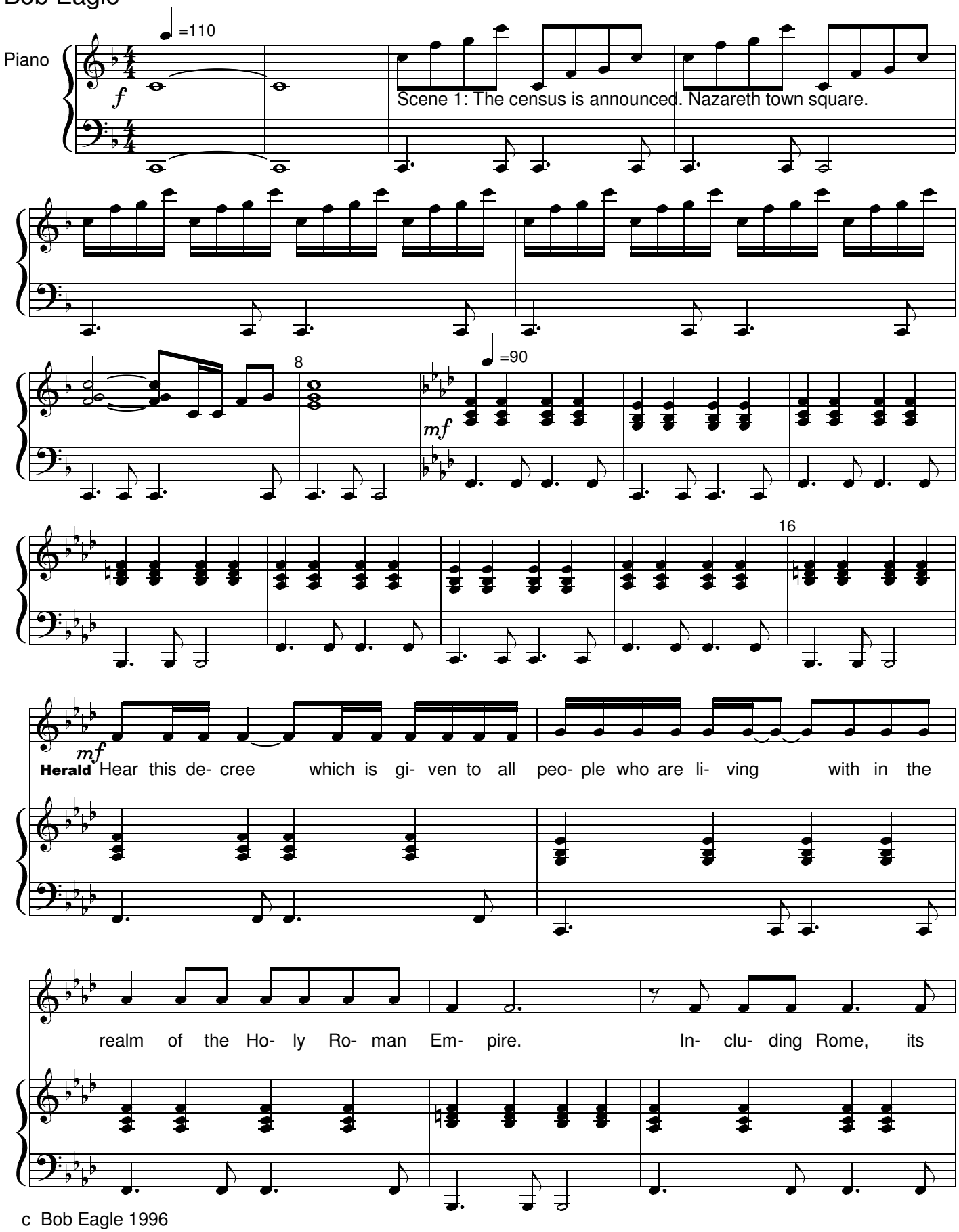
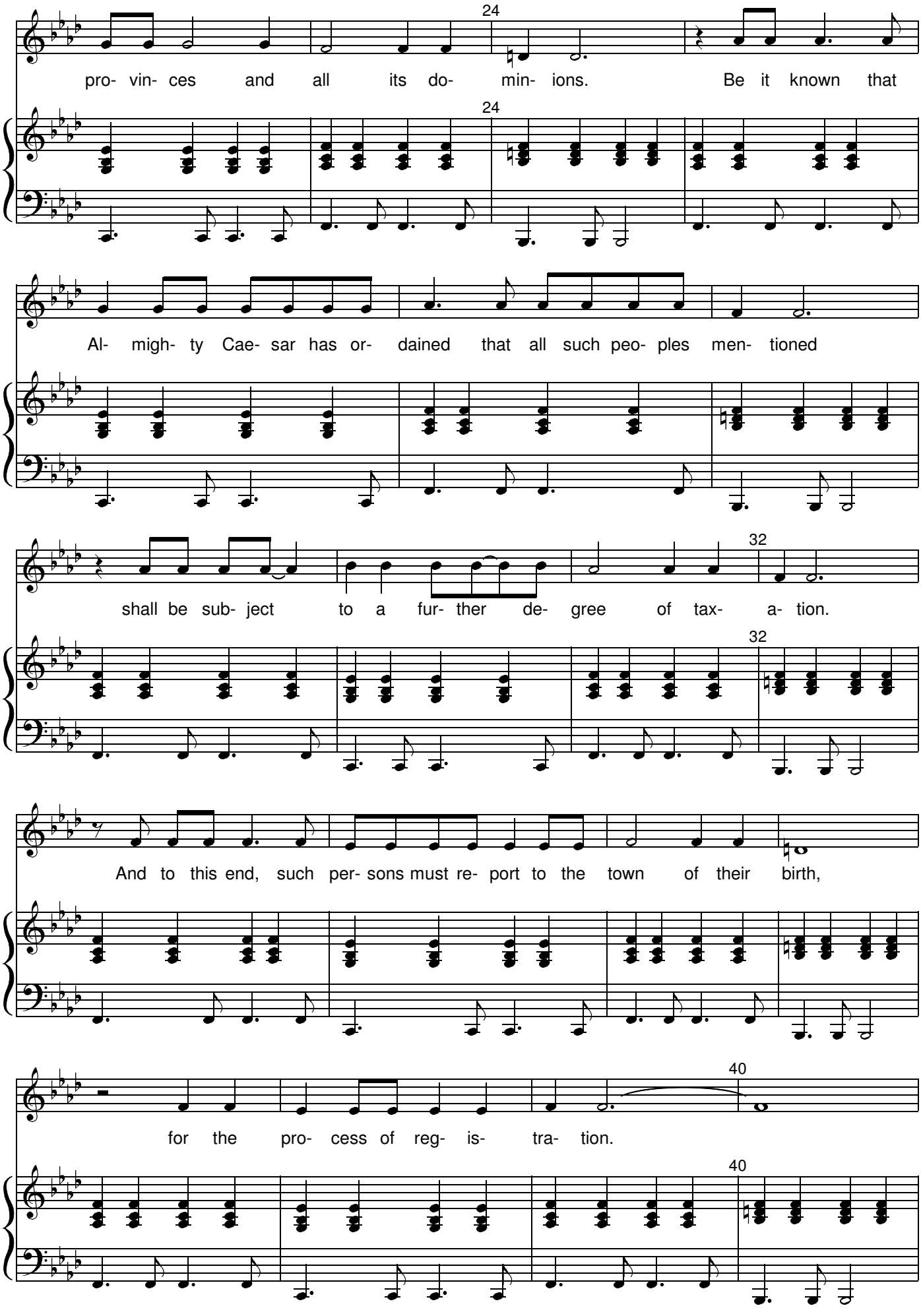
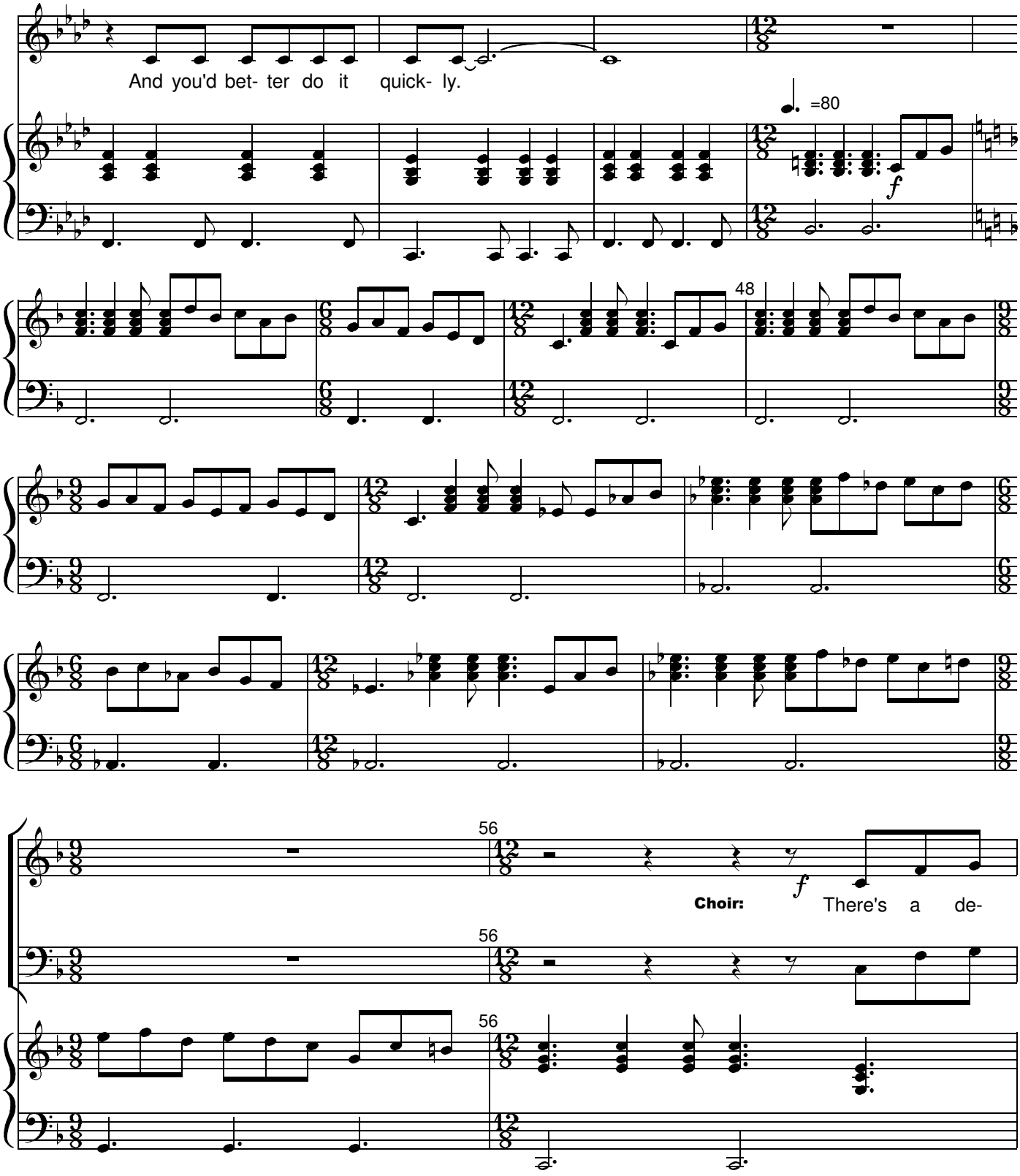
CHRISTMAS PRESENT

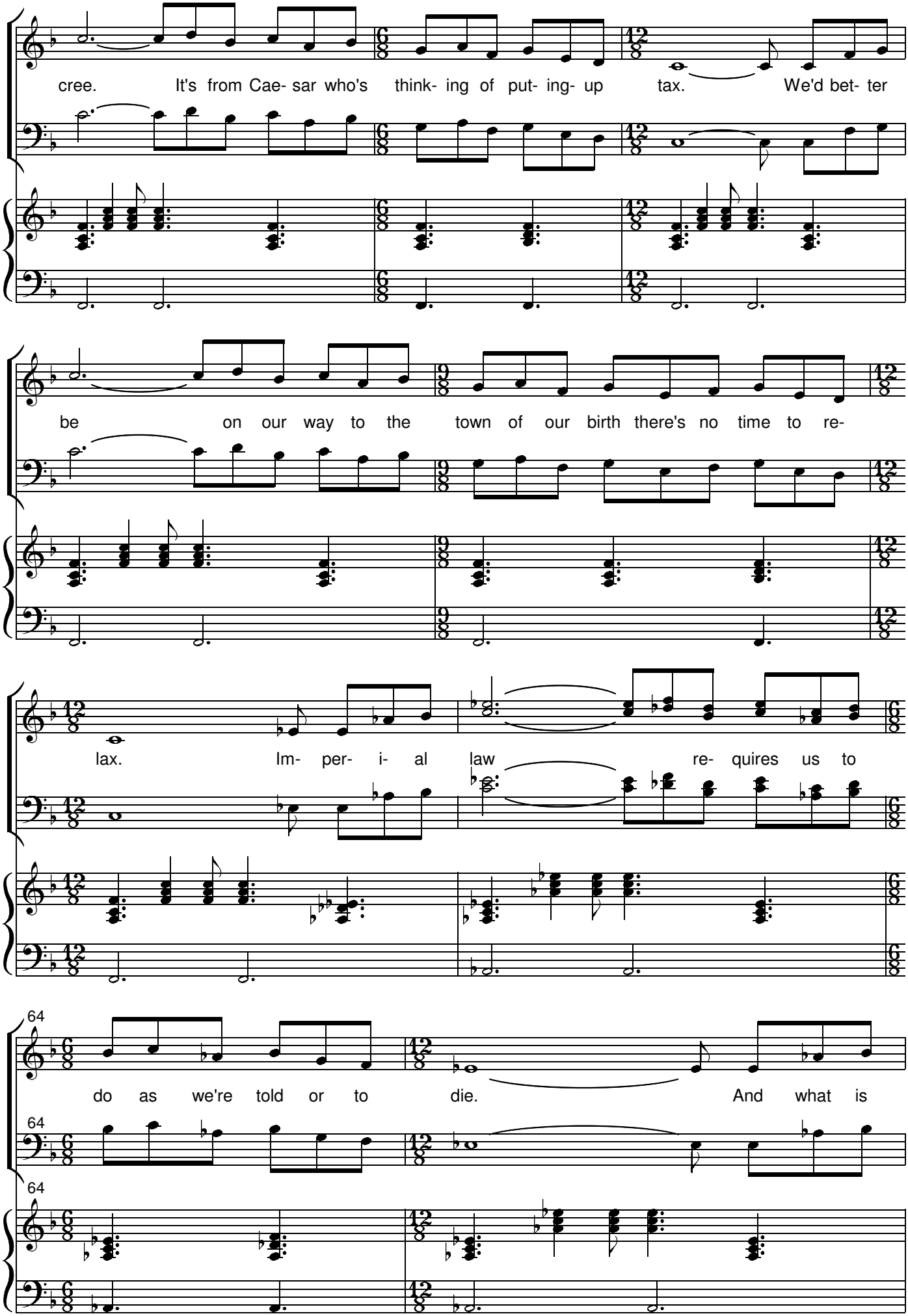
Bob Eagle

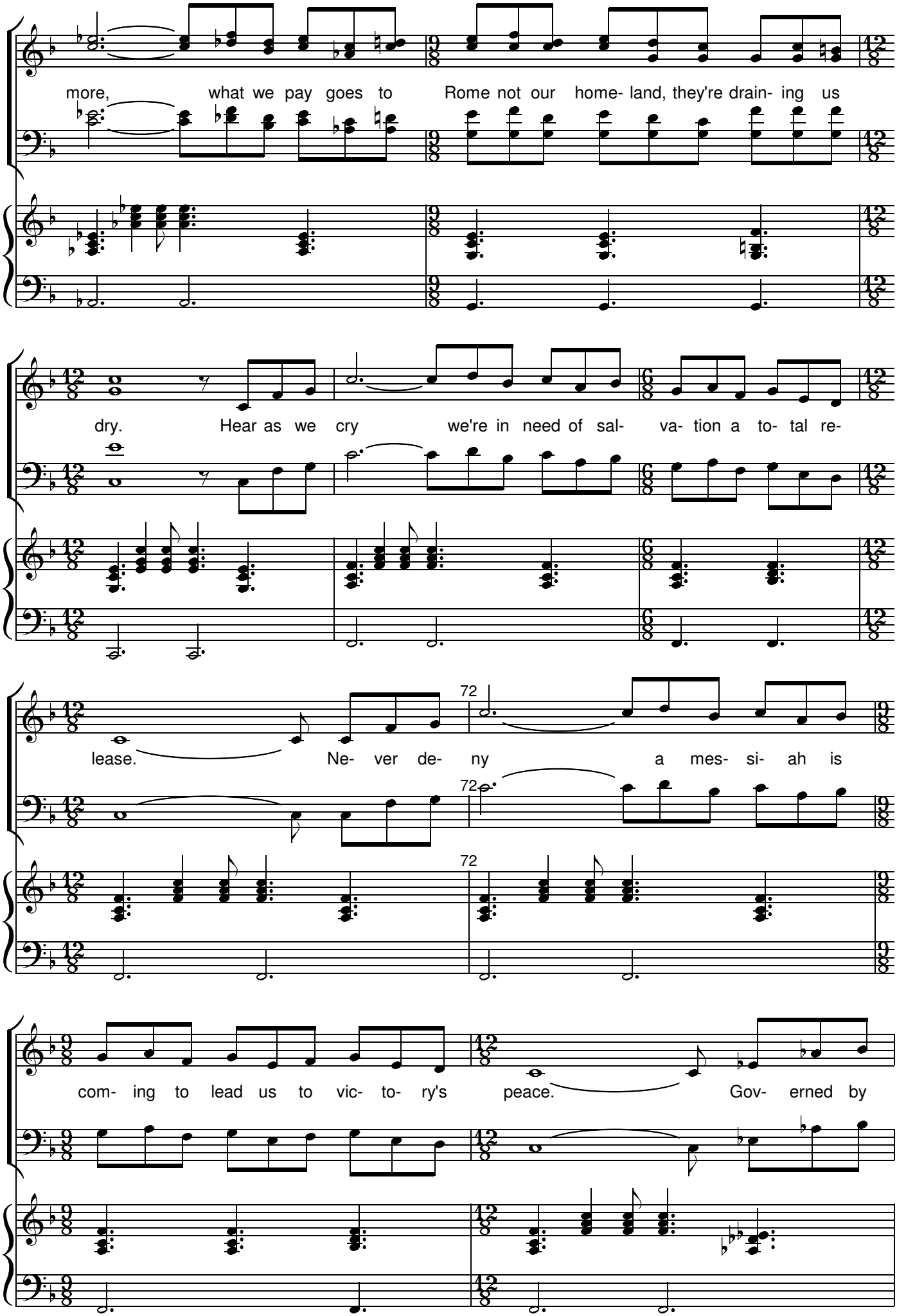


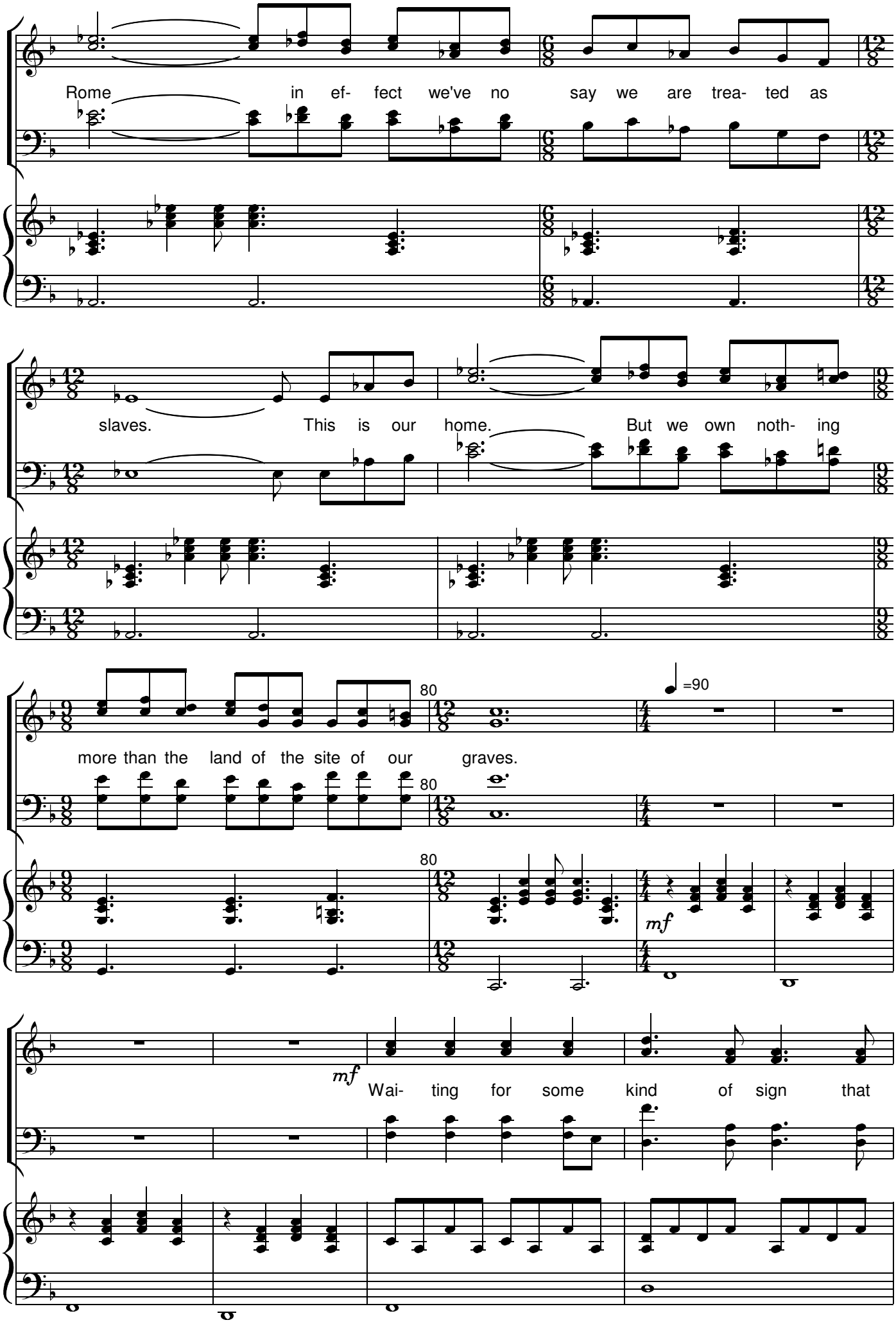
c Bob Eagle 1996

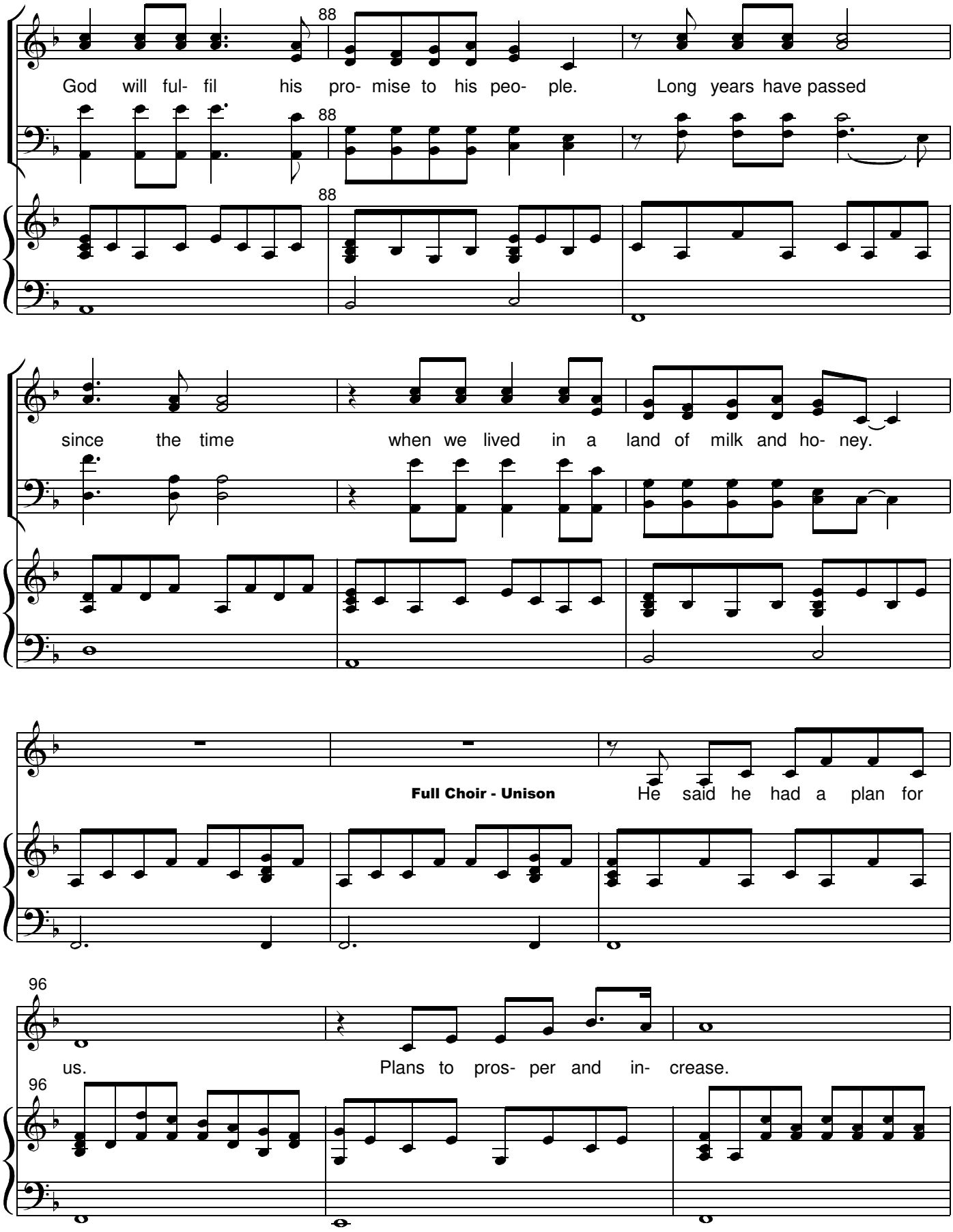

24
pro- vin- ces and all its do- min- ions. Be it known that
24
Al- migh- ty Cae- sar has or- dained that all such peo- ples men- tioned
32
shall be sub- ject to a fur- ther de- gree of tax- a- tion.
32
And to this end, such per- sons must re- port to the town of their birth,
40
for the pro- cess of reg- is- tra- tion.
40

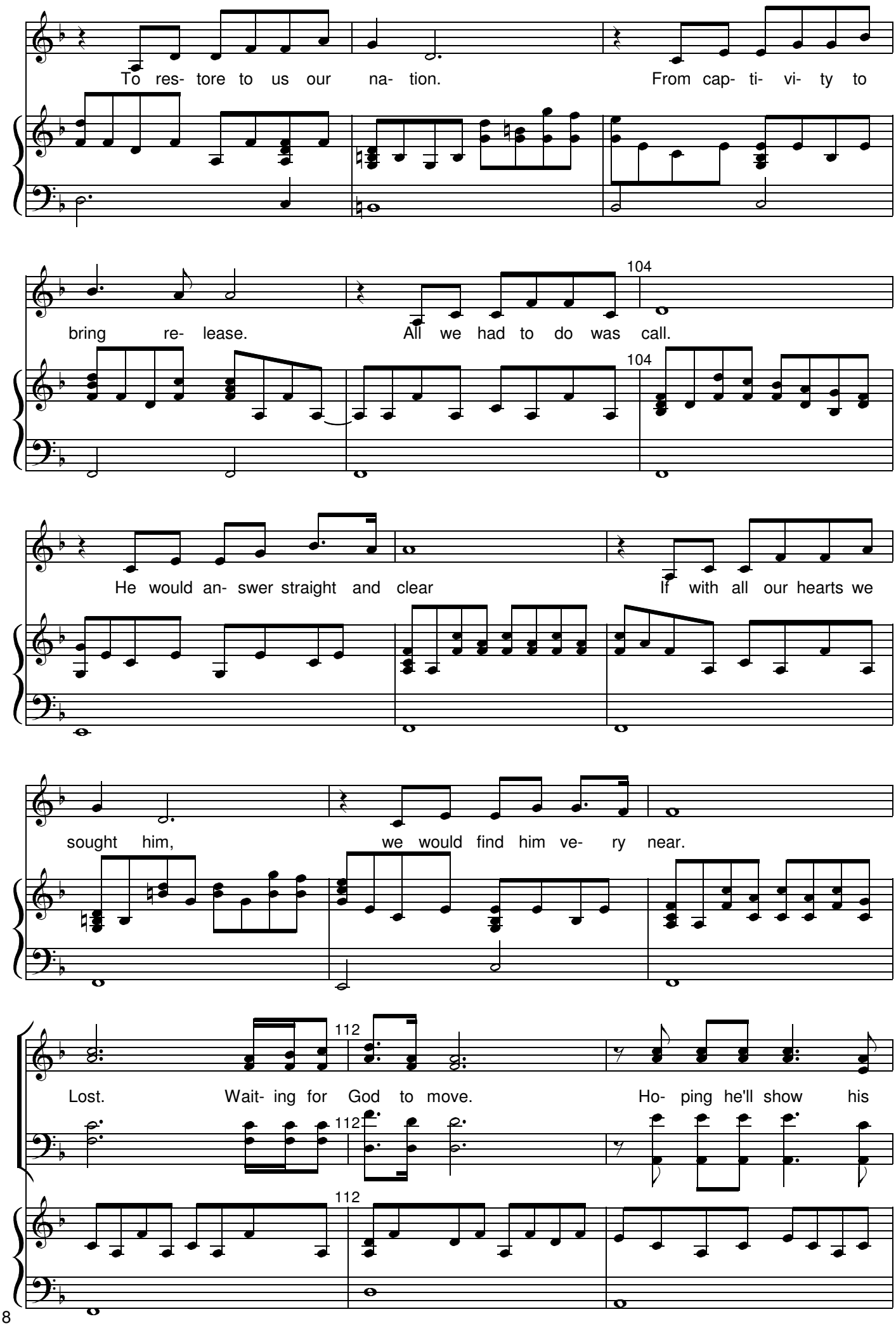

And you'd bet- ter do it quick- ly.
=80
f
48
56
f
Choir:
There's a de-

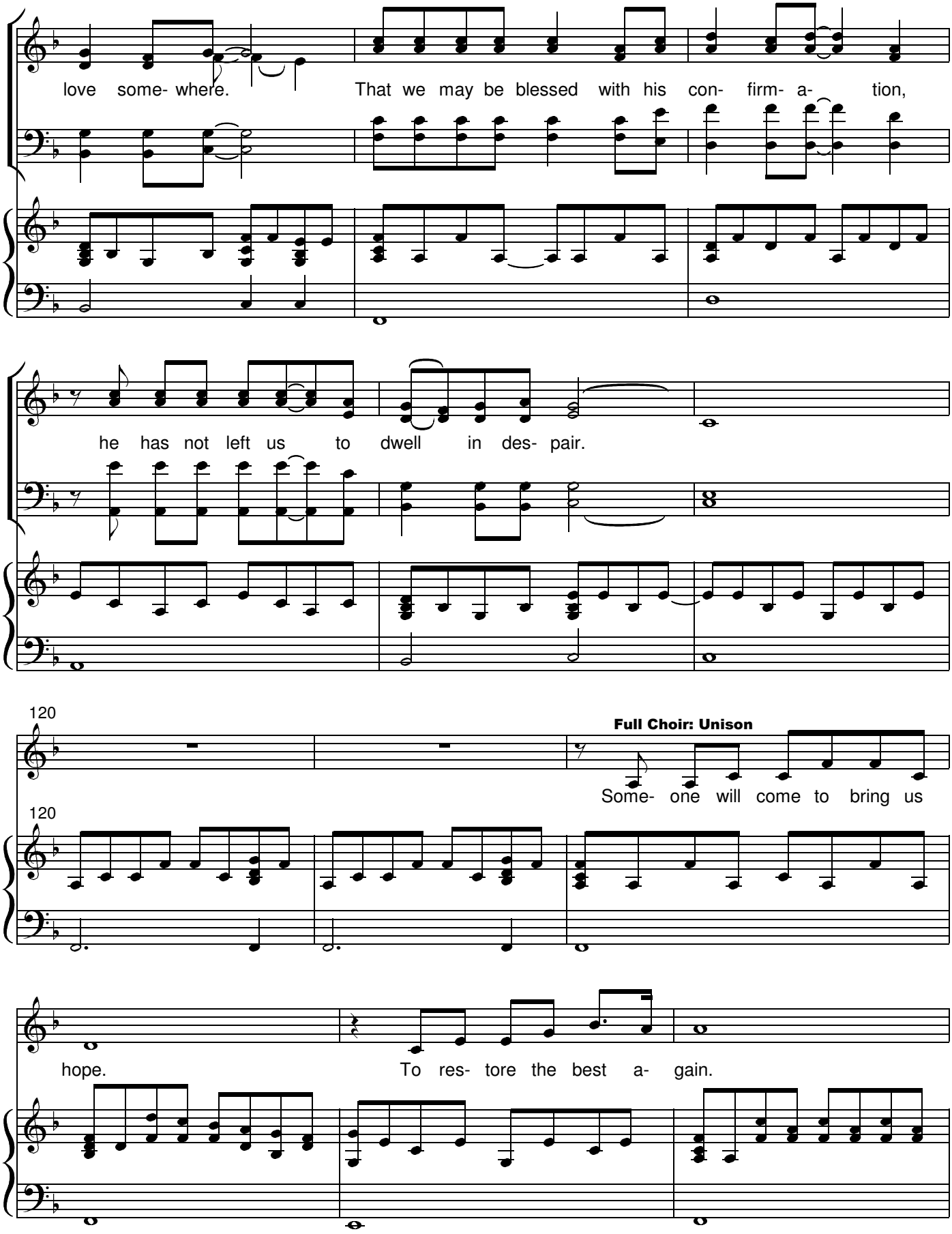

cree. It's from Cae- sar who's think- ing of put- ing- up tax. We'd bet- ter
be on our way to the town of our birth there's no time to re-
lax. Im- per- i- al law re- quires us to
64
do as we're told or to die. And what is

