Songs for the Great Fast and Holy Week

Traditional Spiritual Songs
In English and Slavonic

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh
2019

The tradition set of “Lenten hymns” sung in the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Catholic Church is a mixed set of hymns of repentance, hymns for particular days (such as Palm Sunday), and hymns of the Passion of Christ. In the past, hymns of the Passion predominated, since they accompanied devotions such as the Way of Cross which were imported from the Latin tradition.

With the rediscovery of a more authentic Byzantine tradition for the forty-day Great Fast, it seems an appropriate time to consider which of these songs are more fitting for singing during the Fast itself – namely, those focusing on conversion, repentence, and trust in God – and which might more worthily be sung in connection with the services of Great and Holy Week.

At the same time, we are taking this opportunity to correct typographical errors, bad accents, and phrasings which are unnecessarily different from the original Slavonic hymns, many of which are sung in our church to this day.

This collection is part of the Hymnal Project of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute. For more information:

https://mci.archpitt.org/songs/Hymnal_project.html

How you can help:

1. Please send any corrections or suggestions to mci@archpitt.org.

2. We are particularly looking for assistance in preparing literal translations of some of the Slavonic hymns in this collection, as well as single translations of additional verses which have not yet made their way into English. If you would like to help with this project, please write to mci@archpitt.org.

3. Try singing the hymns in this collection, and let us know how they work, and what improvements might be made.

May God richly bless your Fast!

Deacon Jeffrey Mierzejewski
Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

Traditional Spiritual Songs
for the Great Fast and Holy Week

Hymns for the Great Fast

Have mercy on me, O my God		1
At the most holy cross	*Krestu Tvojemu*	2-3
Beneath your compassion	*Pod tvoju milost'*	4-5
Beneath your cross I stand	*Pod krest' Tvoj staju*	6-7
Come now, all you faithful	*Prijd'ite voschvalim*	8-9
Do not forsake us	*Ne opuskaj nas*	10-11
Having suffered	*Preterpivyj*	12-13

Hymns for Palm Sunday

O Son of David		15
Rejoice today	*Radujsja zilo*	16-17

Hymns for Great and Holy Week

Christ our King who reigns with justice	*Christe Carju spravedlivyj*	18-19
Earth and heaven mourn	*Nebo, zeml'a sotvoriňňa*	20-21
In Gethsemane's darkness	*Jehda na smert' hotovilsja*	22-23
Now do I go to the Cross	*Idu nyňi ko krestu*	24-25
O my God, you are so merciful	*O Bože moj milostivyj*	26-27
So boundless is her sorrow	*Stala Mati zarmuščenna*	28-29
The grieving mother	*Stradal'na Mati*	30-31
The sentence is passed	*Uže dekret*	32-33
We venerate, O Christ our God	*Poklaňajusja, moj Christe*	34-35

Pronunciation of Slavonic

The Church Slavonic texts in the following pages are presented in a variation of the Latin alphabet used with English, rather than in the original Cyrillic alphabet. Certain additional symbols are added to indicate the correct pronunciation. The system used here is one commonly employed in our prayer books.

In Church Slavonic, each letter has a uniform sound in whatever word it is found.

The following letters vary in pronunciation from their equivalent in the English language:

VOWELS

A as in fAther (approx.)

E as in bEt

I as in bIt

O as in mOre

U as in mOOn

Y as in bUt

CONSONANTS

C as ts in wits

Č as ch in Church

CH as ch in loch

D' as di in radiant

J as y in yet

L' as lli in brilliant

Ň as ni in union

R is always trilled

Š as sh in show

T' as ti in celestial

V' as vi in Savior

Ž as s in pleasure

Note: d', l', ň, t', and v' indicate that the given consonant is followed by the sound as "y" as in yellow, as shown in the examples above. (D' and T' are sometimes written Ď and Ť.)

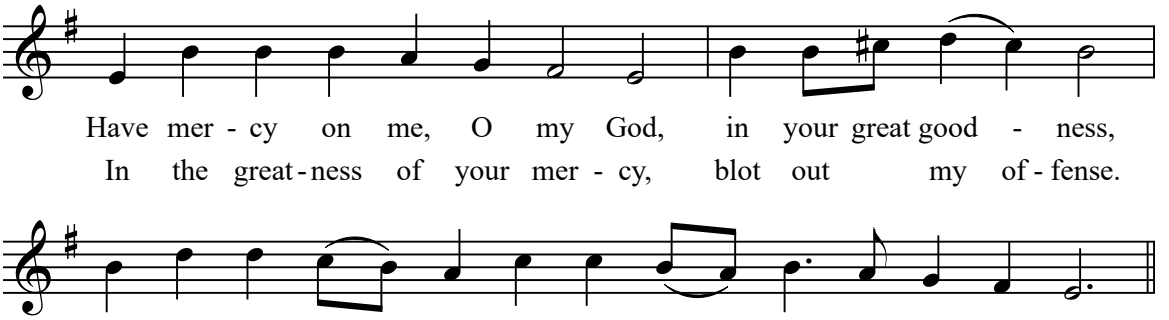
Accented vowels are marked in order to assist in pronunciation, but may not be strongly accented when sung.

When in doubt, use the locally accepted pronunciation of Church Slavonic.

Have mercy on me, O my God

(Selected verses from Psalm 50)

GREAT FAST



For I acknowledge my offense,
my sin is before me.* *(see music below)*
Against you I sinned and have done
evil in your sight.
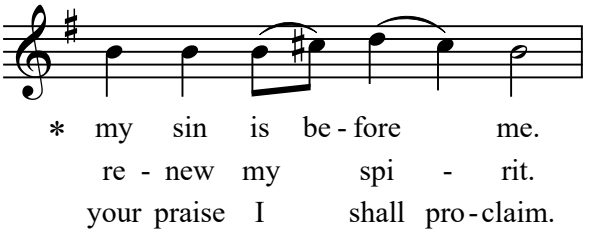
Cleanse me of my sins with hyssop
that I may be made pure.
Wash me and I shall be whiter
than new-fallen snow.

Let me hear the sounds of gladness;
then shall my bones rejoice.
Turn away your face from my sins,
blot out all my guilt.

Give me a clean heart, O my God;
renew my spirit.*
Cast me not out from your presence,
fill me with your life.

Free me from blood guilt, O my God;
you are my saving God.
Then shall my tongue speak out in joy
of your justice great.

O Lord, open my mouth and lips;
your praise I shall proclaim.*
A heart contrite with humbleness
you will not reject.

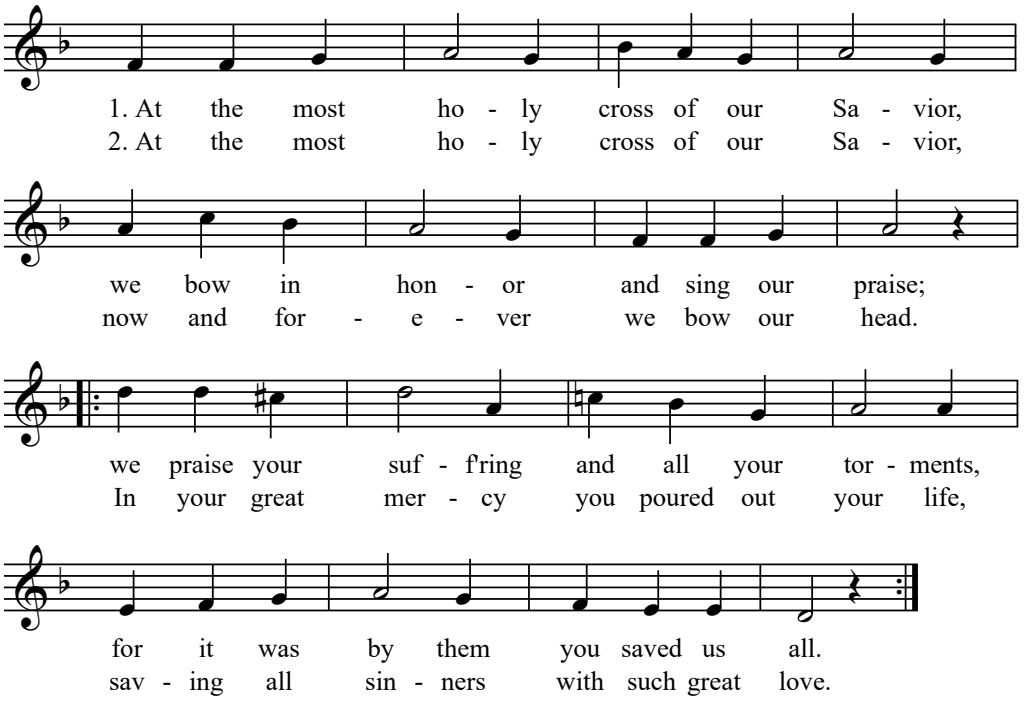


Original: Fr. B. Matyuk
English: Msgr William Levkulic

At the most holy cross

Krestu Tvojemu

GREAT FAST

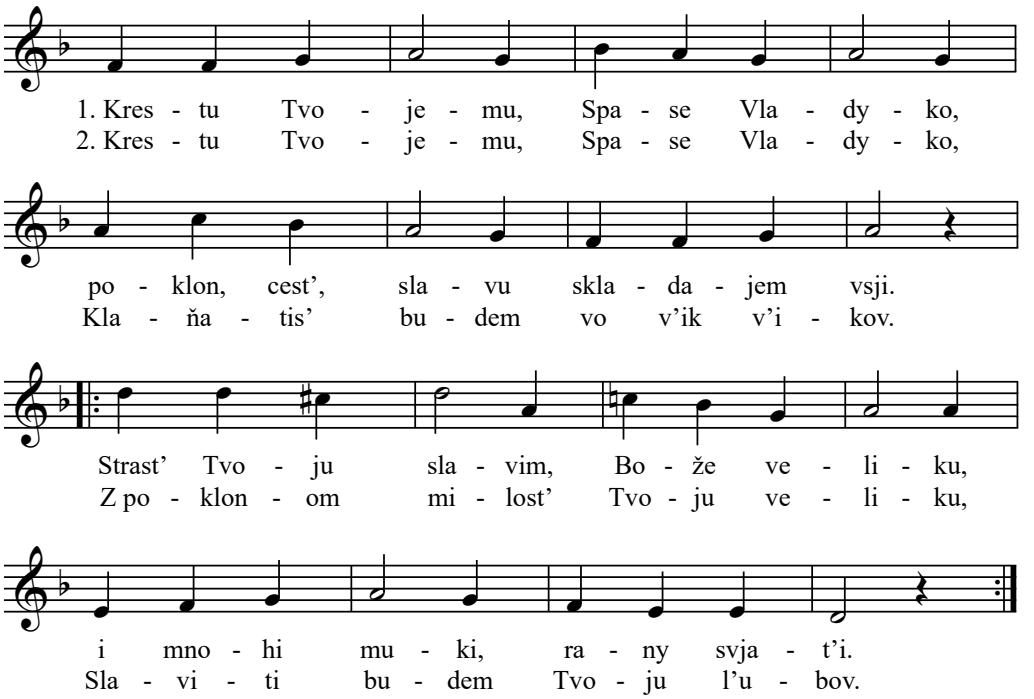


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Krestu Tvojemu

At the most holy cross

GREAT FAST

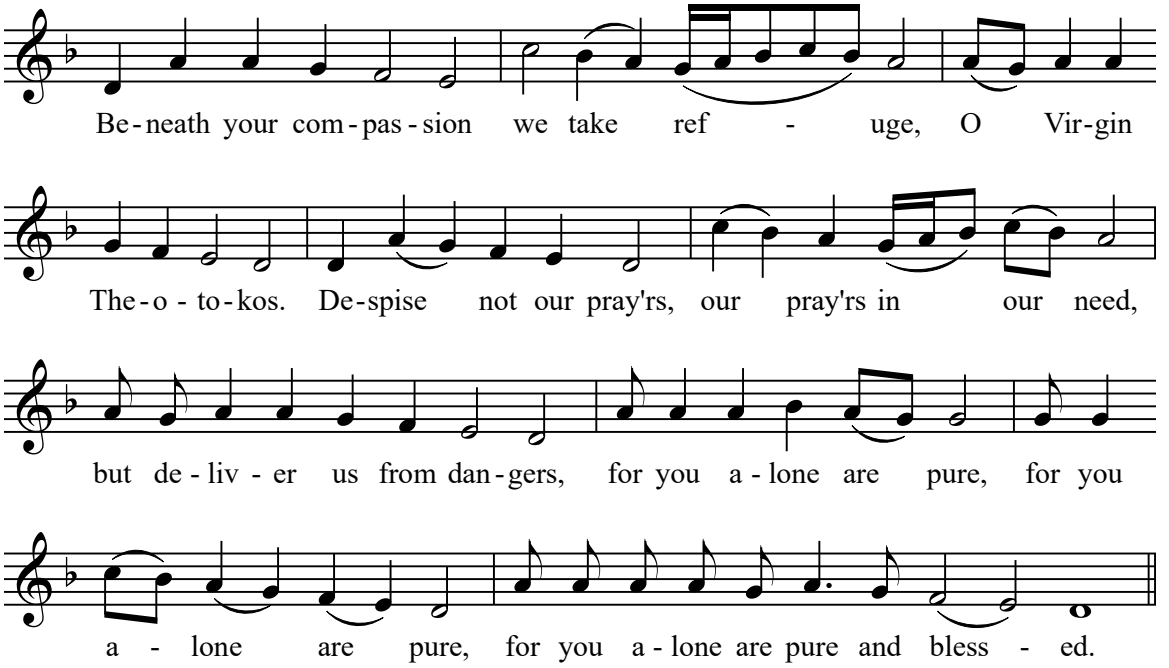


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

Beneath your compassion (A)

