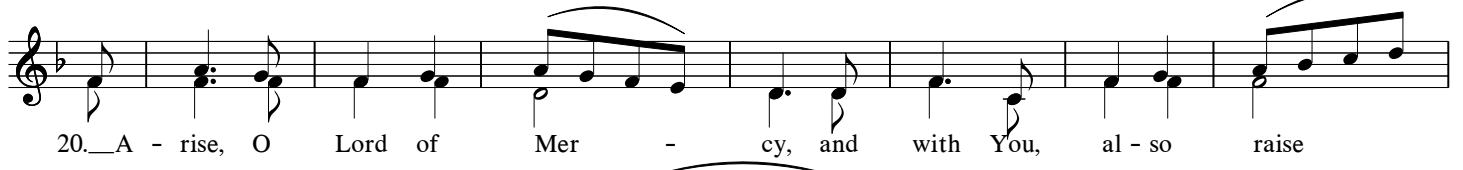
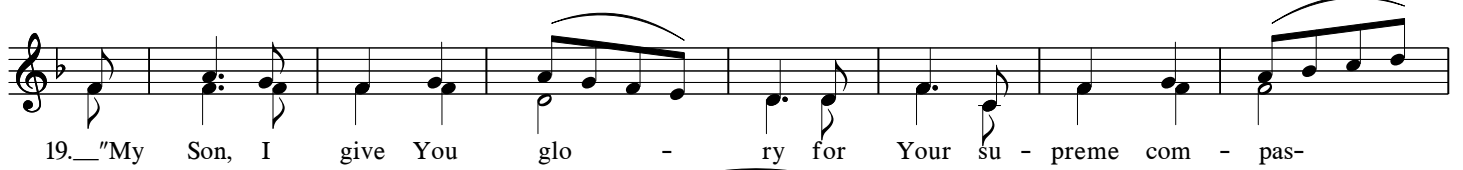
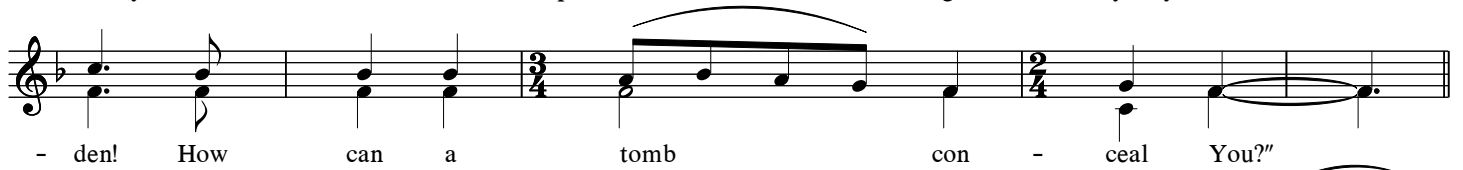
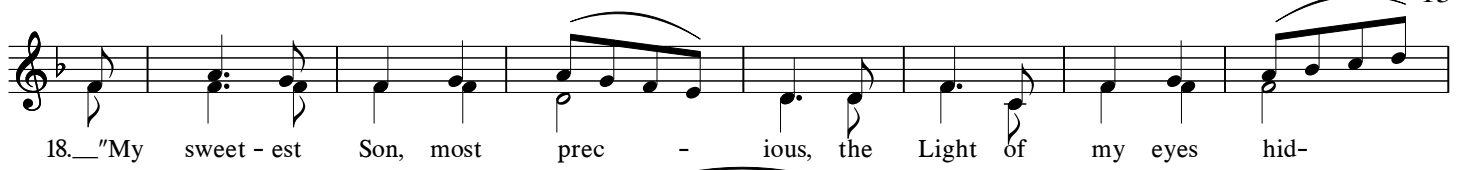
8. Ig - no - rance most fool - ish! Those who slew the proph -  
 - ets have come, O Christ, to slay You.

9. Mind - less as a ser - vant, he who learned the my -  
 - st'ries be - trayed the Depths of Wis - dom,

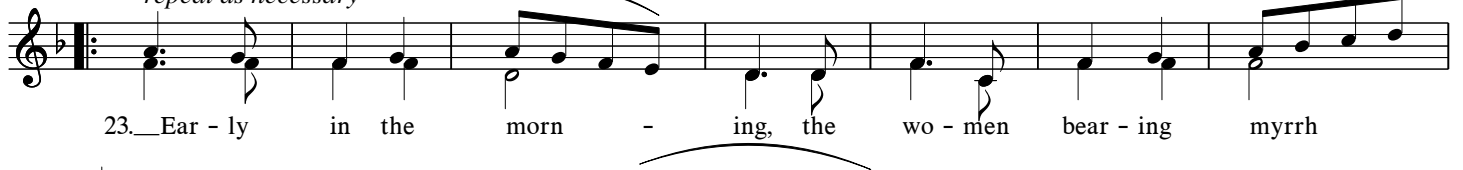
10. He who sold the Sav - ior, Ju - das the Be - tray -  
 - er, has sold him - self as cap - tive.

11. With help from Ni - co - de - mos, Jo - seph tends the Bod -  
 - y as does be - fit the Mas - ter.





*repeat as necessary*



24. By Your Re - sur - rec - tion up - on Your Church be - stow

peace, and to Your flock, sal - va - tion.

Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spi - rit,

25. My God, Who are three Per - sons, Fa - ther, Son, and Spi -

- rit, on all the world have mer - cy.

both now and forever and unto the ages of a - ges. A - men.

26. Deem Your serv - ants wor - Your, O Vir - gin, to bear wit -

- ness at Your Son's Re - sur - rec - tion.

27. Eve - ry ge - ne - ra - tion of - fers a - dor - a -

- tion my Christ, at Your en - tomb - ment.