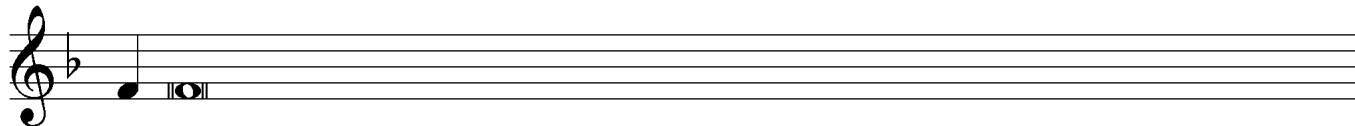


**December 28th. Afterfeast of the Nativity.**

**The 20 000 Holy Martyrs burned alive in Nikomedia.**

At Vespers, on "Lord, I have cried" sing 6 verses.

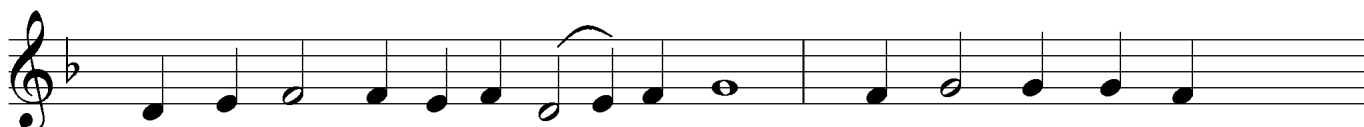
First, 3 verses for the Feast, Tone 5 (melody: "Rejoice"):



(1) If you, Lord, should mark in - i - qui - ties, O Lord, who will stand? But



there is for - give - ness with you.



"Be - ing per - fect in the form of God, you bear the form of



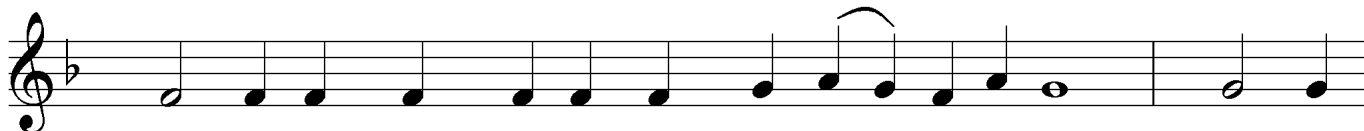
Ad - - - - - am, and hold - ing all things in your hand in your



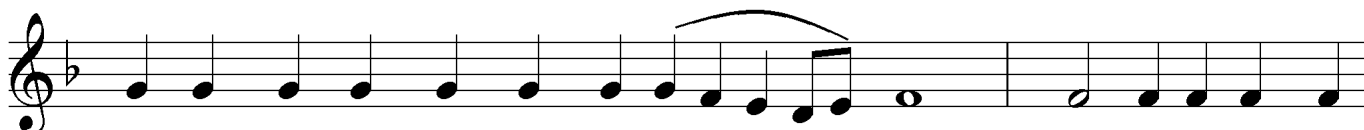
pow - - - - - er, you wish to be held in my arms,"



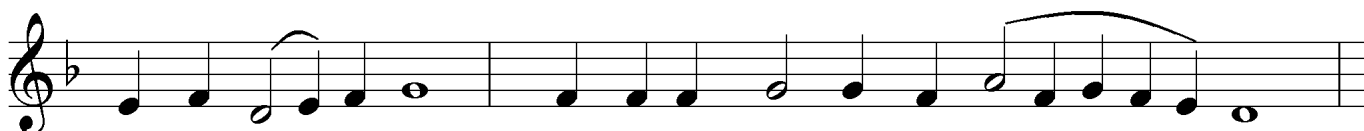
called out the Pure One, whol - ly with - out blem - ish, say - - - - - ing:



"How have I wrapped you in swad - dling cloths as a babe? How have



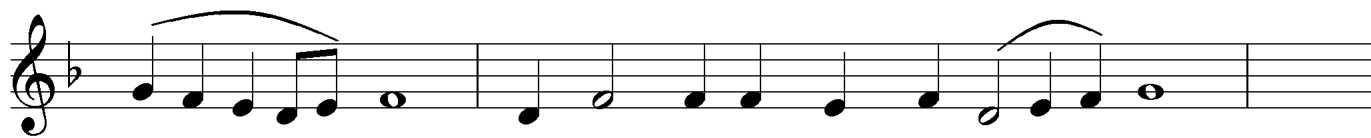
I suck - led you, that nour - ish all things? How do I mar - vel



at your pov - er - ty, which is be - yond un - der - stand - - - - - ing?



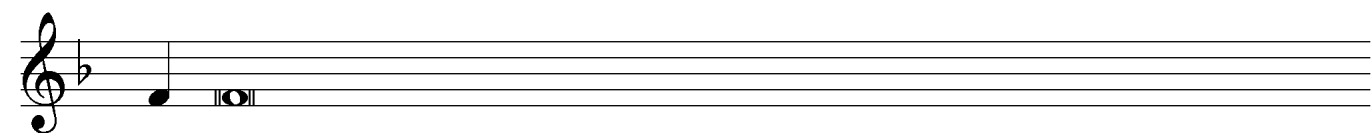
How can I call you my Son, when I am now your



ser - - - - - vant? I praise you in hymns and bless you,



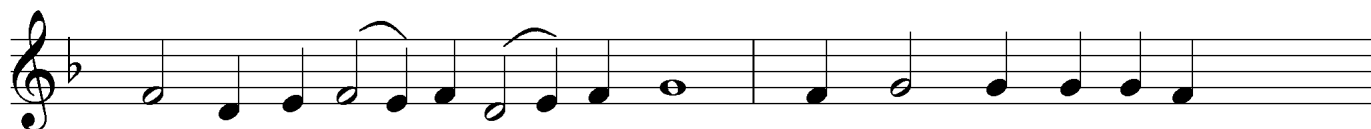
as you grant the world great mer - - - - cy."



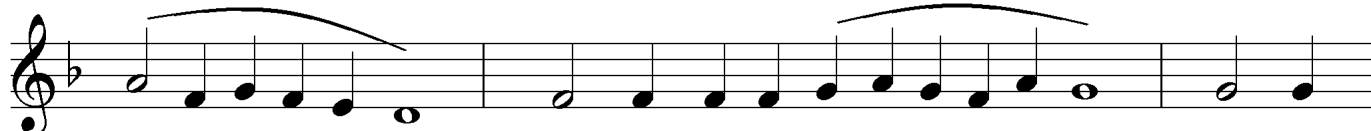
(II) For your name's sake I have wait - ed for you, O Lord; my soul has



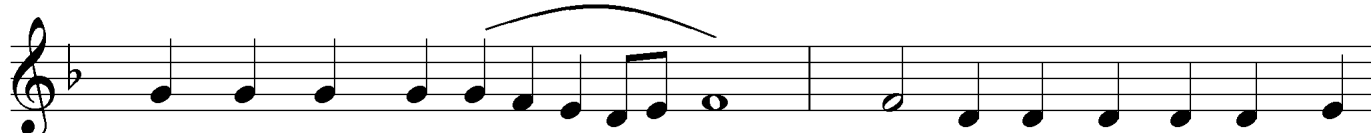
wait - ed on your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord.