Pod tvoju milost'

GREAT FAST

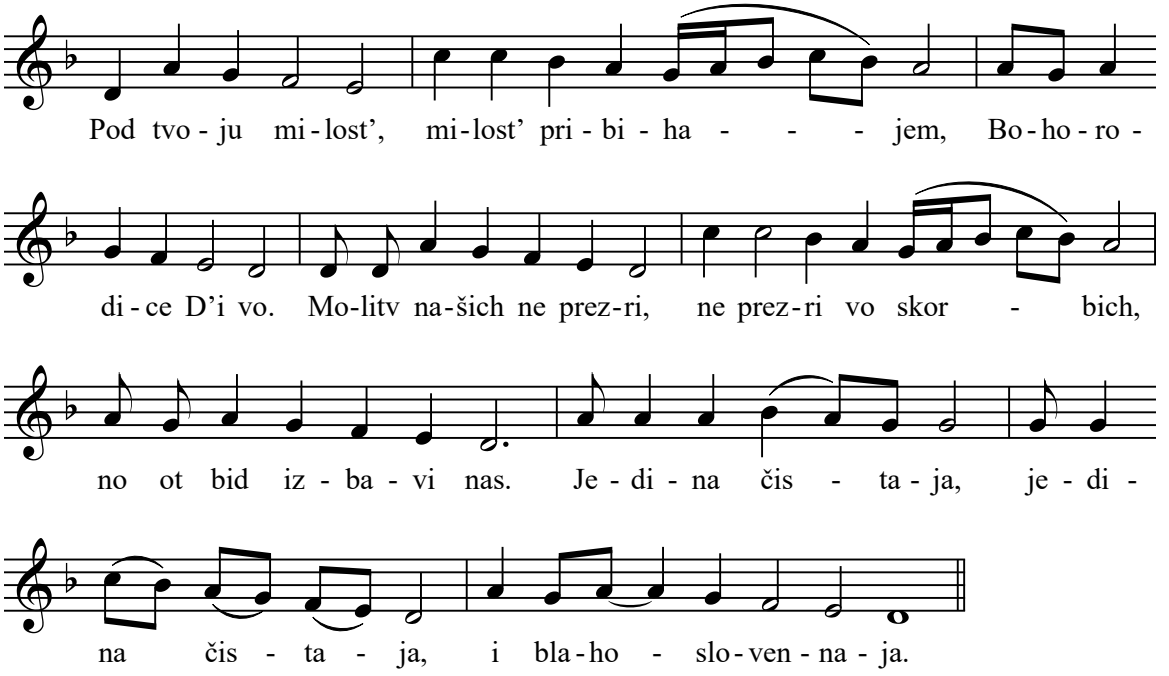


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional liturgical hymn
English translation: Inter-Eparchial Liturgical Commission

Pod tvoju milost' (A)

