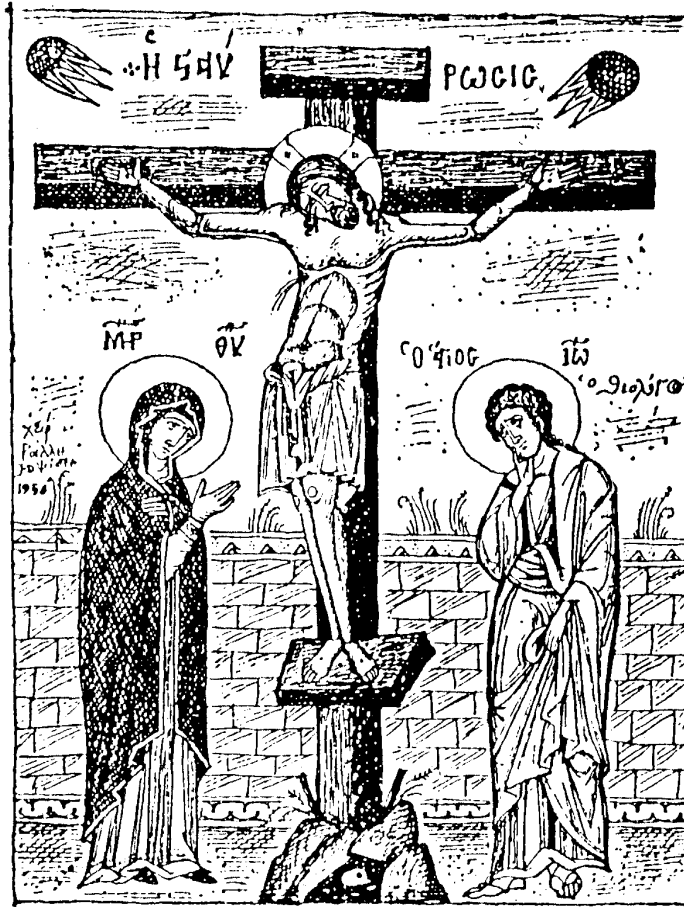


ΤΑ ΕΓΚΩΜΙΑ



The Lamentations before the Holy Sepulchre

From Holy Saturday Orthros

Modern English Translation by N. Takis

Byzantine Chant

Dedicated to His Eminence, Metropolitan Maximos of Pittsburgh

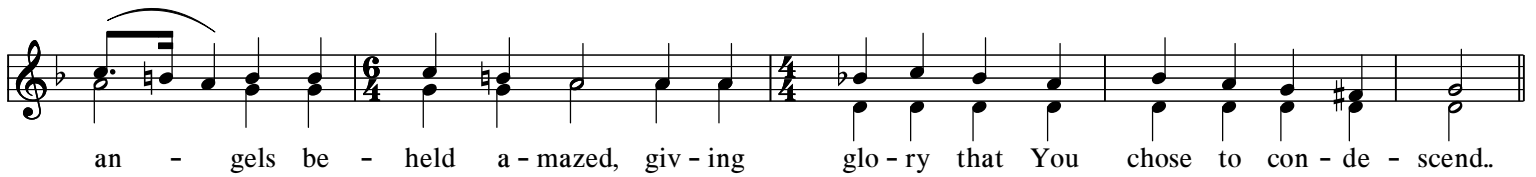
The Lamentations

Plagal First Tone

First Stasis

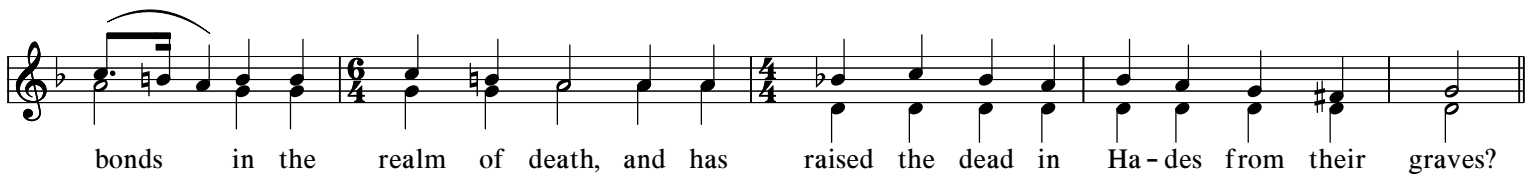
N. Takis

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



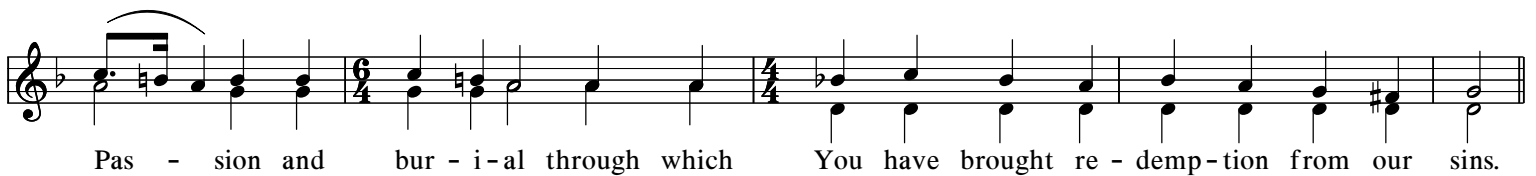
an - gels be - held a - mazed, giv - ing glo - ry that You chose to con - de - scend..

2. How, O Life, do You die? How do You dwell en - tombed, Who has slashed through all the



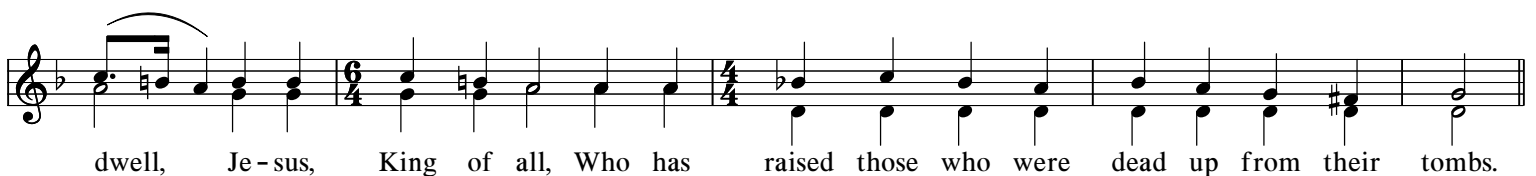
bonds in the realm of death, and has raised the dead in Ha - des from their graves?

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



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

4. You have set the mea - sures of the earth, yet this day in a nar - row tomb do



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