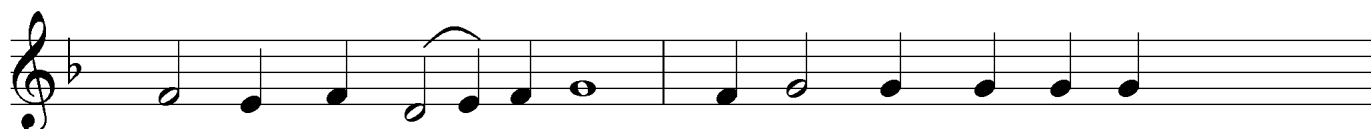
See - ing the pre - - e - ter - - nal God take flesh from her as a



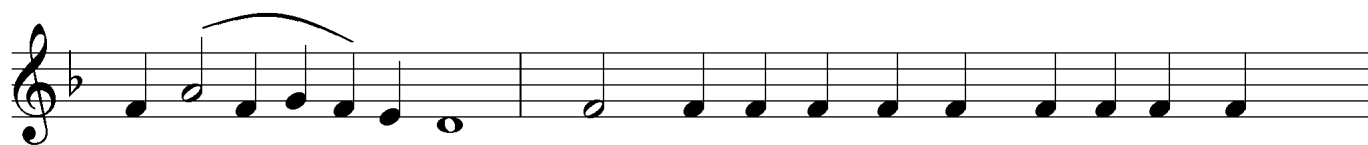
babe, hold - ing him in her arms, kiss - ing



him, and filled with joy, she who is whol - ly with - out



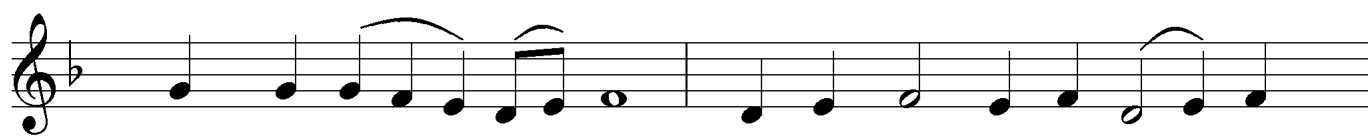
blem - ish called out to him: "O God Most High, O King



in - vis - - - - - i - ble, how, when I gaze on you, have I not been



giv - en un - der - stand - - - - - ing of the mys - ter - y of your



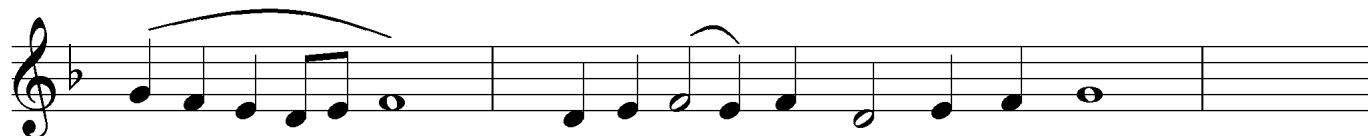
bound - less pov - - - - er - - - ty? For this small - est and strang - est



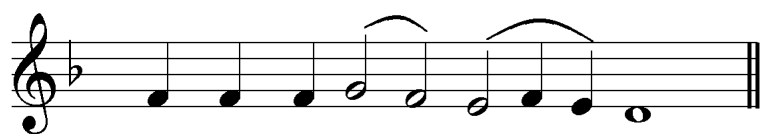
Cave con - tains you, who were born in it with - out



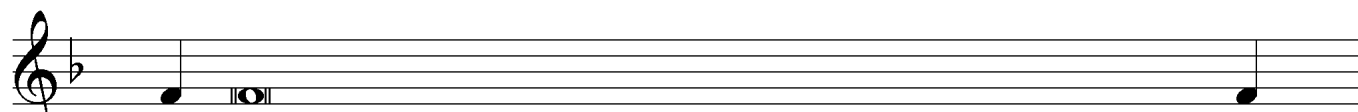
de - stroy - ing my vir - gin - - - - - i - ty, but pre - serv - ing my



womb as it was be - fore giv - ing birth,



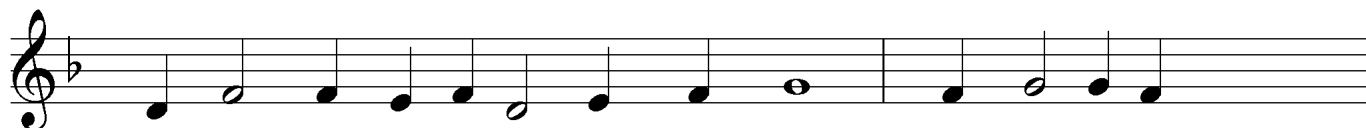
and giv - ing great mer - - - - cy."



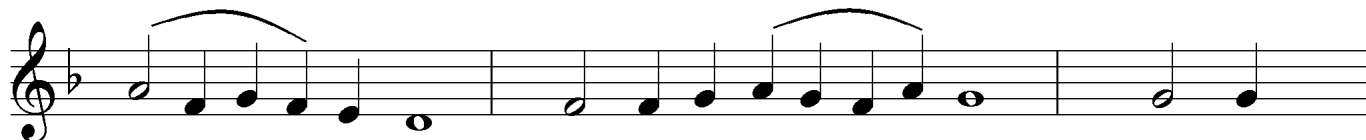
(1) From the morn - ing watch un - til night, from the morn - ing watch let



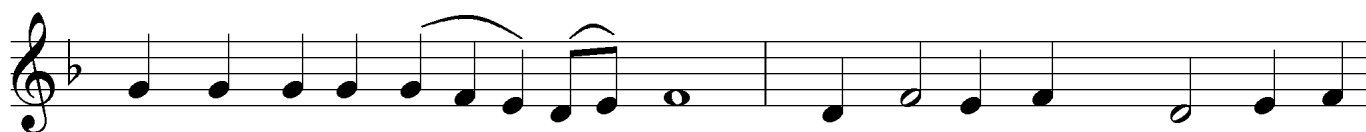
Is - ra - el hope in the Lord.