Beneath your compassion

GREAT FAST

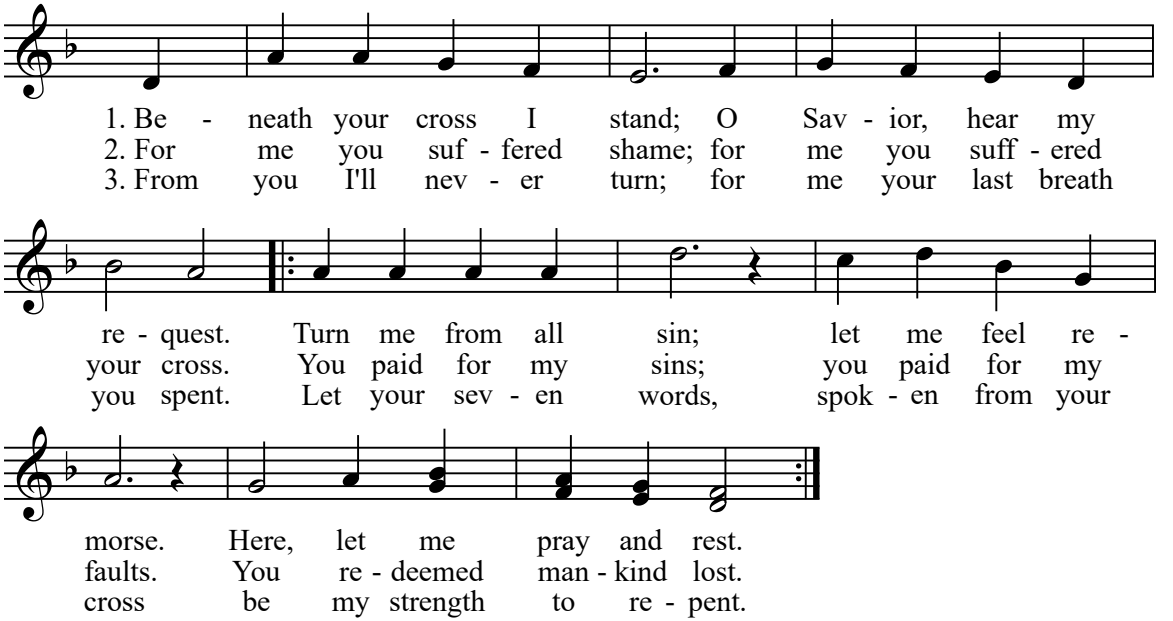


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional liturgical hymn

Beneath your cross I stand

Pod krest' Tvoj staju

GREAT FAST
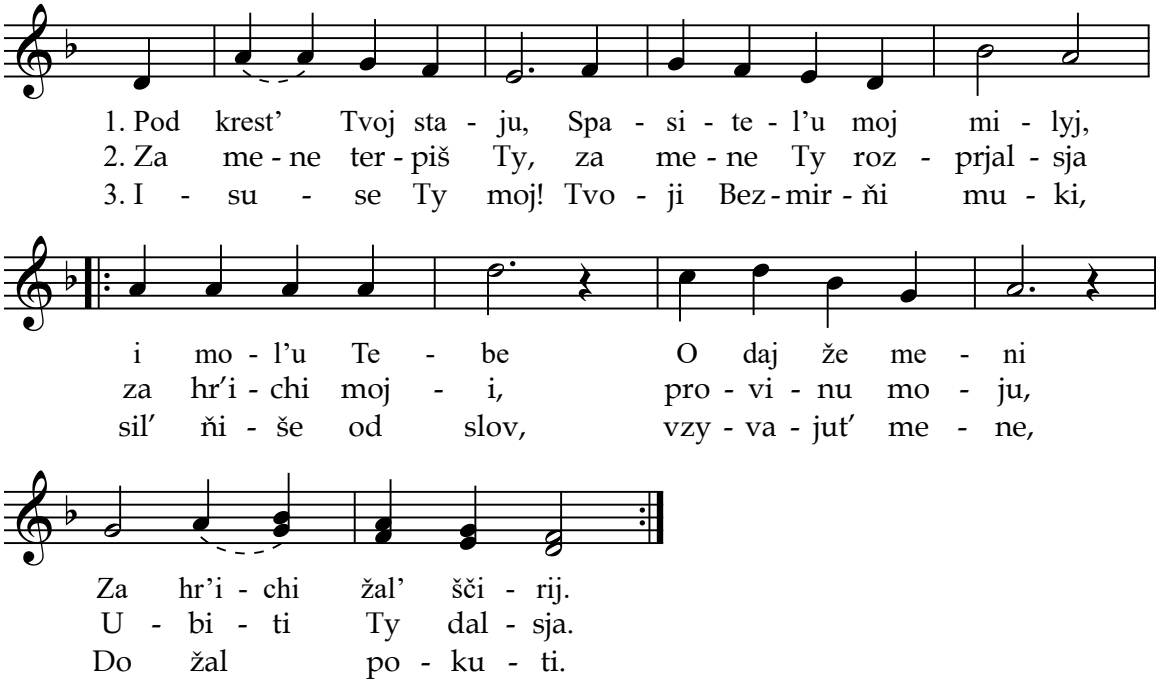


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

English translation: Msgr. E. Dunda and Fr. William Levkulic

Pod krest' Tvoj staju

Beneath your cross I stand

GREAT FAST

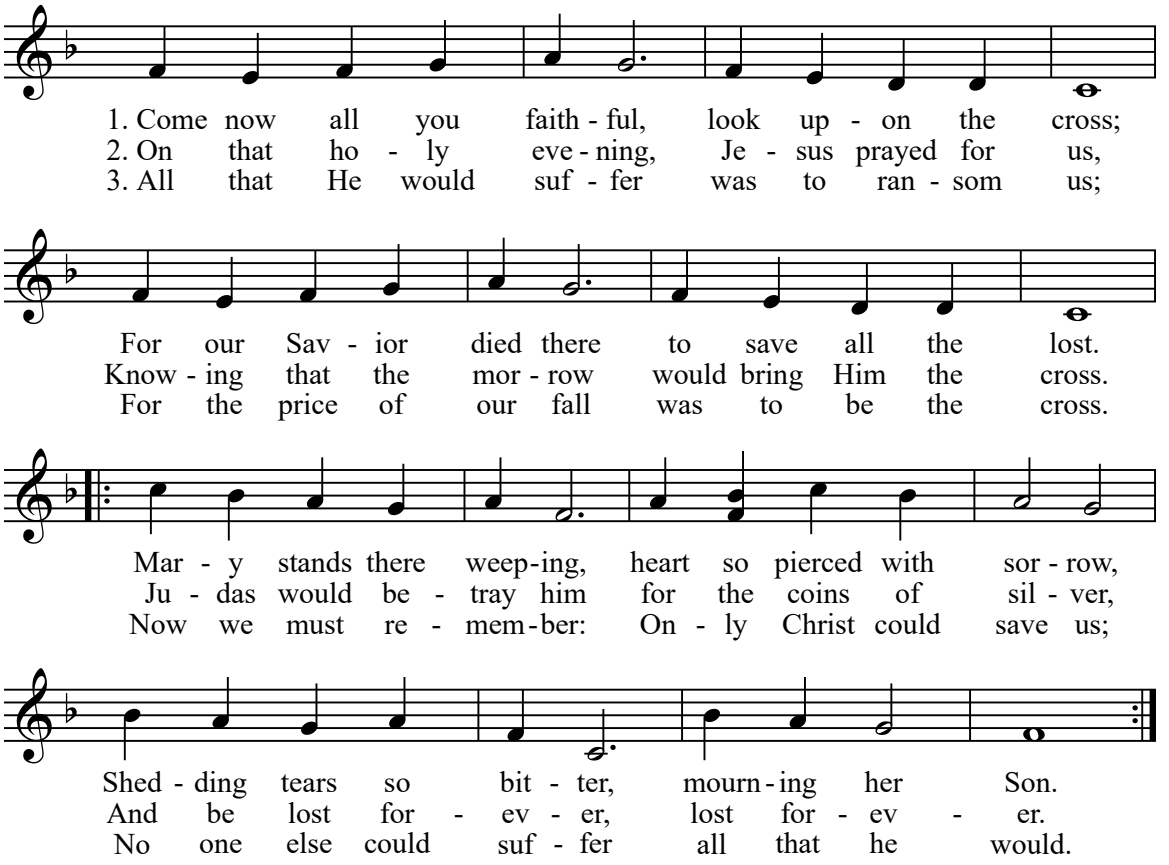


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

Come now all you faithful

Prijd'ite voschvalim

GREAT FAST

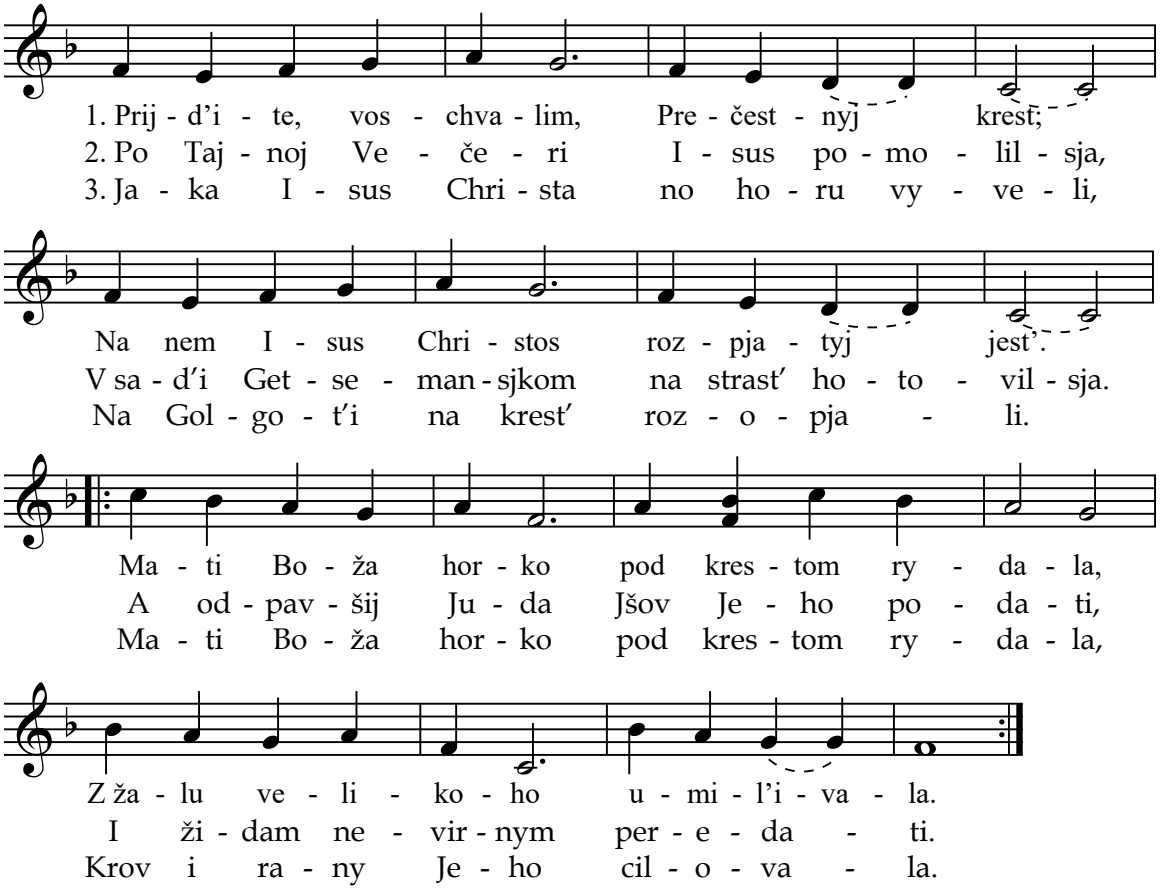


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Prijd'ite voschvalim

Come now all you faithful

GREAT FAST

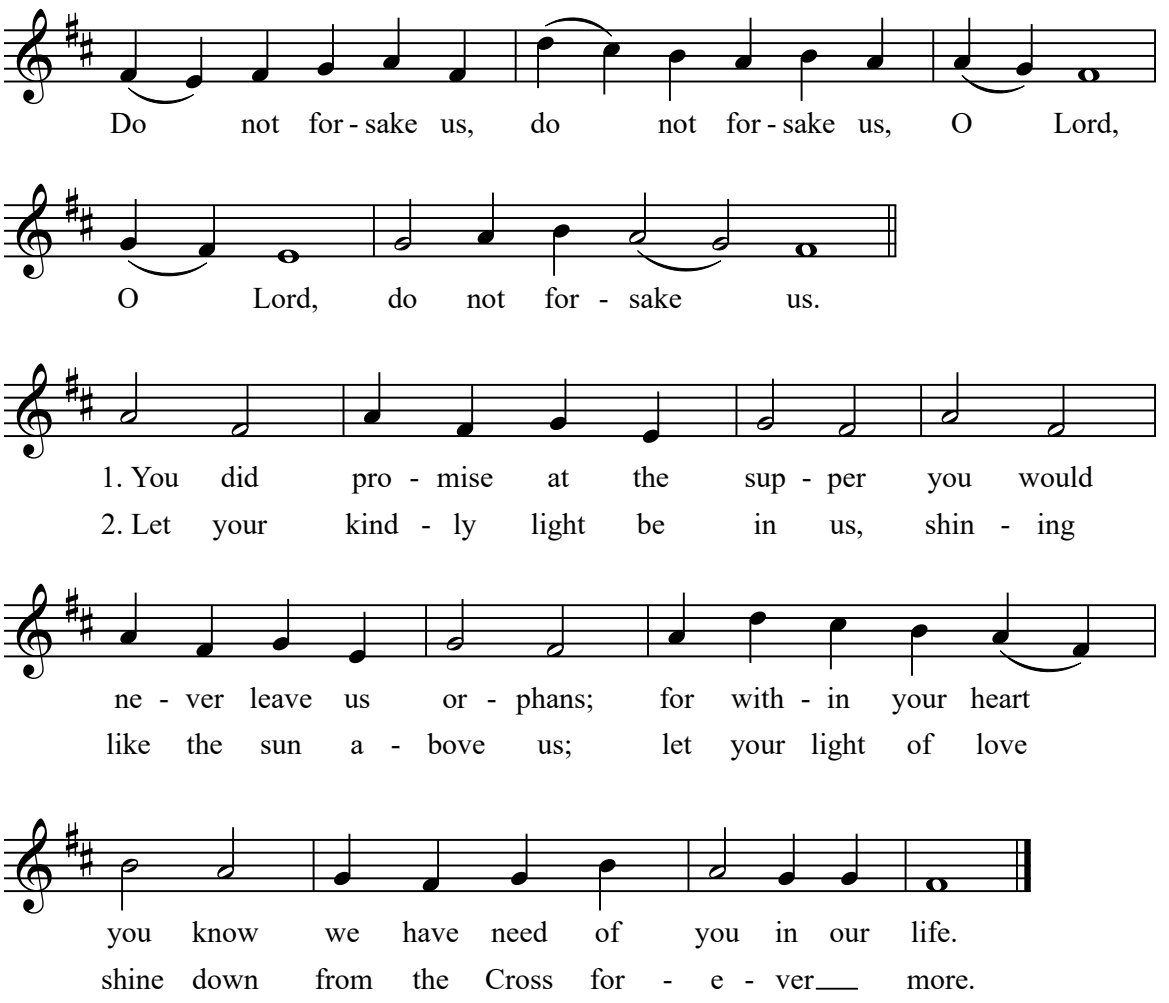


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

Do not forsake us

Ne opuskaj nas