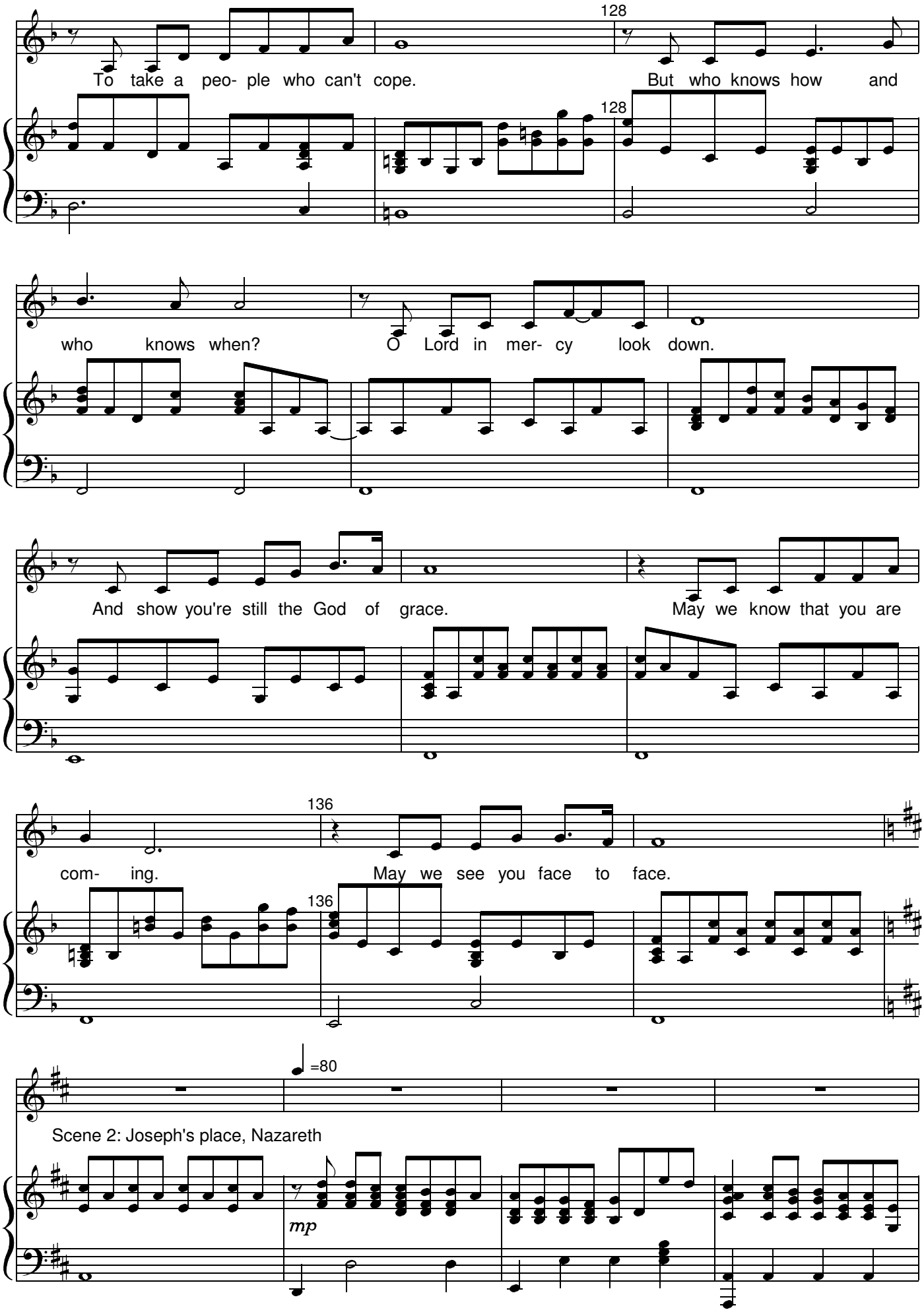

more, what we pay goes to Rome not our home- land, they're drain- ing us
dry. Hear as we cry we're in need of sal- va- tion a to- tal re-
72
lease. Ne- ver de- ny a mes- si- ah is
72
72
com- ing to lead us to vic- to- ry's peace. Gov- erned by

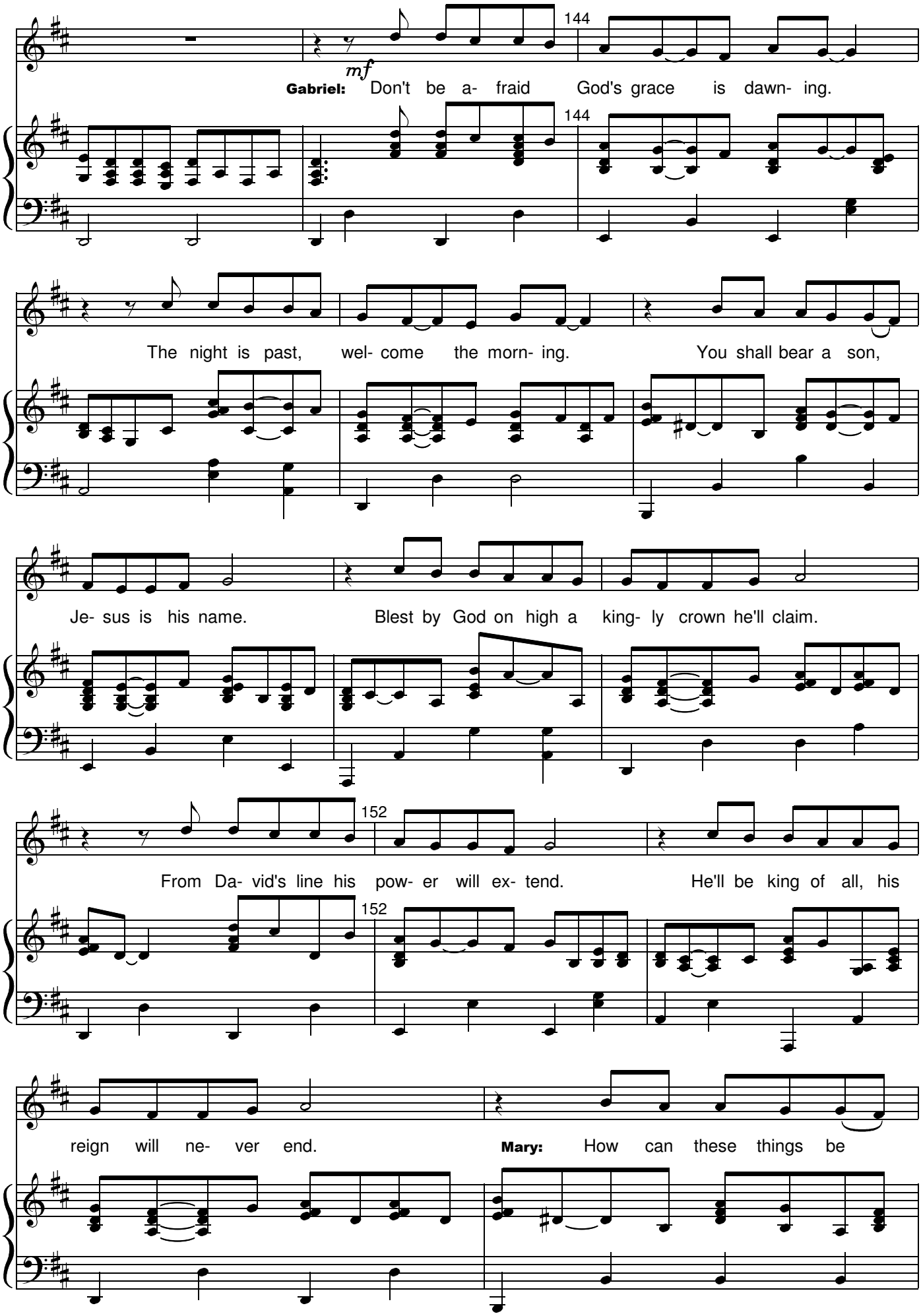

Rome in ef- fect we've no say we are trea- ted as
slaves. This is our home. But we own noth- ing
80
=90
more than the land of the site of our graves.
80
80
mf
mf
Wai- ting for some kind of sign that

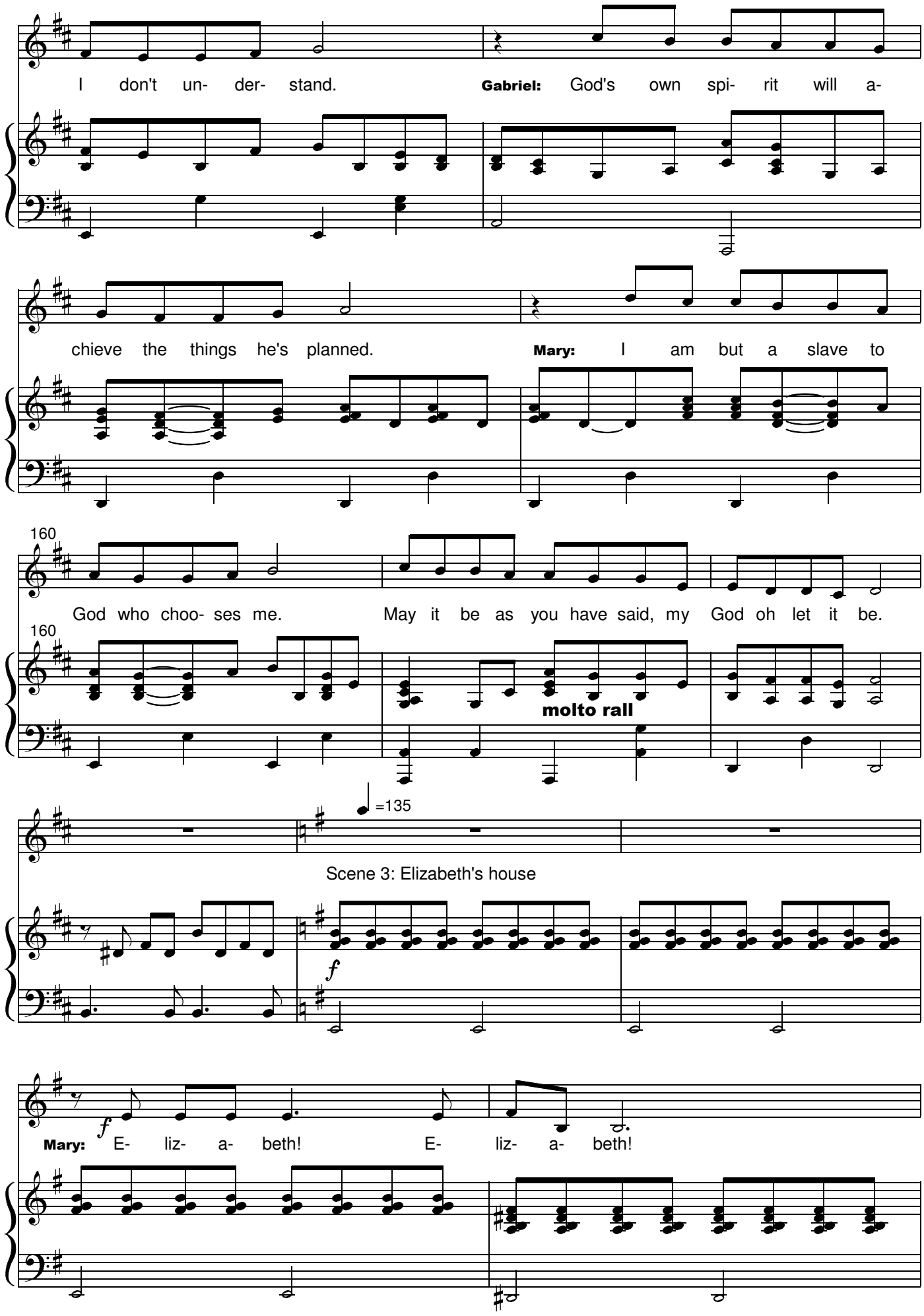

88
God will ful- fil his pro- mise to his peo- ple. Long years have passed
88
88
since the time when we lived in a land of milk and ho- ney.
Full Choir - Unison
He said he had a plan for
96
us. Plans to pros- per and in- crease.
96

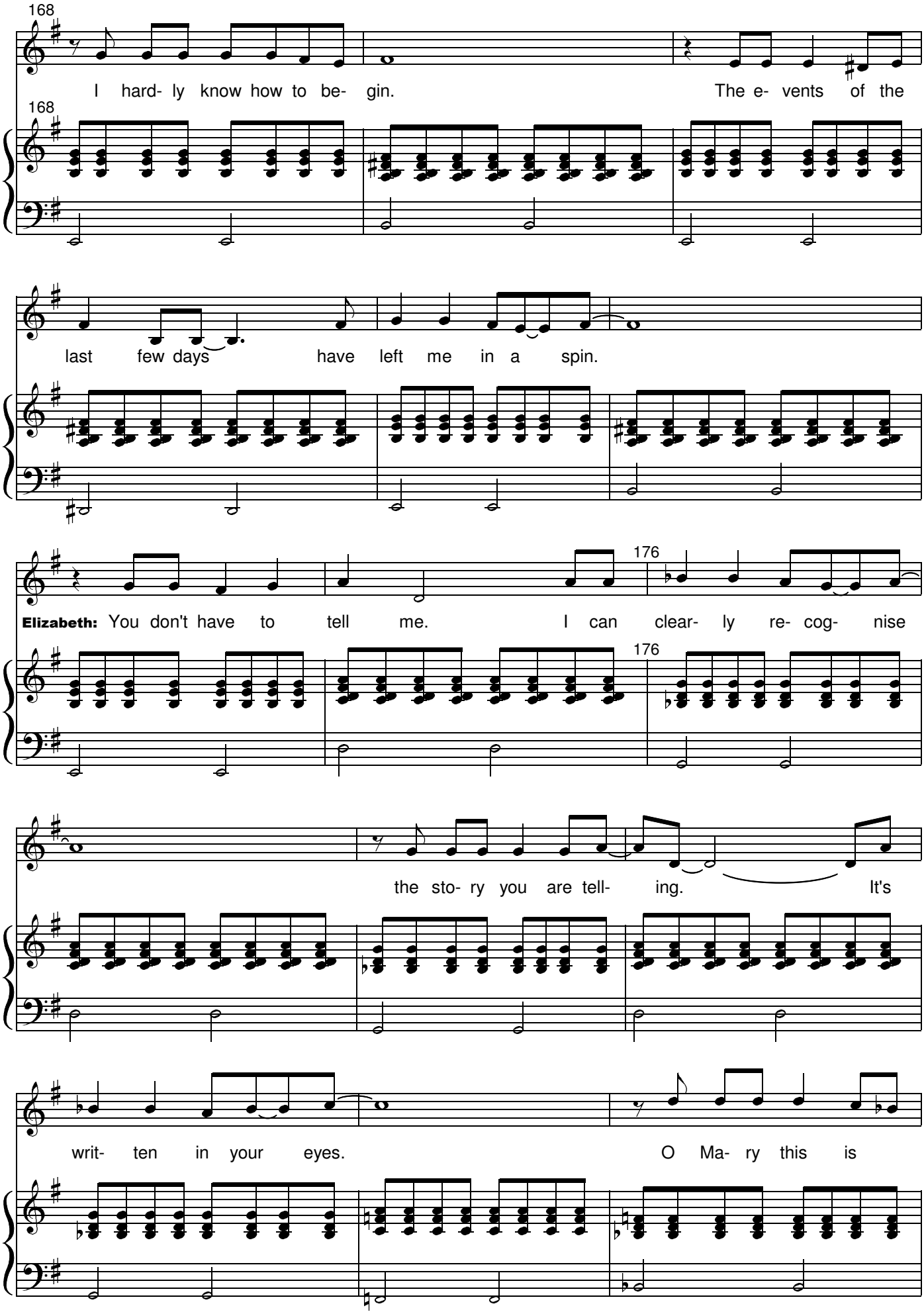

To res- tore to us our na- tion. From cap- ti- vi- ty to
104
bring re- lease. All we had to do was call.
104
He would an- swer straight and clear If with all our hearts we
sought him, we would find him ve- ry near.
112
Lost. Wait- ing for God to move. Ho- ping he'll show his
112
112

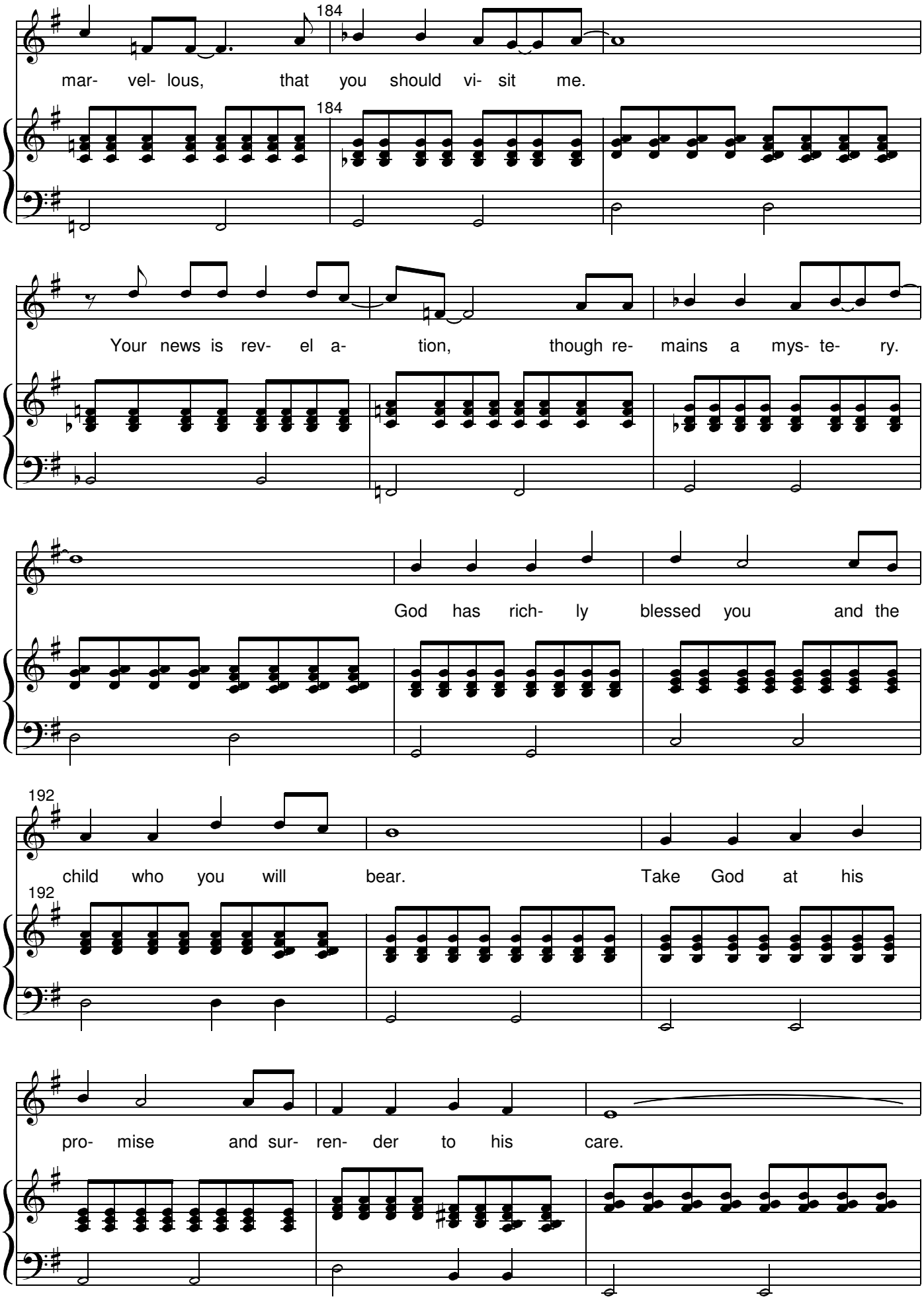

love some- where.
That we may be blessed with his con- firm- a- tion,
he has not left us to dwell in des- pair.
120
Full Choir: Unison
Some- one will come to bring us
120
hope.
To res- tore the best a- gain.

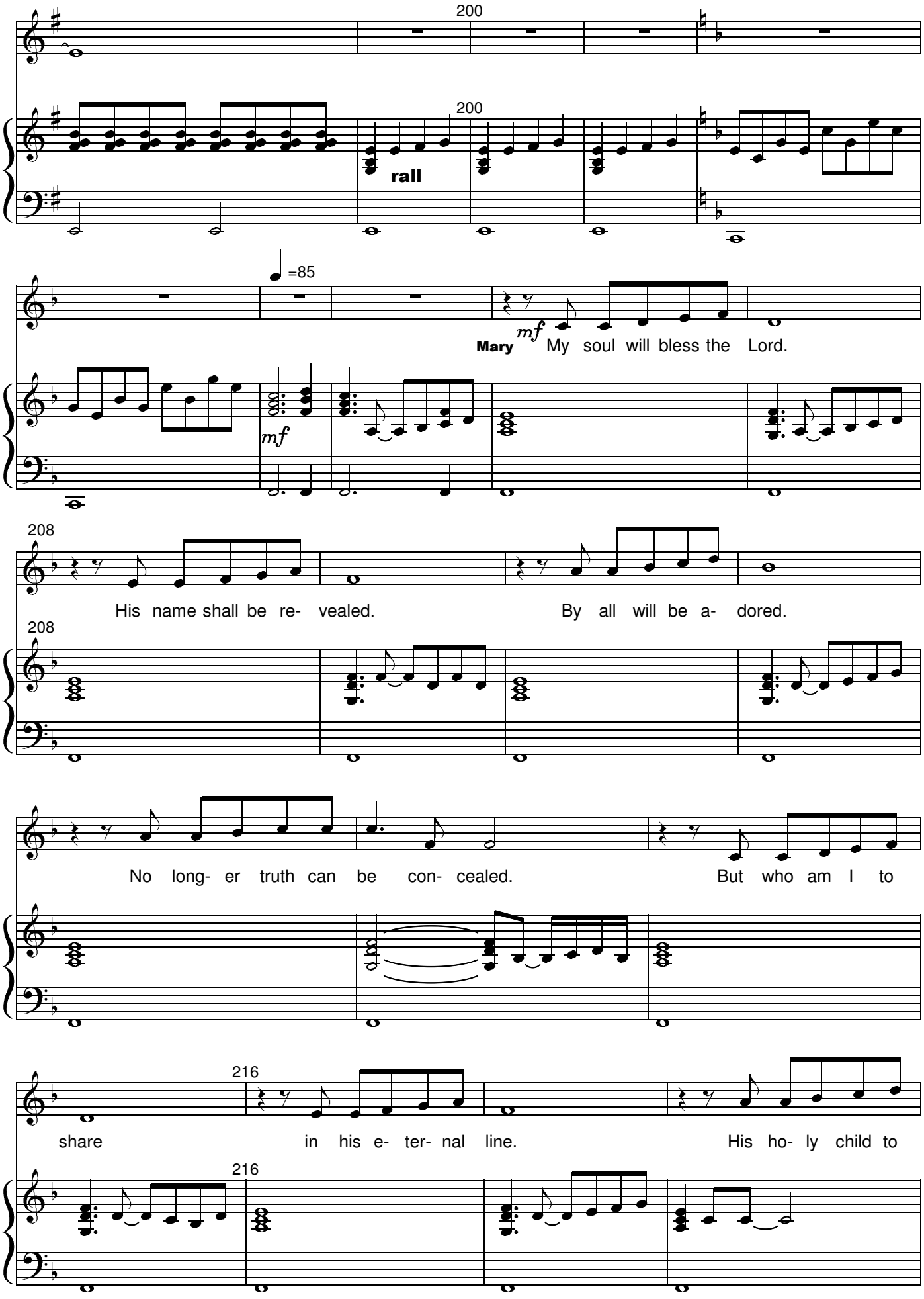

128
To take a peo- ple who can't cope.
But who knows how and
128
who knows when?
O Lord in mer- cy look down.
And show you're still the God of grace.
May we know that you are
136
com- ing.
May we see you face to face.
136
=80
Scene 2: Joseph's place, Nazareth
mp

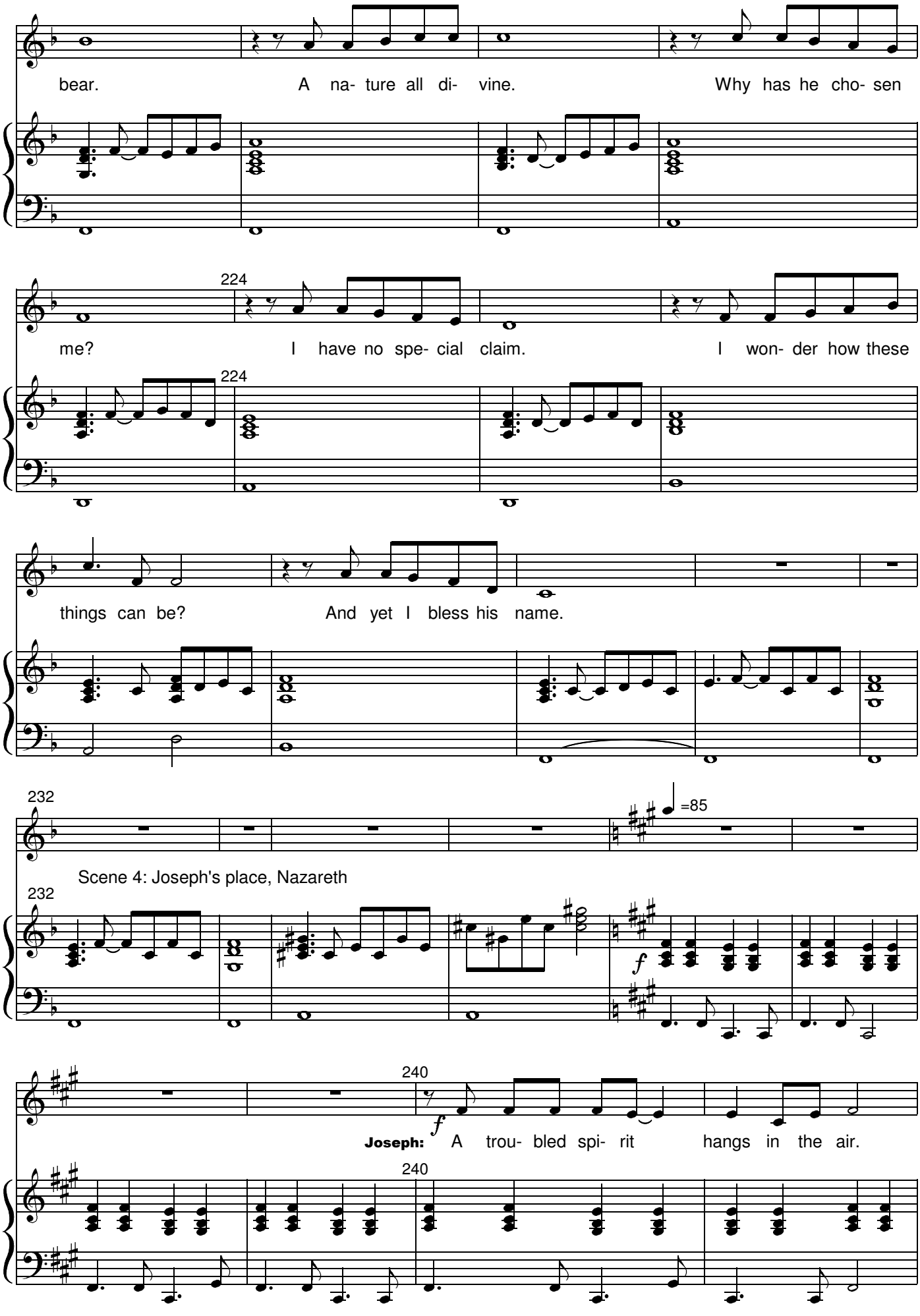

144
mf
Gabriel: Don't be a- fraid God's grace is dawn- ing.
144
The night is past, wel- come the morn- ing. You shall bear a son,
Je- sus is his name. Blest by God on high a king- ly crown he'll claim.
152
From Da- vid's line his pow- er will ex- tend. He'll be king of all, his
152
reign will ne- ver end. Mary: How can these things be

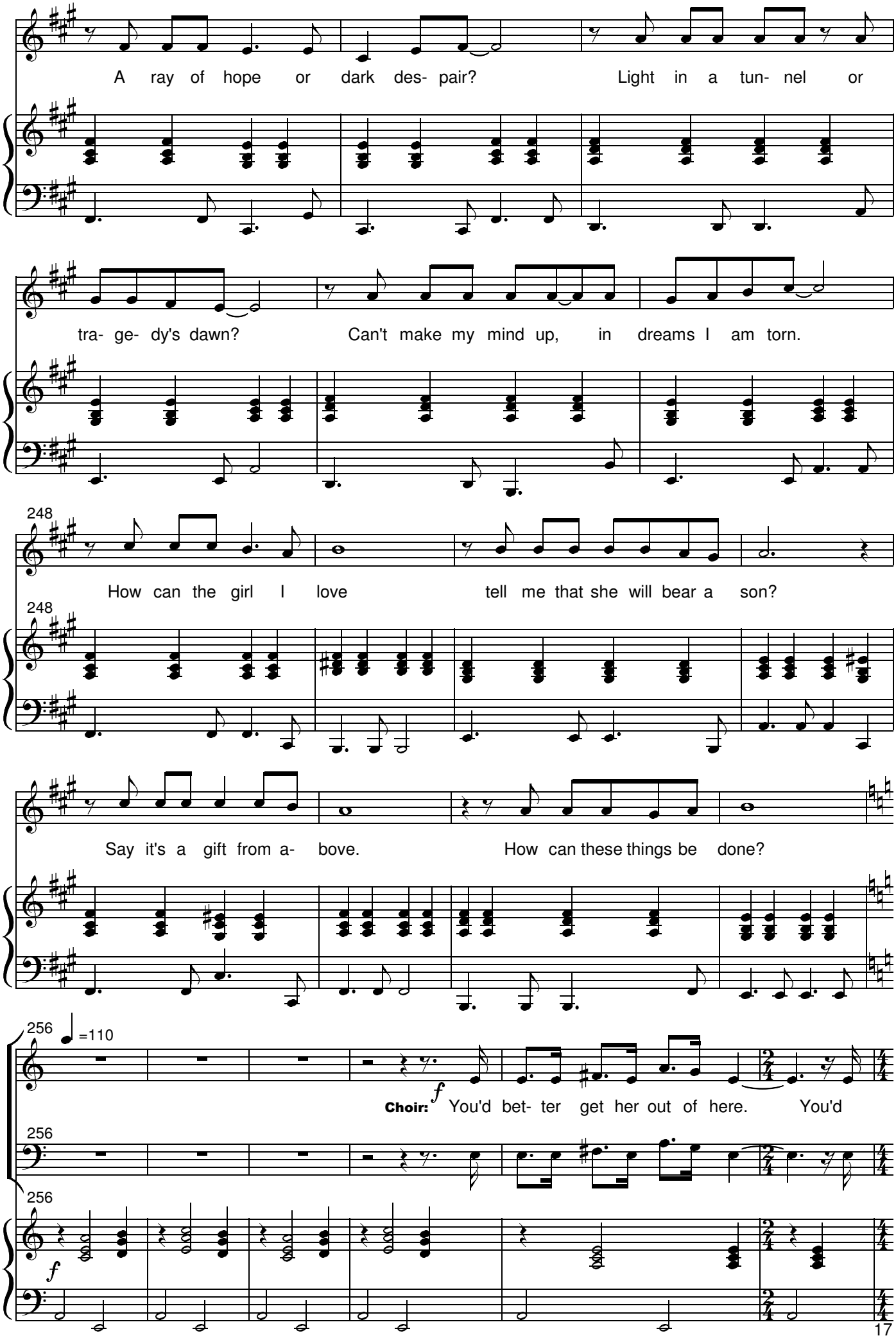

I don't un- der- stand.
Gabriel: God's own spi- rit will a-
chieve the things he's planned.
Mary: I am but a slave to
160
God who choo- ses me.
May it be as you have said, my God oh let it be.
160
molto rall
=135
Scene 3: Elizabeth's house
f
Mary: E- liz- a- beth!
E- liz- a- beth!