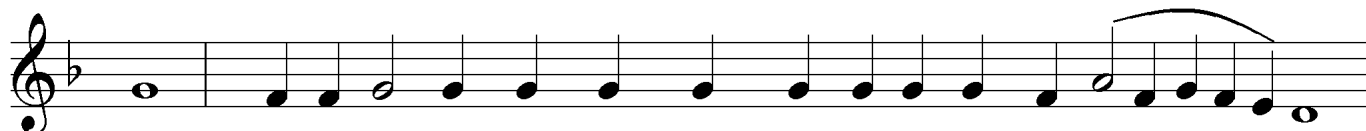
The Pure One, as she ut - tered these things with awe as a



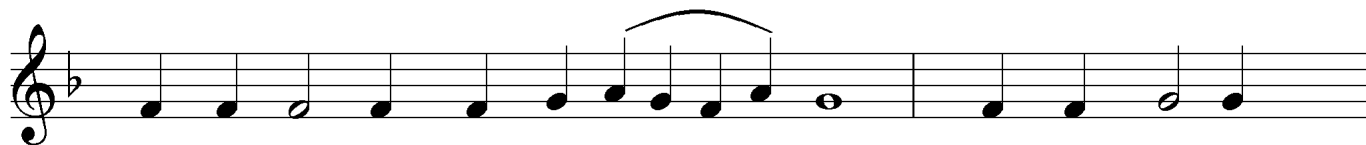
sup - - - - - pli - ant, heard of the Ma - - - - - gi stand - ing



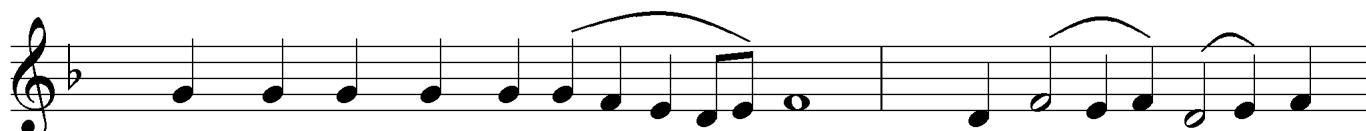
to - geth - er be - fore the Cave, and said to them: "Whom do you



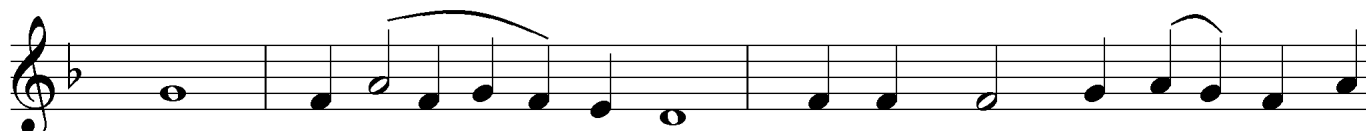
seek? For I see that you have come from a far - a - way coun - - - - - try;



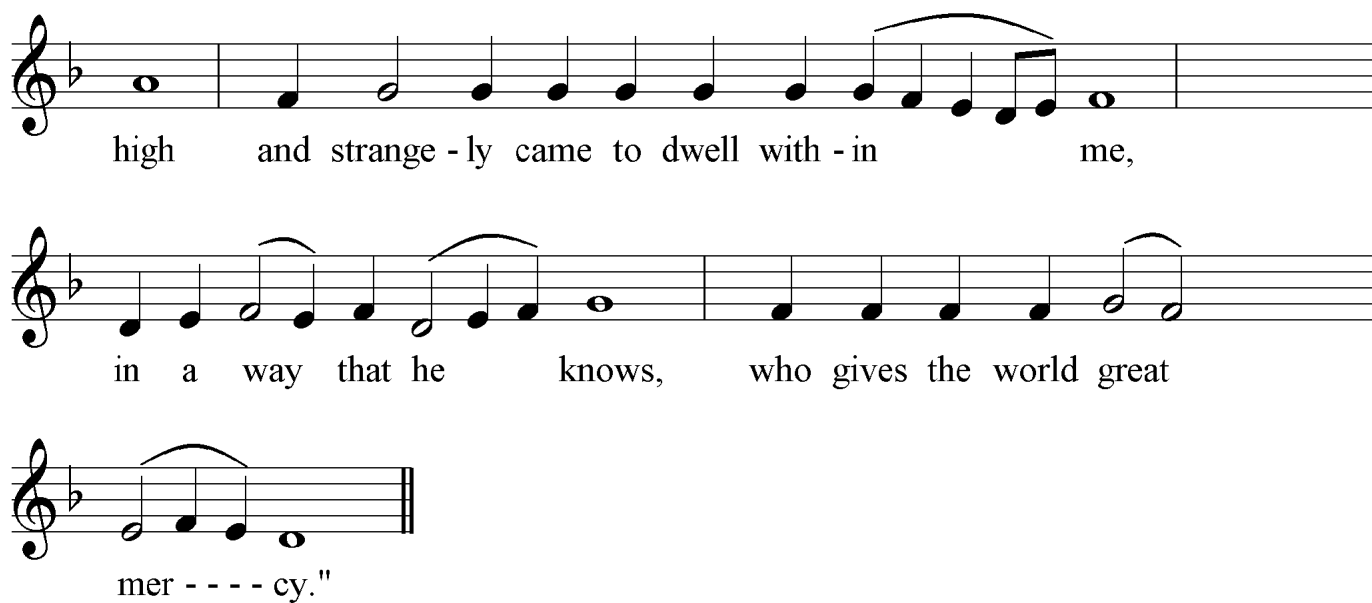
hav - ing Per - sian dress and wis - - - - - dom, you have made a