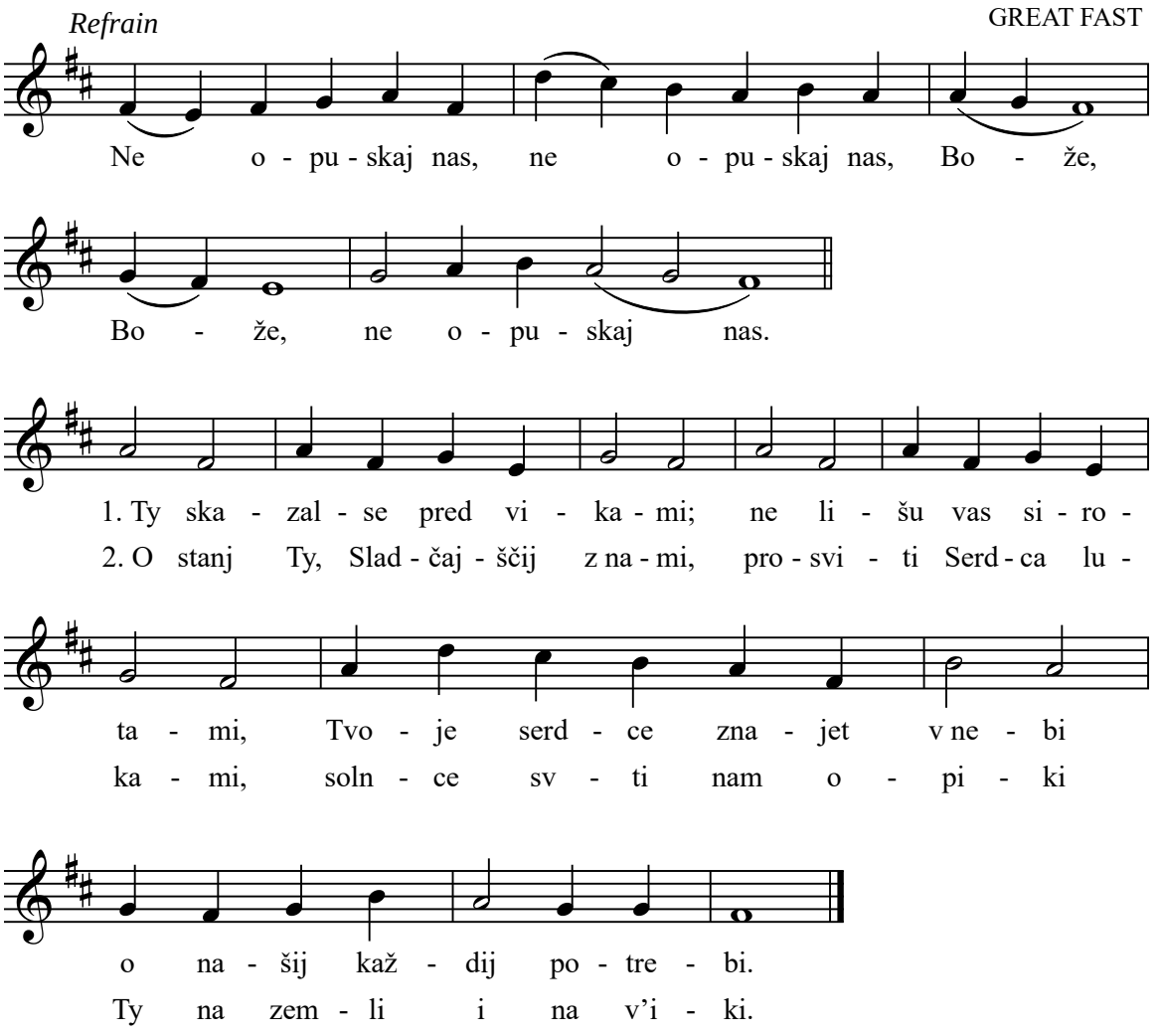
Refrain GREAT FAST



Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Ne opuskaj nas

Do not forsake us

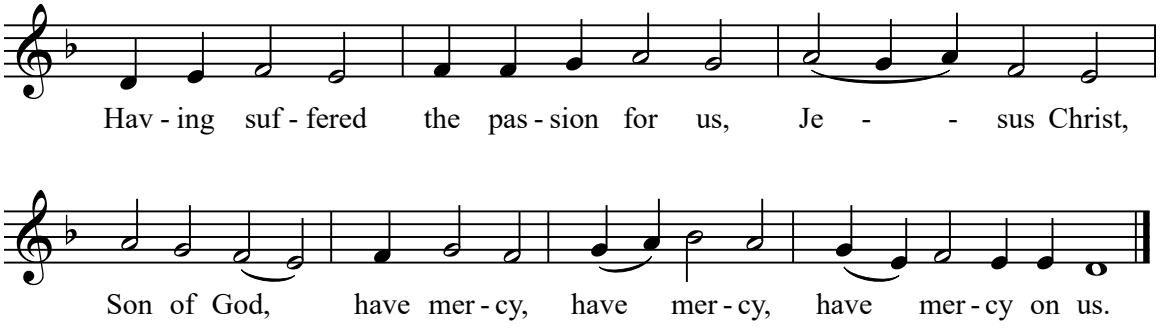


Melody and Slavonic traditional

Having suffered

Preterpivyj

GREAT FAST
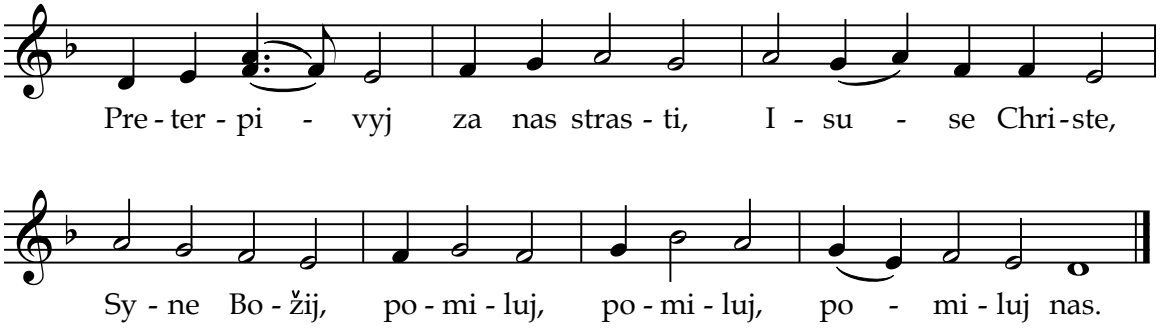


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: unknown

Preterpivyj

Having suffered

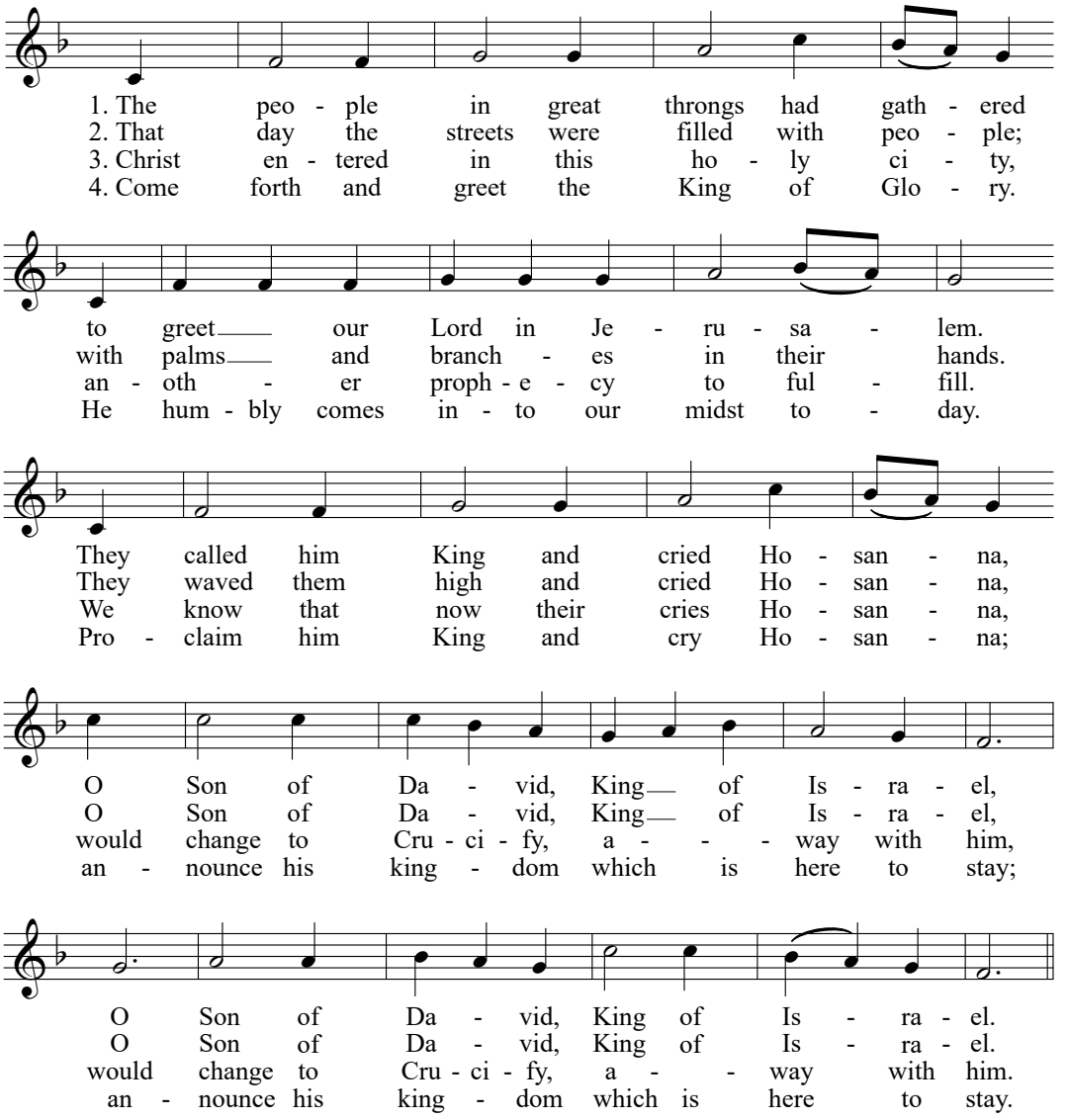
GREAT FAST



Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

O Son of David

PALM SUNDAY

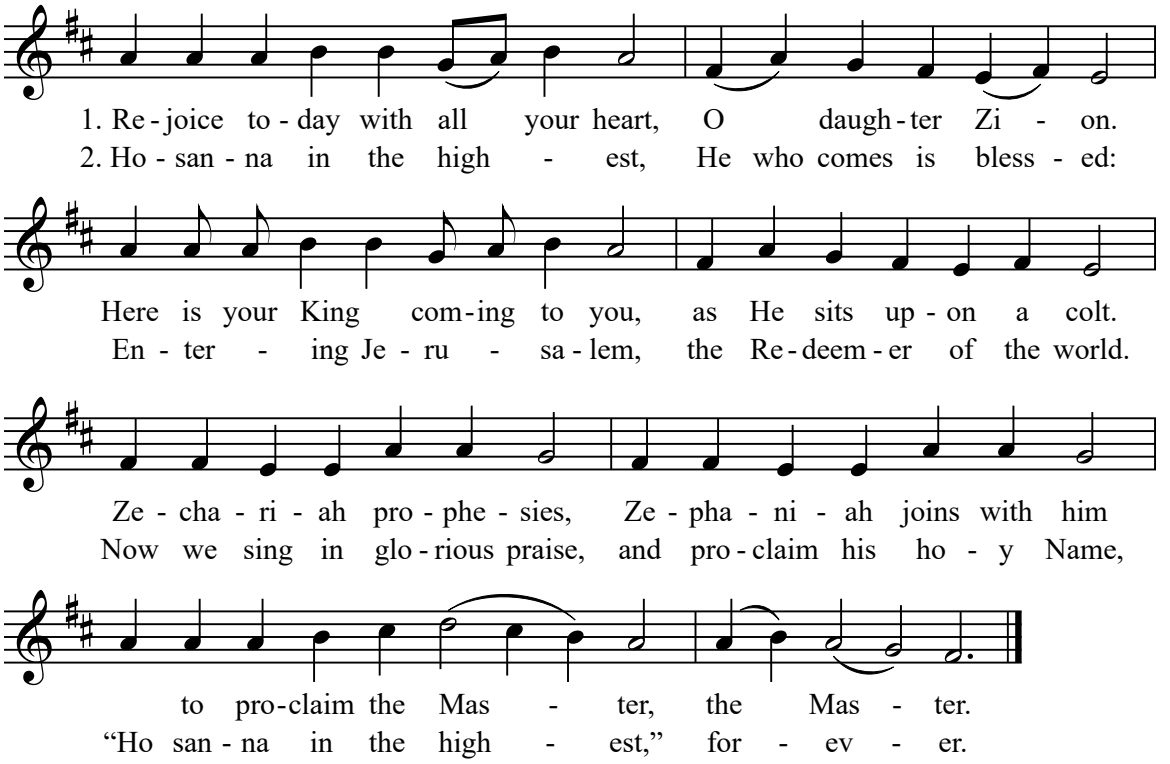


Source: Sister Servants of Mary Immaculate
English by Cantor George Sabol

Rejoice today

Radujsja zilo

PALM SUNDAY



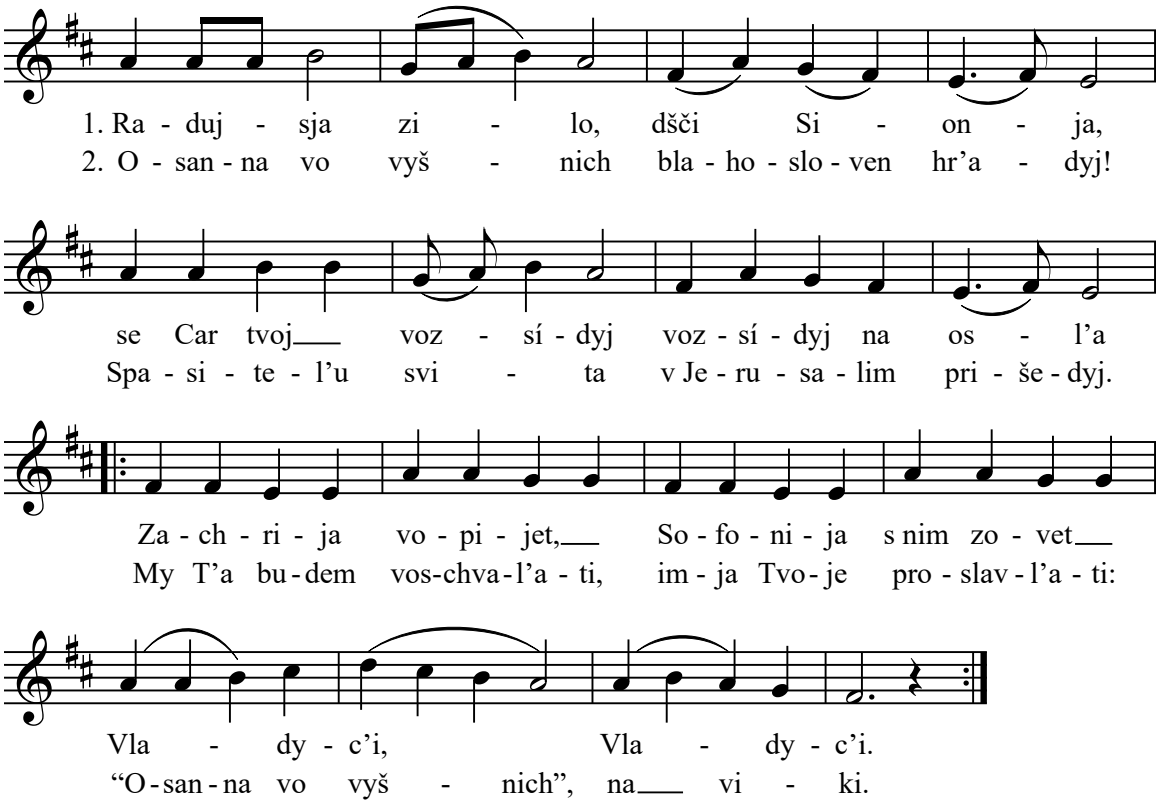
Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

English translation: Cantors Nicholas Kalvin, Michael Zaretsky, Jerry Jumba, and Fr Alexis Mihalik, alt.