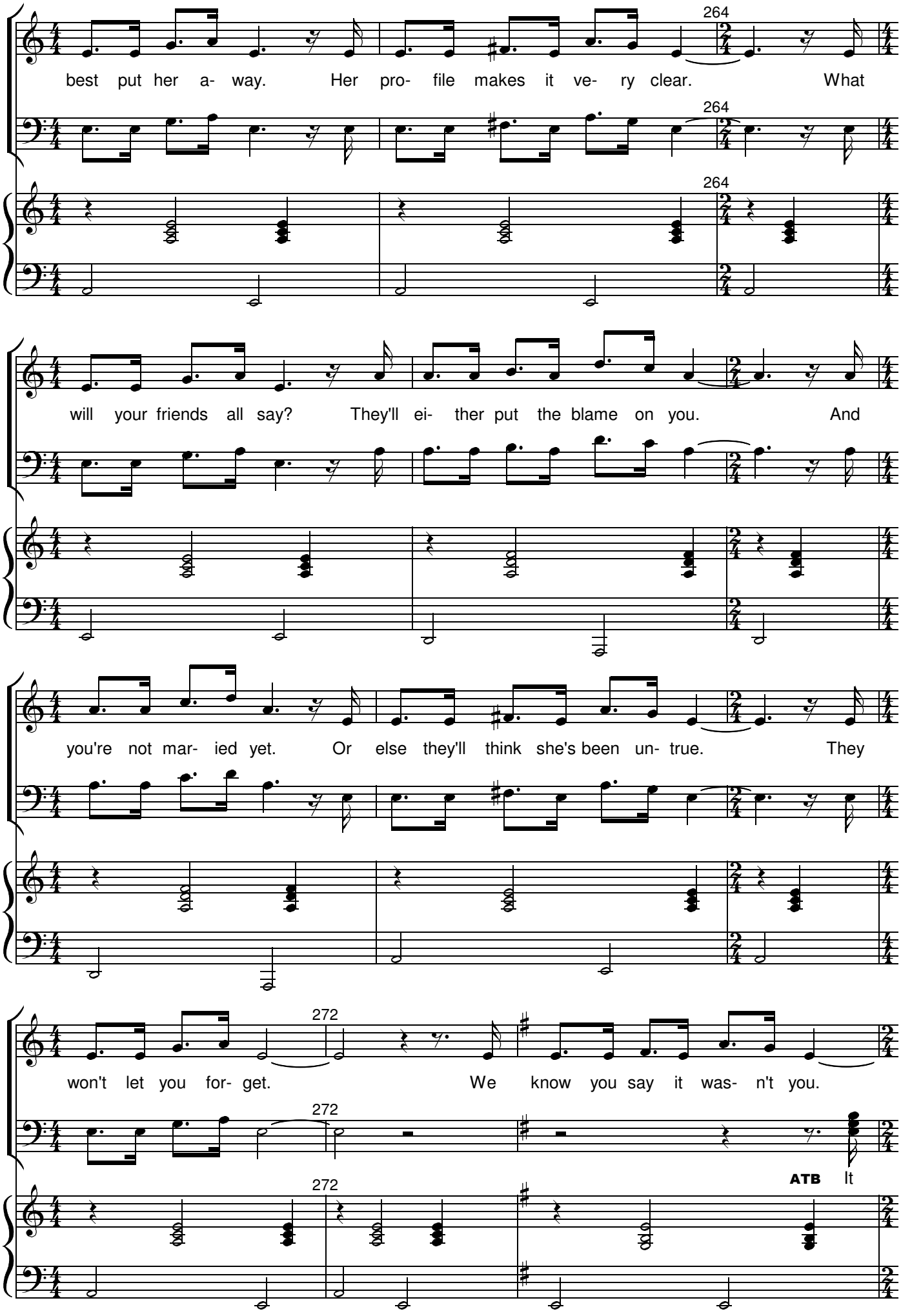

168
I hard- ly know how to be- gin.
The e- vents of the
168
last few days have left me in a spin.
176
Elizabeth: You don't have to tell me. I can clear- ly re- cog- nise
176
the sto- ry you are tell- ing. It's
writ- ten in your eyes. O Ma- ry this is

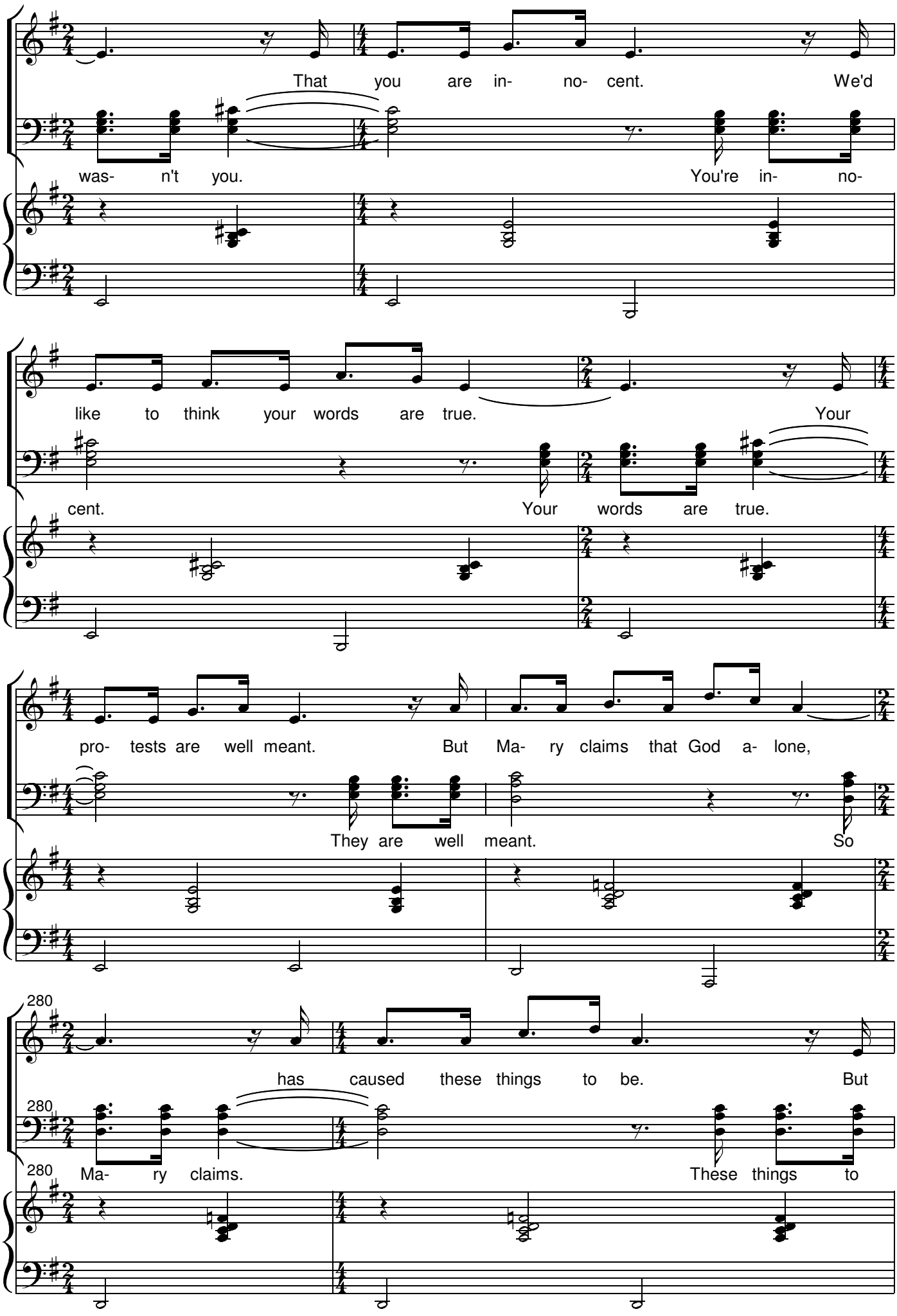

184
mar- vel- lous, that you should vi- sit me.
184
Your news is rev- el a- tion, though re- mains a mys- te- ry.
God has rich- ly blessed you and the
192
child who you will bear. Take God at his
192
pro- mise and sur- ren- der to his care.

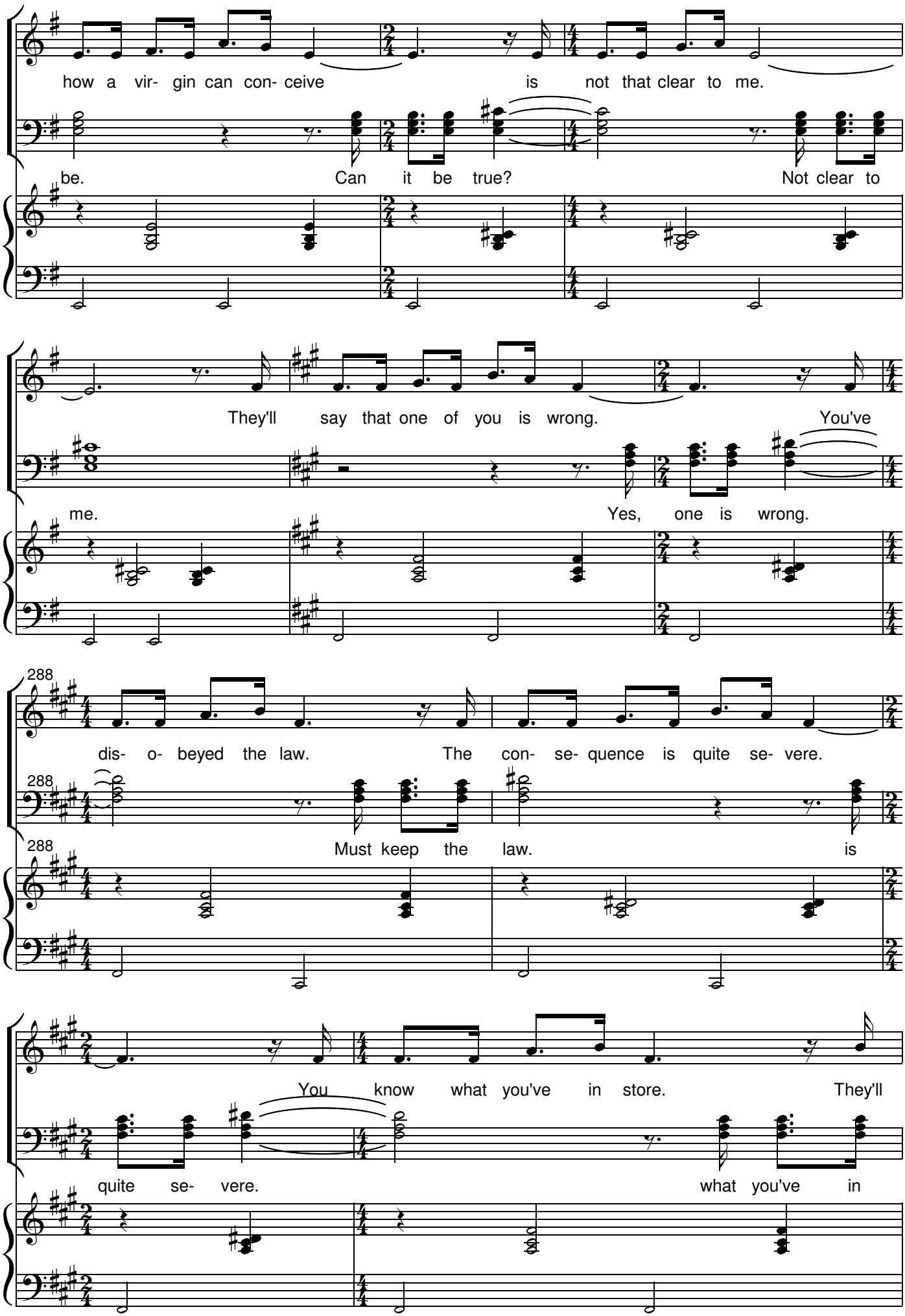

200
200
rall
♩=85
Mary
mf
My soul will bless the Lord.
mf
208
His name shall be re- vealed.
By all will be a- dored.
208
No long- er truth can be con- cealed.
But who am I to
216
share in his e- ter- nal line.
His ho- ly child to
216

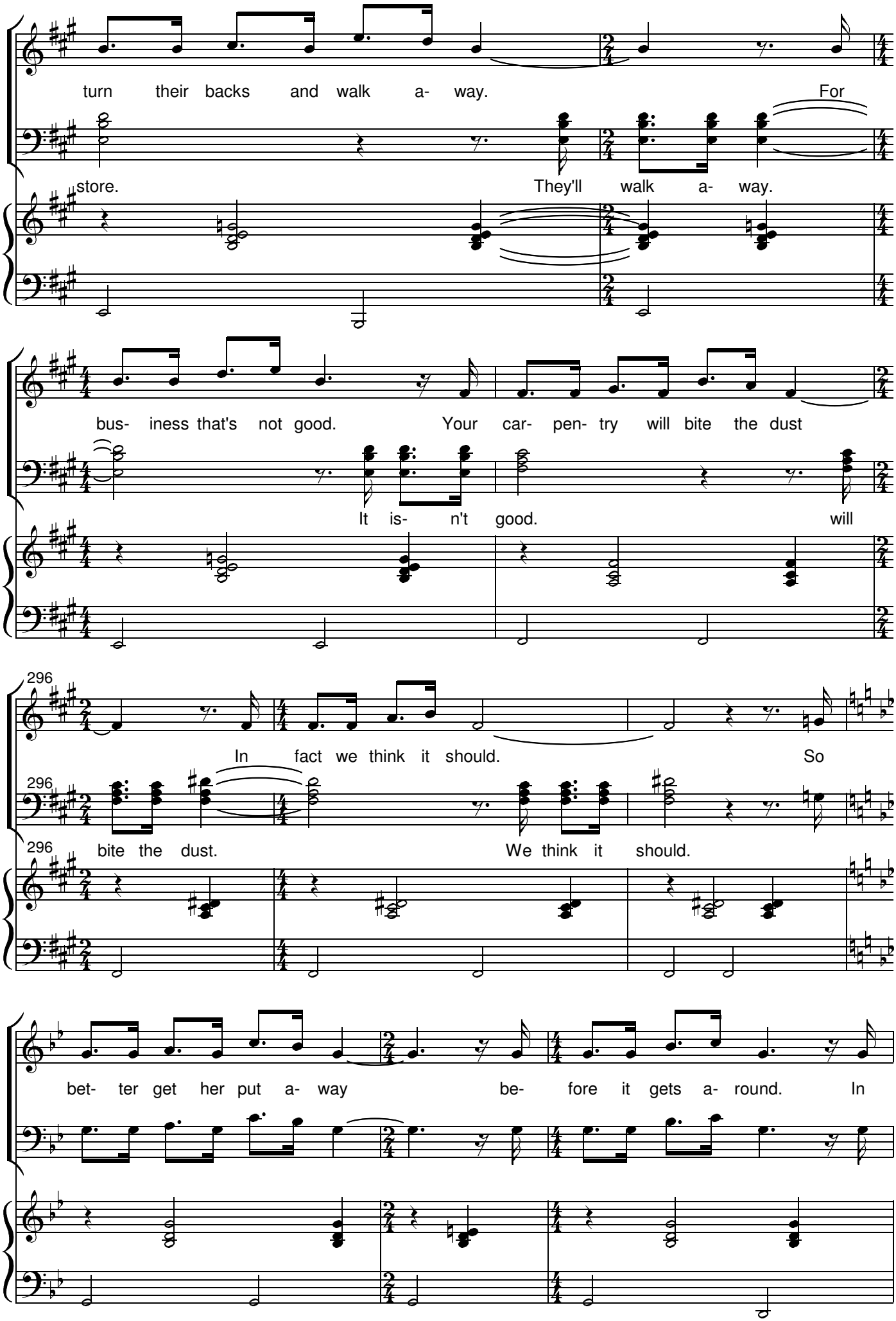

bear.
A na- ture all di- vine.
Why has he cho- sen
224
me?
I have no spe- cial claim.
I won- der how these
224
things can be?
And yet I bless his name.
232
=85
Scene 4: Joseph's place, Nazareth
232
240
f
Joseph:
A trou- bled spi- rit
hangs in the air.
240

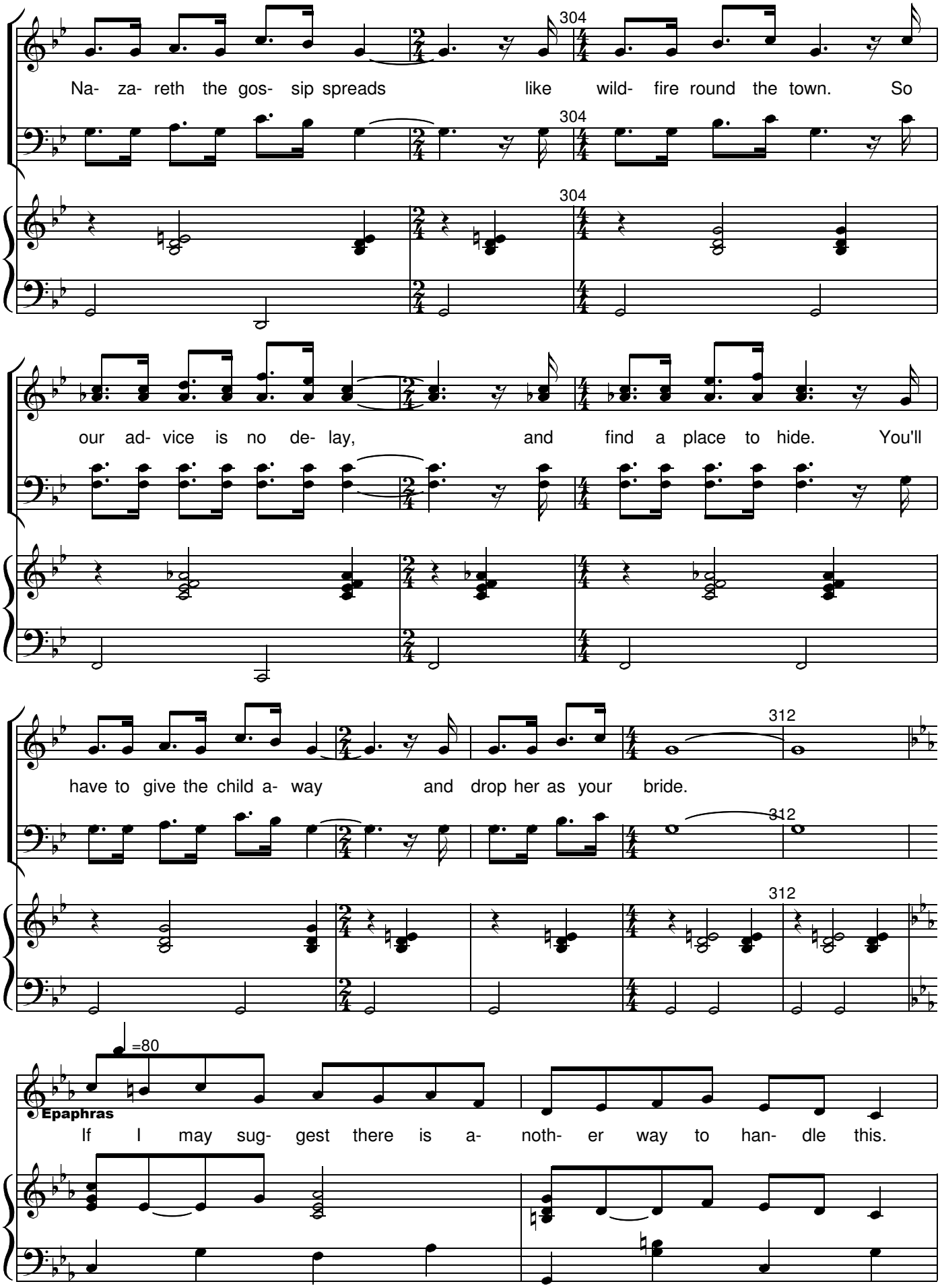

A ray of hope or dark des- pair? Light in a tun- nel or
tra- ge- dy's dawn? Can't make my mind up, in dreams I am torn.
248
How can the girl I love tell me that she will bear a son?
248
Say it's a gift from a- bove. How can these things be done?
256
=110
f
Choir: You'd bet- ter get her out of here. You'd
256
256
f

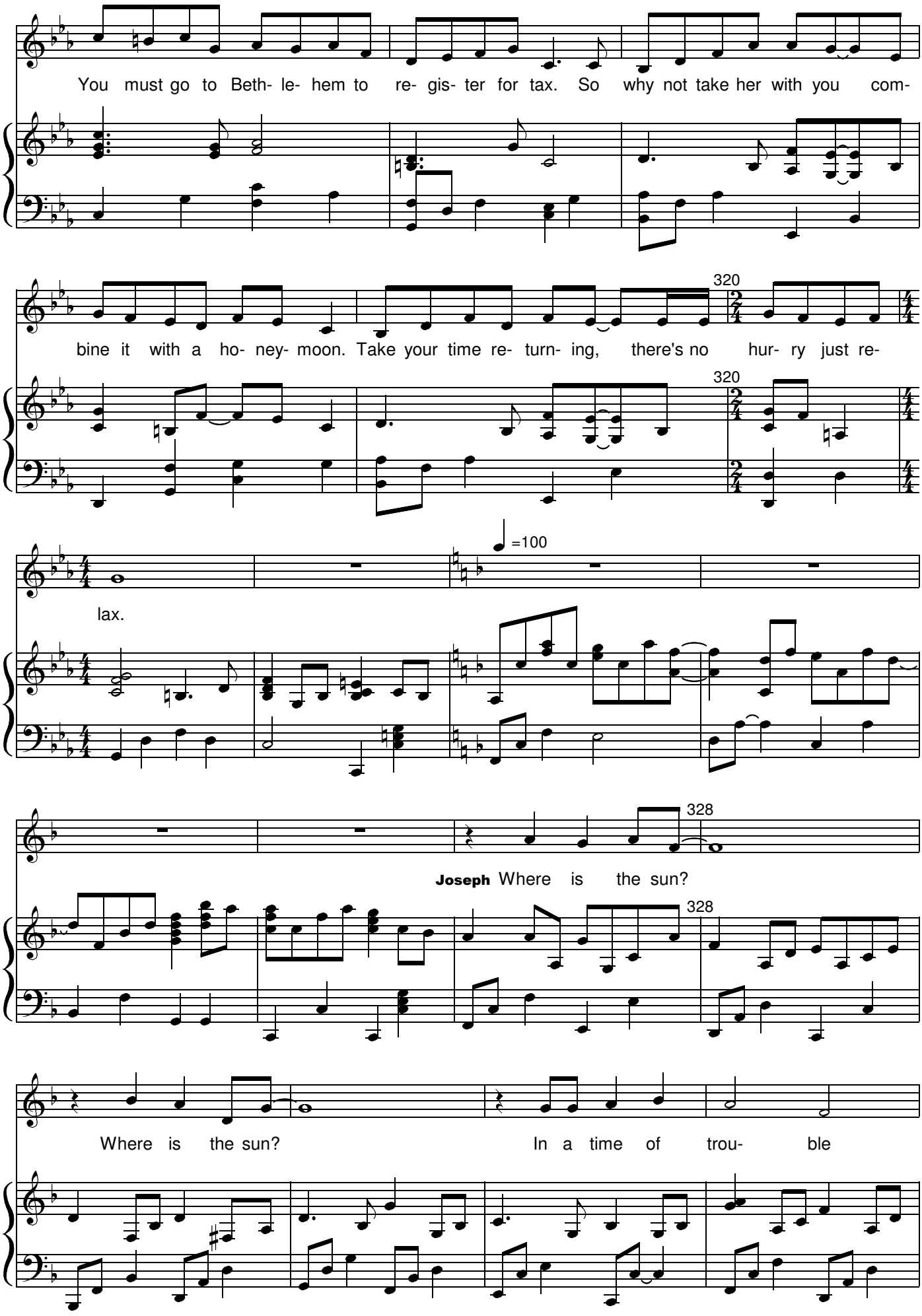

264
best put her a- way. Her pro- file makes it ve- ry clear. What
264
264
will your friends all say? They'll ei- ther put the blame on you. And
you're not mar- ied yet. Or else they'll think she's been un- true. They
272
won't let you for- get. We know you say it was- n't you.
272
272
ATB
It

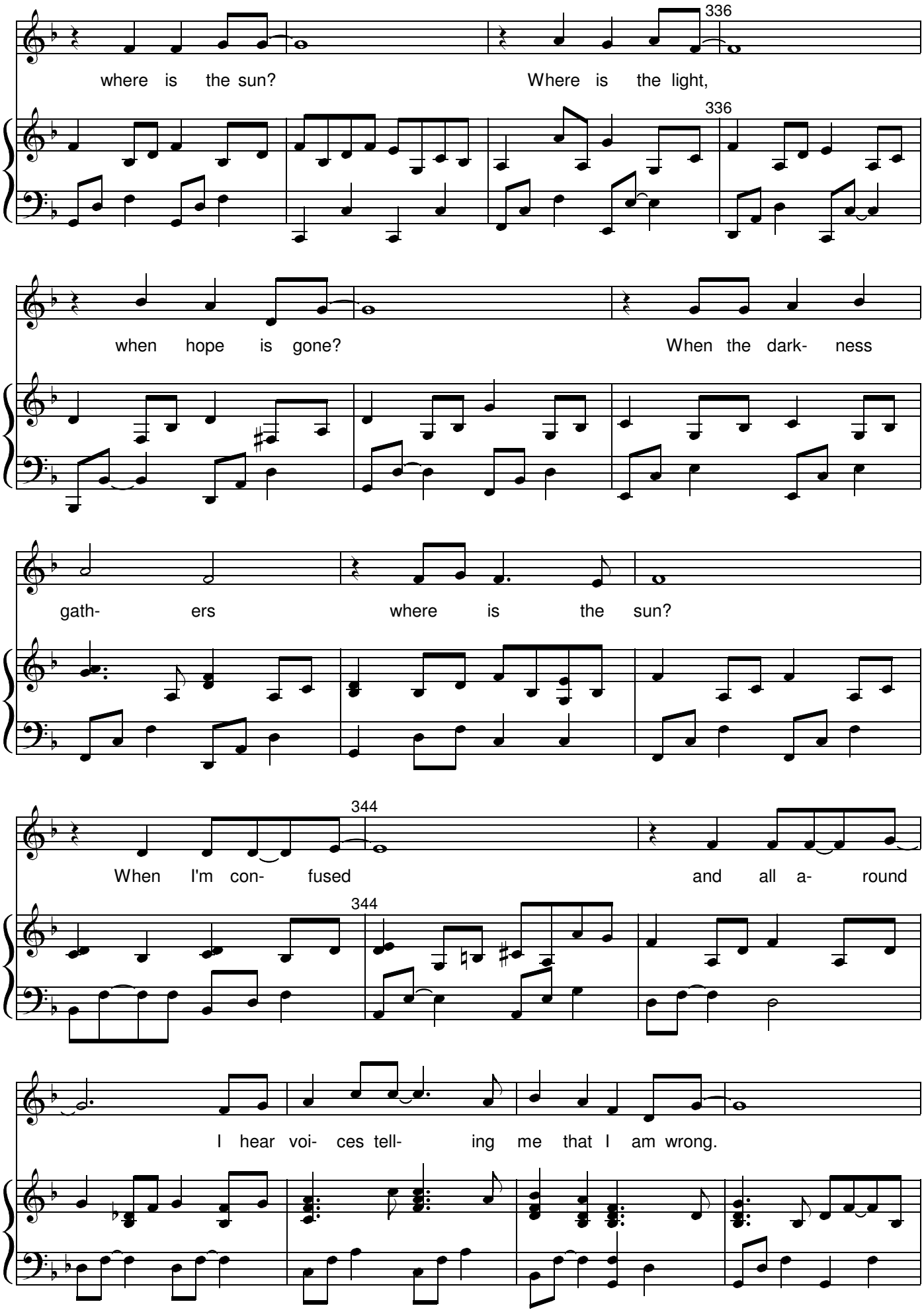

That you are in- no- cent. We'd
was- n't you. You're in- no-
like to think your words are true. Your
cent. Your words are true.
pro- tests are well meant. But Ma- ry claims that God a- lone,
They are well meant. So
280
has caused these things to be. But
280
280 Ma- ry claims. These things to