5. O mine own Christ Je-sus, You are King of all things. 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 Ma-ster 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 have you 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-te-ry en-

- fold - ing Your bu - ri - 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 mo-ther saw You brought to slaugh - ter, O Lamb, she was stabbed with pain-ful

tor - ment; her an-guished 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 mo - ther'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 - spair," that in grief for my sweet Je - sus I might weep."

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

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

Ho - ly Spi - rit You are praised, and we glo - ri - fy Your bu - ri - al di - vine.

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

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

hon - or the bu - ri - 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-



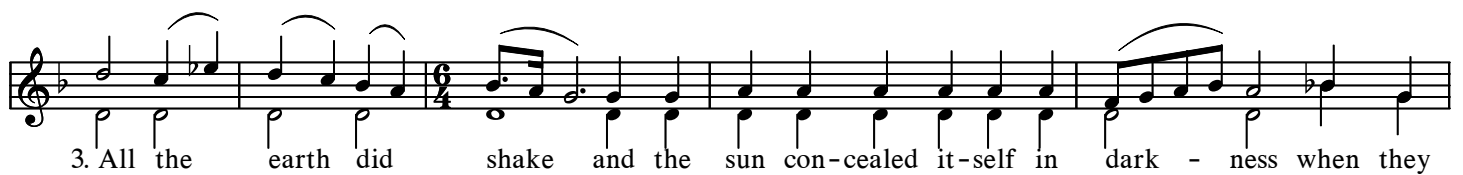
- on the Cross with Your out-spread Hands all the po-wer of the e-ne-my have crushed.