strange de - par - ture and jour - - - - - ney. With haste you have



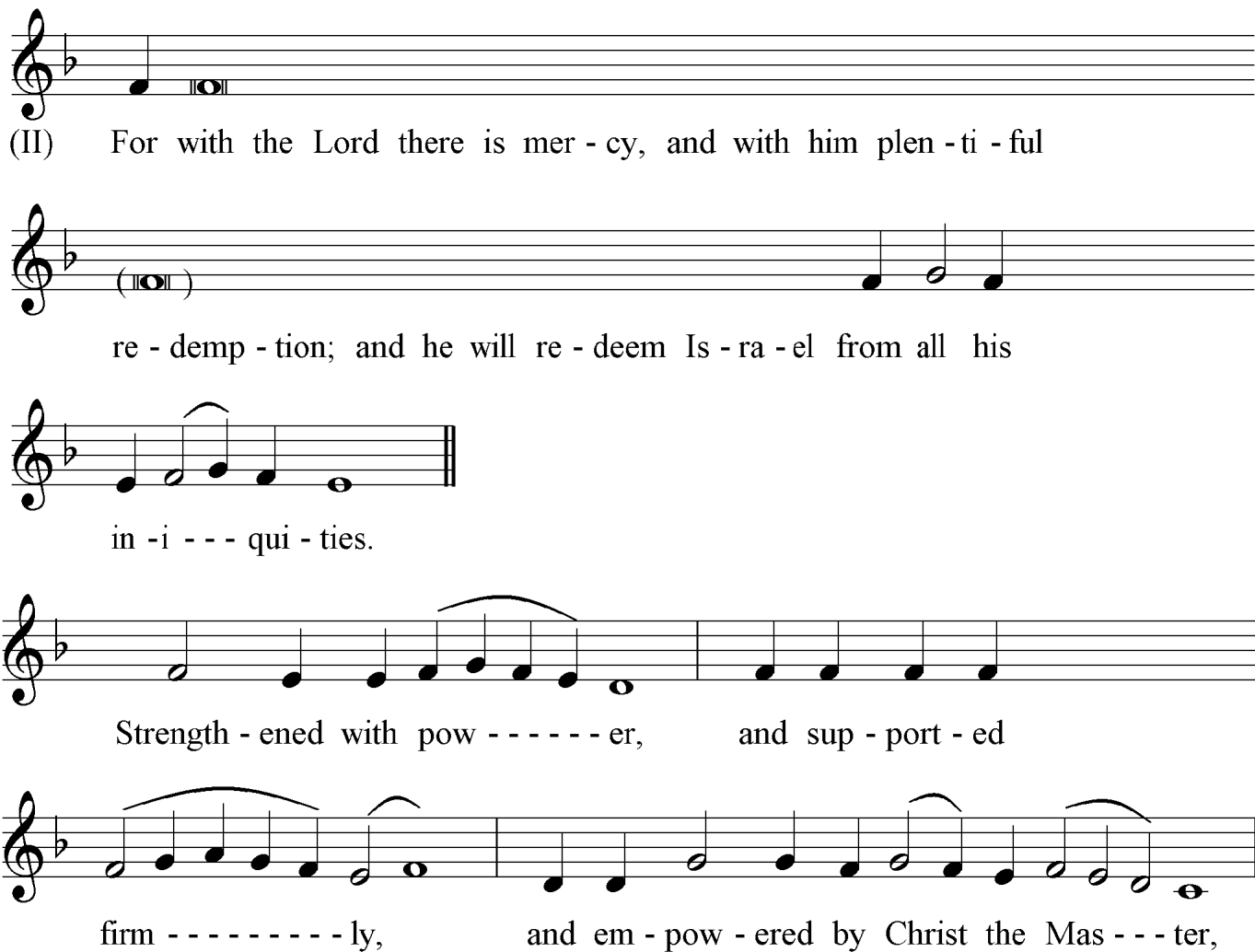
come to wor - - - - - ship him who es - tranged him - self from on



high and strange - ly came to dwell with - in me,  
in a way that he knows, who gives the world great  
mer - - - - cy."

**Then 3 verses for the Martyrs, Tone 4**

(melody: "As one valiant among the martyrs")



(II) For with the Lord there is mer - cy, and with him plen - ti - ful  
re - demp - tion; and he will re - deem Is - ra - el from all his  
in - i - - - qui - ties.  
Strength - ened with pow - - - - - er, and sup - port - ed  
firm - - - - - ly, and em - pow - ered by Christ the Mas - - - - ter,



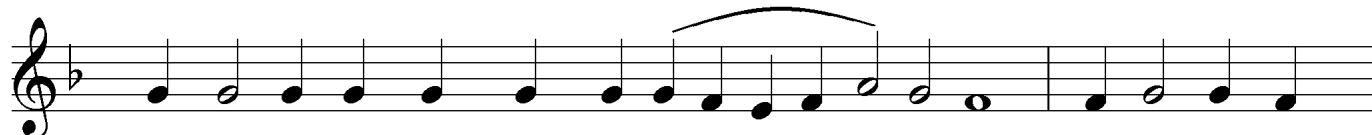
in the weak - ness of your na - - - - - ture you were shown to be



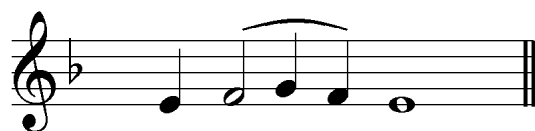
in - vin - ci - ble, O ath - - - - - letes, de - feat - ing the en - e - my



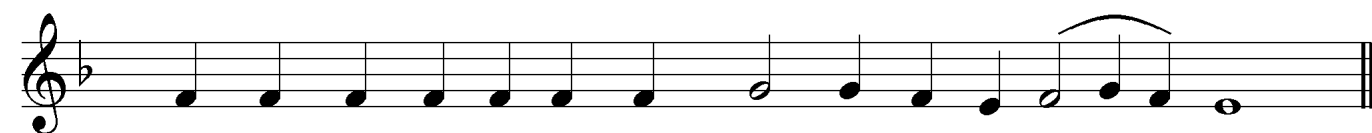
in your strug - - - gles. Pray for those who cel - - - - - e - brate



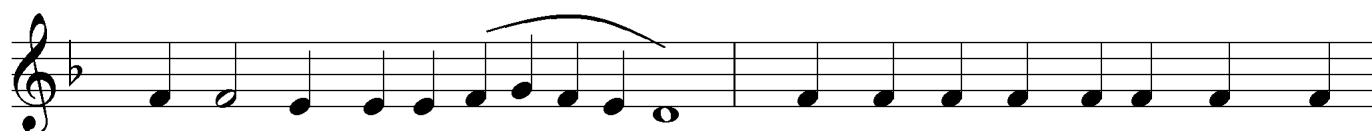
your ho - ly and light - bear - ing mem - - - - - o - ry, O glo - ri - ous



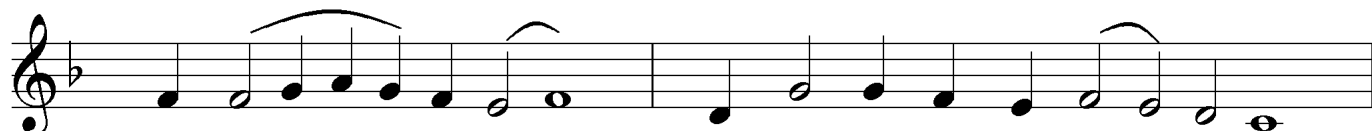
great mar - - - - - tyrs.



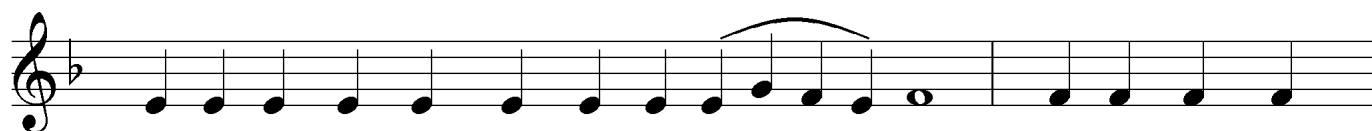
(I) Praise the Lord, all you na - tions; praise him, all you peo - - - - - ples.