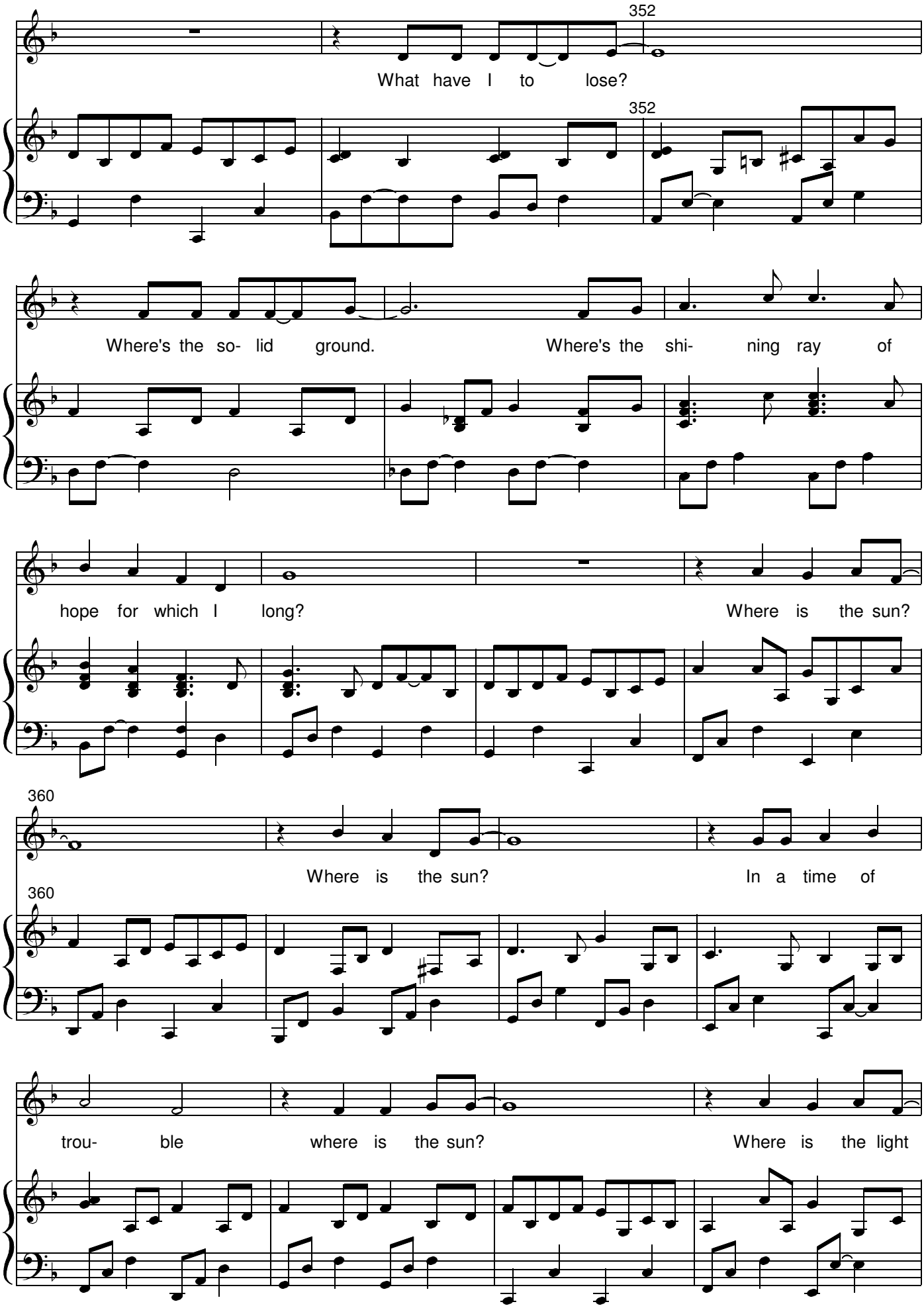

how a vir- gin can con- ceive is not that clear to me.
be. Can it be true? Not clear to
They'll say that one of you is wrong. You've
me. Yes, one is wrong.
288
dis- o- beyed the law. The con- se- quence is quite se- vere.
288
Must keep the law. is
288
You know what you've in store. They'll
quite se- vere. what you've in

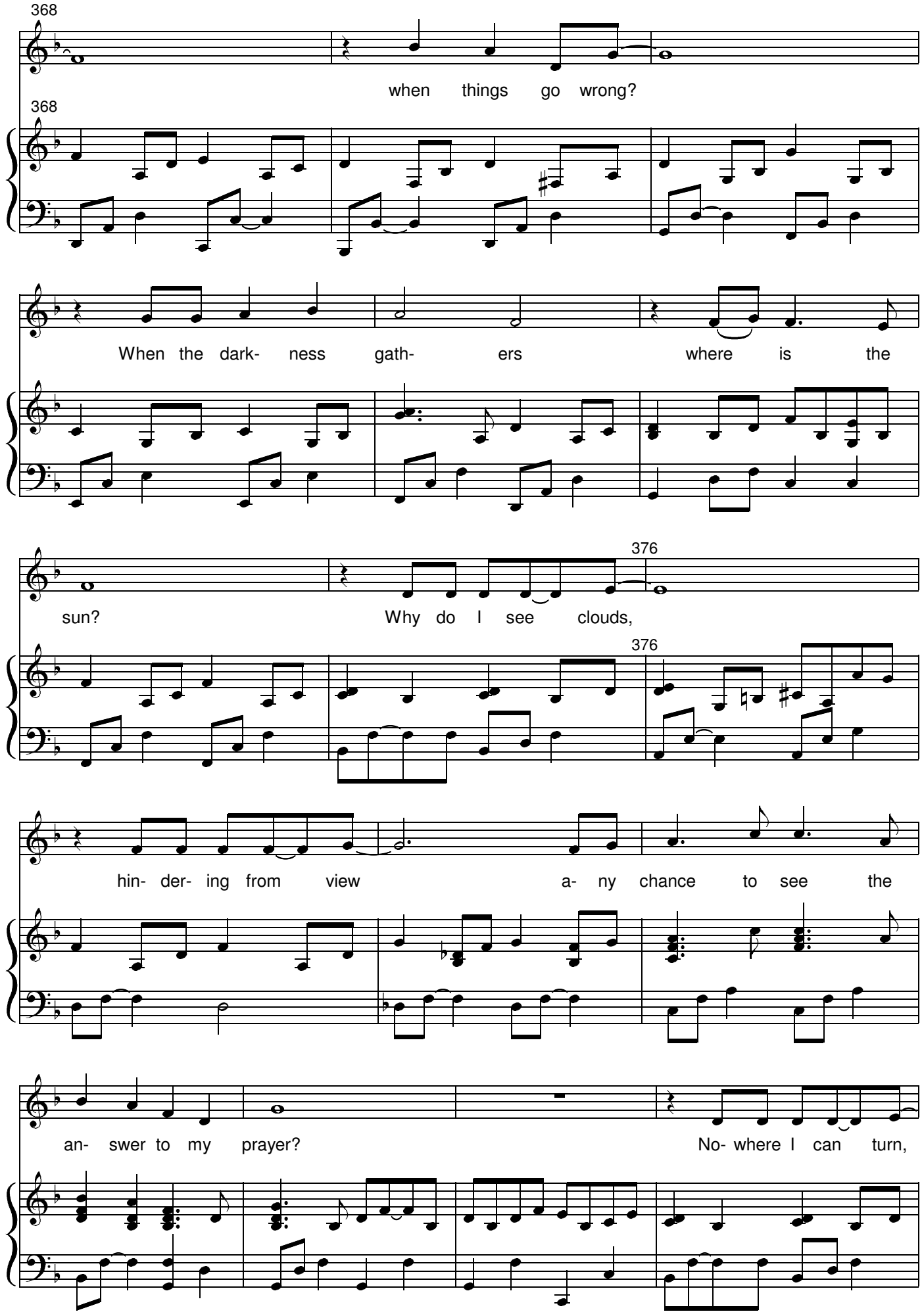

turn their backs and walk a- way. For
store. They'll walk a- way.
bus- iness that's not good. Your car- pen- try will bite the dust
It is- n't good. will
296
In fact we think it should. So
296
296
bite the dust. We think it should.
bet- ter get her put a- way be- fore it gets a- round. In

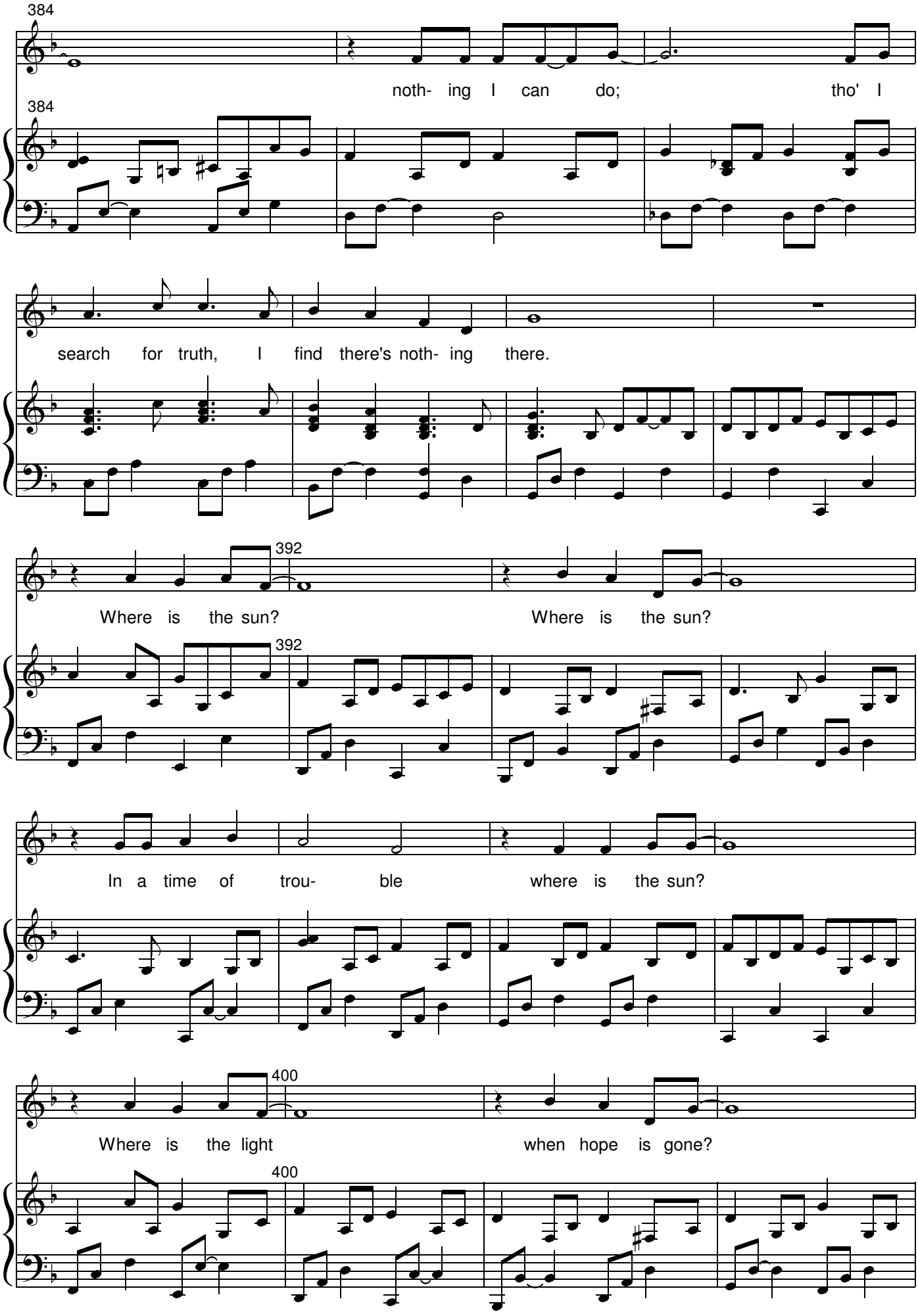

304
Na- za- reth the gos- sip spreads like wild- fire round the town. So
304
304
our ad- vice is no de- lay, and find a place to hide. You'll
312
have to give the child a- way and drop her as your bride.
312
312
=80
Epaphras
If I may sug- gest there is a- noth- er way to han- dle this.

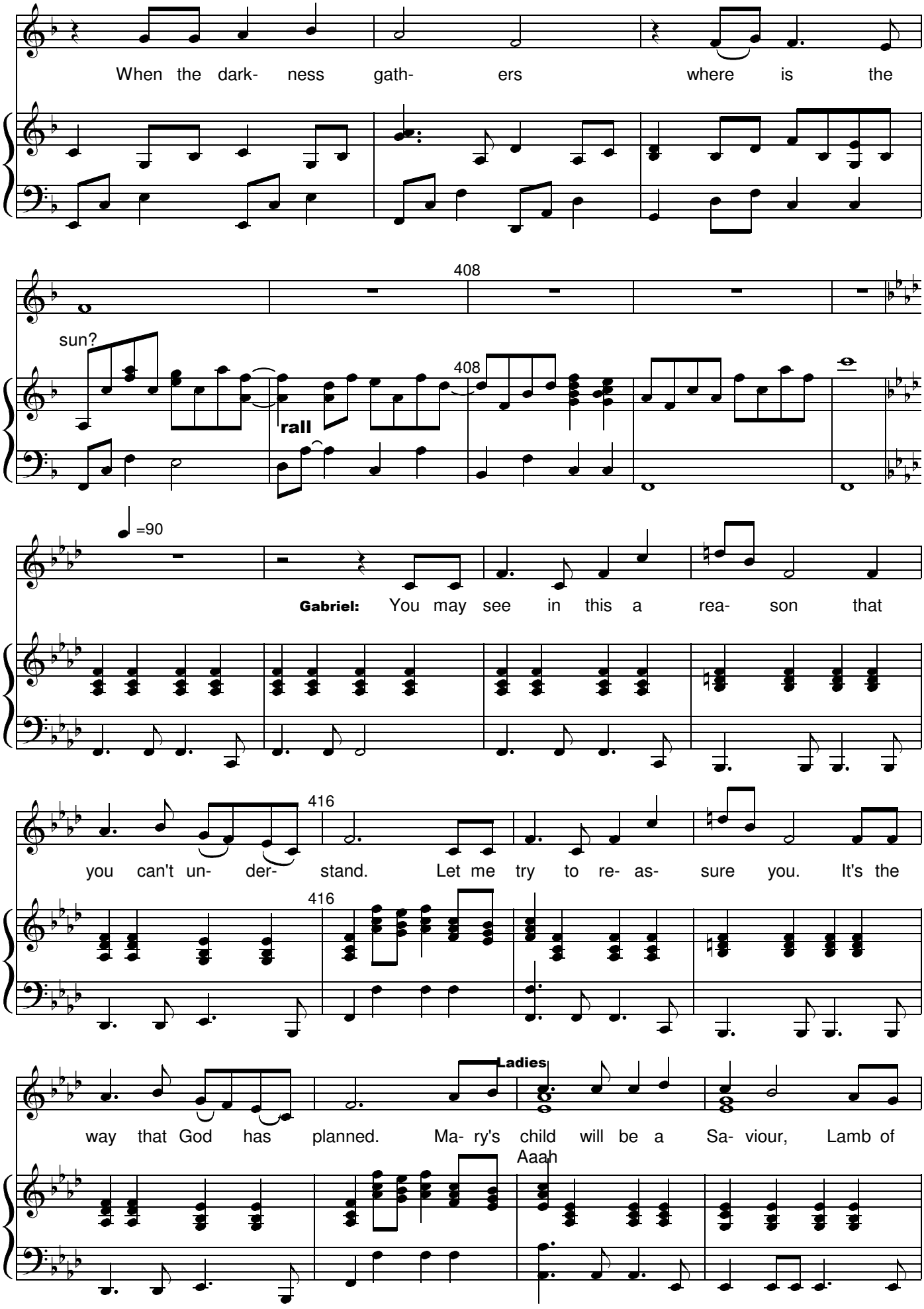

You must go to Beth- le- hem to re- gis- ter for tax. So why not take her with you com-
bine it with a ho- ney- moon. Take your time re- turn- ing, there's no hur- ry just re-
320
320
=100
lax.
328
Joseph Where is the sun?
328
Where is the sun?
In a time of trou- ble

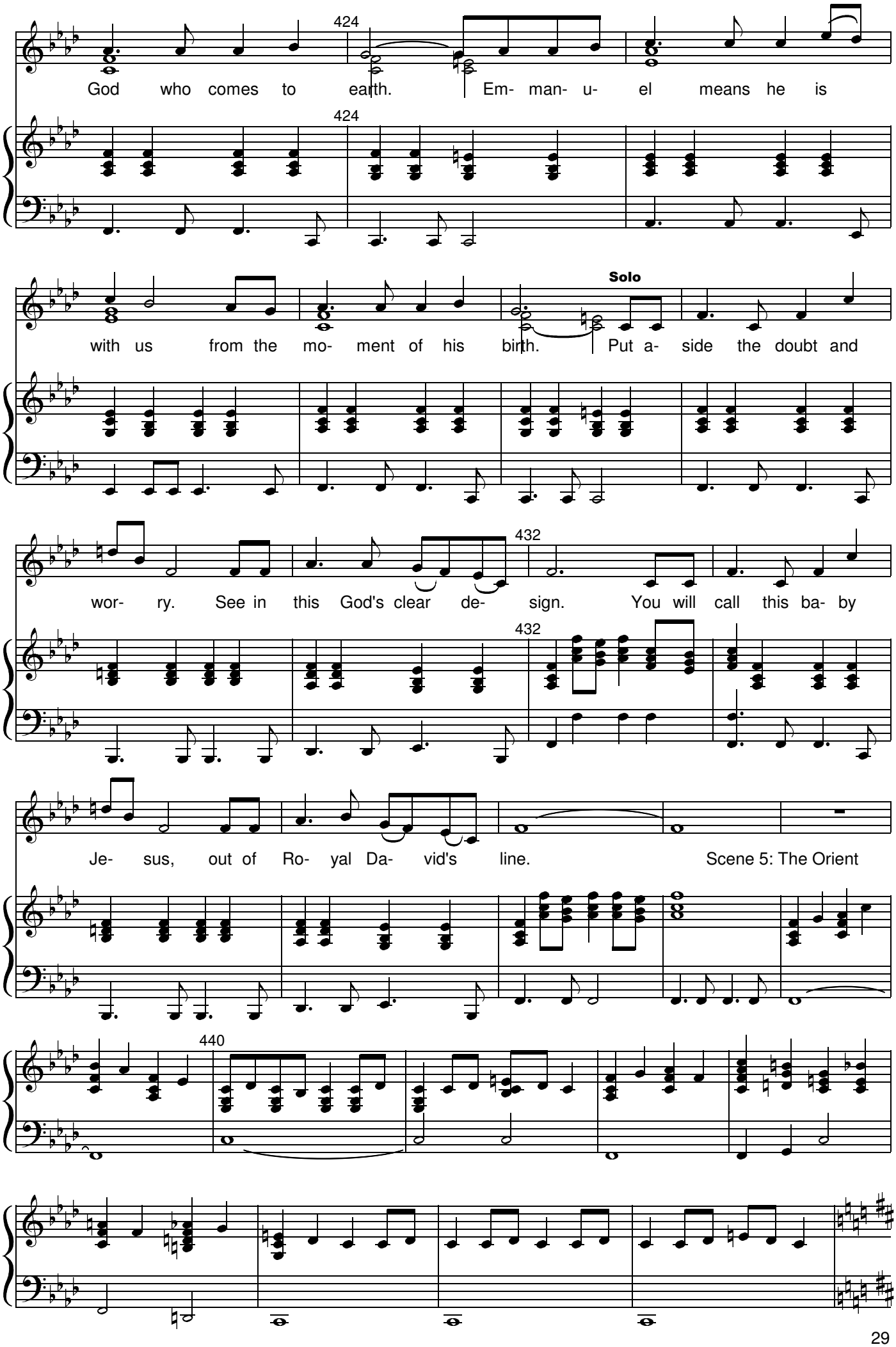

336
where is the sun?
Where is the light,
336
when hope is gone?
When the dark- ness
gath- ers
where is the sun?
344
When I'm con- fused
and all a- round
344
I hear voi- ces tell- ing me that I am wrong.

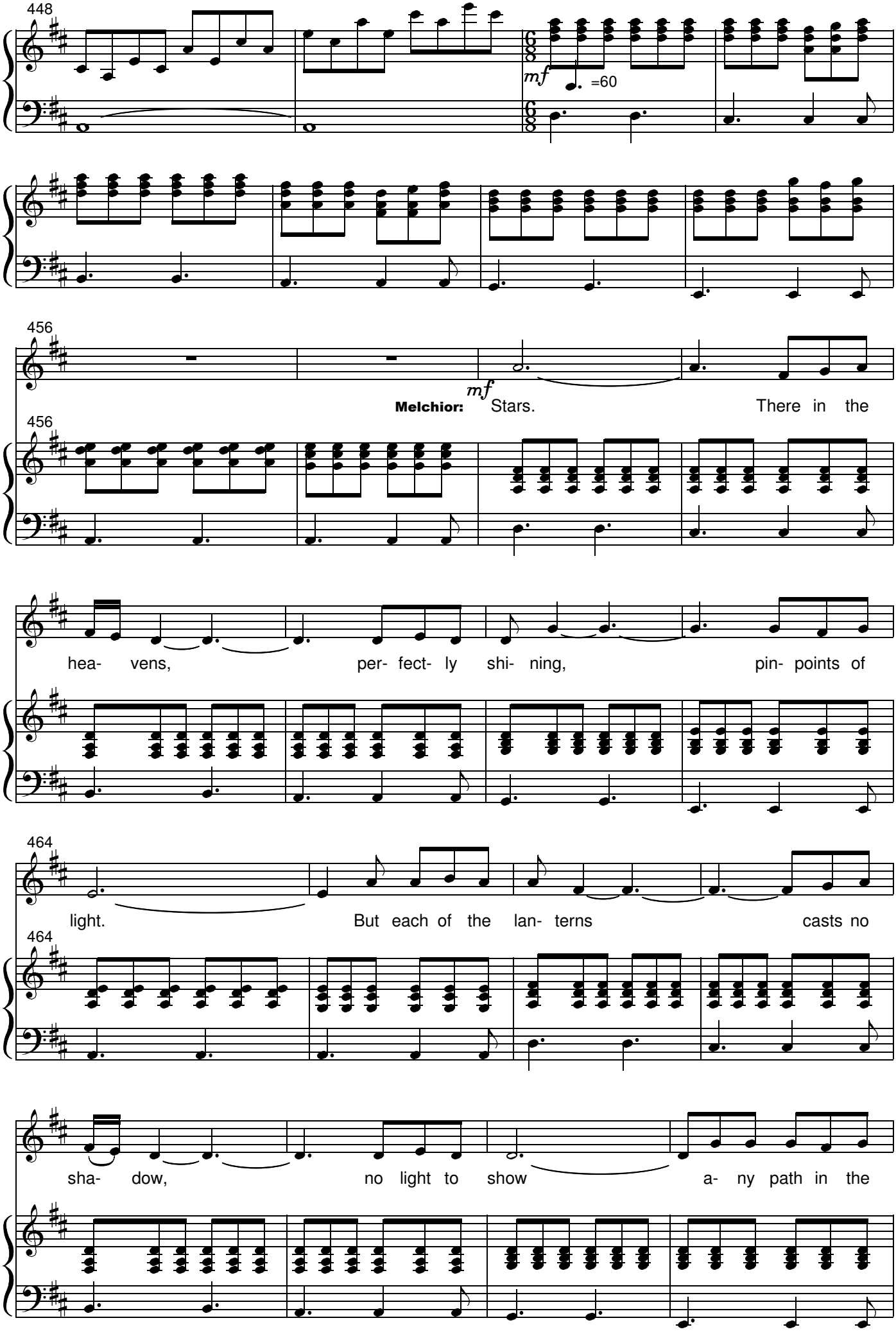

352
What have I to lose?
352
Where's the so- lid ground. Where's the shi- ning ray of
hope for which I long? Where is the sun?
360
Where is the sun? In a time of
360
trou- ble where is the sun? Where is the light

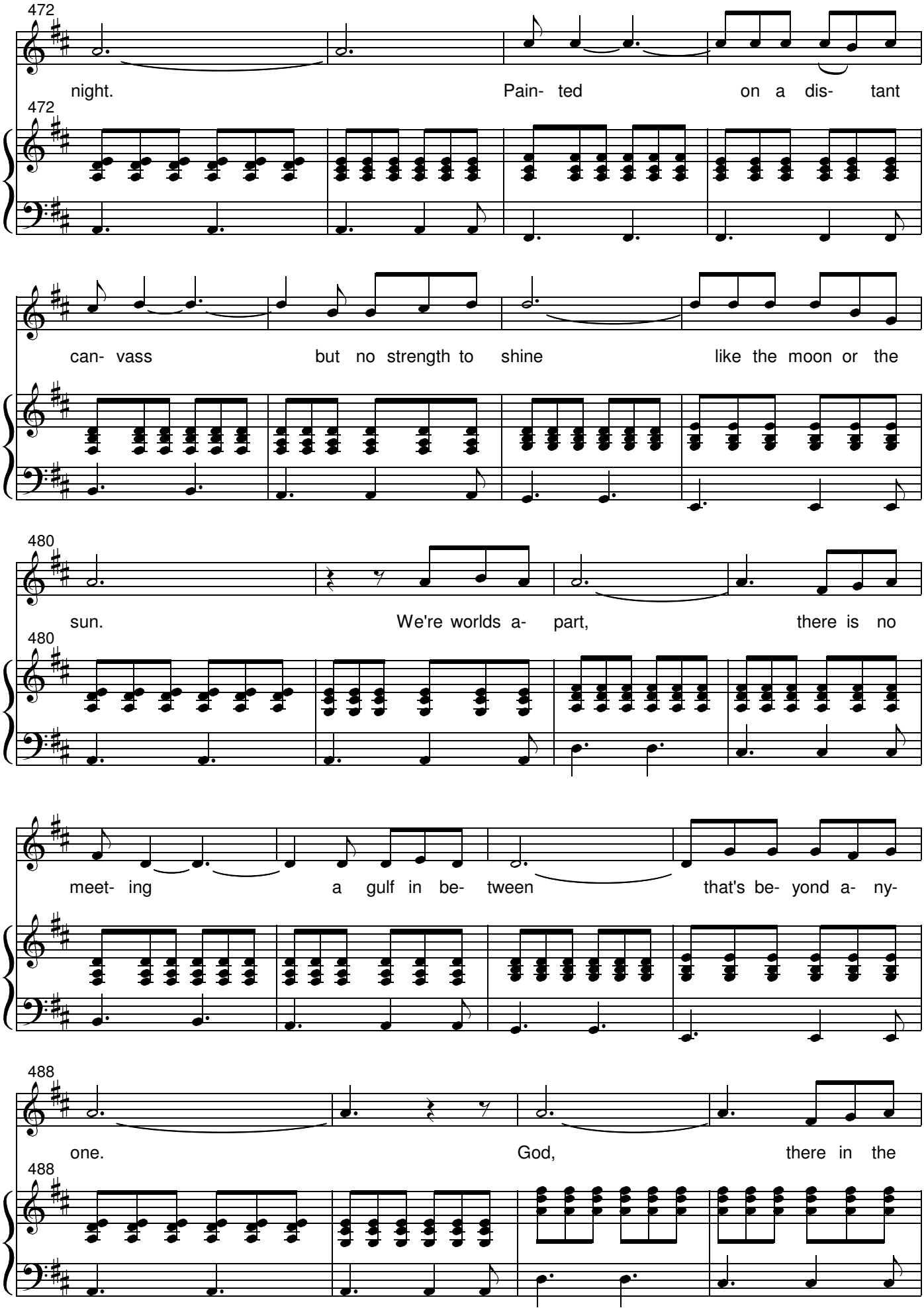

368
when things go wrong?
368
When the dark- ness gath- ers where is the
376
sun? Why do I see clouds,
376
hin- der- ing from view a- ny chance to see the
an- swer to my prayer? No- where I can turn,

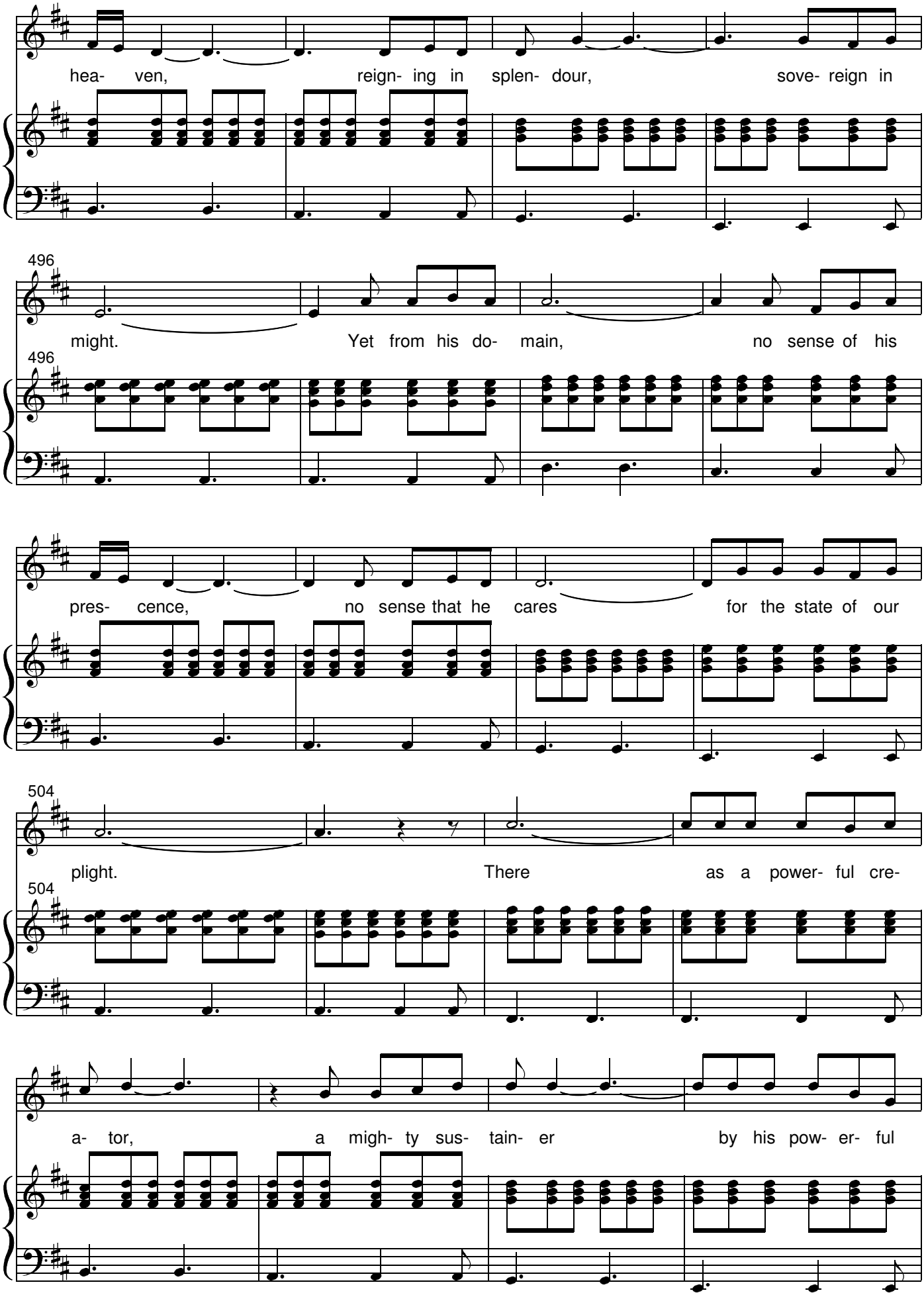

384
noth- ing I can do; tho' I
384
search for truth, I find there's noth- ing there.
392
Where is the sun? Where is the sun?
392
In a time of trou- ble where is the sun?
400
Where is the light when hope is gone?
400