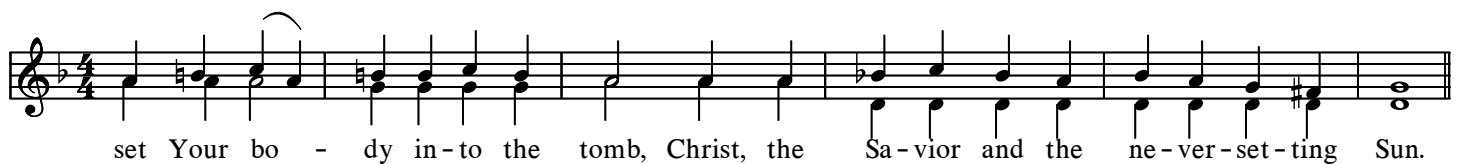
2. Tru-ly it is right that we mag-ni-fy You, our Cre - a - tor; through Your



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



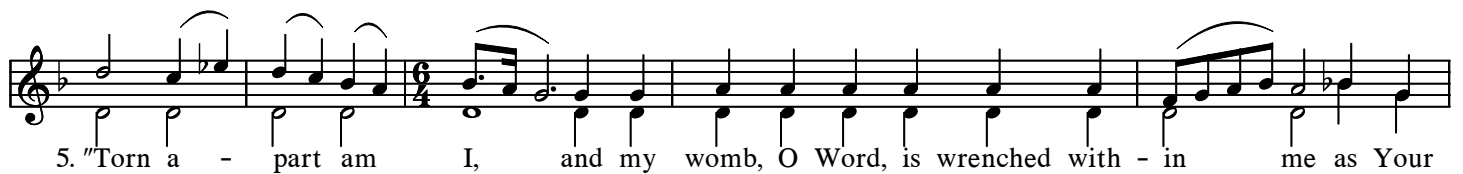
set Your bo - dy in-to the tomb, Christ, the Sa-rior and the ne-ver-set-ting Sun.



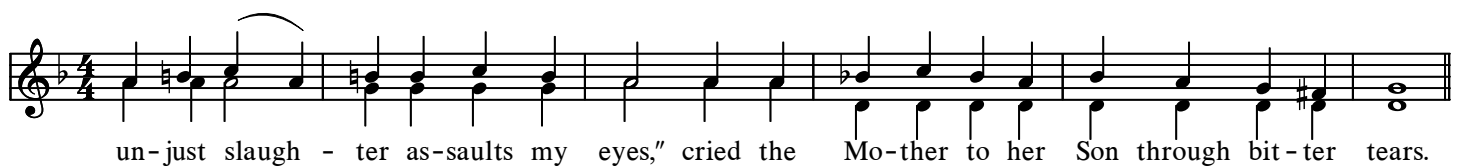
4. "Free from pain, my Child, I, a - lone a-mong all wo-men, bore You." said Your



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

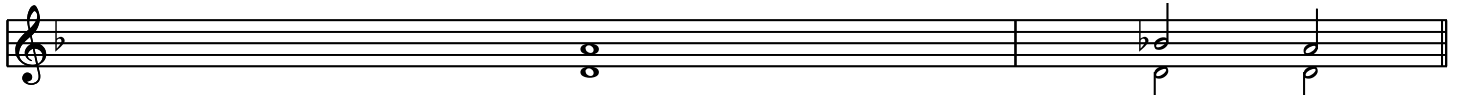
in the tomb, yet You are, O Word, the in - ef - fa - ble and ev - er - last - ing God.