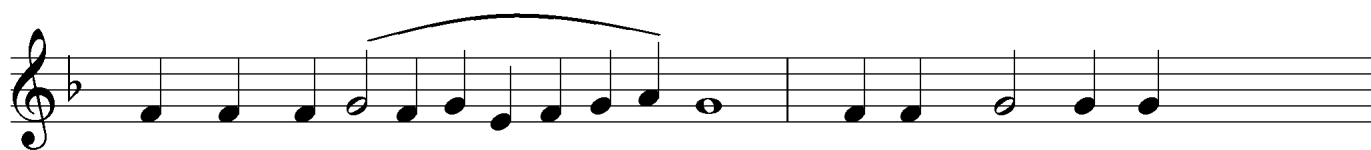
The - o - phil - os in words, and Dor - o - the - os in deeds, and



Mig - do - - - - - ni - os, to - geth - er with Gre - gor - - - i - os,



and al - so with Sec - und - os and Pe - - - - - ter, and In - des gained



the prize for val - - - - - our, and re - joiced as they



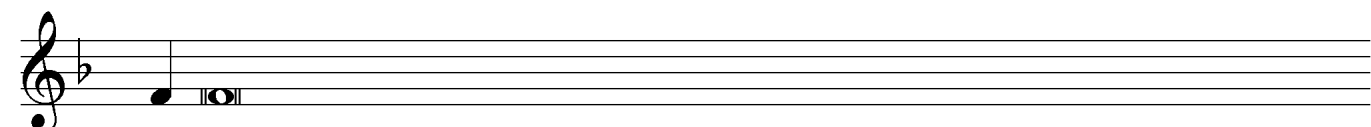
de - feat - ed the hordes of the en - - - e - my, and they pray for



de - liv - er - ance from all dan - - - - - gers for those who in faith



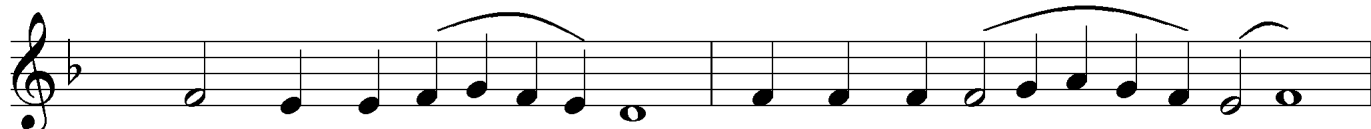
cel - - - - - e - brate their mem - o - ry, hon - oured by all.



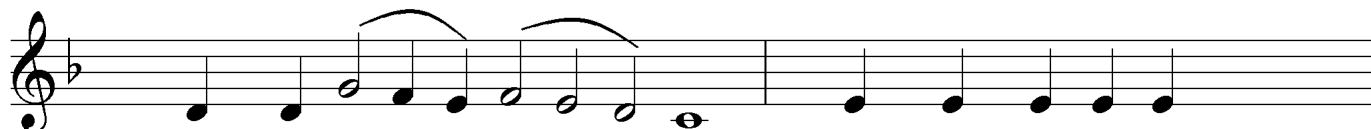
(II) For his mer - cy has been might - y to - wards us; and the truth of the



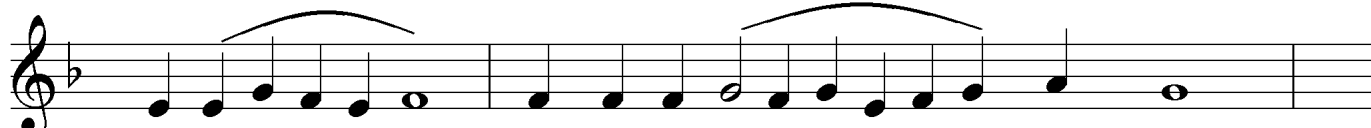
Lord en - dures to the ag - - - - - es.



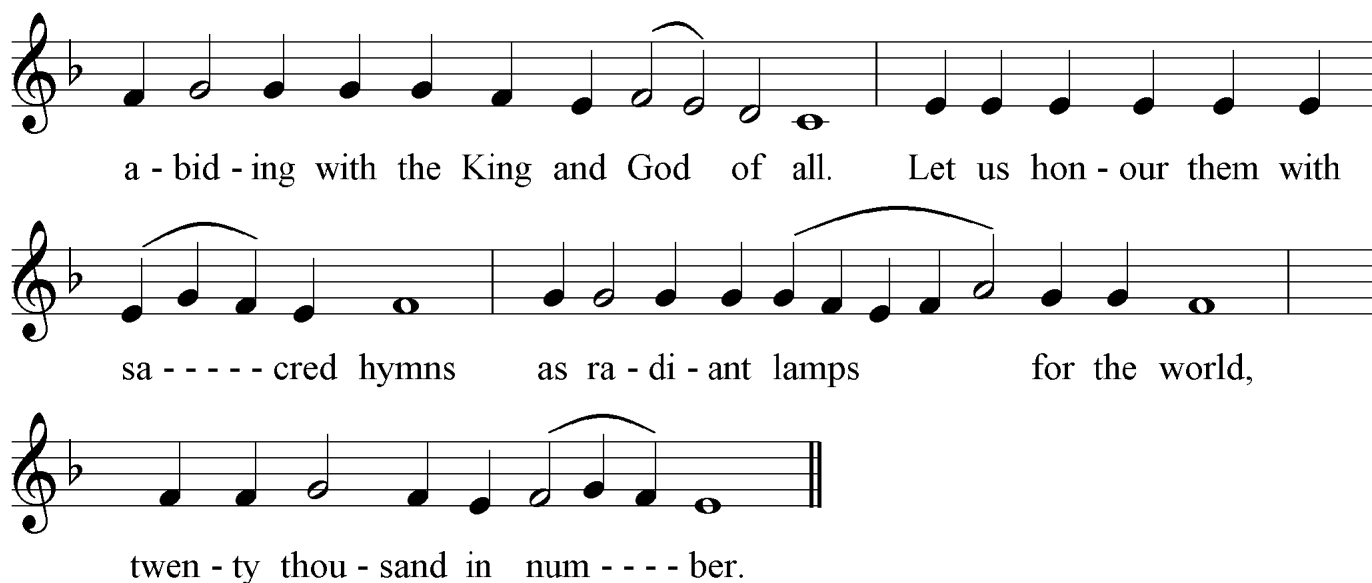
Young men and maid - - - - - ens, old men and chil - - - - - dren,



showed the same val - - - - - our. There - fore they al - so



re - ceive e - qual re - wards through grace,



a - bid - ing with the King and God of all. Let us hon - our them with  
sa - - - - cred hymns as ra - di - ant lamps for the world,  
twen - ty thou - sand in num - - - - ber.