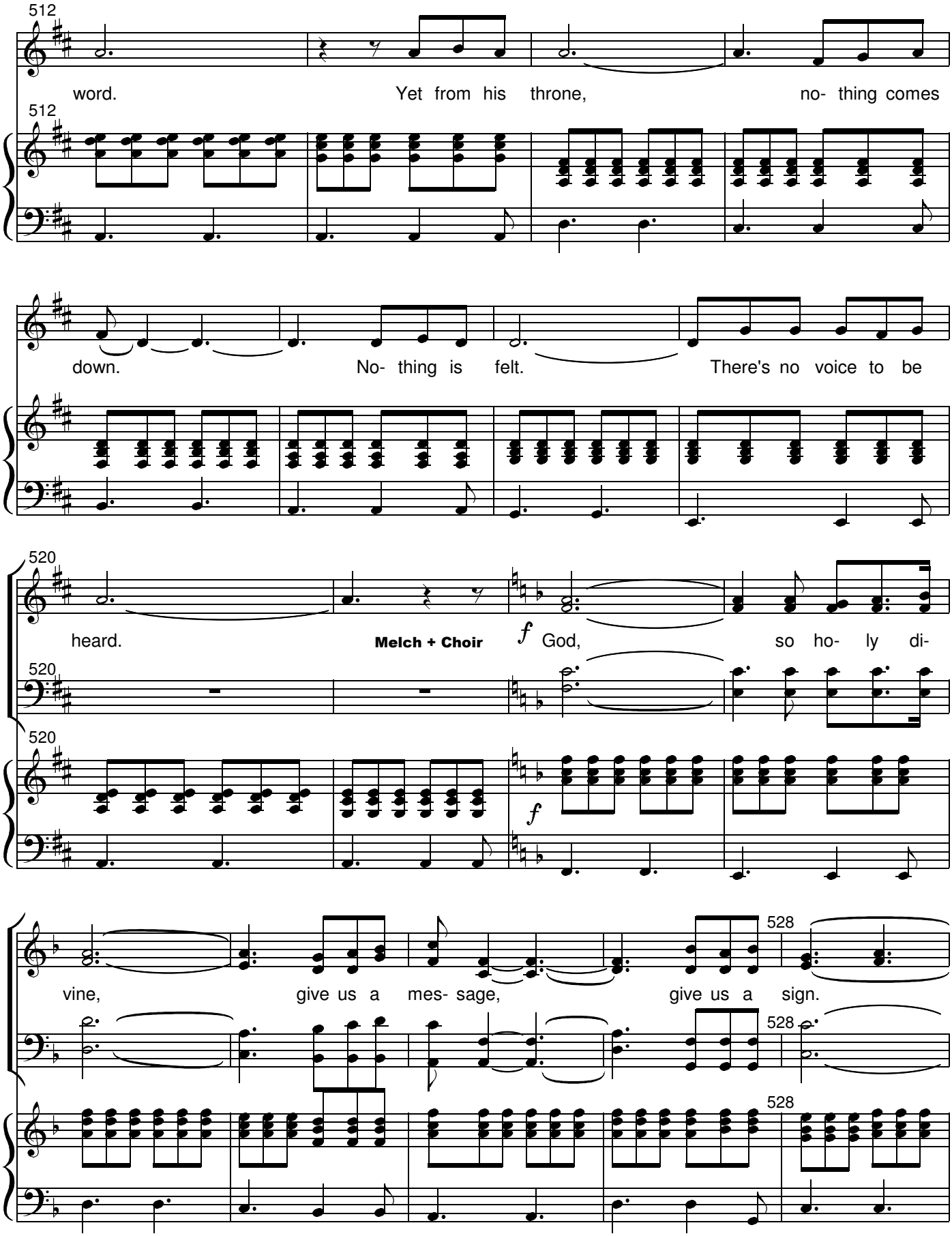

When the dark- ness gath- ers where is the
408
sun?
408
rall
=90
Gabriel: You may see in this a rea- son that
416
you can't un- der- stand. Let me try to re- as- sure you. It's the
416
Ladies
way that God has planned. Ma- ry's child will be a Sa- viour, Lamb of
Aaah

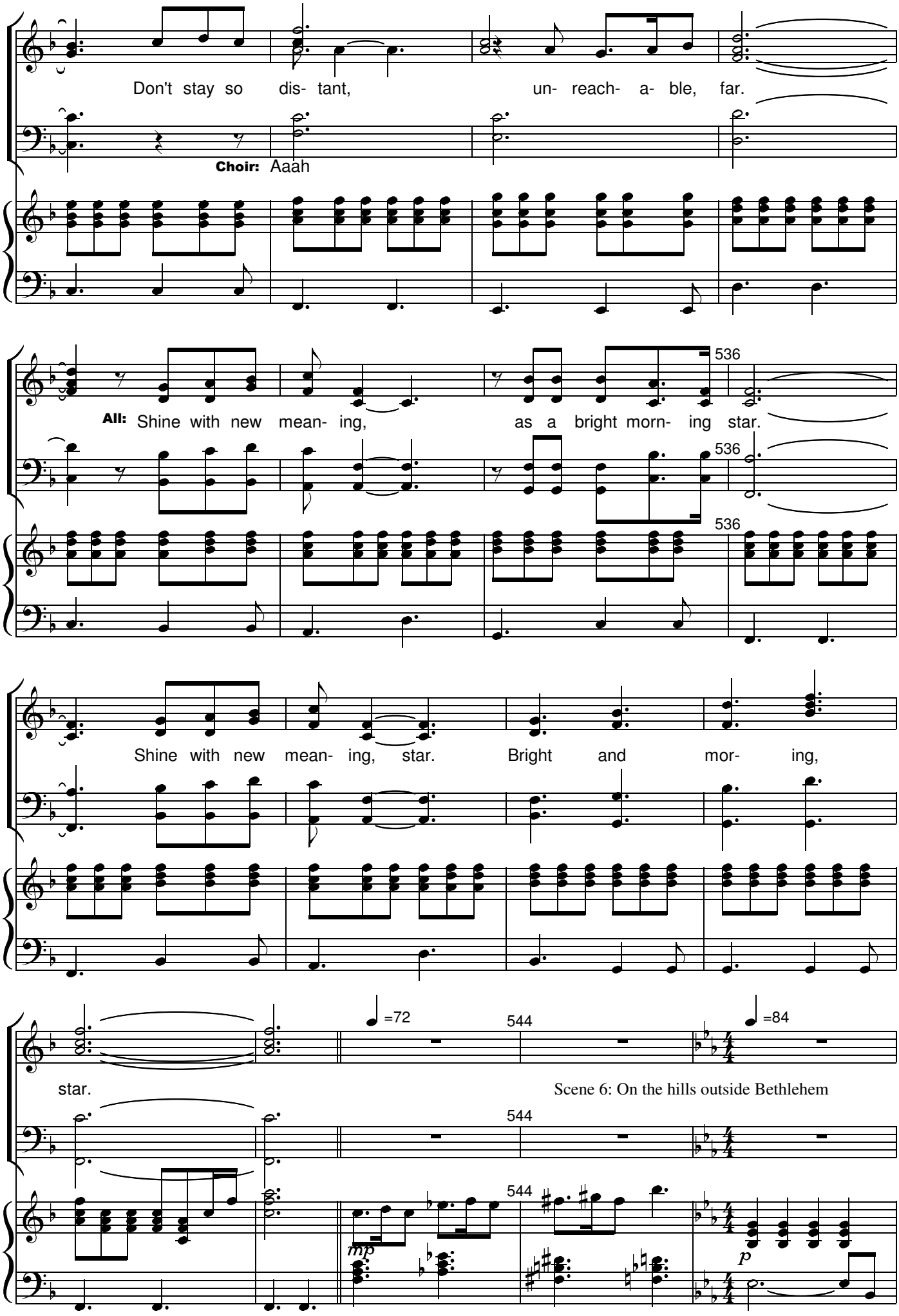

424
God who comes to earth. Em- man- u- el means he is
424
Solo
with us from the mo- ment of his birth. Put a- side the doubt and
432
wor- ry. See in this God's clear de- sign. You will call this ba- by
432
Je- sus, out of Ro- yal Da- vid's line.
Scene 5: The Orient
440

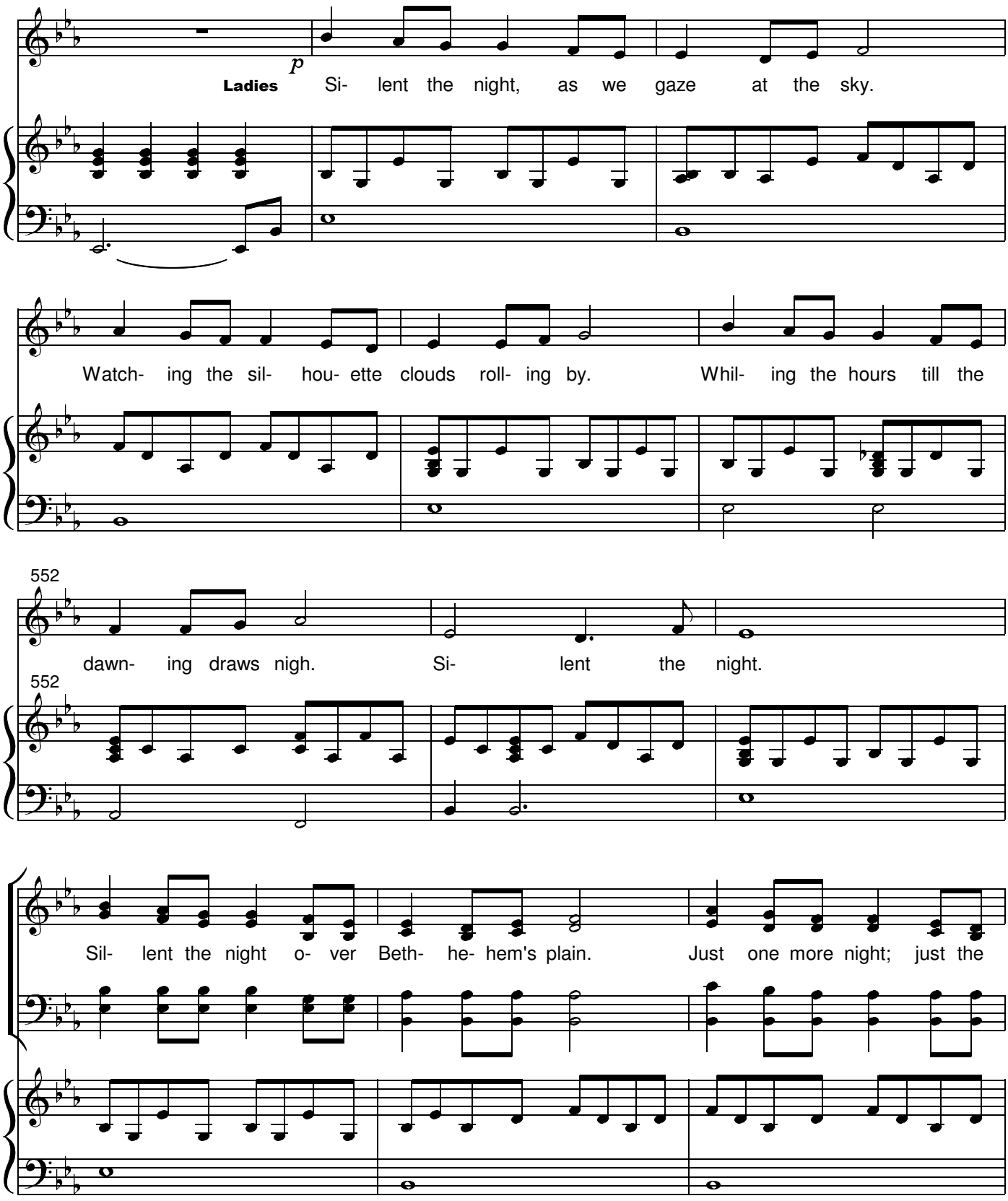

448
mf
=60
456
mf
Melchior: Stars. There in the
456
hea- vens, per- fect- ly shi- ning, pin- points of
464
light. But each of the lan- terns casts no
464
sha- dow, no light to show a- ny path in the

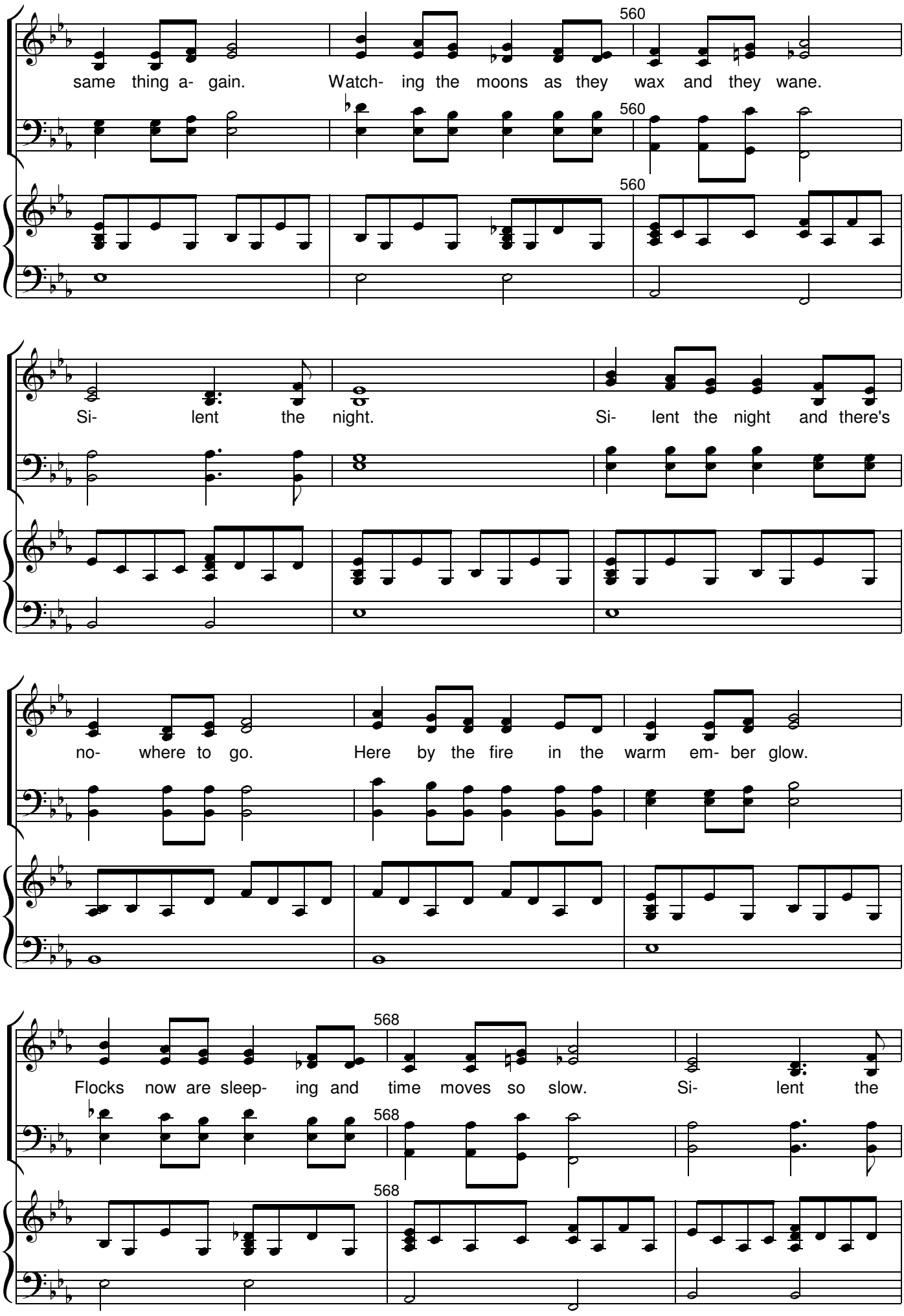

472
night.
Pain- ted
on a dis- tant
472
can- vass
but no strength to shine
like the moon or the
480
sun.
We're worlds a- part,
there is no
480
meet- ing
a gulf in be- tween
that's be- yond a- ny-
488
one.
God,
there in the
488

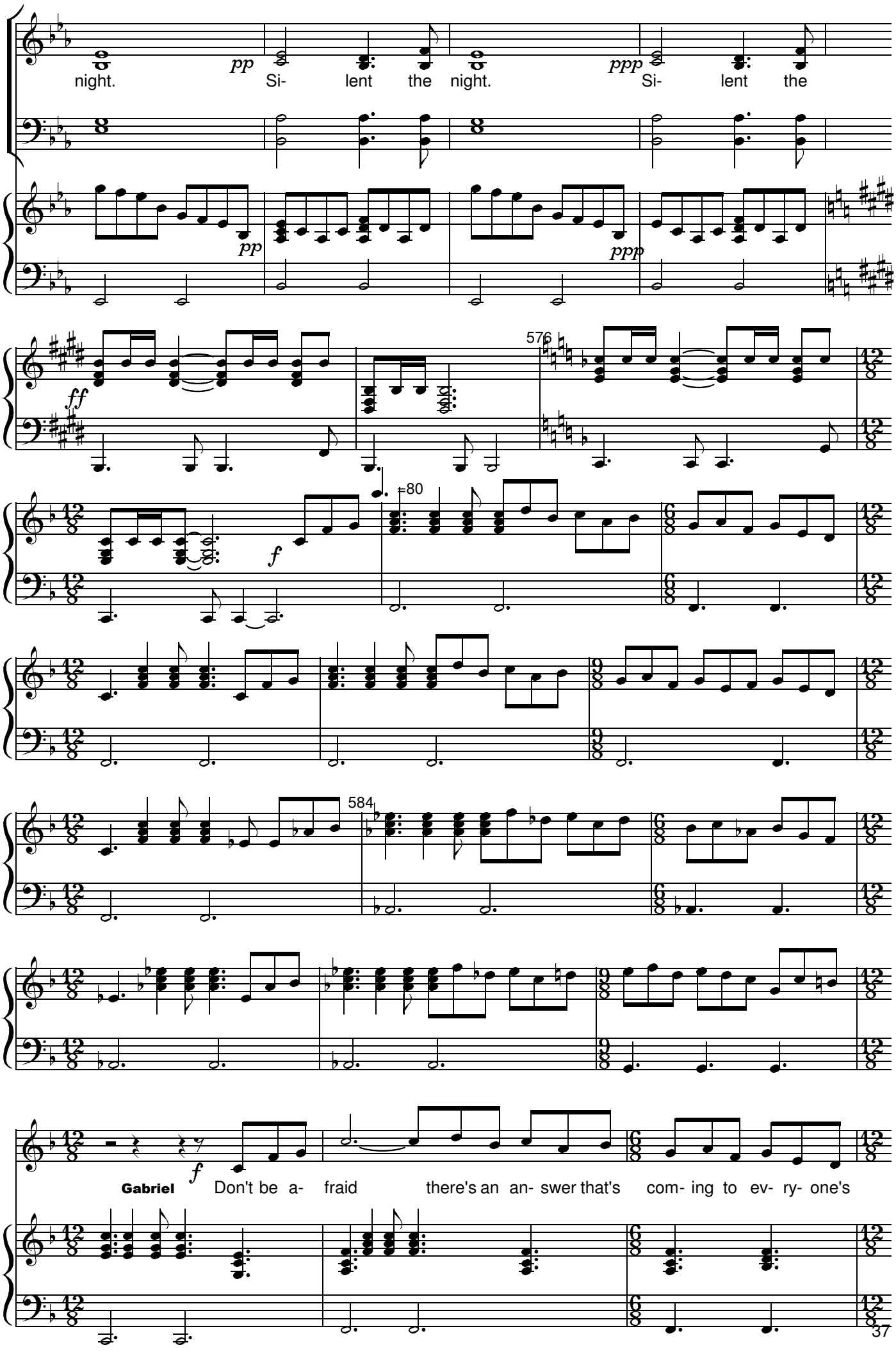

hea- ven, reign- ing in splen- dour, sove- reign in
496
might. Yet from his do- main, no sense of his
496
pres- cence, no sense that he cares for the state of our
504
plight. There as a power- ful cre-
504
a- tor, a migh- ty sus- tain- er by his pow- er- ful

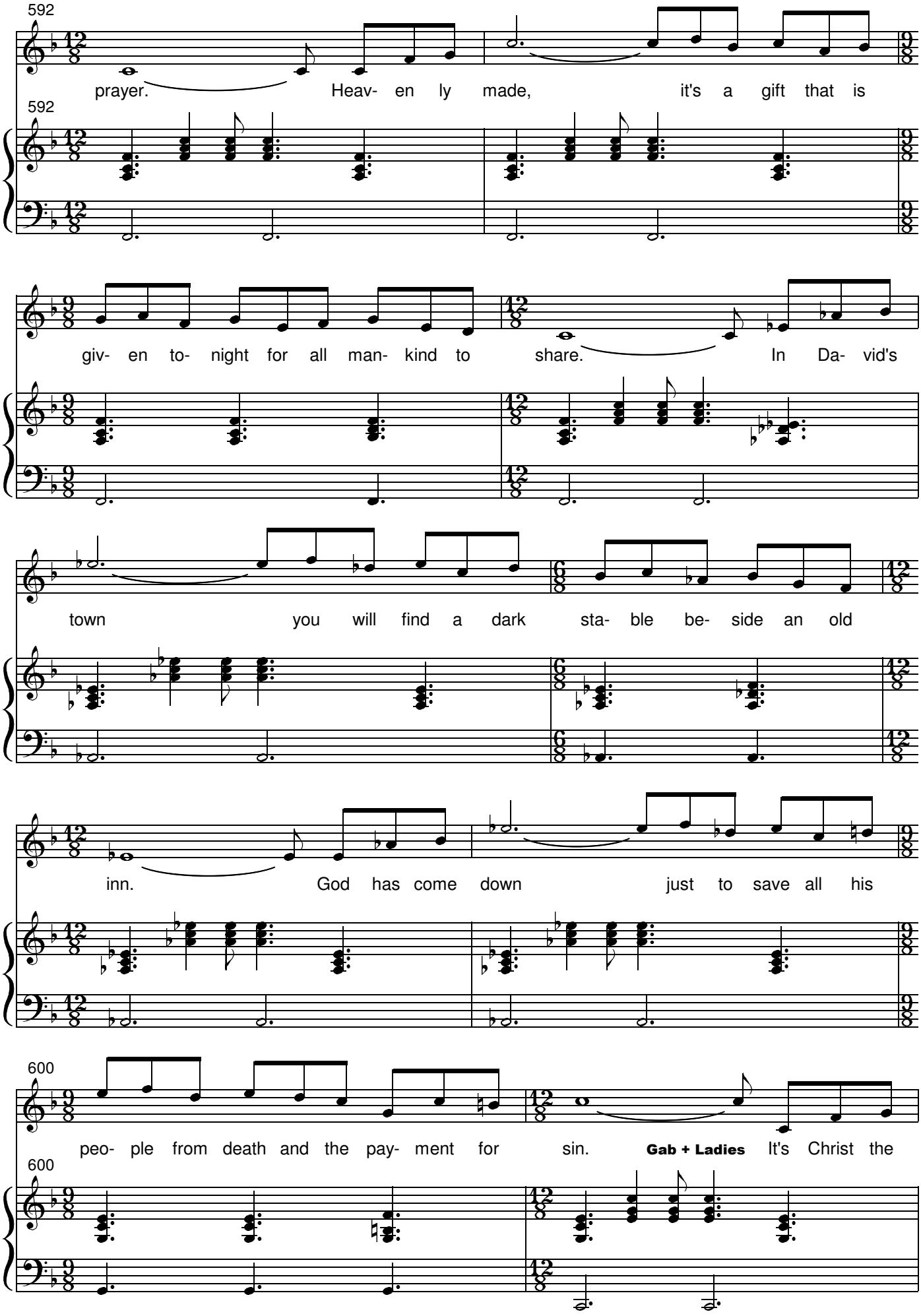

512
word.
Yet from his throne,
no- thing comes
512
down.
No- thing is felt.
There's no voice to be
520
heard.
Melch + Choir
f
God,
so ho- ly di-
520
520
f
vine,
give us a
mes- sage,
give us a
sign.
528
528
528

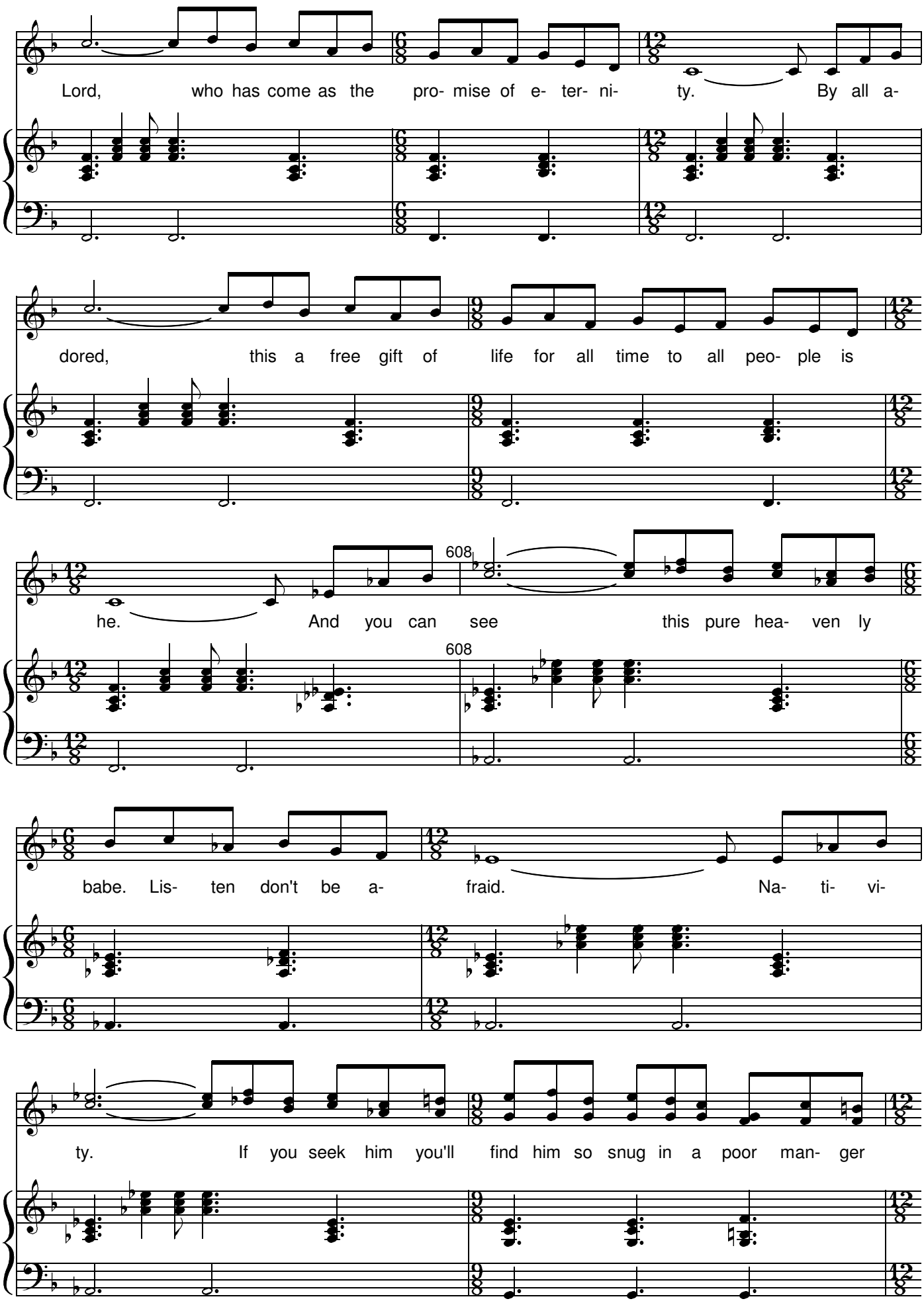

Don't stay so dis- tant, un- reach- a- ble, far.
Choir: Aaah
All: Shine with new mean- ing, as a bright morn- ing star.
536
536
536
Shine with new mean- ing, star. Bright and mor- ing,
=72
544
=84
star.
Scene 6: On the hills outside Bethlehem
544
544
mp
p

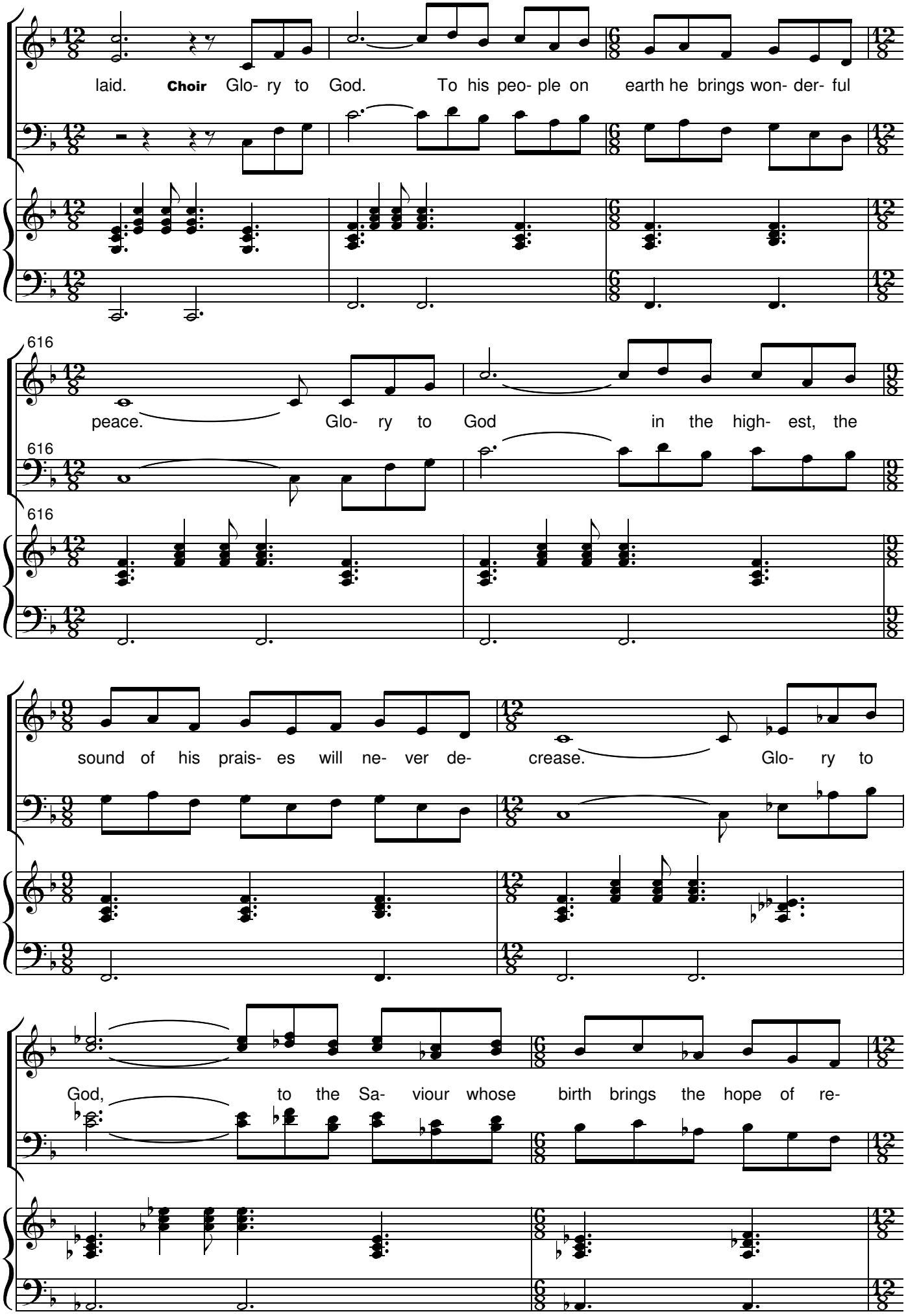

p
Ladies Si- lent the night, as we gaze at the sky.
Watch- ing the sil- hou- ette clouds roll- ing by. Whil- ing the hours till the
552
dawn- ing draws nigh. Si- lent the night.
552
Sil- lent the night o- ver Beth- he- hem's plain. Just one more night; just the