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

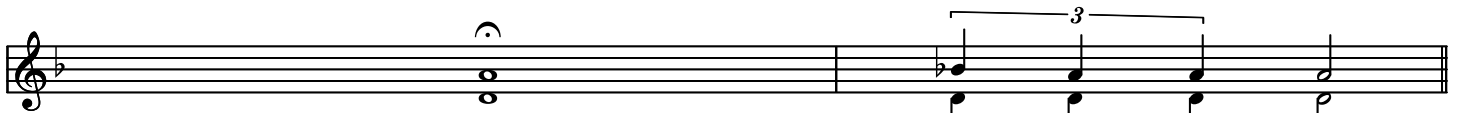
Spi - rit,



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

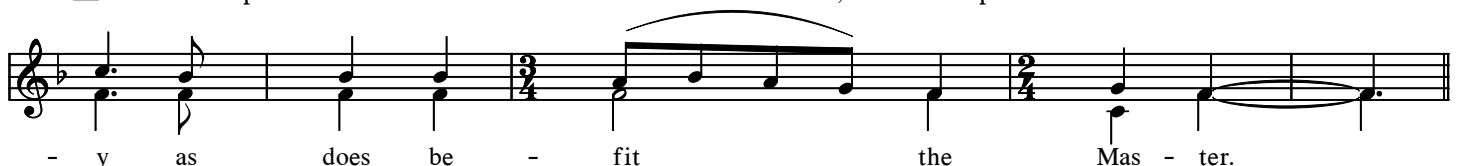
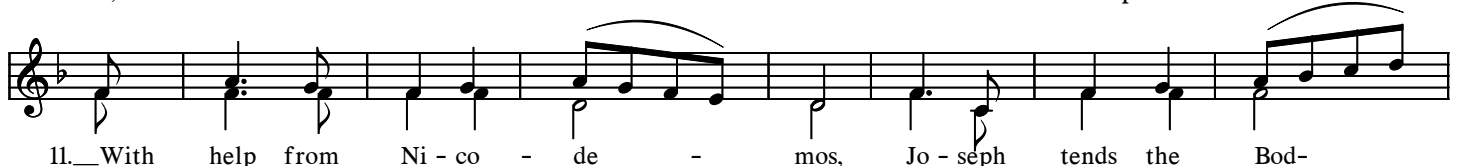
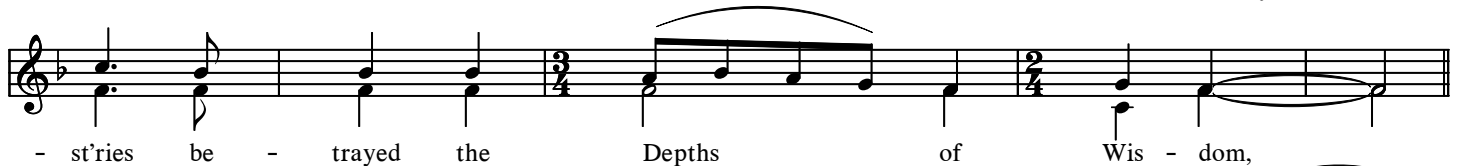
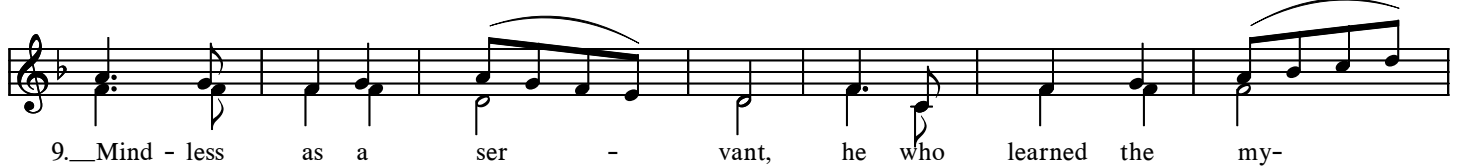
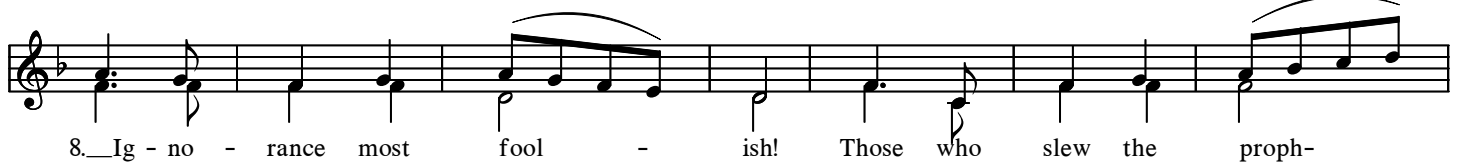
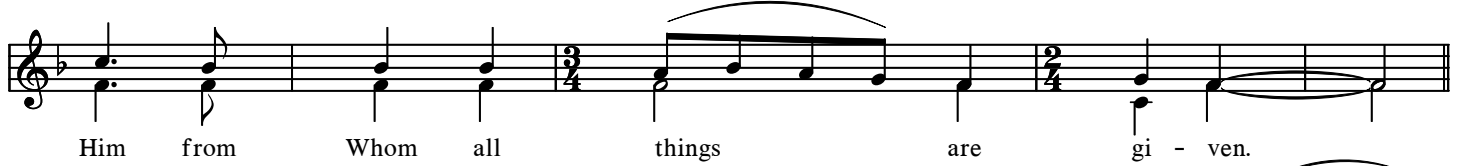
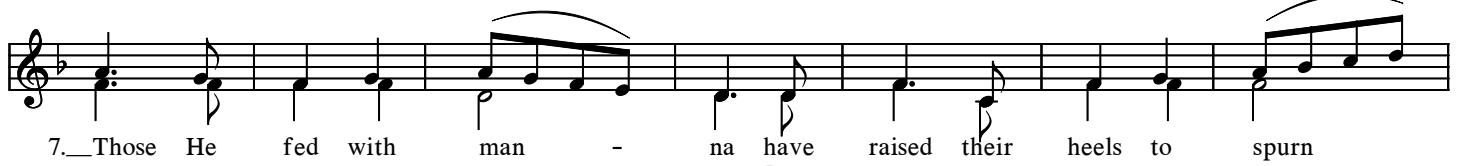
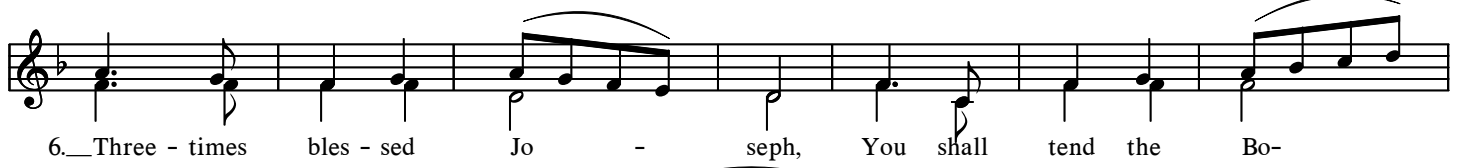
1. Eve - ry ge - ne - ra - tion of - fers a - dor - a -
 - tion my Christ, at Your en - tomb - ment.