**Glory. Both now. Tone 5**

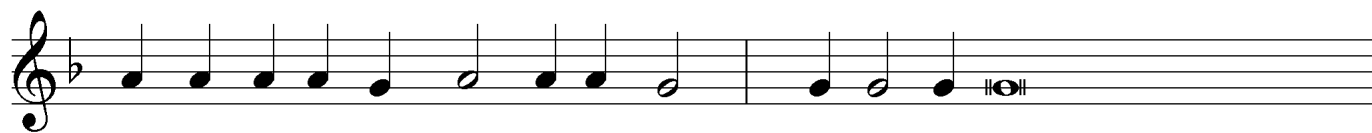


(I) Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.  
Both now and for ev - er, and to the ag - es of ag - es. A - - - men.  
Let the heav - ens be glad, and let the earth re - jice: for to - day  
an - gels and hu - mans have tru - ly be - come a sin - - - - gle flock.  
O the won - der! The in - vis - i - ble is vis - i - ble, the un - con - tain - a - ble  
is con - tained, the Word is made flesh, the Son of God be - comes the





Son of man; and the Vir - gin, who did not know a man,



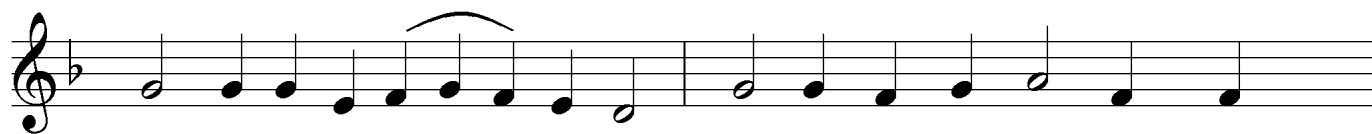
is seen to be the Moth - er of God, and af - ter giv - ing birth the



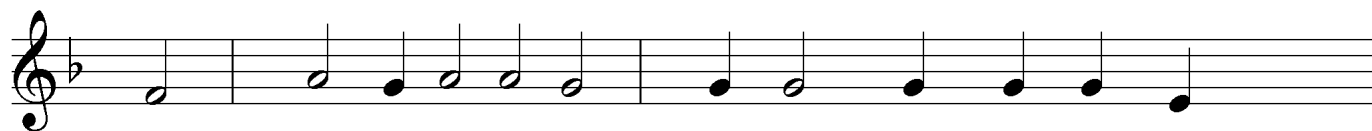
Moth - er is found to be a vir - - - - - gin. The in - car - nate Word of



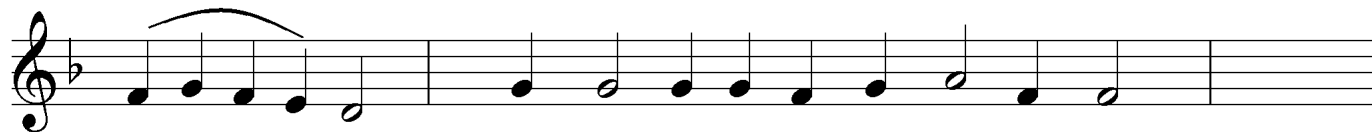
the Fa - ther lies in a man - ger, and shep - herds be - come her - alds,



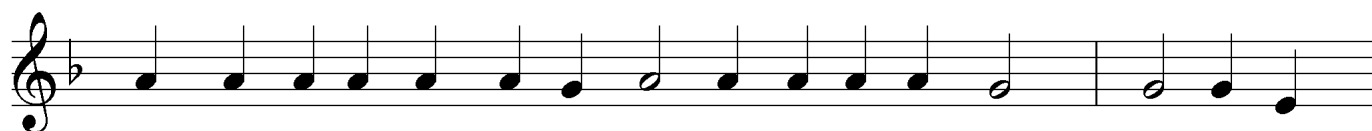
shar - ing in the mys - - - - - ter - y; Ma - gi from the East have brought



gifts, guid - ed by a star, and wor - shipped the new - born



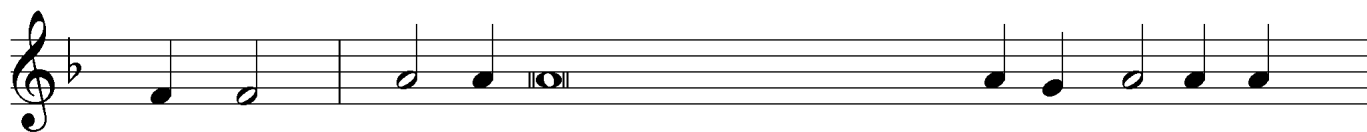
Sav - - - - - iour. With them we al - so who love the feasts,



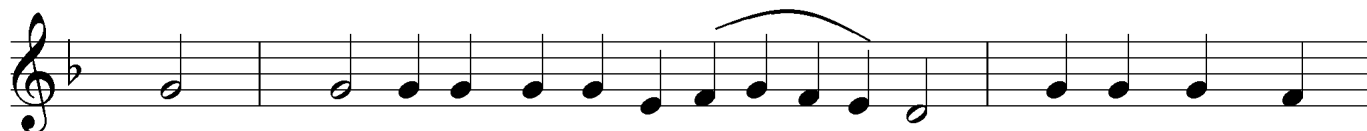
fer - vent - ly o - pen - ing the treas - ur - ies of our hearts, of - fer him



good works: faith, hope and love, like gold and frank - in - cense



and myrrh, cry - ing out to him with the words of the Bod - i - less



Ones: "Glo - ry to God in the high - - - - - est, and on earth peace,

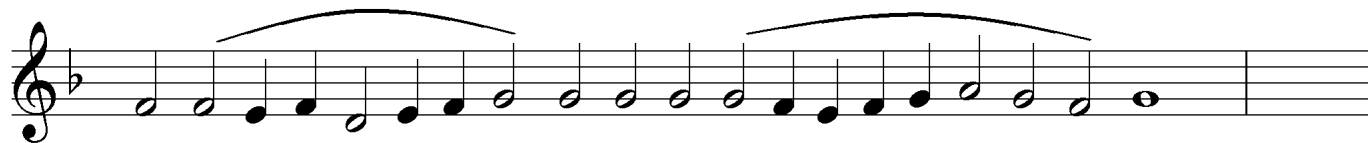


good will a - mong men, for he has come to save our whole race from

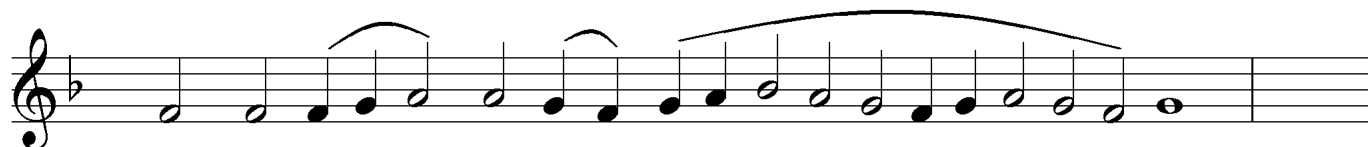


de - cep - - - - - tion."