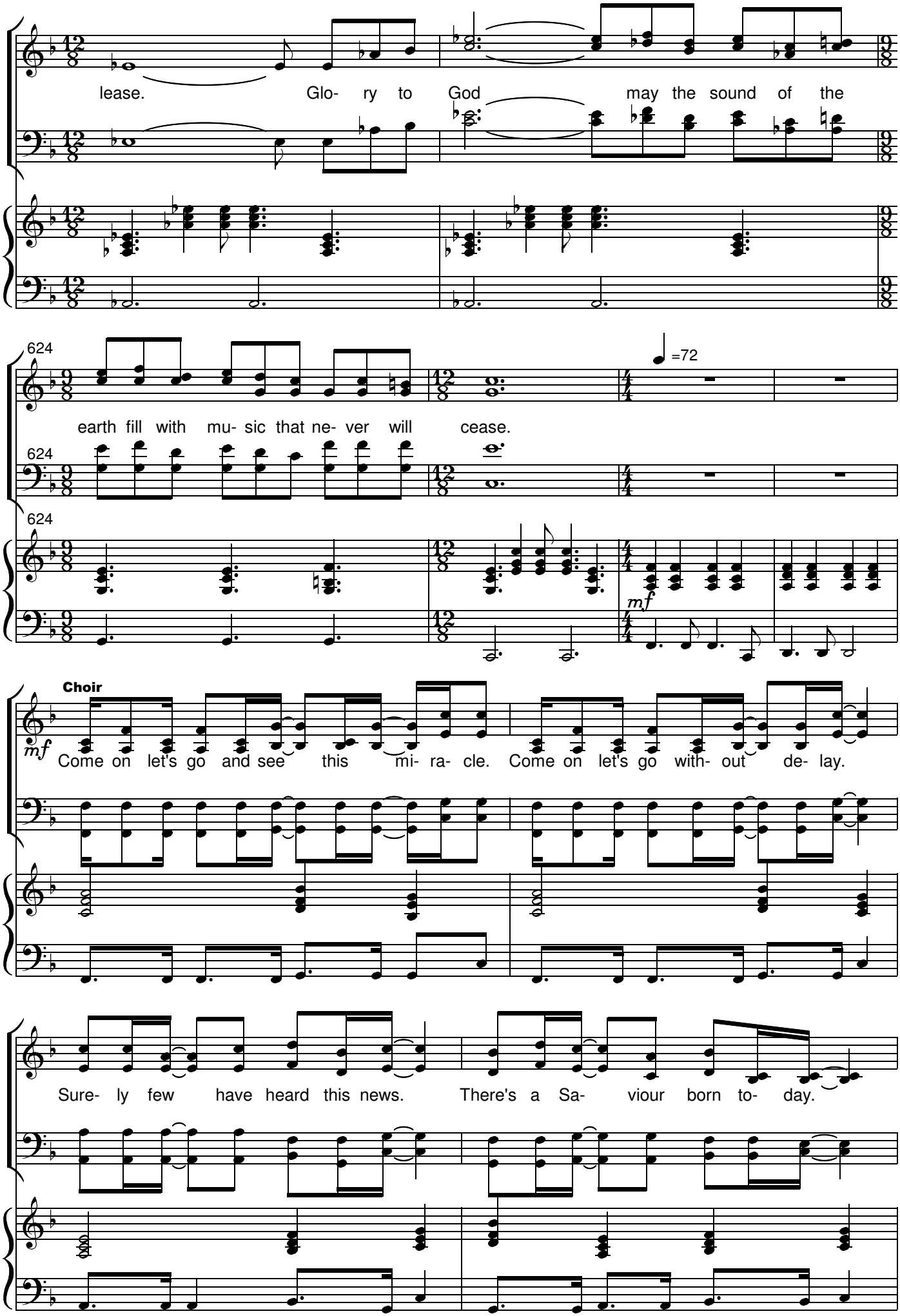

560
same thing a- gain. Watch- ing the moons as they wax and they wane.
560
560
Si- lent the night. Si- lent the night and there's
no- where to go. Here by the fire in the warm em- ber glow.
568
Flocks now are sleep- ing and time moves so slow. Si- lent the
568
568

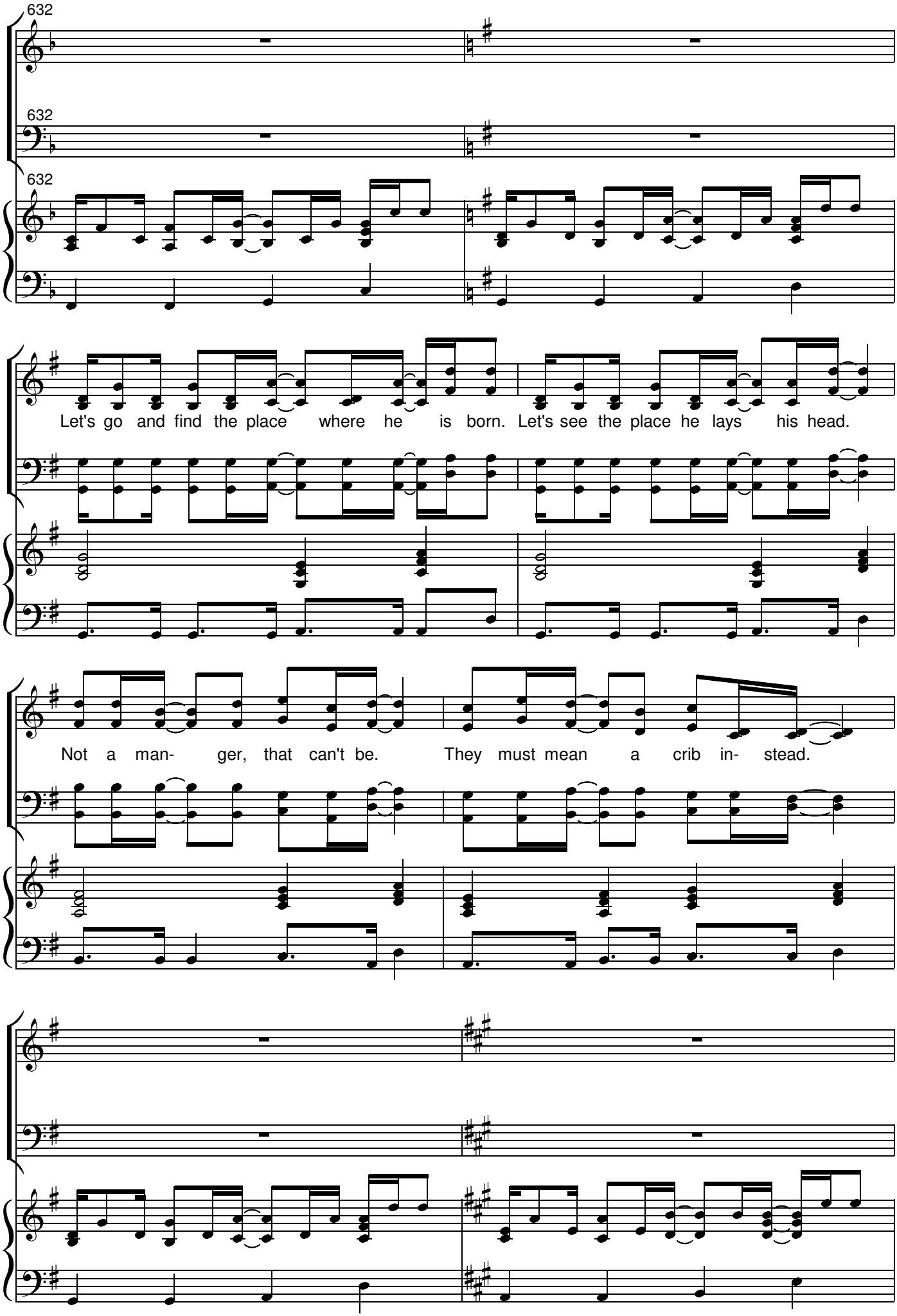

night.
pp
Si-
lent
the
night.
ppp
Si-
lent
the
pp
ppp
ff
576
f
=80
584
f
Gabriel
Don't be a-
fraid
there's an an- swer that's
com- ing to ev- ry- one's

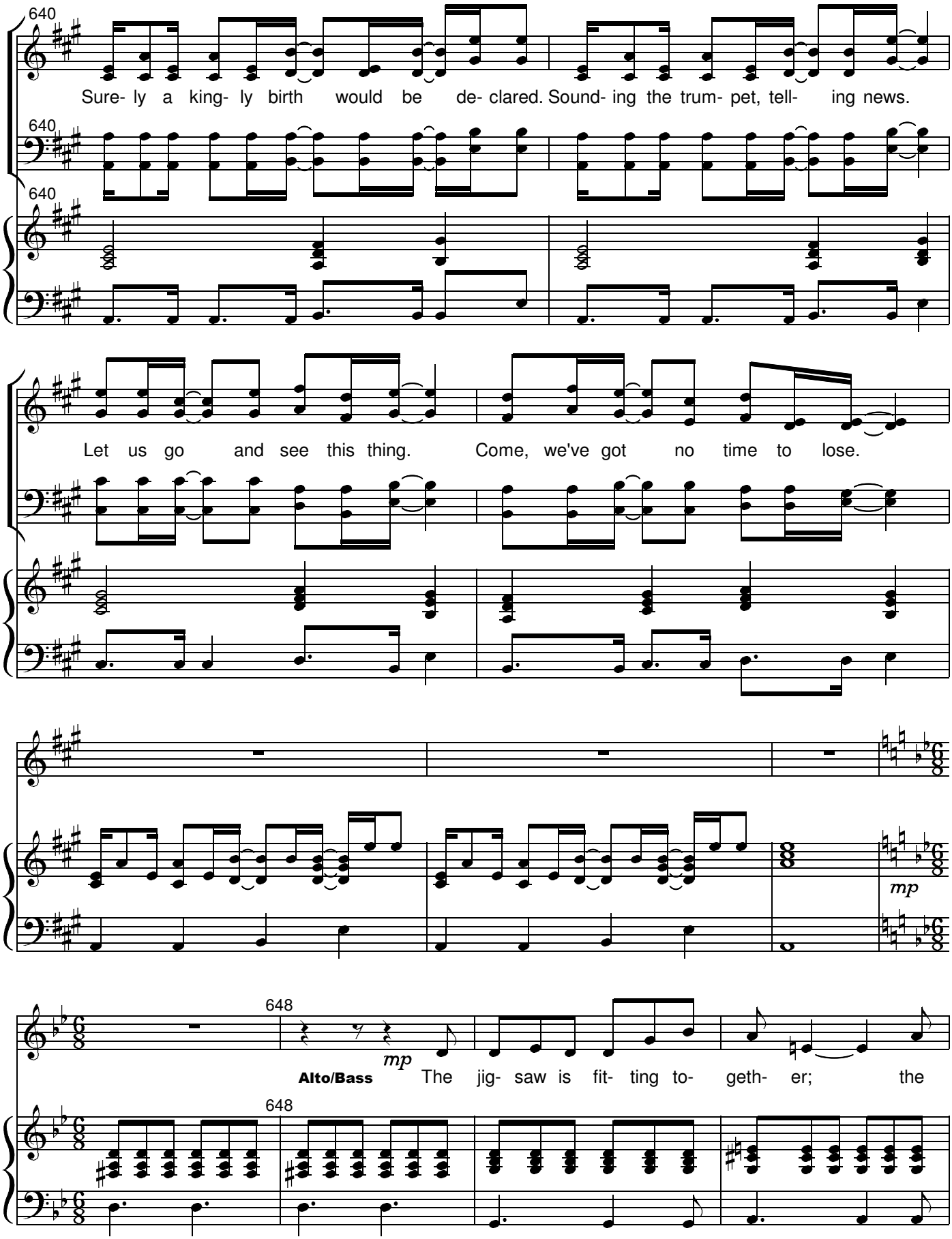

592
prayer. Heav- en ly made, it's a gift that is
592
giv- en to- night for all man- kind to share. In Da- vid's
town you will find a dark sta- ble be- side an old
inn. God has come down just to save all his
600
peo- ple from death and the pay- ment for sin. Gab + Ladies It's Christ the
600

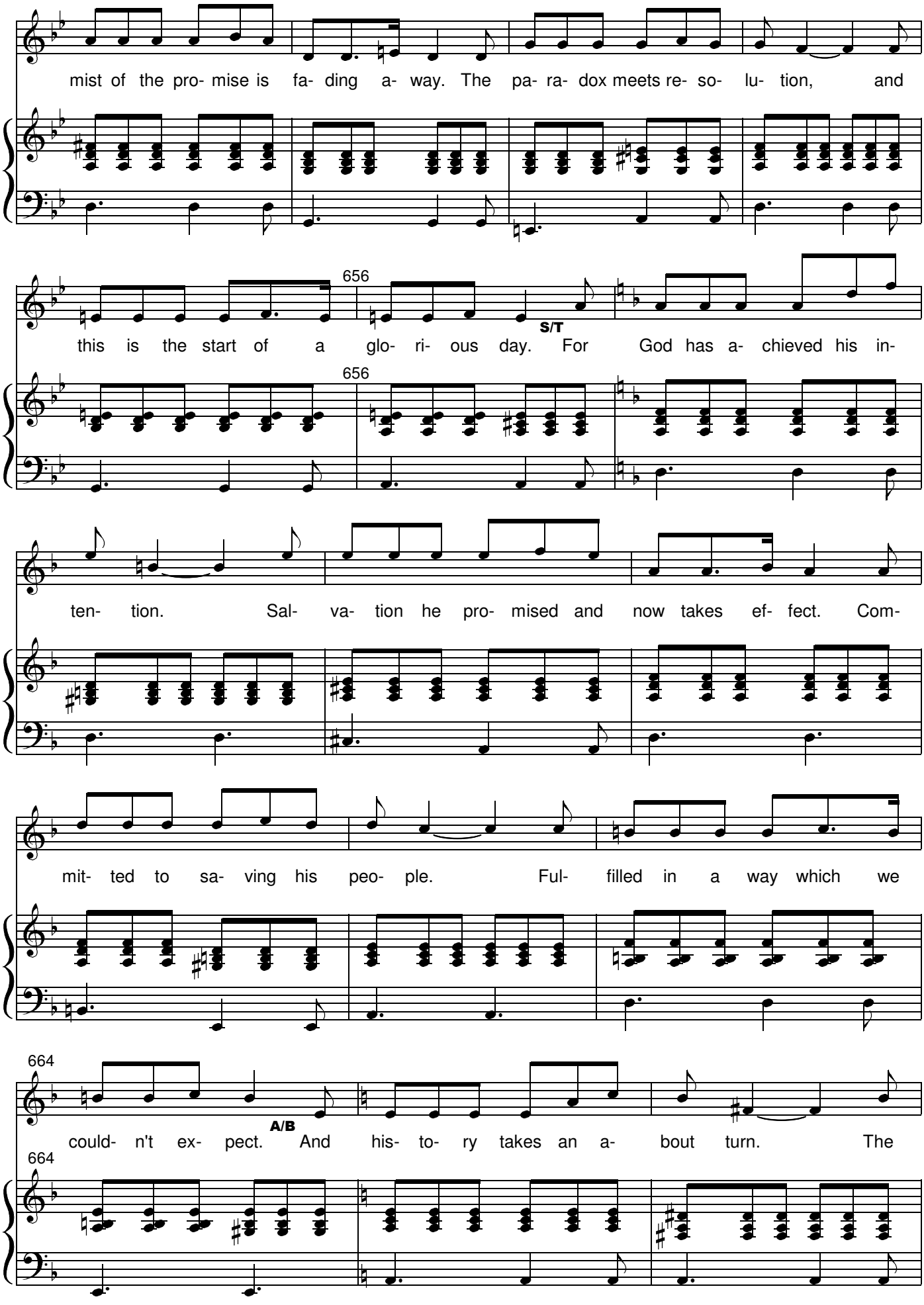

Lord, who has come as the pro- mise of e- ter- ni- ty. By all a-
dored, this a free gift of life for all time to all peo- ple is
608
he. And you can see this pure hea- ven ly
608
babe. Lis- ten don't be a- fraid. Na- ti- vi-
ty. If you seek him you'll find him so snug in a poor man- ger

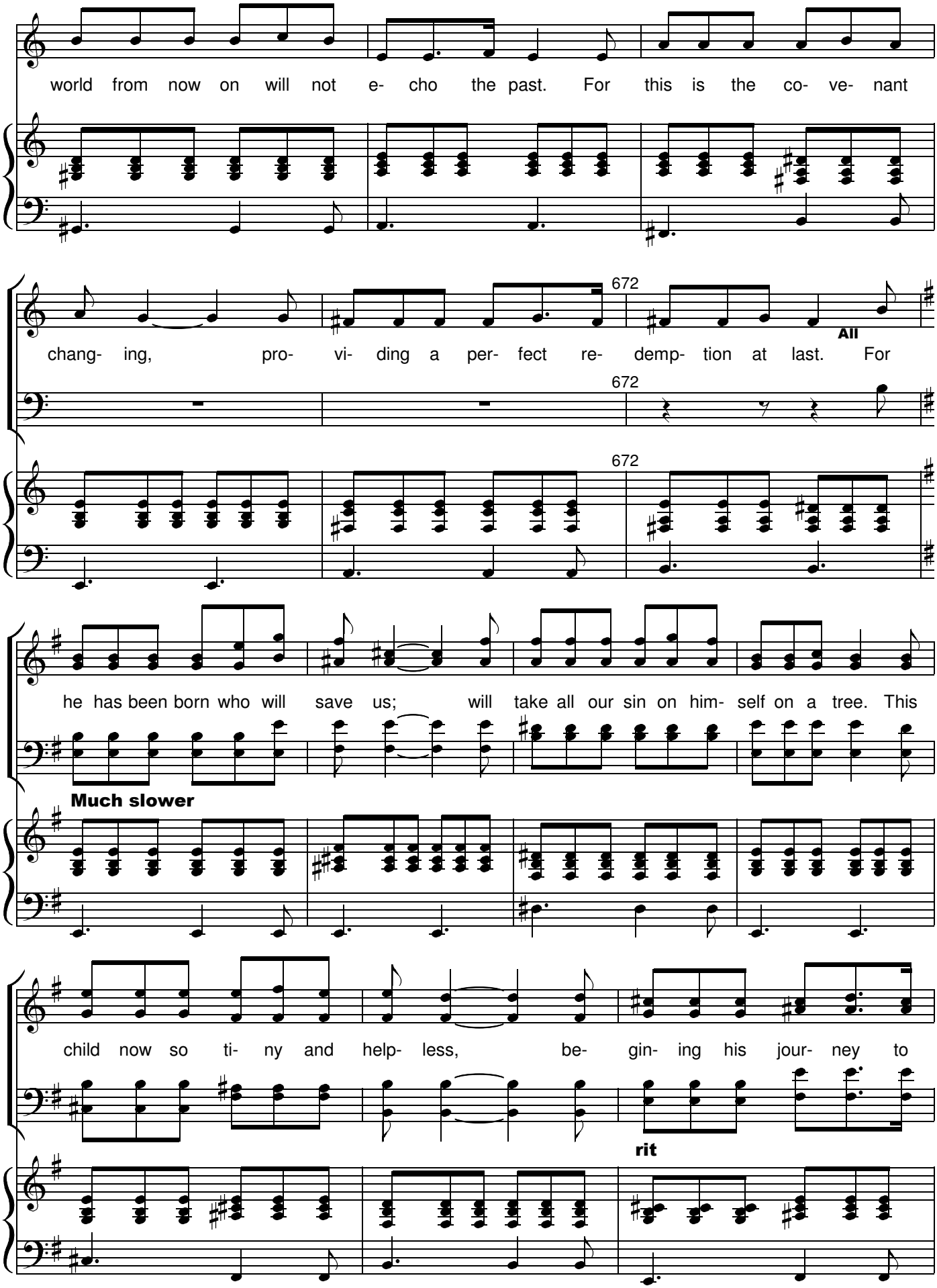

laid. Choir Glo- ry to God. To his peo- ple on earth he brings won- der- ful
616
peace. Glo- ry to God in the high- est, the
616
616
sound of his prais- es will ne- ver de- crease. Glo- ry to
God, to the Sa- viour whose birth brings the hope of re-

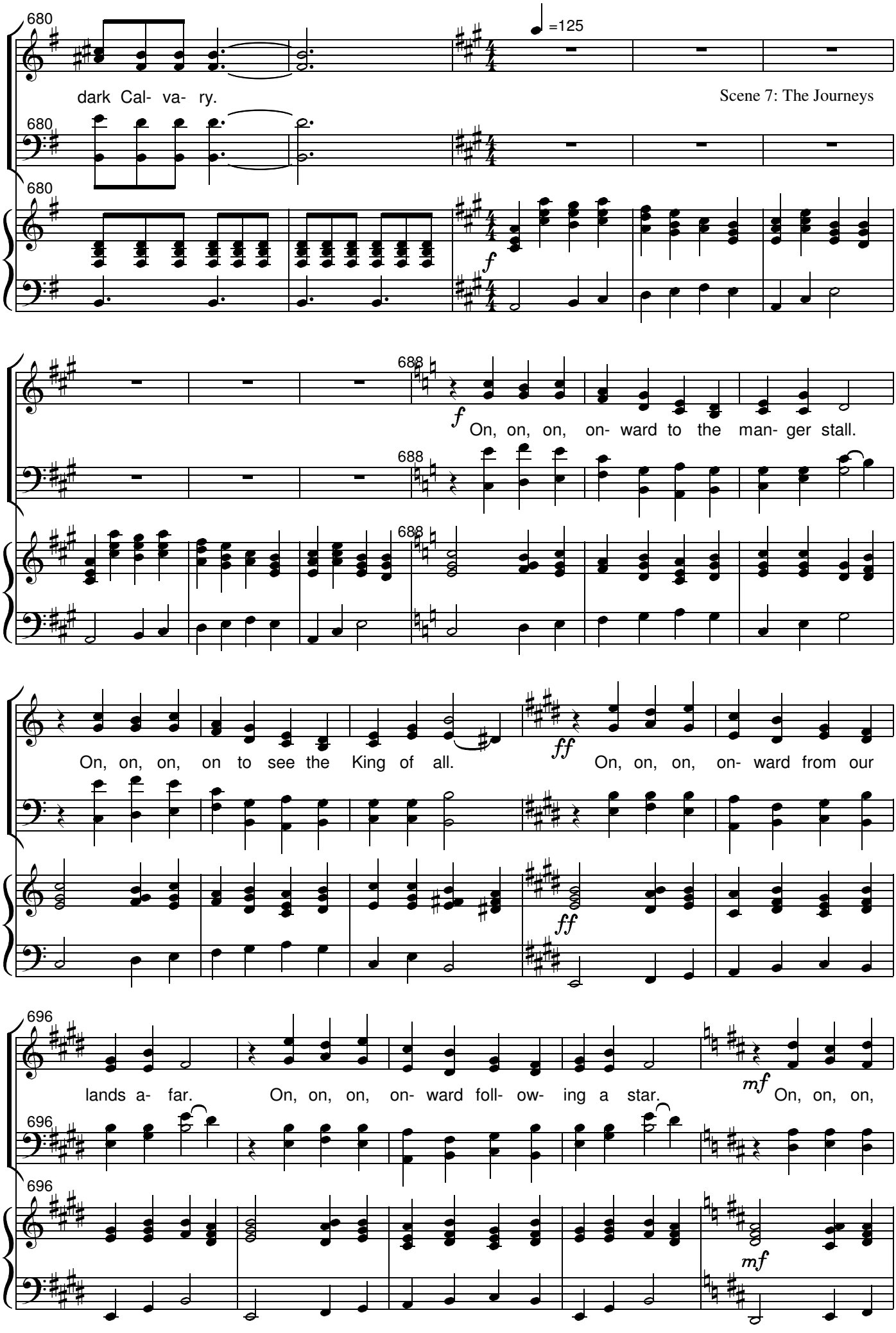

lease. Glo- ry to God may the sound of the
624
earth fill with mu- sic that ne- ver will cease.
=72
624
624
mf
Choir
mf
Come on let's go and see this mi- ra- cle. Come on let's go with- out de- lay.
Sure- ly few have heard this news. There's a Sa- viour born to- day.

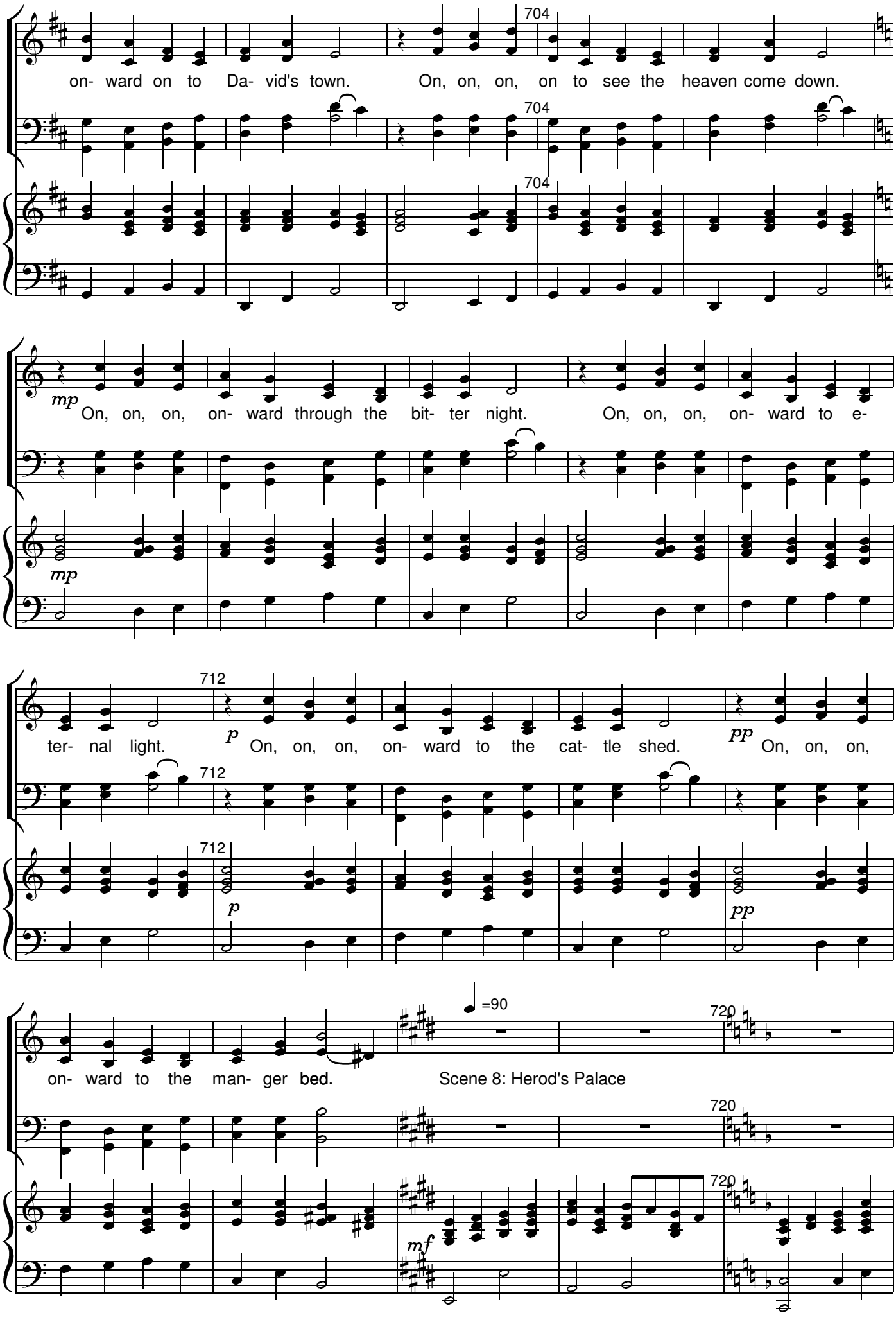

632
632
632
Let's go and find the place where he is born. Let's see the place he lays his head.
Not a man- ger, that can't be. They must mean a crib in- stead.