Radujsja zilo

Rejoice today

PALM SUNDAY
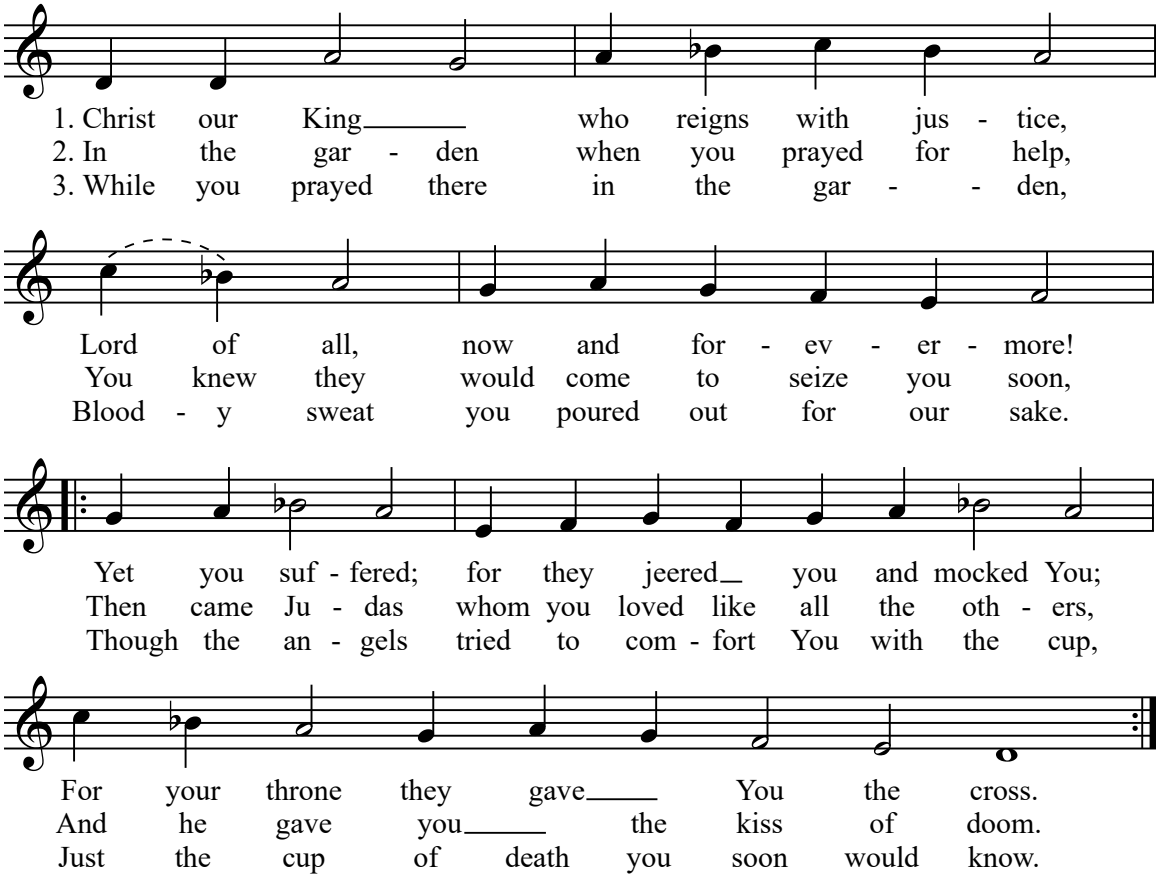


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

Christ our King who reigns with justice

Christe Carju spravedlivyj

HOLY WEEK
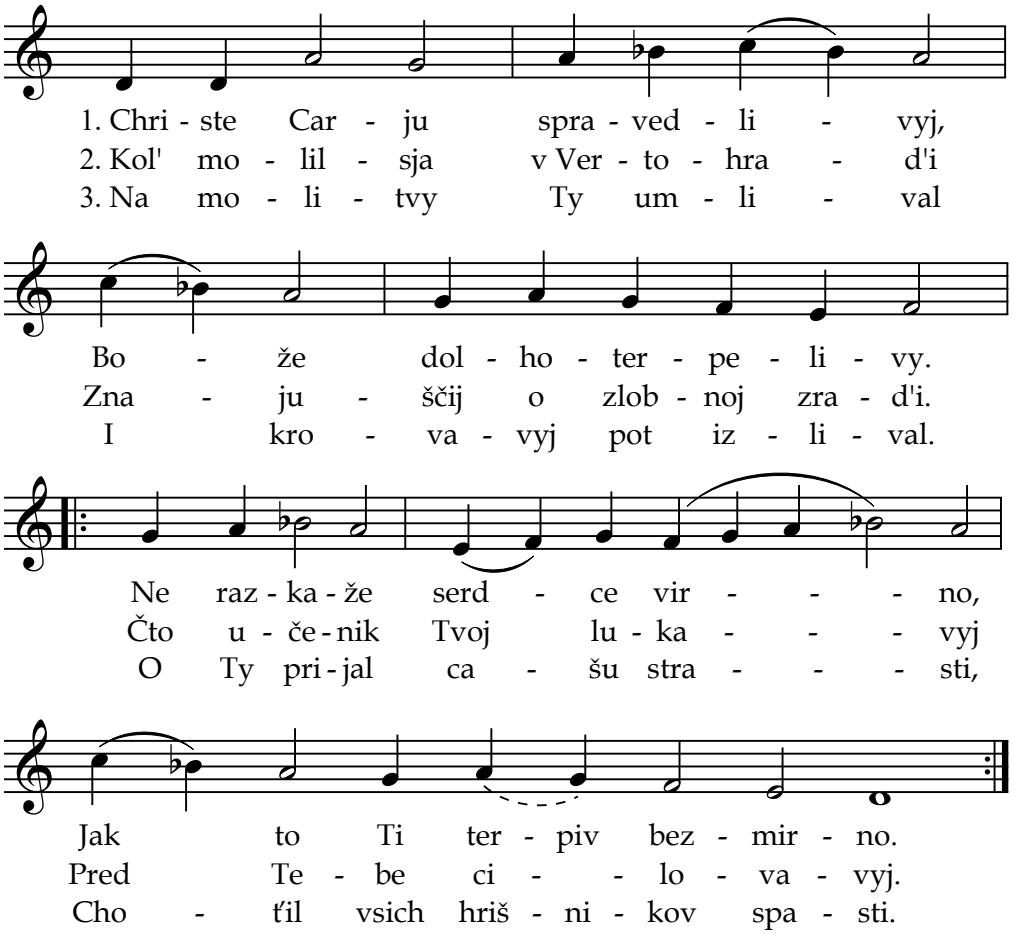


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Christe Carju spravedlivyj

Christ Our King Who Reigns With Justice

HOLY WEEK

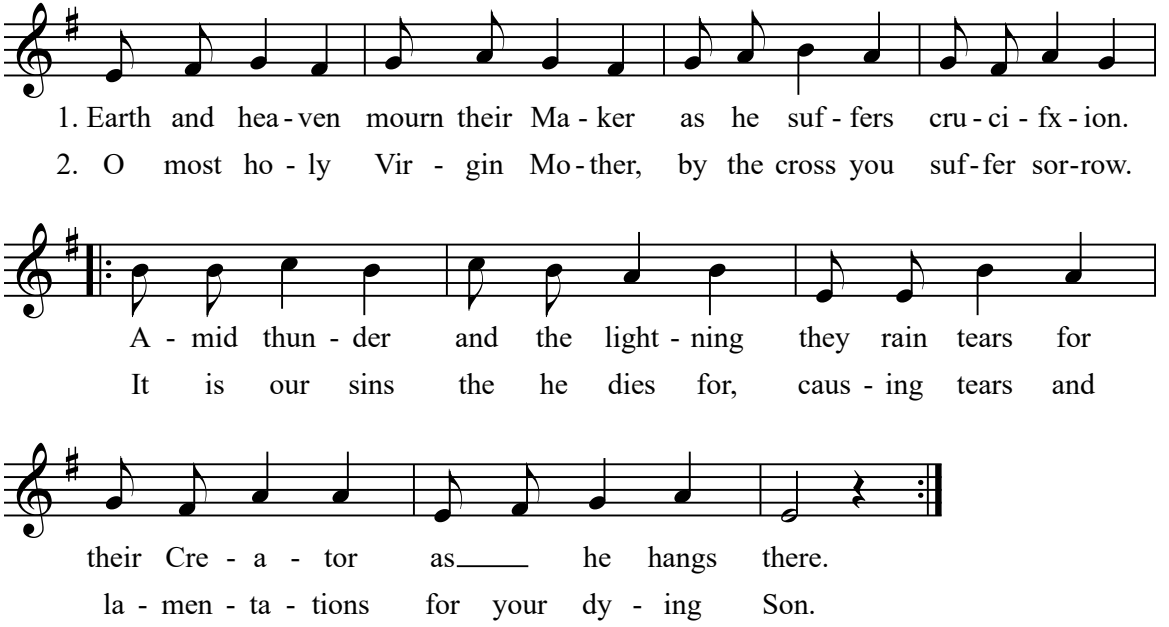


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

Earth and heaven mourn

Nebo, zeml'a sotvoriňňa

HOLY WEEK

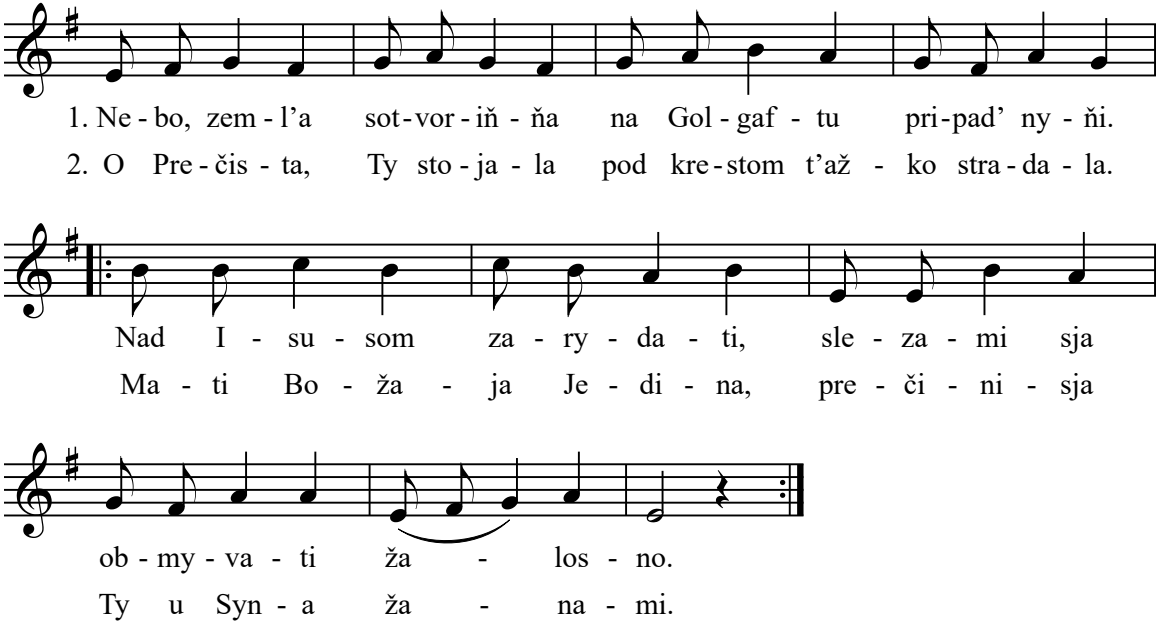


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Nebo, zeml’a sotvoriňňa

Earth and heaven mourn

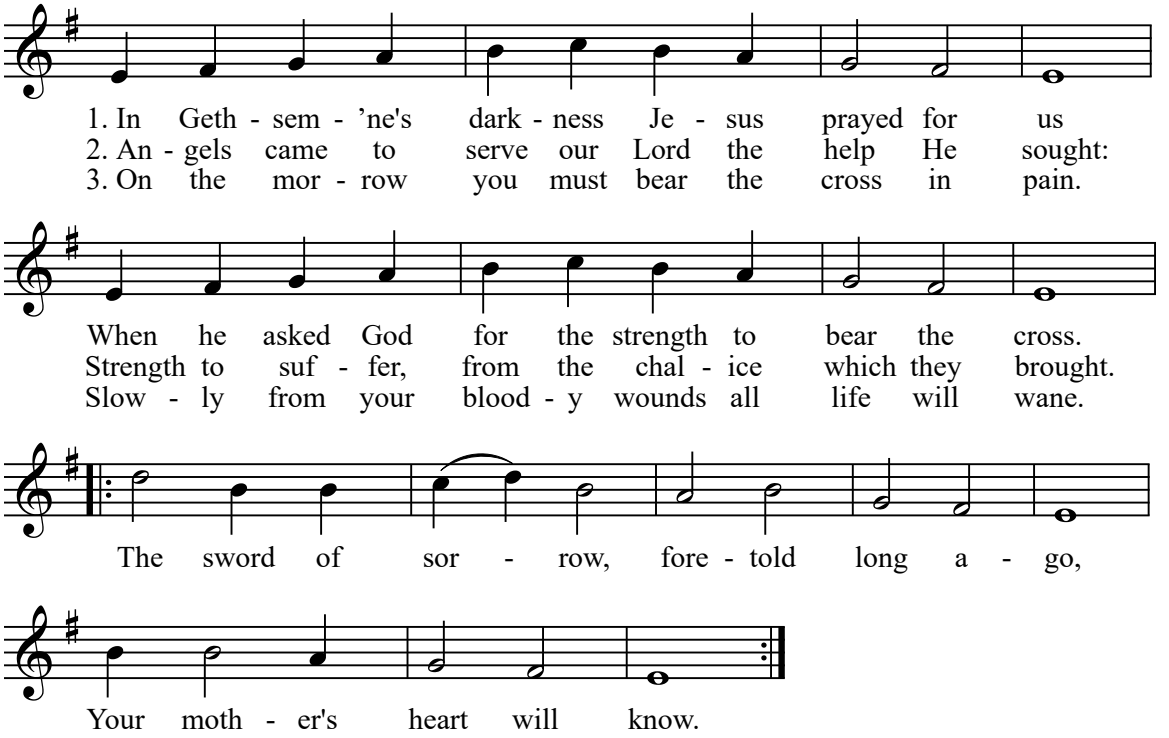
HOLY WEEK



Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

In Gethsemane’s darkness

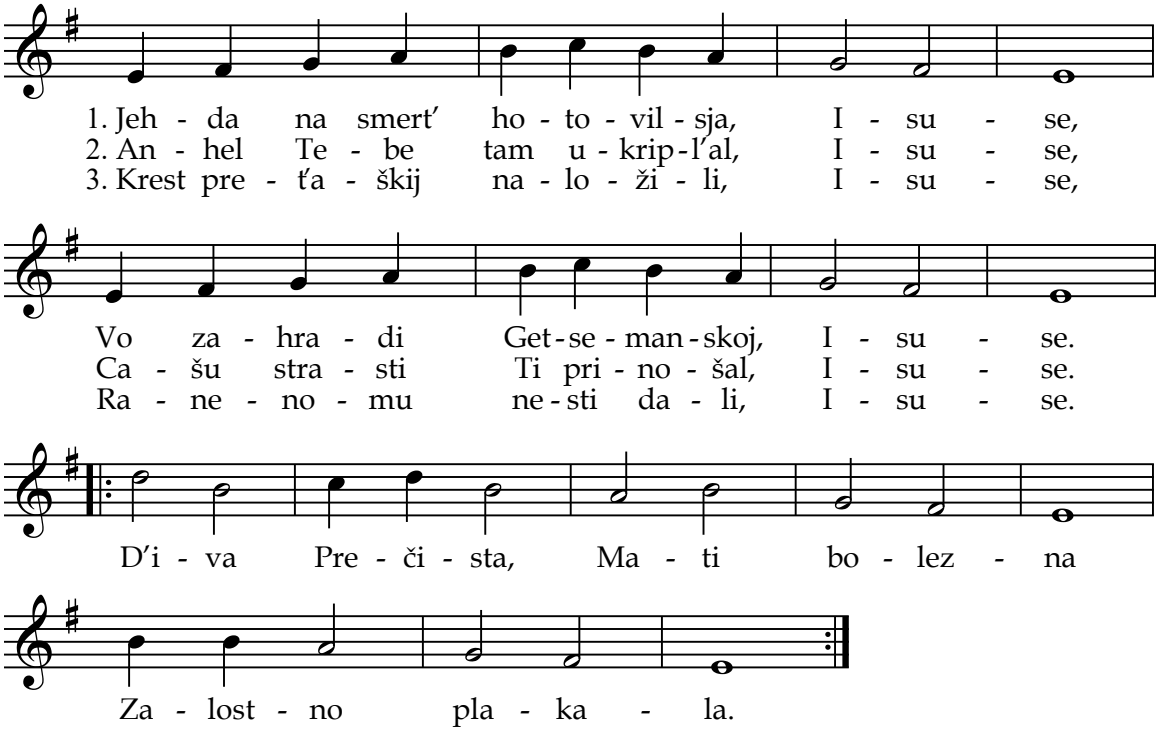
Jehda na smert’ hotovilsja



Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Jehda na smert' hotovilsja

In Gethsemane's darkness

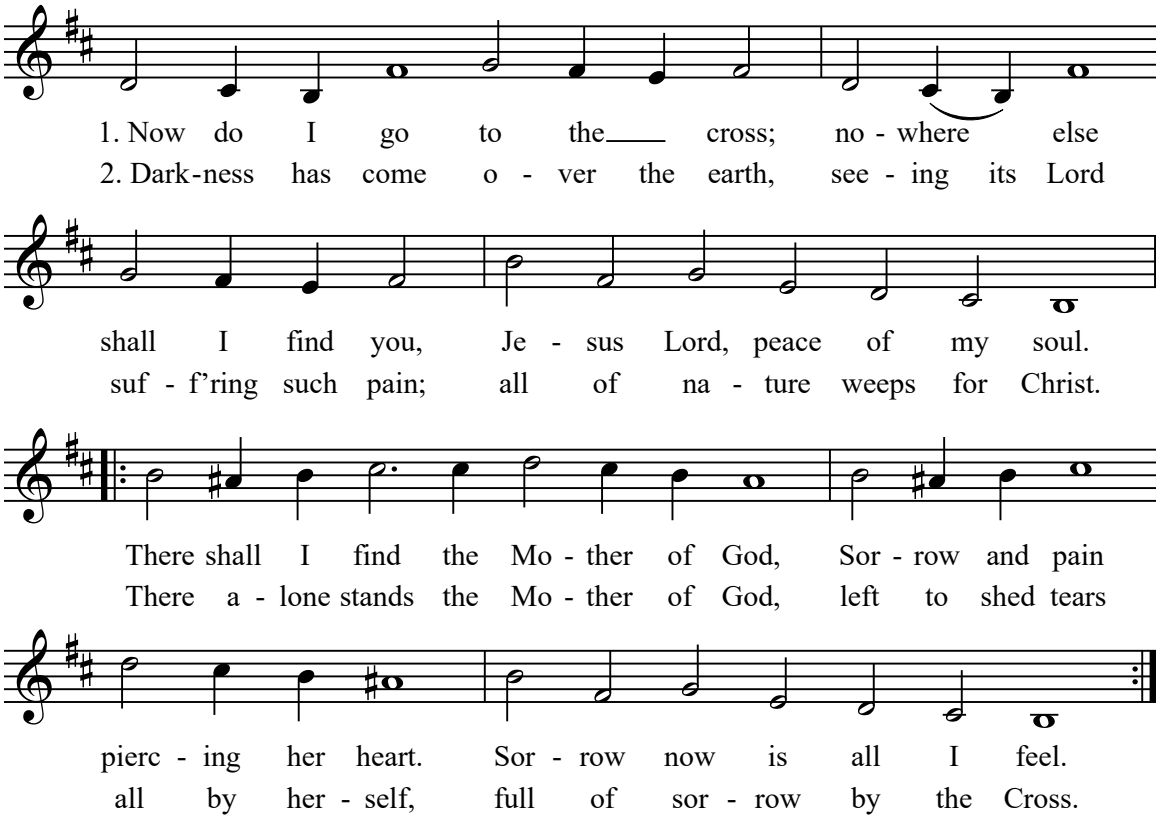


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

Now do I go to the Cross

Idu nyňi ko krestu

HOLY WEEK
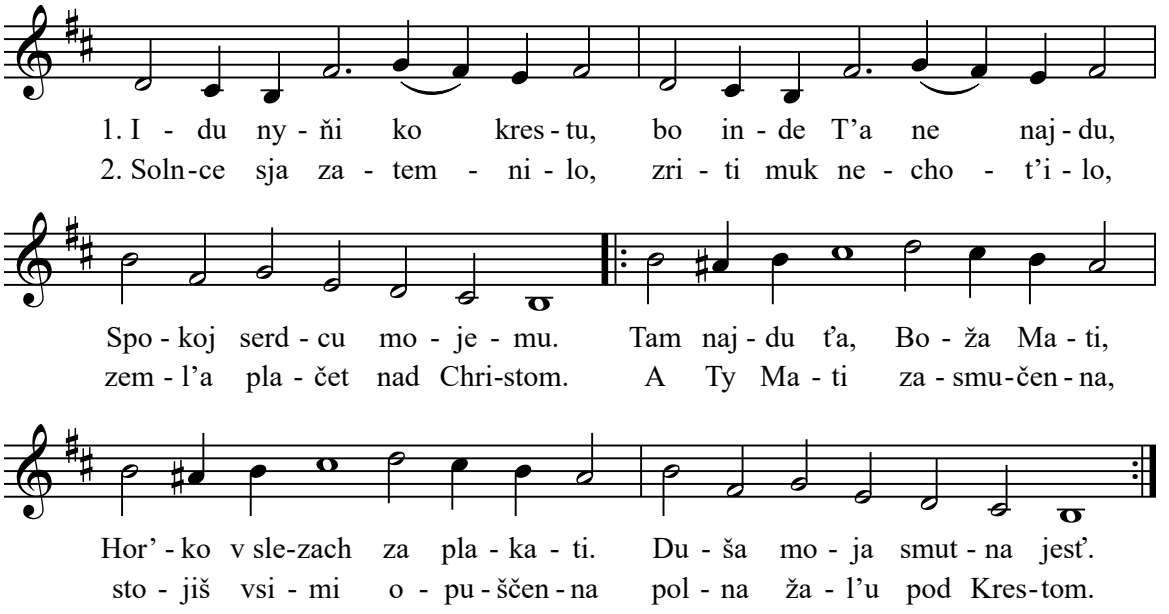


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Idu nyňi ko krestu

Now do I go to the cross

HOLY WEEK

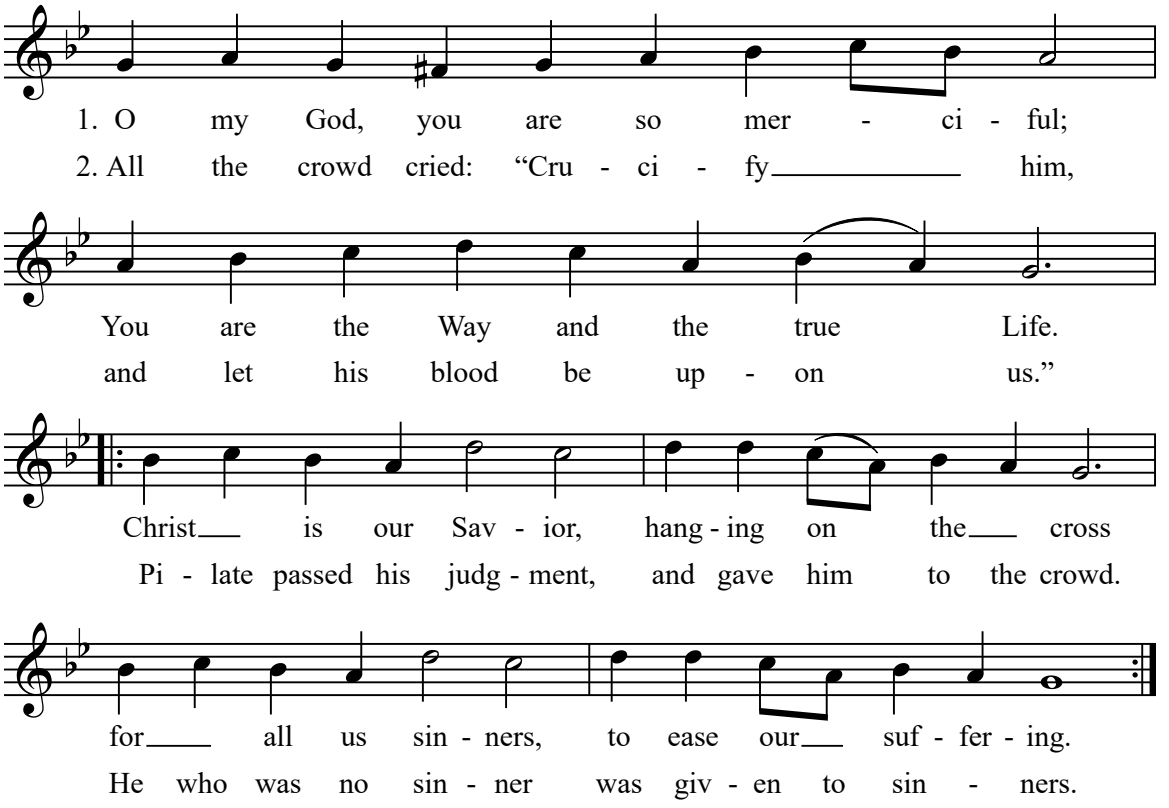


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

O my God, you are so merciful

O Bože moj milostivyj

HOLYWEEK

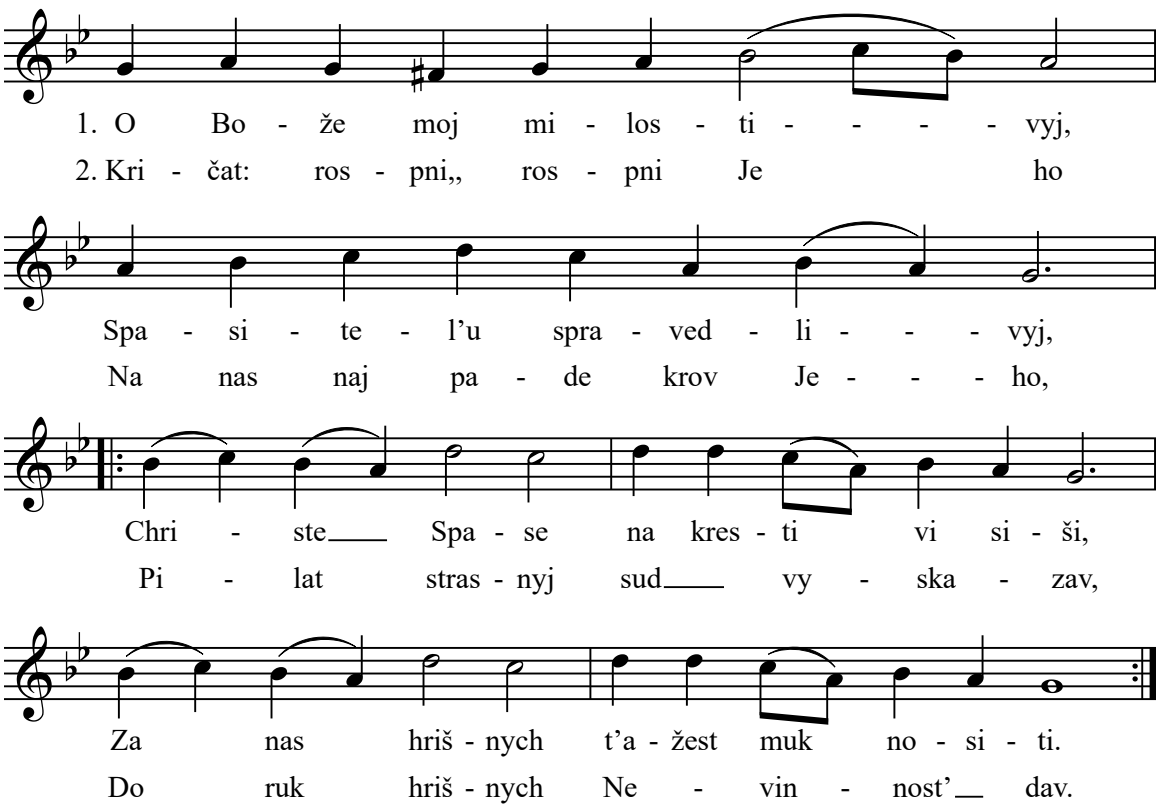