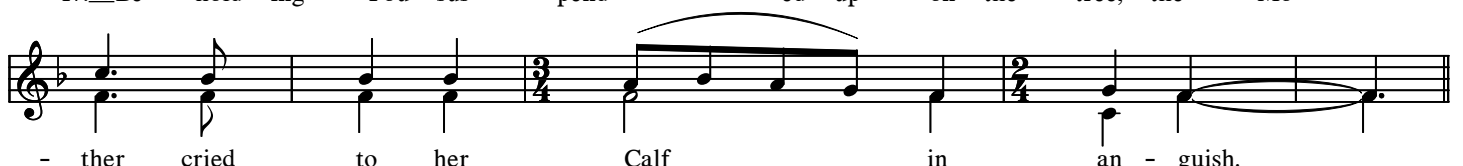
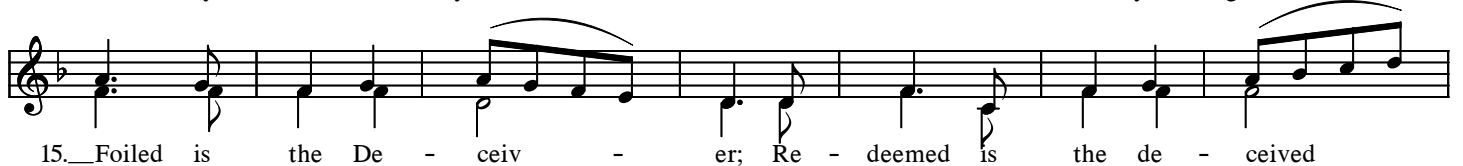
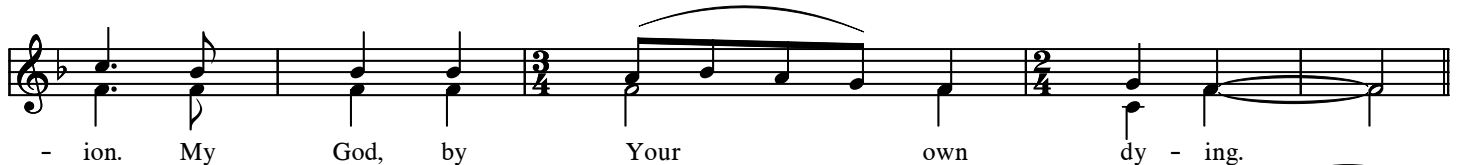
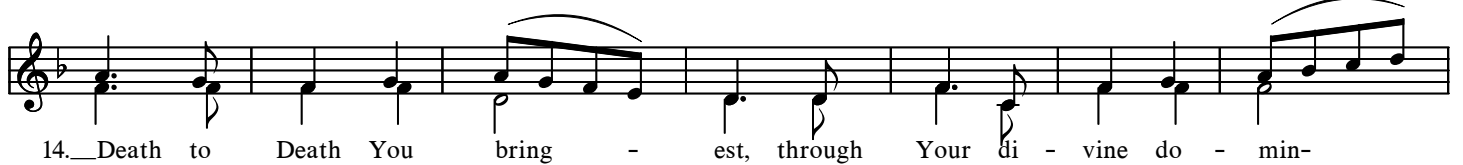
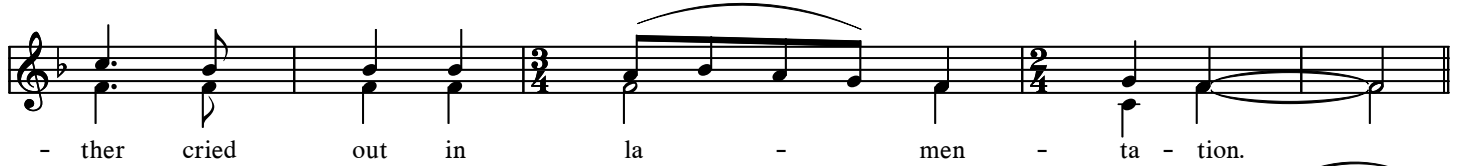
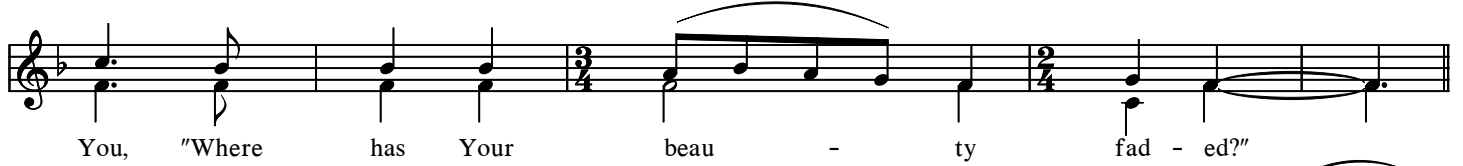
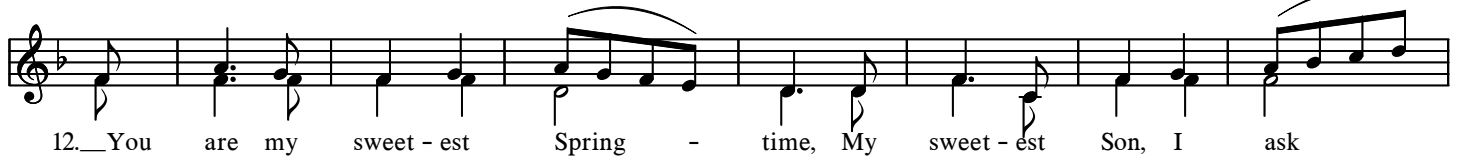
2. The A - ri - ma - the - an from the Cross has brought
 You and in Your tomb has laid You.