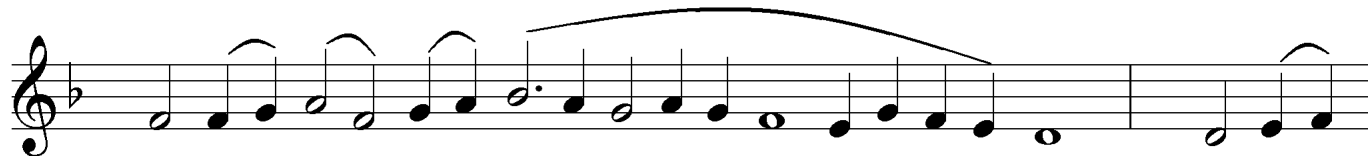
### Aposticha for the Feast, Tone 2 (melody: "O House of Ephrata")



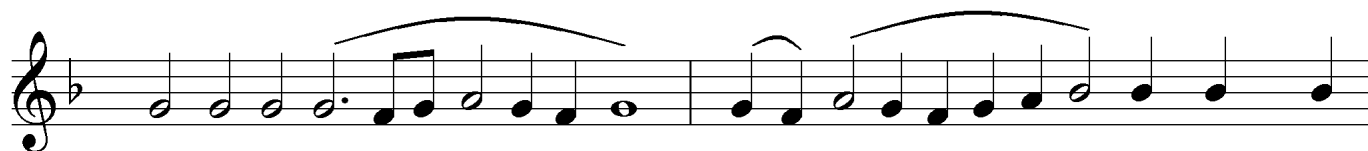
(1) O Christ, by a di - vine act



you were clothed from a Vir - - - - - gin



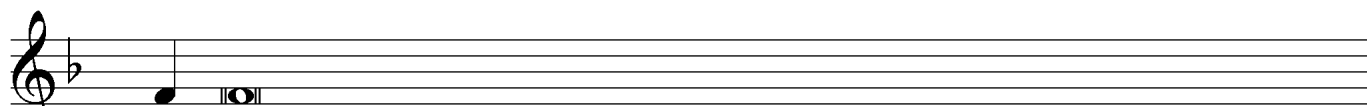
in the whole first Ad - - - - - am, you were



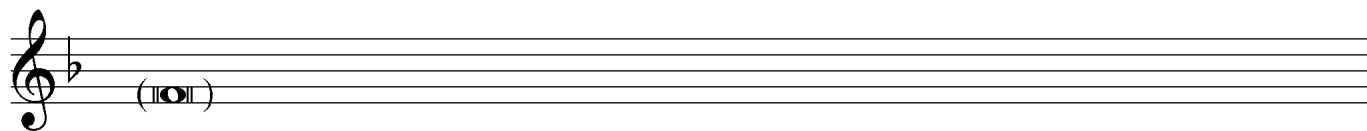
born in a cave, and wrapped in swad - dling



cloths in a man - - - - - ger.



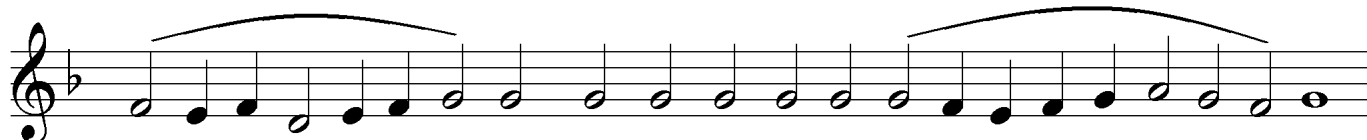
(II) From the womb be - fore dawn I have be - got - ten you. The Lord has



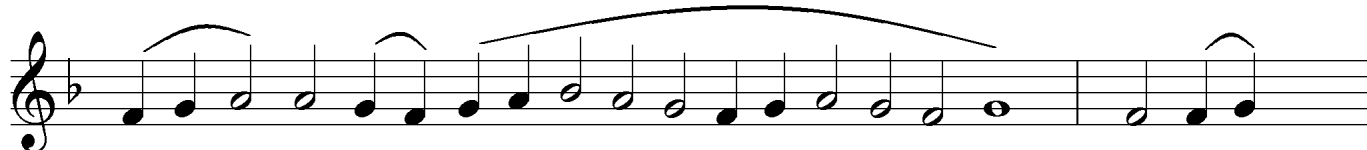
sworn, and will not change his mind: you are a priest for ev - er,



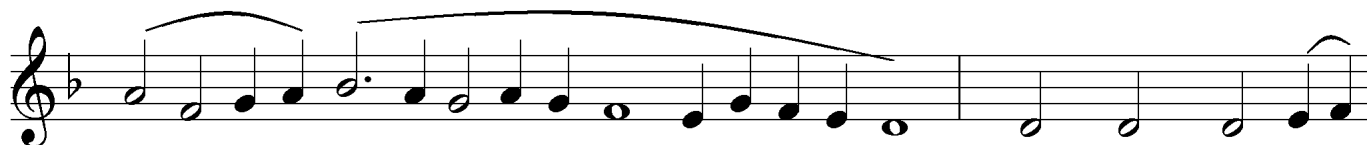
ac - cord - ing to the line of Mel - chis - - - - - e - dek.