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: unknown

O Bože moj milostivyj

O my God, you are so merciful

HOLYWEEK
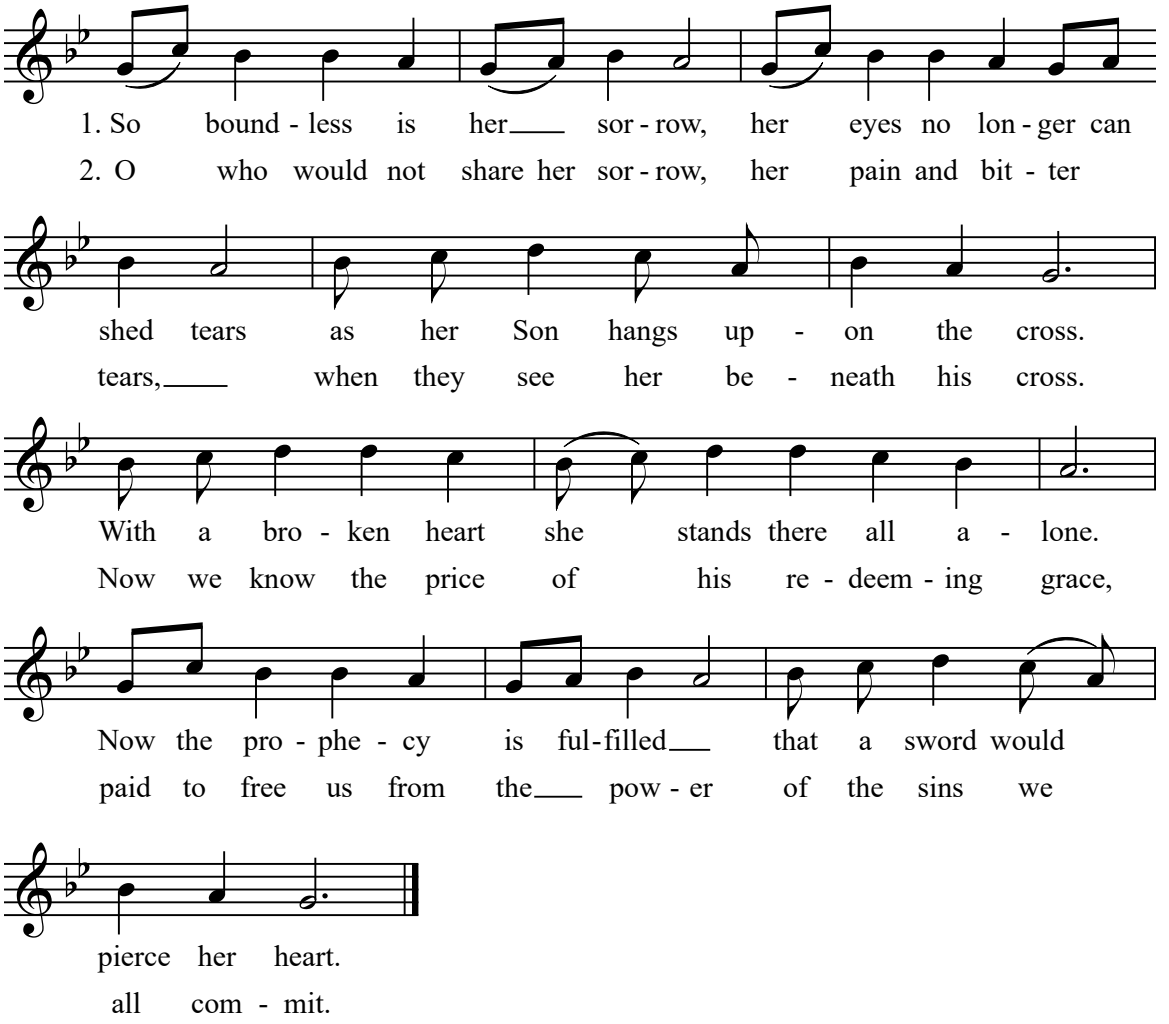


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

So boundless is her sorrow

Stala Mati zarmuščenna

HOLYWEEK
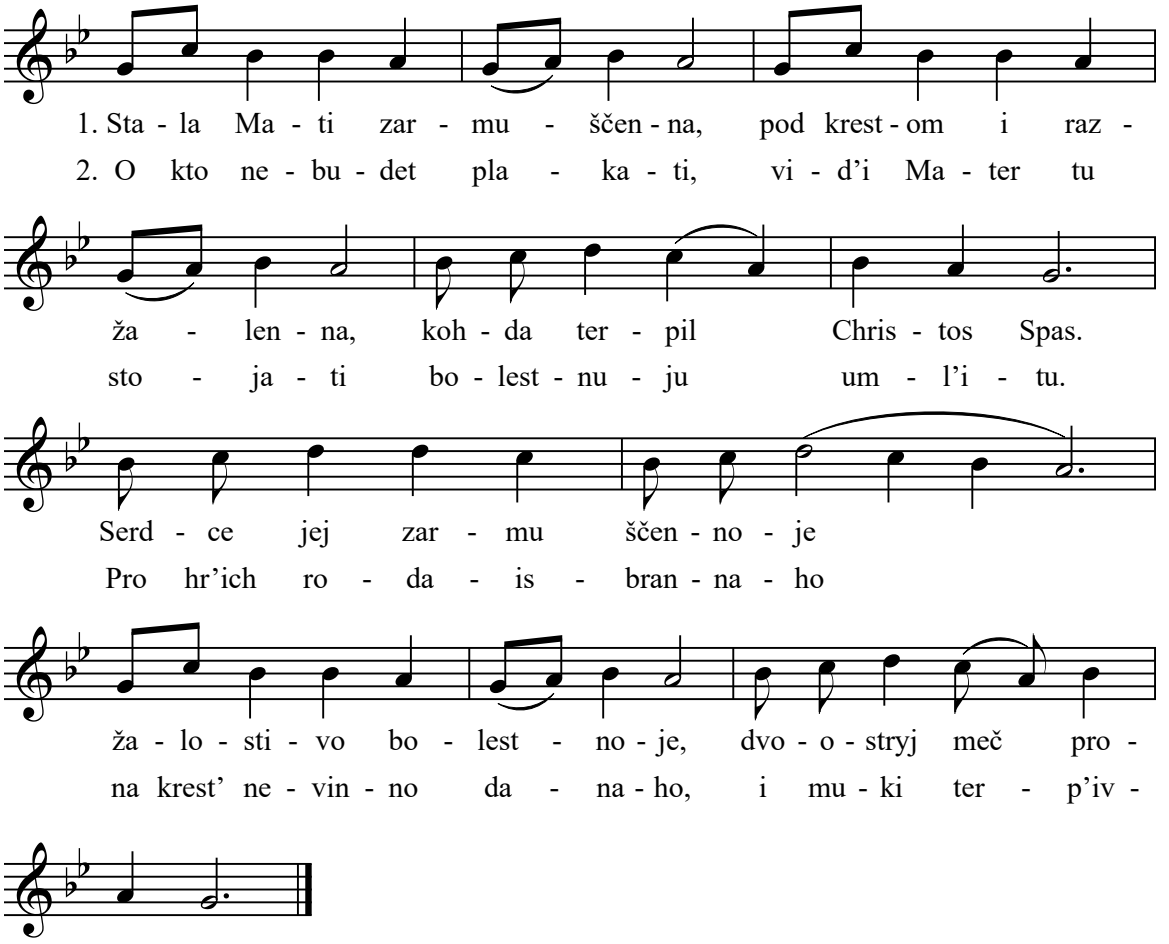


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Stala Mati zarmuščenna

So boundless is her sorrow

HOLYWEEK

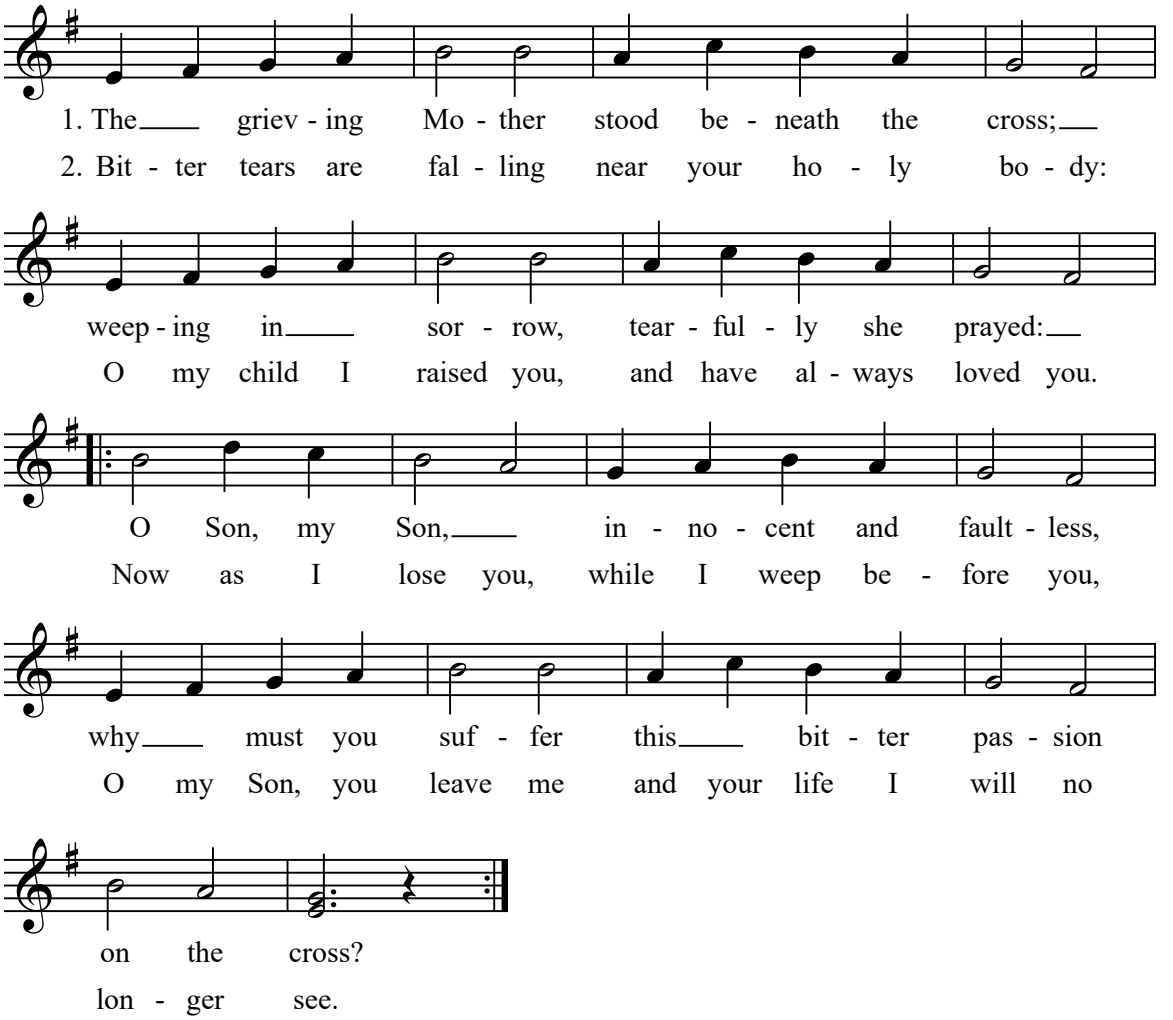


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

The grieving mother

Stradal'na Mati

HOLYWEEK
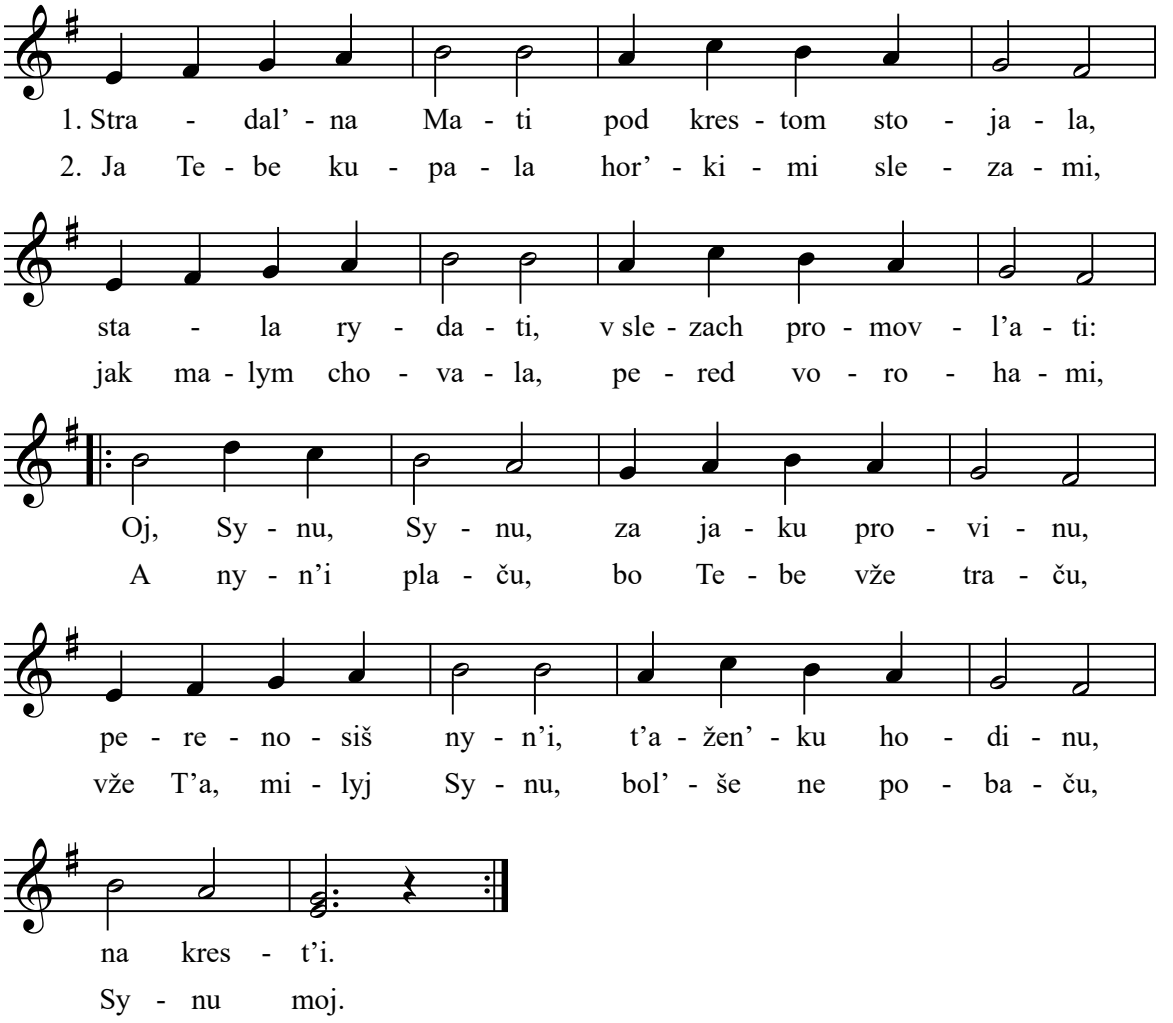


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. Alexis Mihalik and Cantor Jerry Jumba, alt.