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.







18. My sweet - est Son, most prec - ious, the Light of my eyes hid-



- den! How can a tomb con - ceal You?"



19. My Son, I give You glo - ry for Your su - preme com - pas-



- sion which caus - es You to suf - fer."



20. A - rise, O Lord of Mer - cy, and with You, al - so raise



us who ling - er deep in Ha - des.



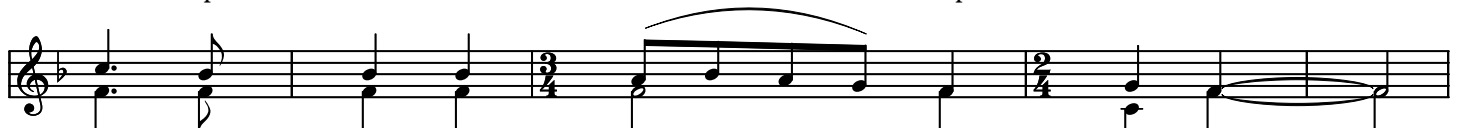
21. A - rise, You Who be - stows Life!" the Mo - ther who didst bear



You through flow - ing tears en - treats You.



22. The pow - ers of the Heav - ens stood up in fear and won-



- der when they be - held You life - less.

repeat as necessary



23. Ear - ly in the morn - ing, the wo - men bear - ing myrrh



came to sprin - kle You with spi - ces.