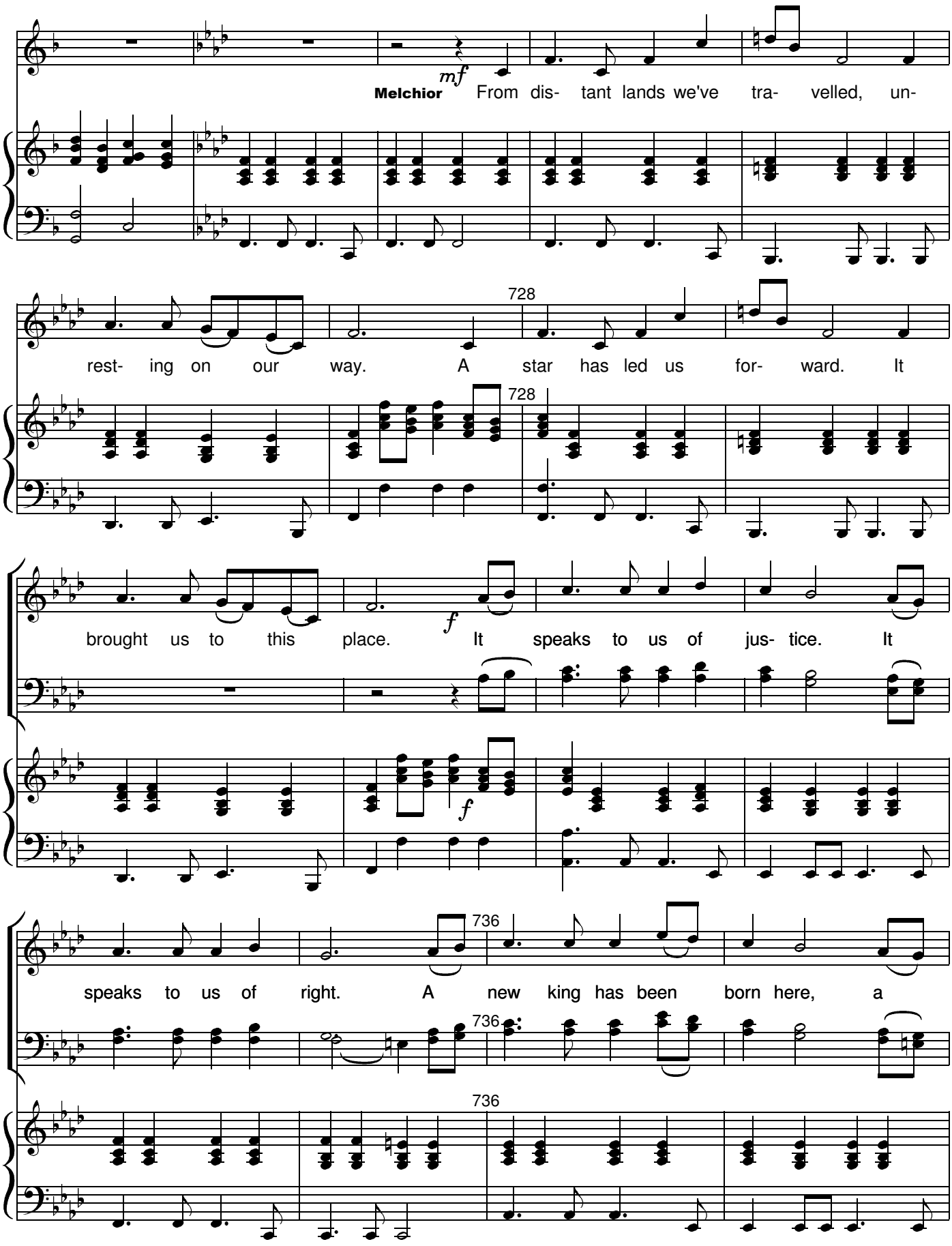

640
Sure- ly a king- ly birth would be de- clared. Sound- ing the trum- pet, tell- ing news.
640
640
Let us go and see this thing. Come, we've got no time to lose.
mp
648
mp
Alto/Bass The jig- saw is fit- ting to- geth- er; the
648

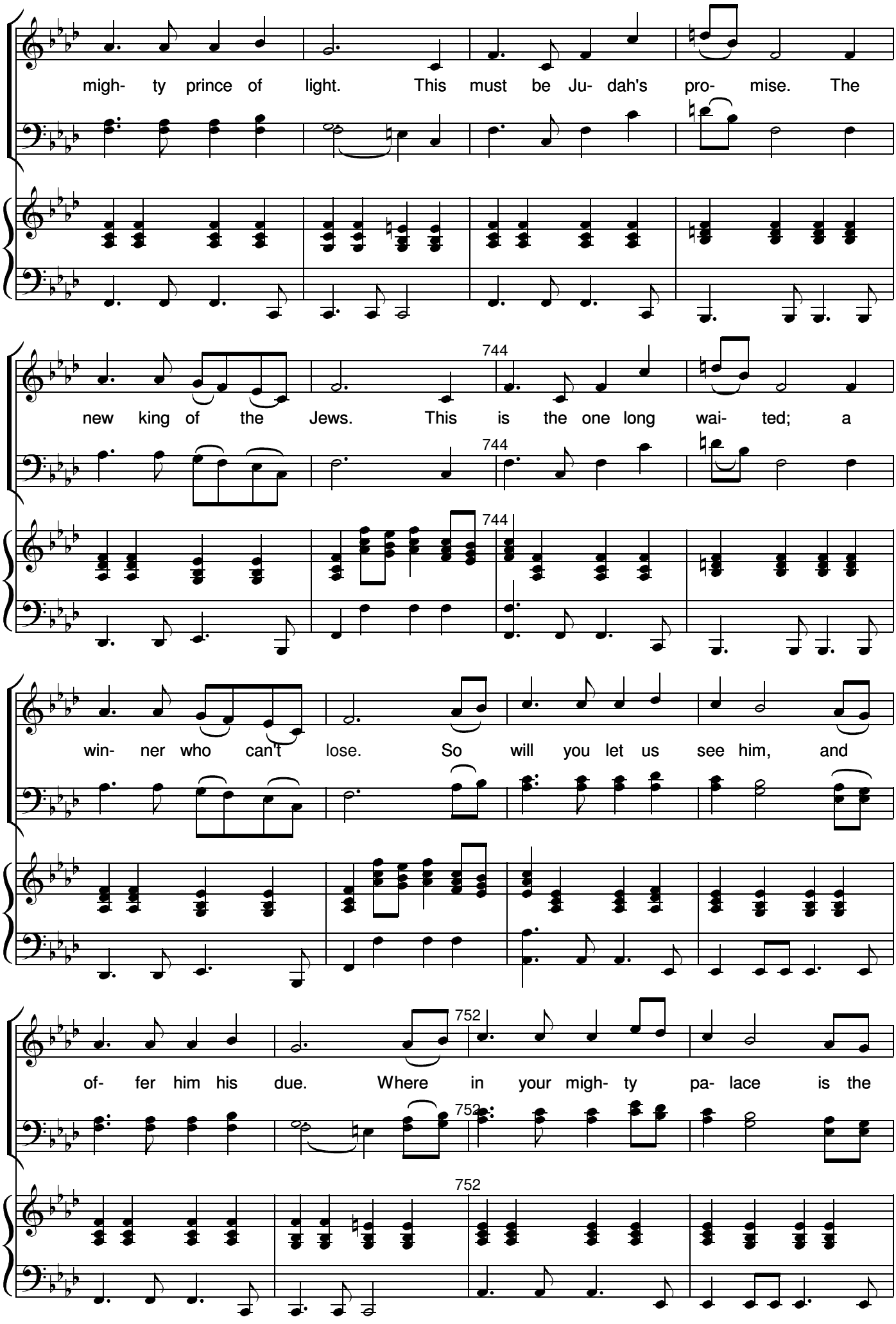

mist of the pro- mise is fa- ding a- way. The pa- ra- dox meets re- so- lu- tion, and
656
S/T
this is the start of a glo- ri- ous day. For God has a- chieved his in-
656
ten- tion. Sal- va- tion he pro- mised and now takes ef- fect. Com-
mit- ted to sa- ving his peo- ple. Ful- filled in a way which we
664
A/B
could- n't ex- pect. And his- to- ry takes an a- bout turn. The
664

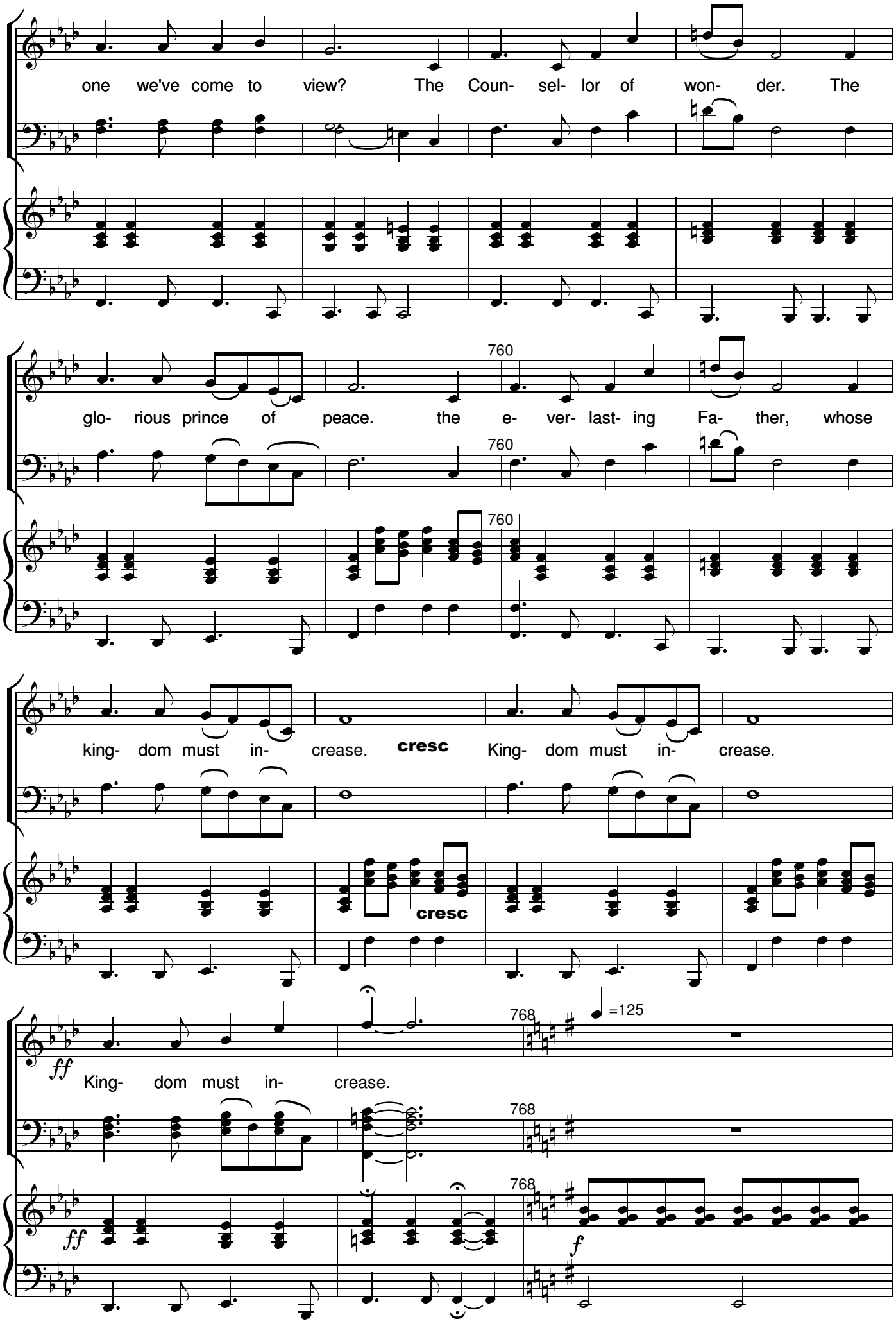

world from now on will not e- cho the past. For this is the co- ve- nant
672
All
chang- ing, pro- vi- ding a per- fect re- demp- tion at last. For
672
672
he has been born who will save us; will take all our sin on him- self on a tree. This
Much slower
child now so ti- ny and help- less, be- gin- ing his jour- ney to
rit

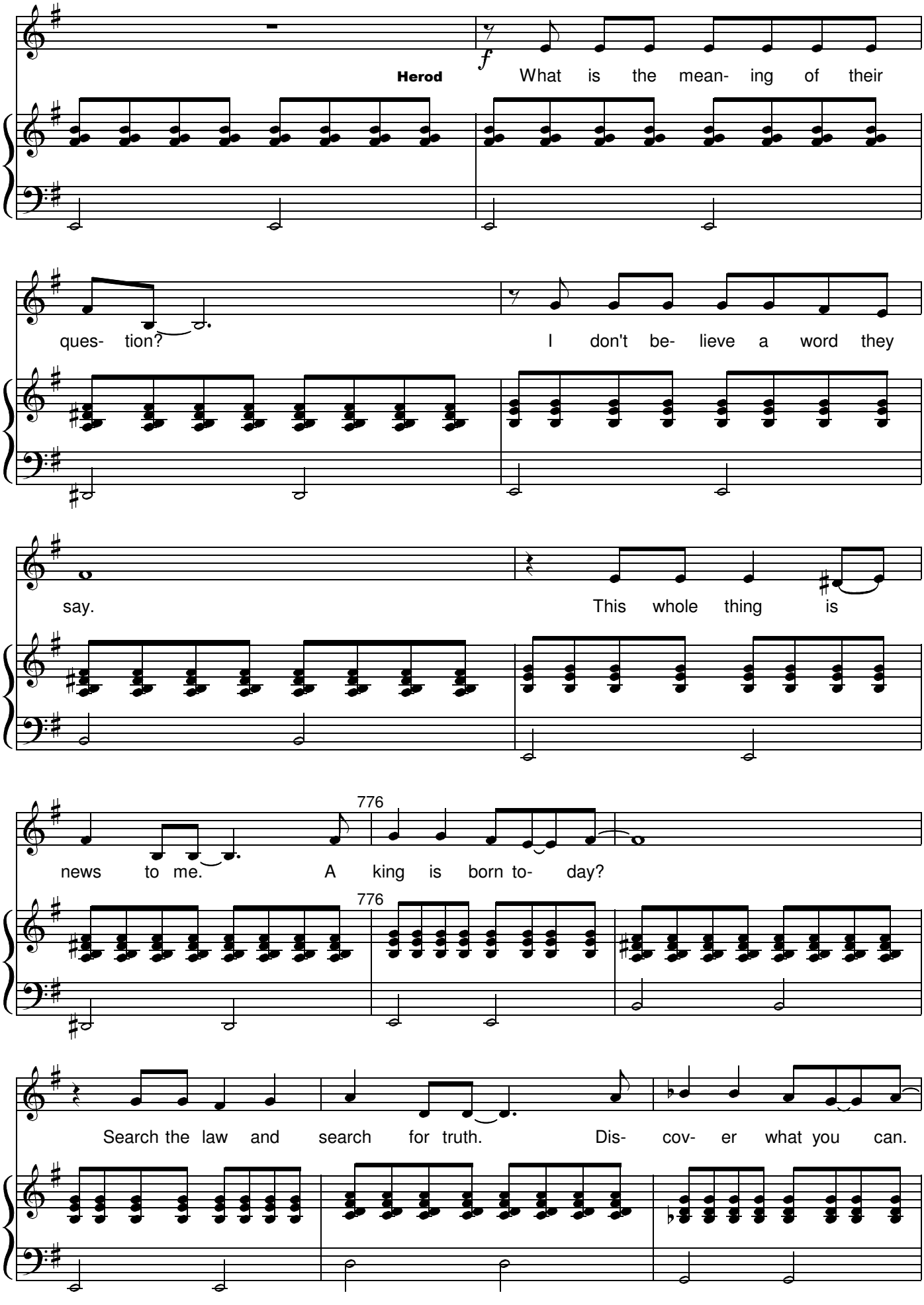

680
=125
dark Cal- va- ry.
Scene 7: The Journeys
680
680
f
688
f
On, on, on, on- ward to the man- ger stall.
688
688
On, on, on, on to see the King of all.
ff
On, on, on, on- ward from our
ff
696
lands a- far.
On, on, on, on- ward foll- ow- ing a star.
mf
On, on, on,
696
696
mf

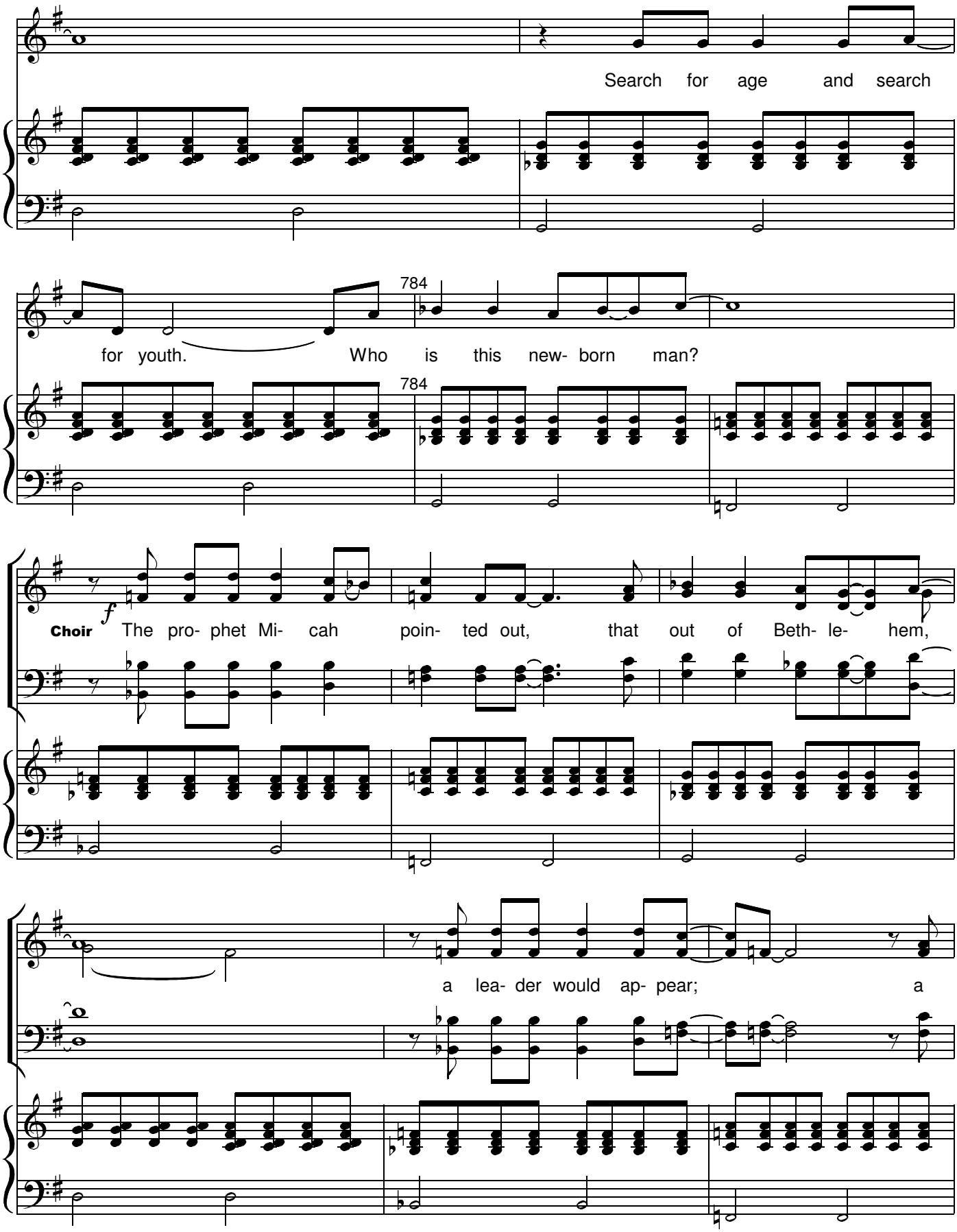

704
on- ward on to Da- vid's town. On, on, on, on to see the heaven come down.
mp
On, on, on, on- ward through the bit- ter night. On, on, on, on- ward to e-
712
ter- nal light. p On, on, on, on- ward to the cat- tle shed. pp On, on, on,
=90
720
on- ward to the man- ger bed.
Scene 8: Herod's Palace
mf

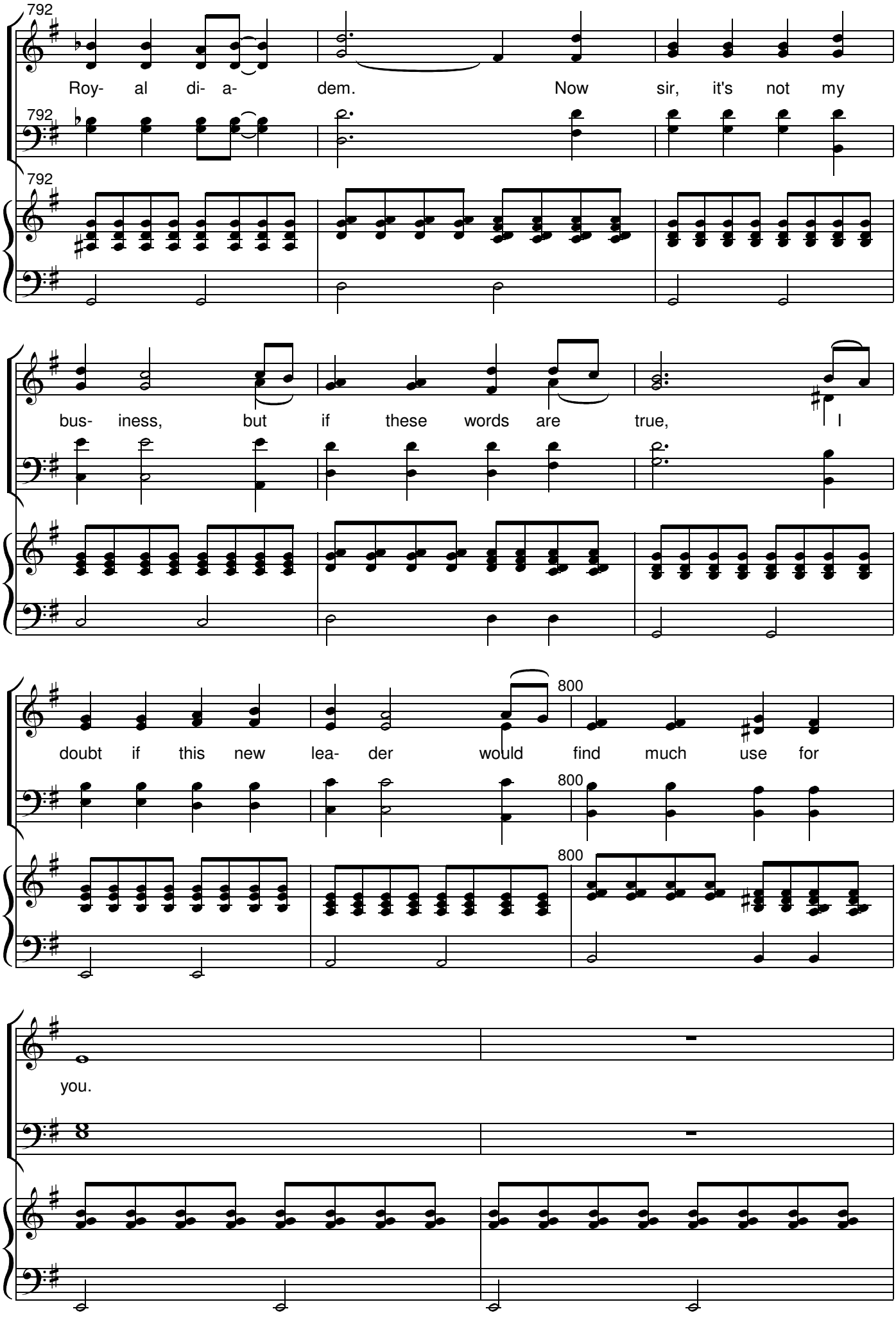

mf
Melchior From dis- tant lands we've tra- velled, un-
728
rest- ing on our way. A star has led us for- ward. It
728
f
brought us to this place. It speaks to us of jus- tice. It
f
736
speaks to us of right. A new king has been born here, a
736
736

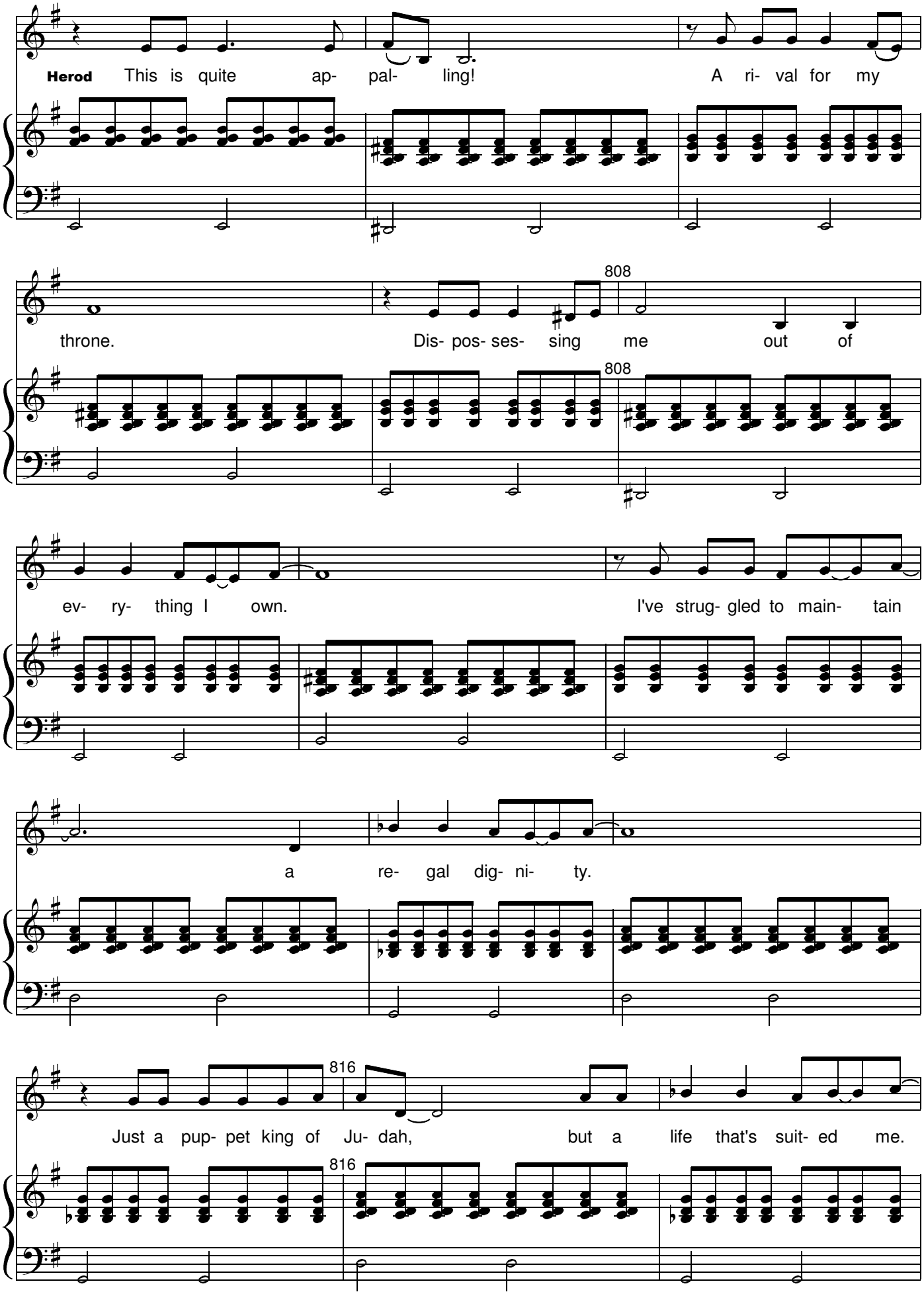

mighty prince of light. This must be Judah's promise. The
744
new king of the Jews. This is the one long waited; a
744
744
winner who can't lose. So will you let us see him, and
752
offer him his due. Where in your mighty palace is the
752
752

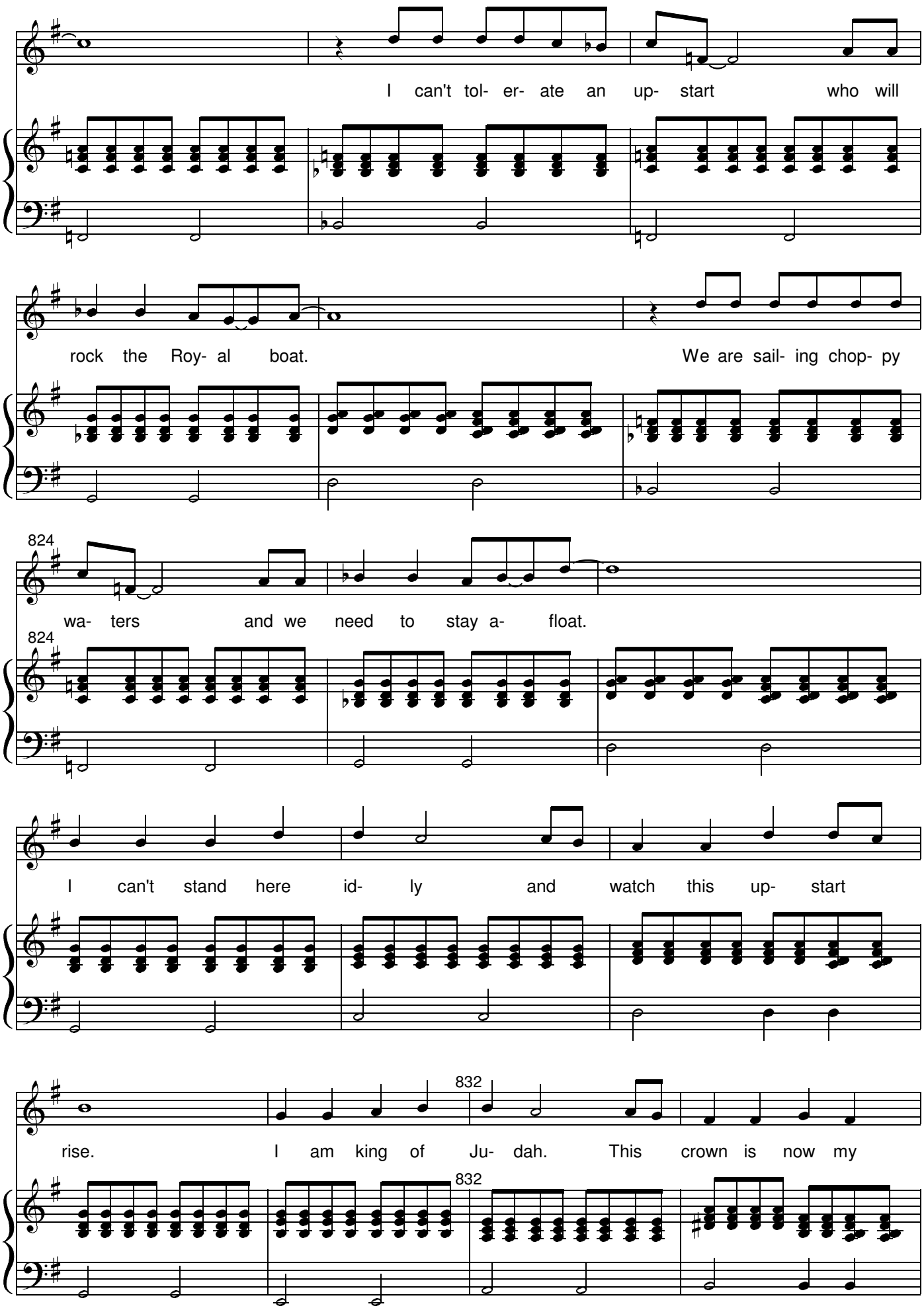

one we've come to view? The Coun- sel- lor of won- der. The
760
glo- rious prince of peace. the e- ver- last- ing Fa- ther, whose
760
760
king- dom must in- crease. cresc King- dom must in- crease.
cresc
ff
King- dom must in- crease.
768
=125
768
ff
768
f

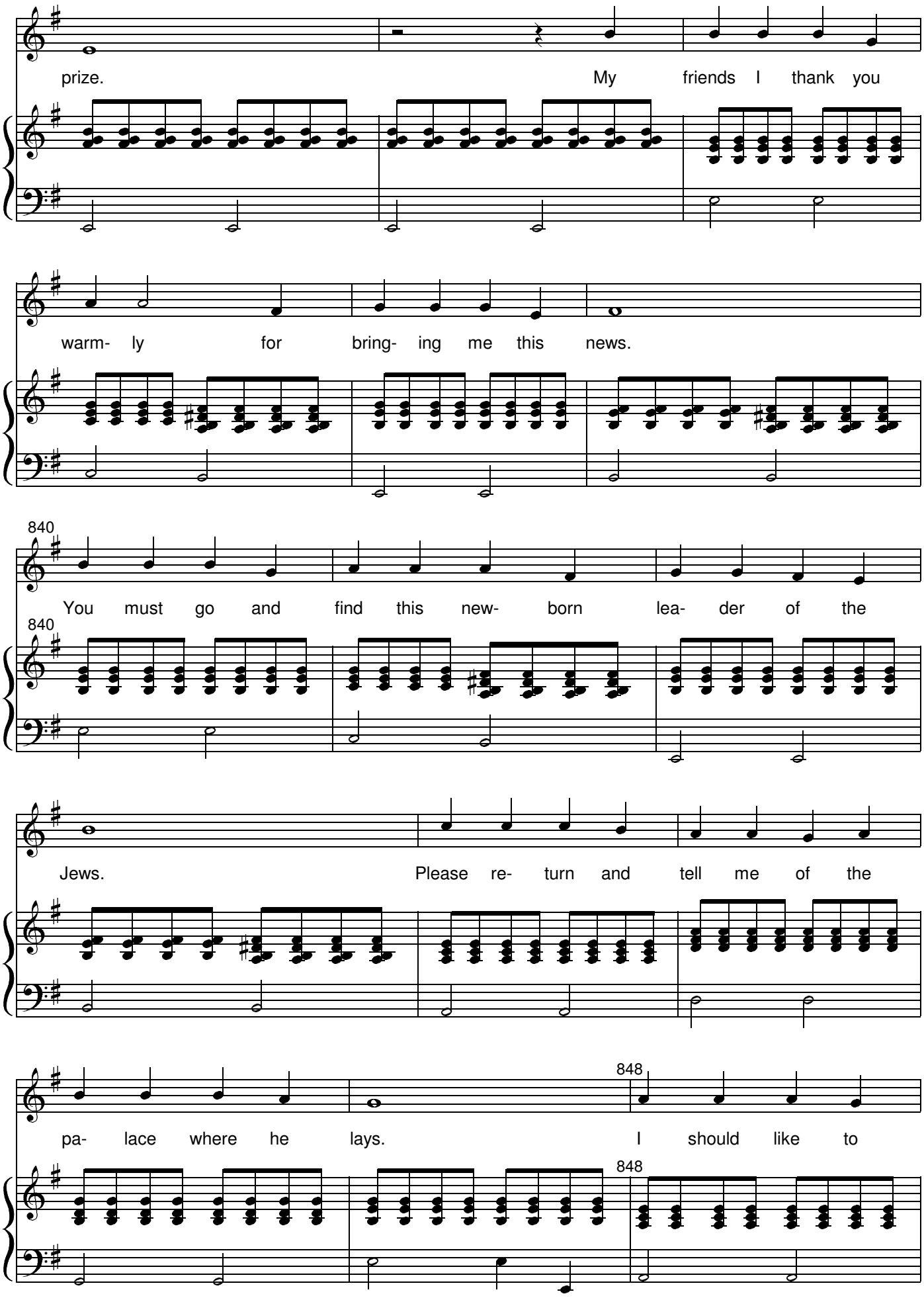

Herod
What is the mean- ing of their
ques- tion?
I don't be- lieve a word they
say.
This whole thing is
776
news to me.
A king is born to- day?
776
Search the law and search for truth.
Dis- cov- er what you can.