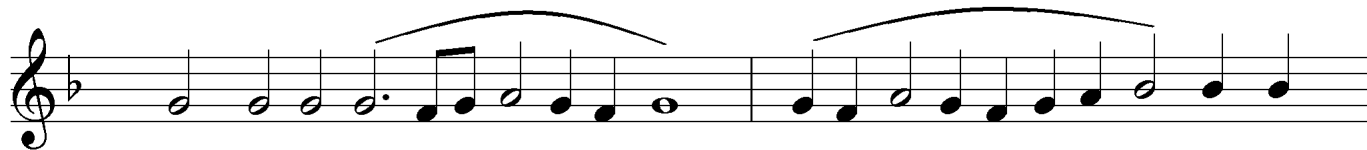
Sing pro - phet - i - cal - ly, O Da - - - - - vid,



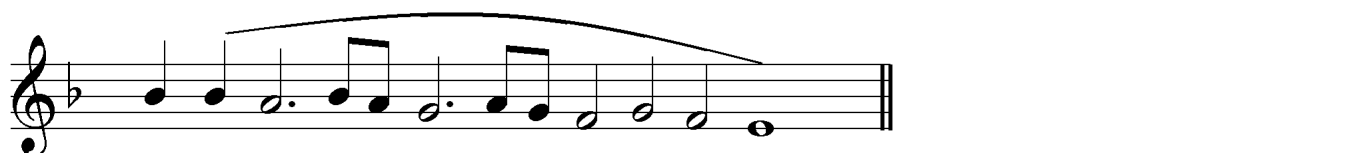
pluck - - - ing the harp, for from



your loins, from which came the



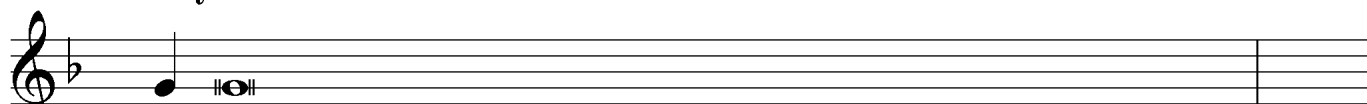
Moth - er of God, Christ is born



to - day.

(1) The Lord said to my lord: "Sit at my right hand, un - til I make your  
en - e - mies a foot - stool for your feet."  
Let us faith - - - - - ful set forth praise  
fit - ting for God with Shep - herds  
and Ma - - - - - gi, and glo - - - - - ry with  
An - - - - - gels, to God be - got - ten from a  
Vir - - - - - gin.

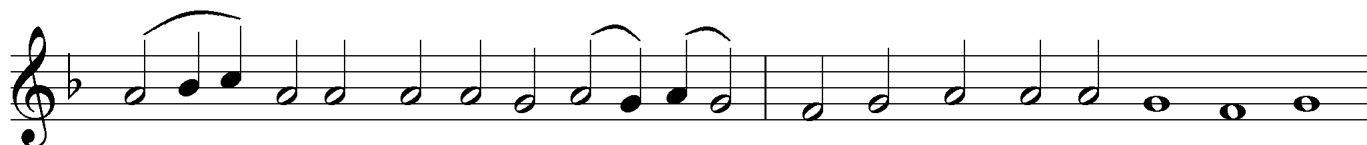
### Glory. Both now. Tone 1



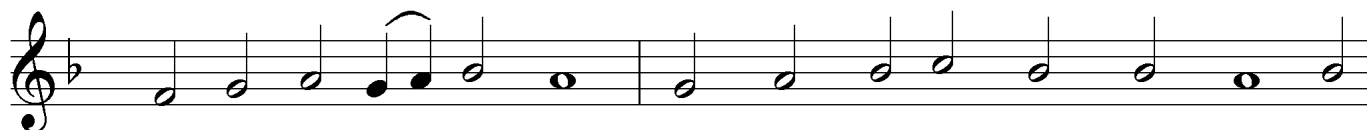
(II) Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it.



Both now and for ev - er, and to the ag - es of ag - es. A - men.



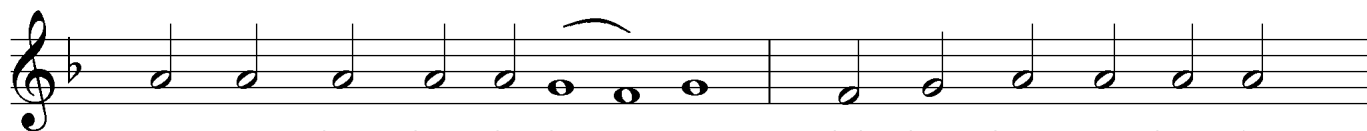
Glo - - - - ry to God in the high - est, is heard to - day in Beth - le - hem



from the Bod - i - - less Ones, ad - dressed to him whose good pleas - ure



it was that there be peace on earth. The Vir - gin is now



more spa - cious than the heav - - ens. Light has shone on those in



dark - - - - - ness, and has ex - alt - ed the low - ly who sing like the

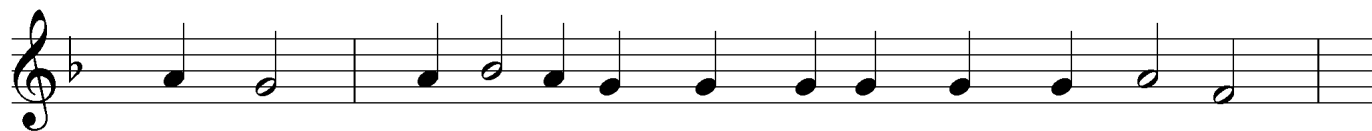


An - - - gels: Glo - - - - - ry to God in the high - - - - - est.

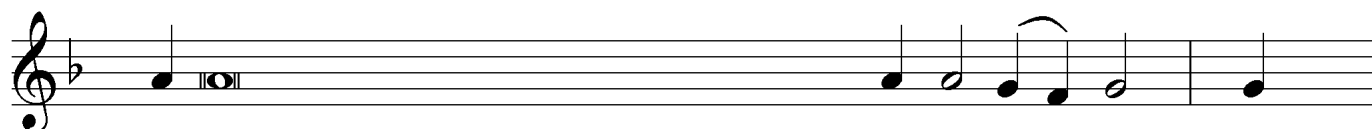
### Troparion of the Saints, Tone 2



Cham - pi - ons of the Lord, bless - ed is the earth that was soaked with



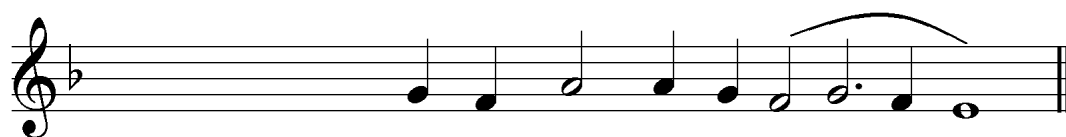
your blood, and ho - ly the shrines that re - ceived your bod - ies;



for in the con - test you tri - umphed o - ver the en - e - - - my, and



pro - claimed Christ with bold - - - ness. We beg you, im - plore him,



as he is good, that our souls may be saved.

**Glory. Both now. Troparion of the Feast, Tone 4**

Your na - tiv - i - ty, O Christ our God, has made the light of  
know - ledge dawn on the world; for through it those who  
a - dored the stars were taught by a star to wor - ship you,  
the Sun of right - eous - ness, and to know you, the Day - spring  
from on high. Lord, glo - ry to you.