Stradal’na Mati

The grieving mother

HOLYWEEK

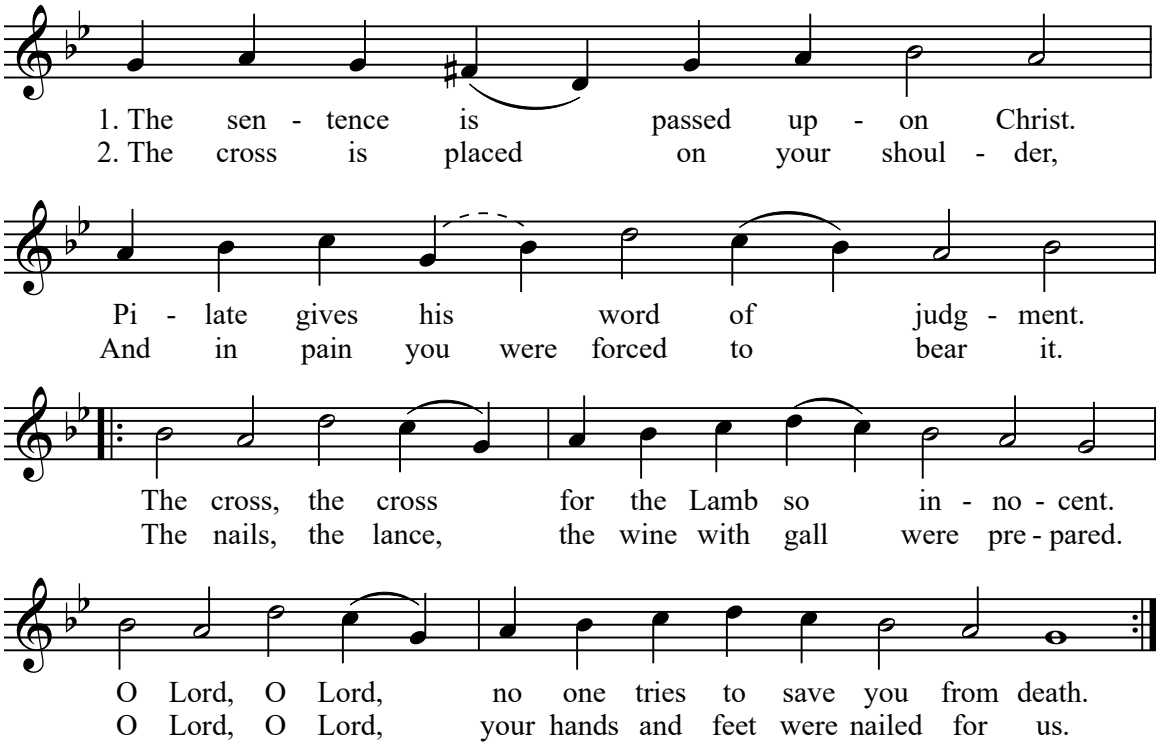


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

The sentence is passed

Uže dekret

HOLY WEEK
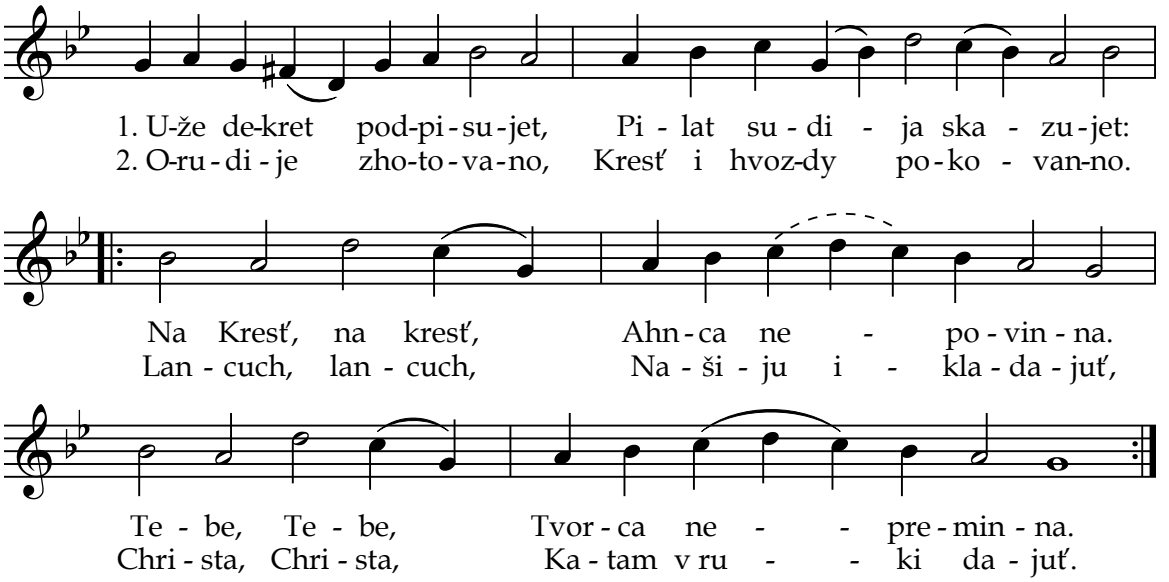


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Uže dekret

The sentence is passed

HOLY WEEK
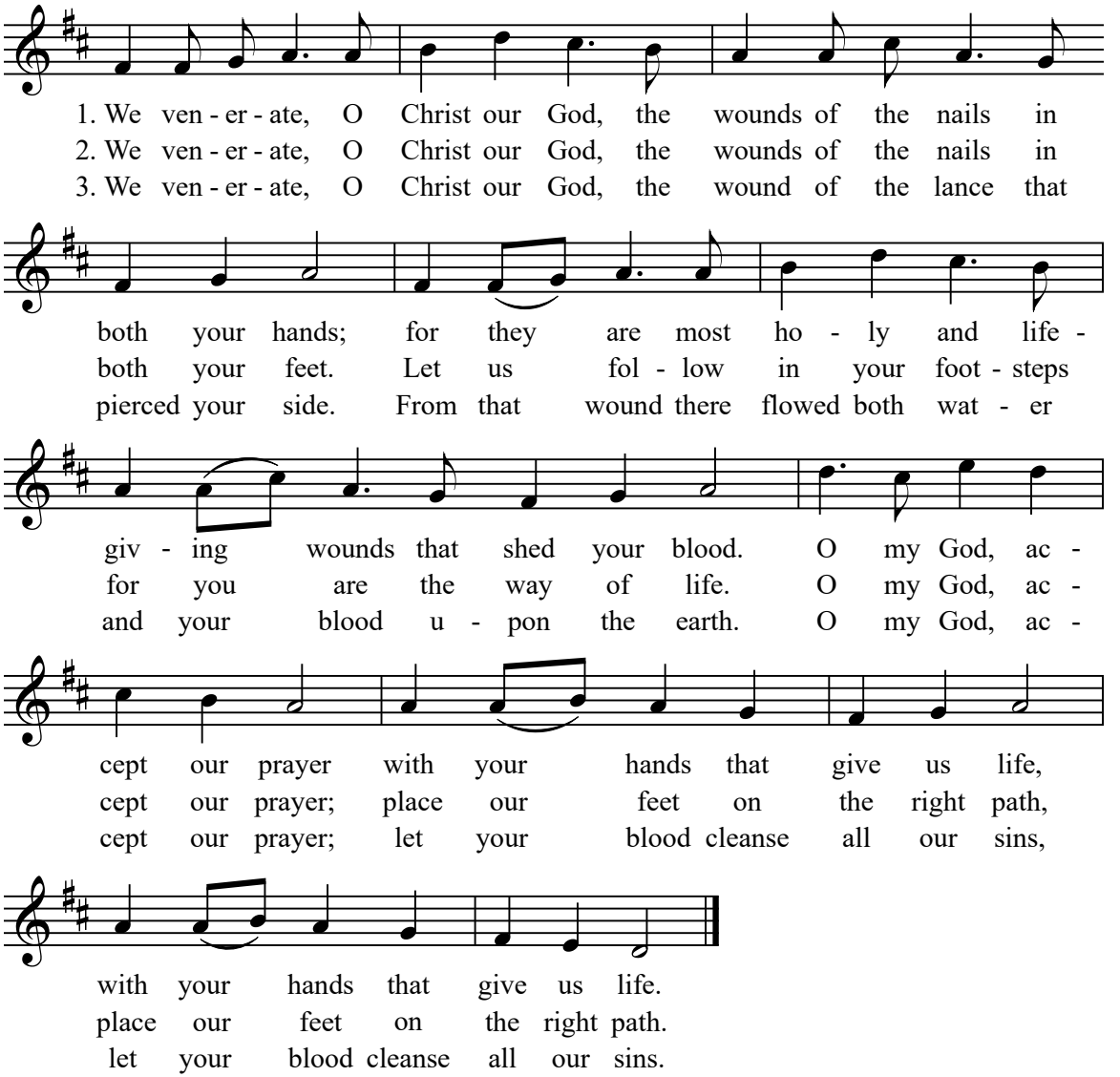


Melody and Slavonic text: traditional

We venerate, O Christ our God

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe

HOLY WEEK

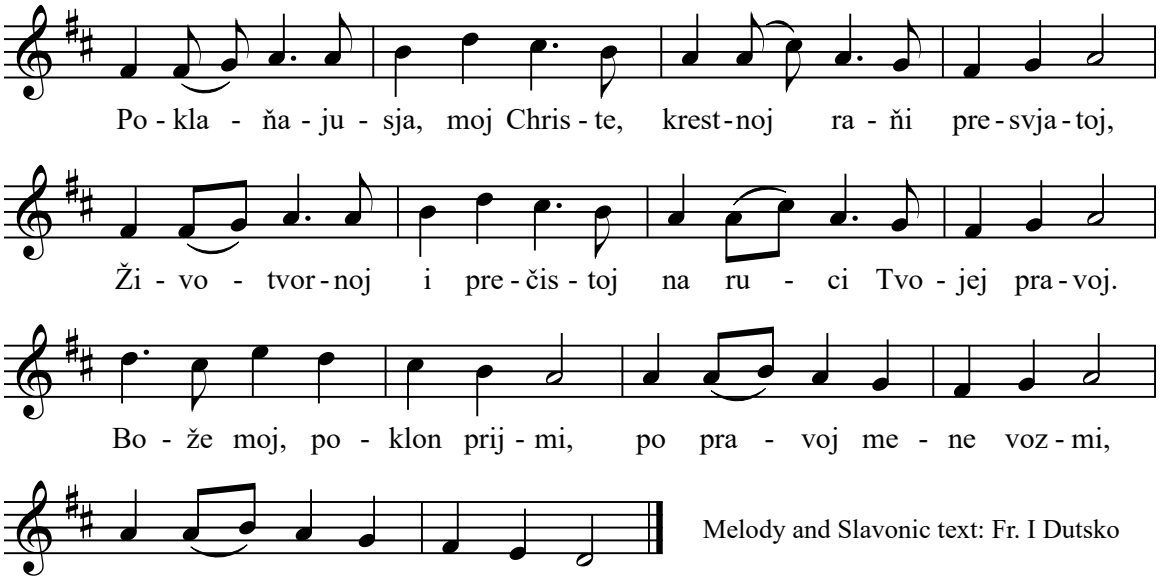


Melody and Slavonic text: Fr. I Dutsko
English translation: Fr. William Levkulic

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe

We venerate, O Christ our God

HOLY WEEK



Melody and Slavonic text: Fr. I Dutsko

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj na ruci Tvojej l'ivoj.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, od l'ivoj sochrani (2).

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj na nozi Tvojej pravoj.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, putem pravdyj mja vedi (2).

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj na nozi Tvojej l'ivoj.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, od hricha mja odverni (2).

Poklaňajusja, moj Christe, krestnoj raňi presvjatoj,
Životvornoj i prečistoj v serdci Tvojem i rebri.
Bože moj, poklon prijmi, i na viki mja l'ubi (2).