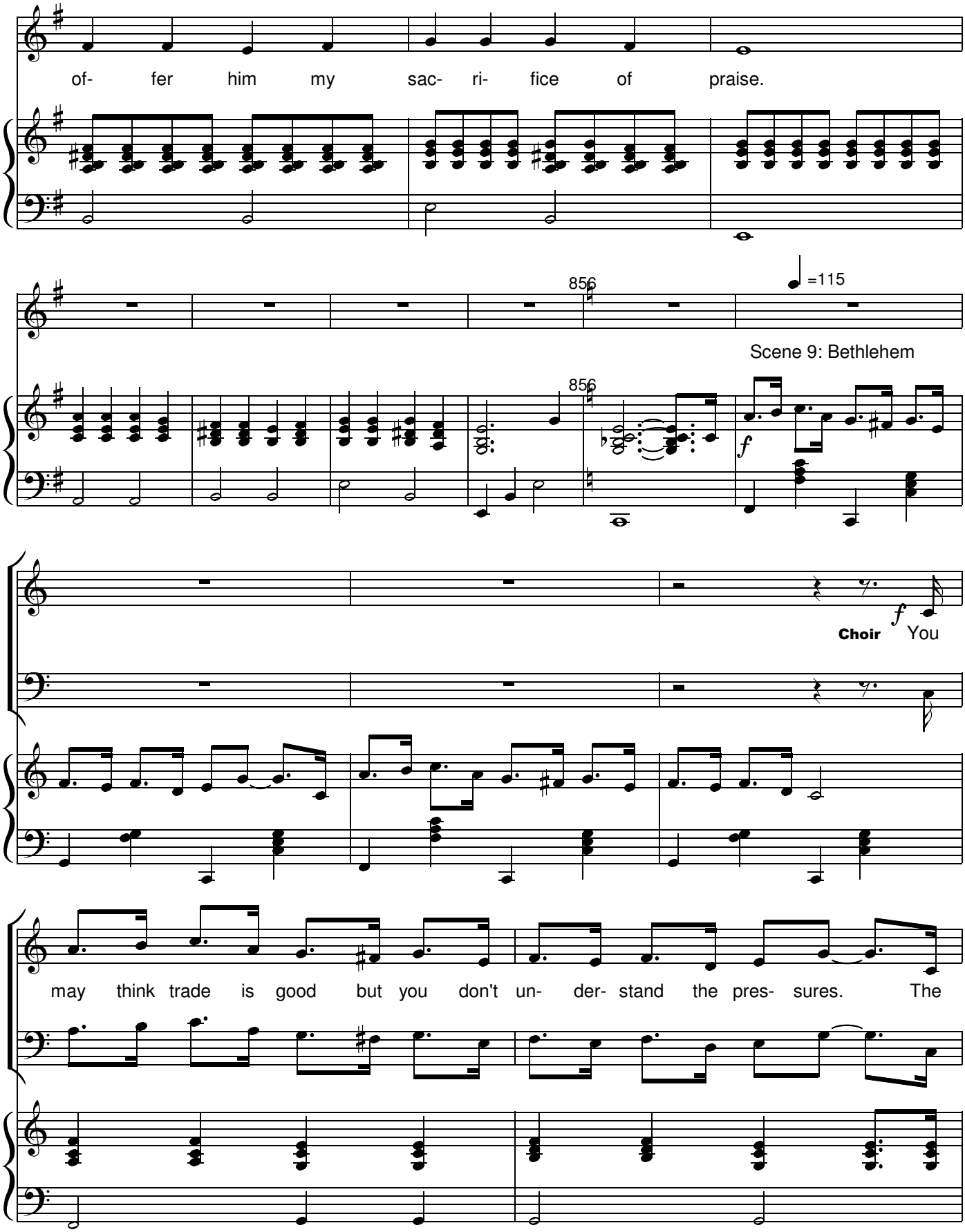

Search for age and search
for youth. Who is this new- born man?
784
784
f
Choir The pro- phet Mi- cah poin- ted out, that out of Beth- le- hem,
a lea- der would ap- pear; a

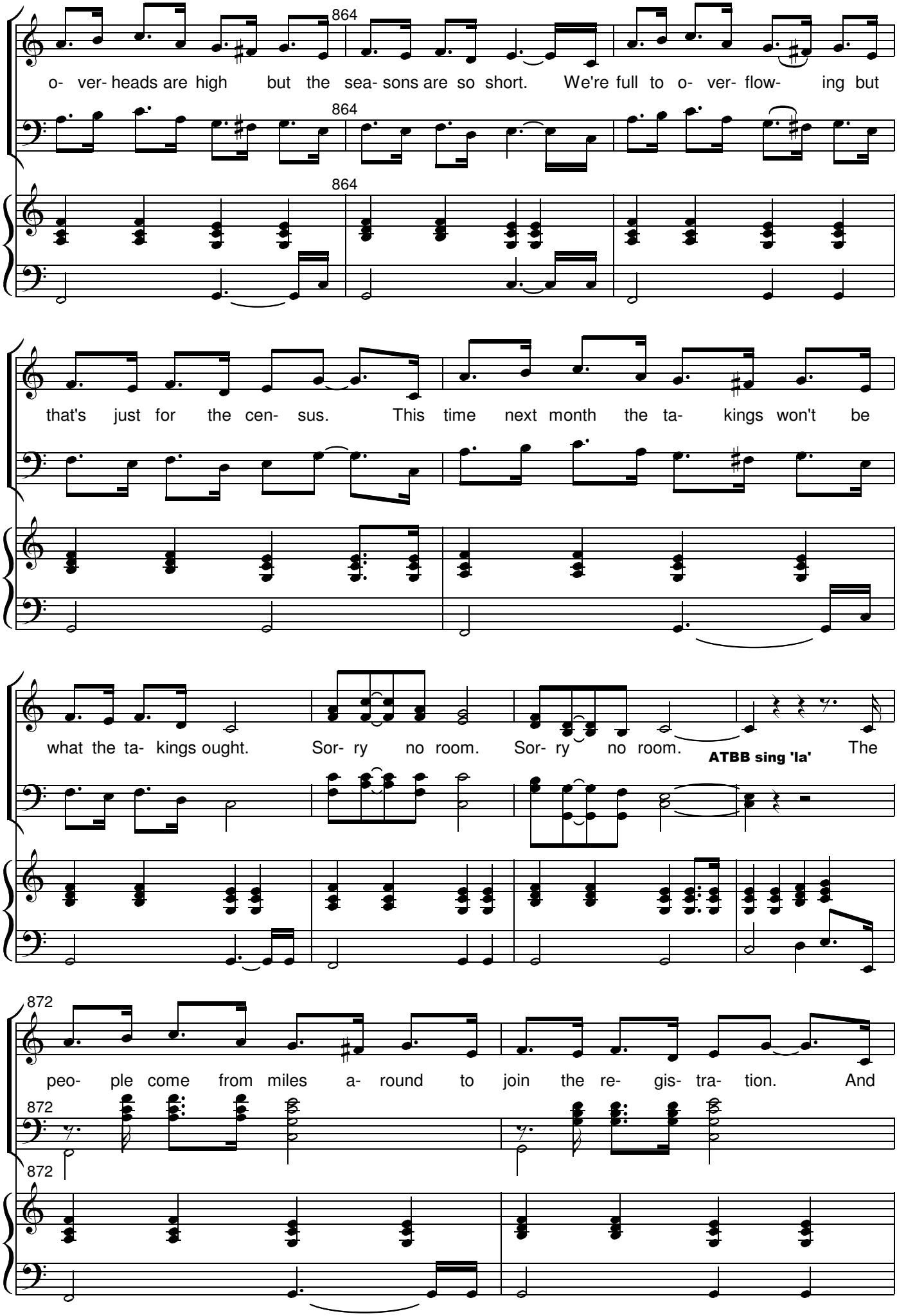

792
Roy- al di- a- dem. Now sir, it's not my
792
792
bus- iness, but if these words are true, I
800
doubt if this new lea- der would find much use for
800
800
you.

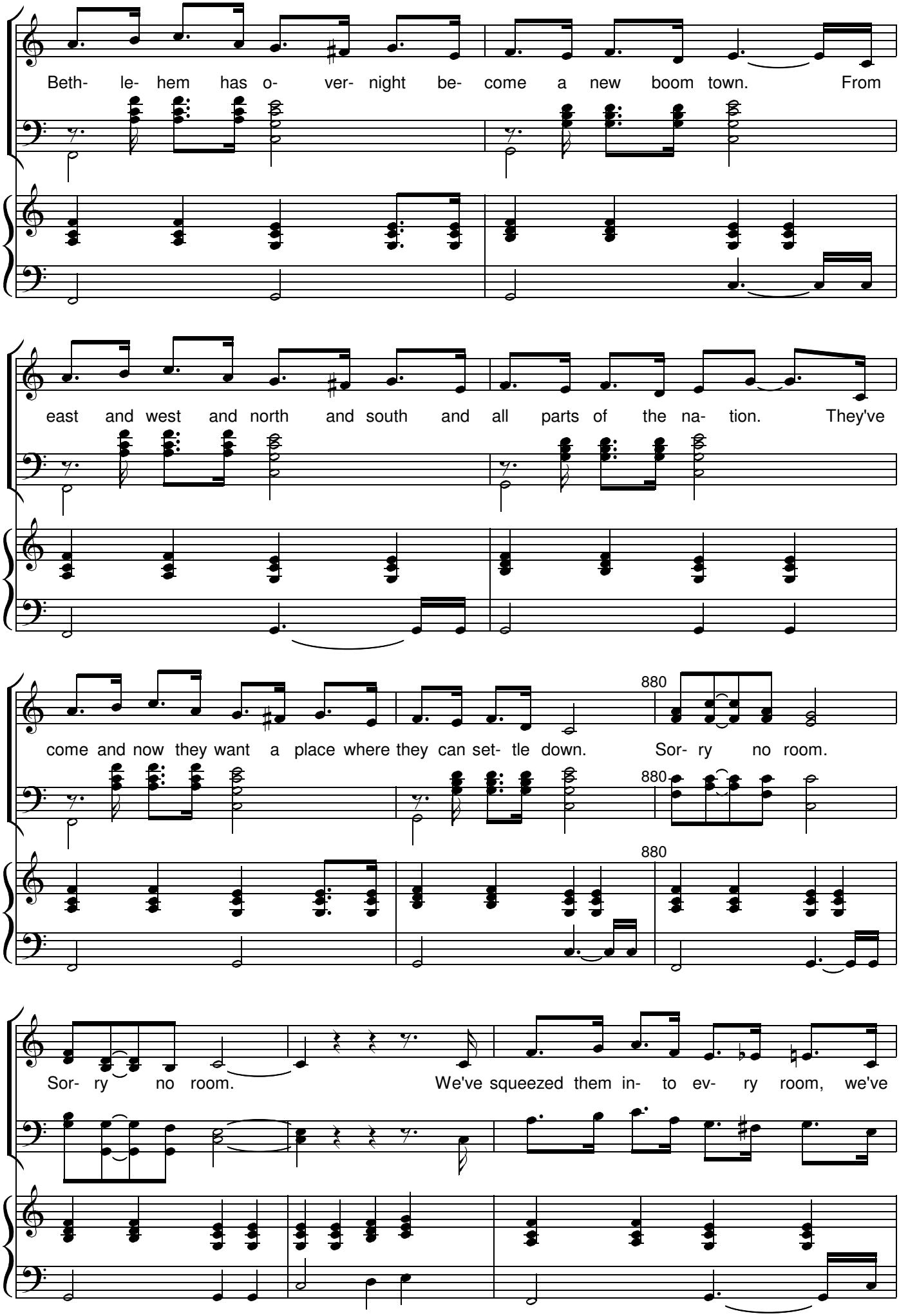

Herod This is quite ap- pal- ling! A ri- val for my
throne. Dis- pos- ses- sing me out of
808
808
ev- ry- thing I own. I've strug- gled to main- tain
a re- gal dig- ni- ty.
816
816
Just a pup- pet king of Ju- dah, but a life that's suit- ed me.

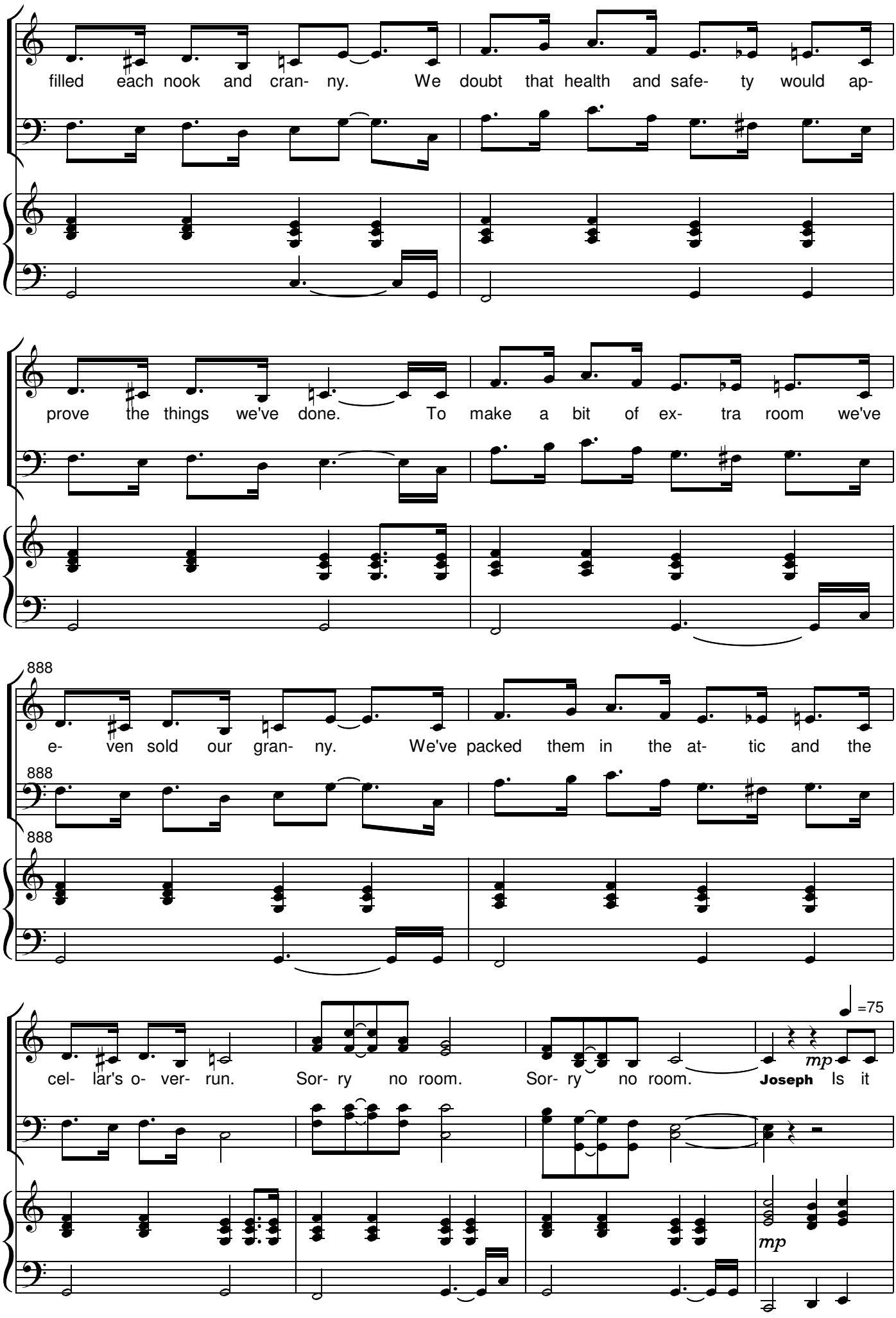

I can't tol- er- ate an up- start who will
rock the Roy- al boat. We are sail- ing chop- py
824
wa- ters and we need to stay a- float.
824
I can't stand here id- ly and watch this up- start
832
rise. I am king of Ju- dah. This crown is now my
832

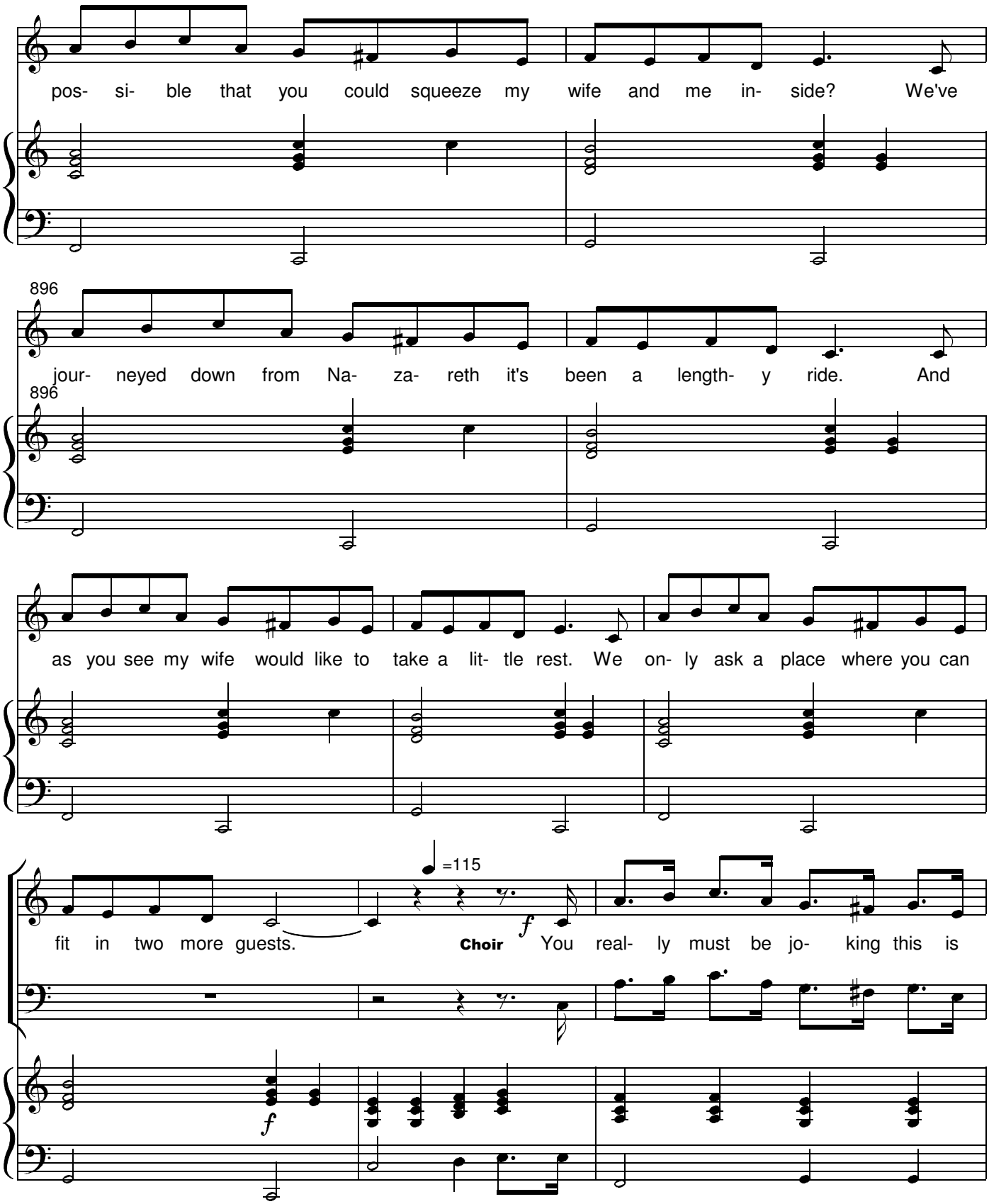

prize. My friends I thank you
warm- ly for bring- ing me this news.
840
You must go and find this new- born lea- der of the
840
Jews. Please re- turn and tell me of the
848
pa- lace where he lays. I should like to
848

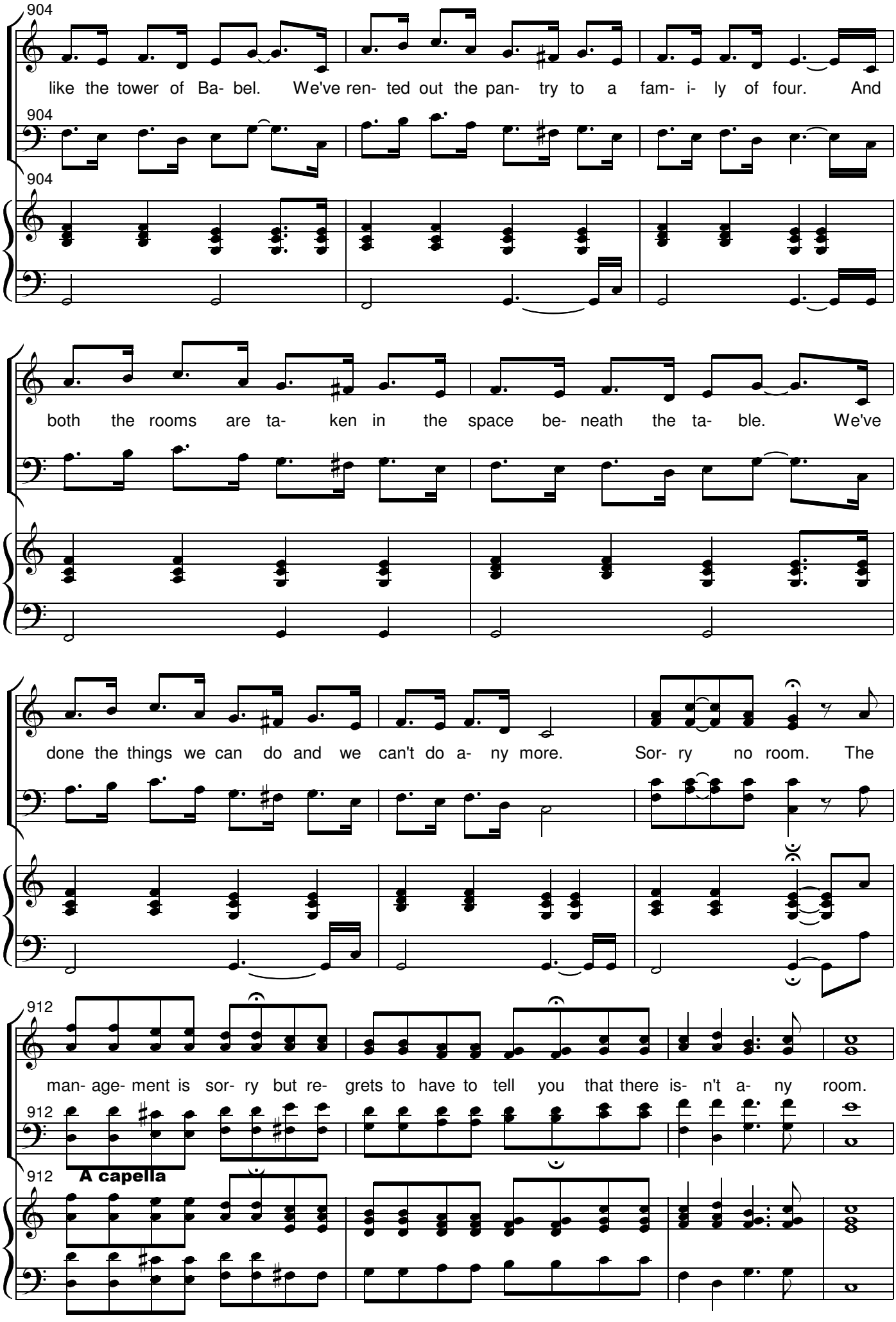

of- fer him my sac- ri- fice of praise.
856
♩=115
Scene 9: Bethlehem
856
f
f
Choir You
may think trade is good but you don't un- der- stand the pres- sures. The

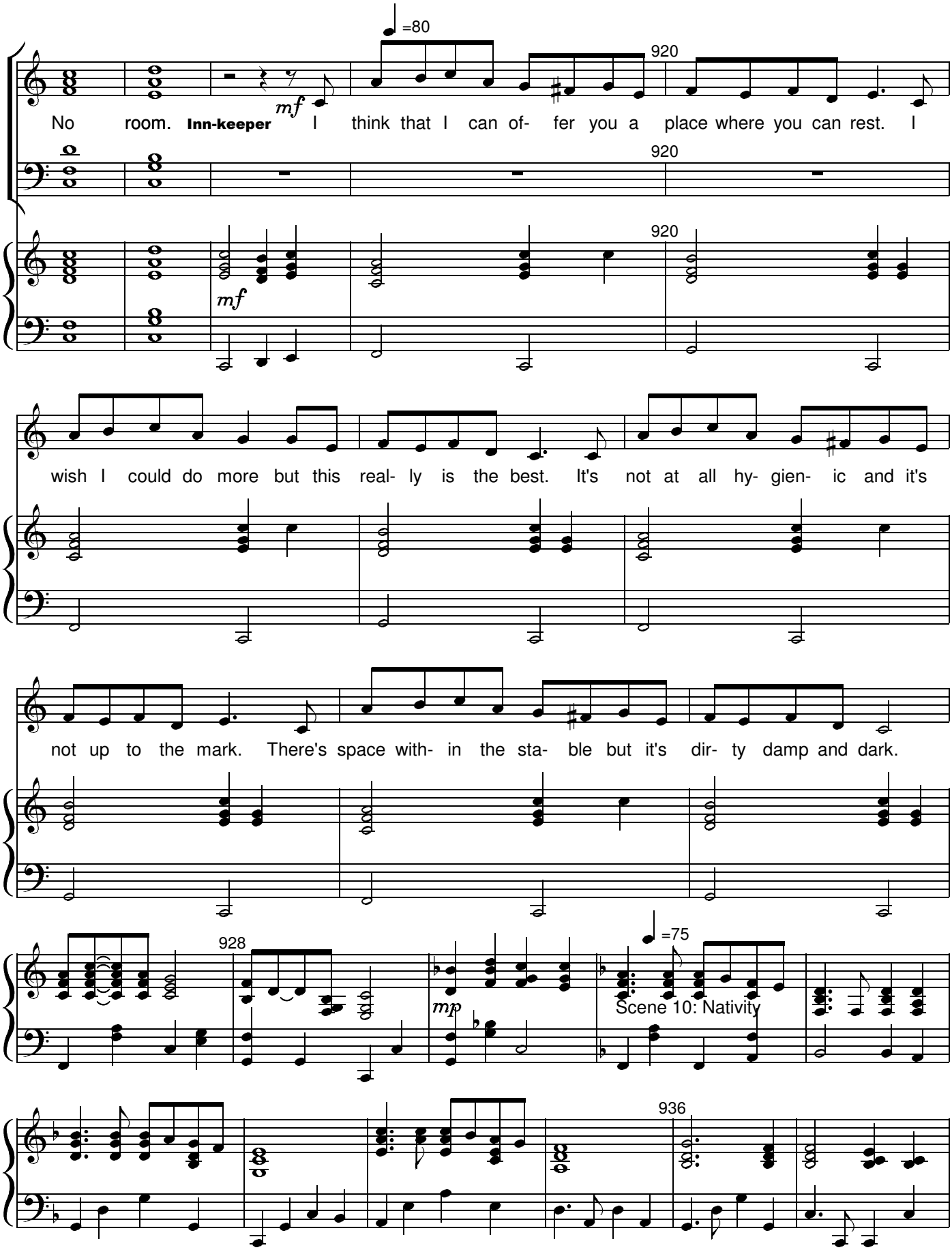

864
o- ver- heads are high but the sea- sons are so short. We're full to o- ver- flow- ing but
that's just for the cen- sus. This time next month the ta- kings won't be
what the ta- kings ought. Sor- ry no room. Sor- ry no room.
ATBB sing 'la'
The
872
peo- ple come from miles a- round to join the re- gis- tra- tion. And

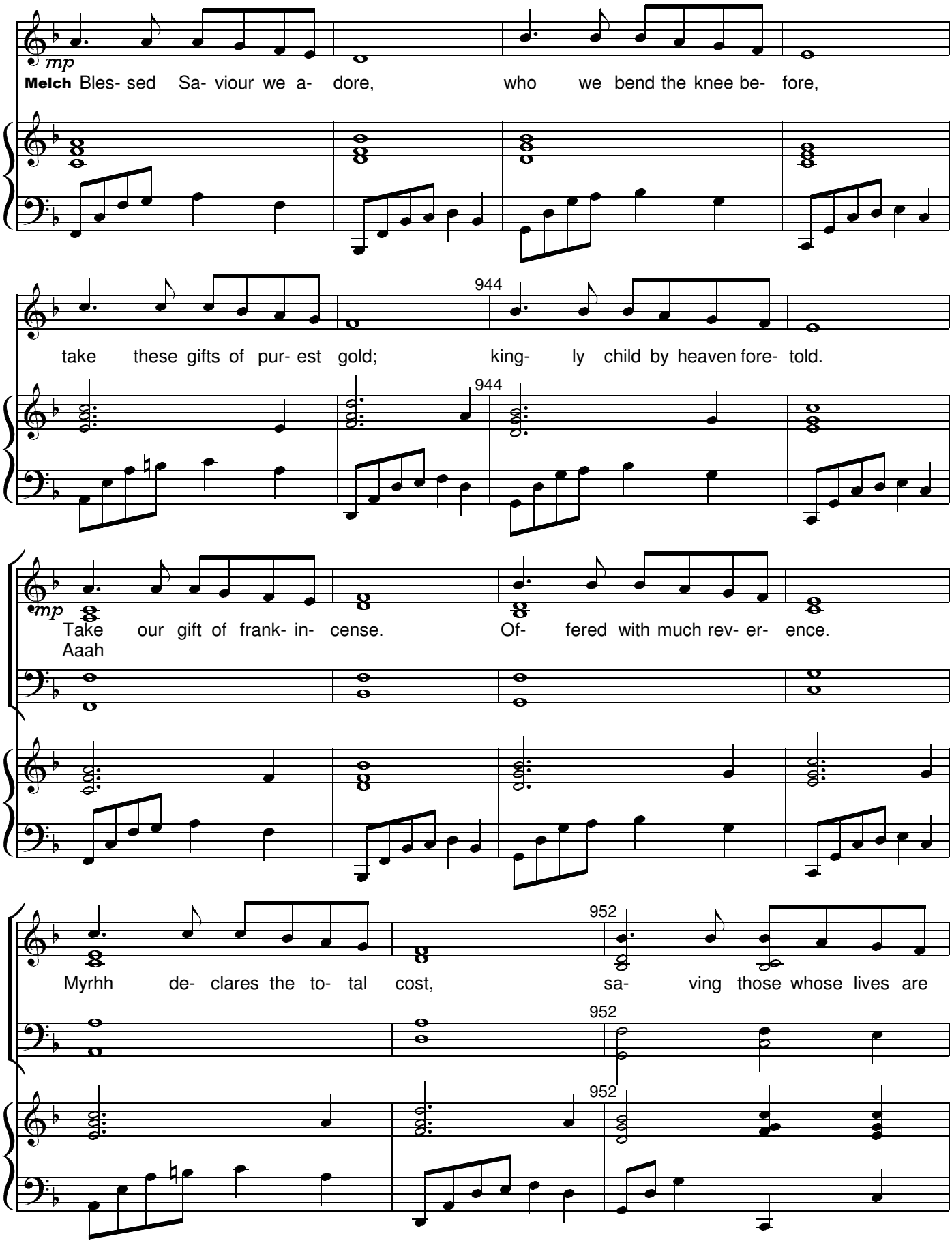

Beth- le- hem has o- ver- night be- come a new boom town. From
east and west and north and south and all parts of the na- tion. They've
880
come and now they want a place where they can set- tle down. Sor- ry no room.
880
880
Sor- ry no room. We've squeezed them in- to ev- ry room, we've

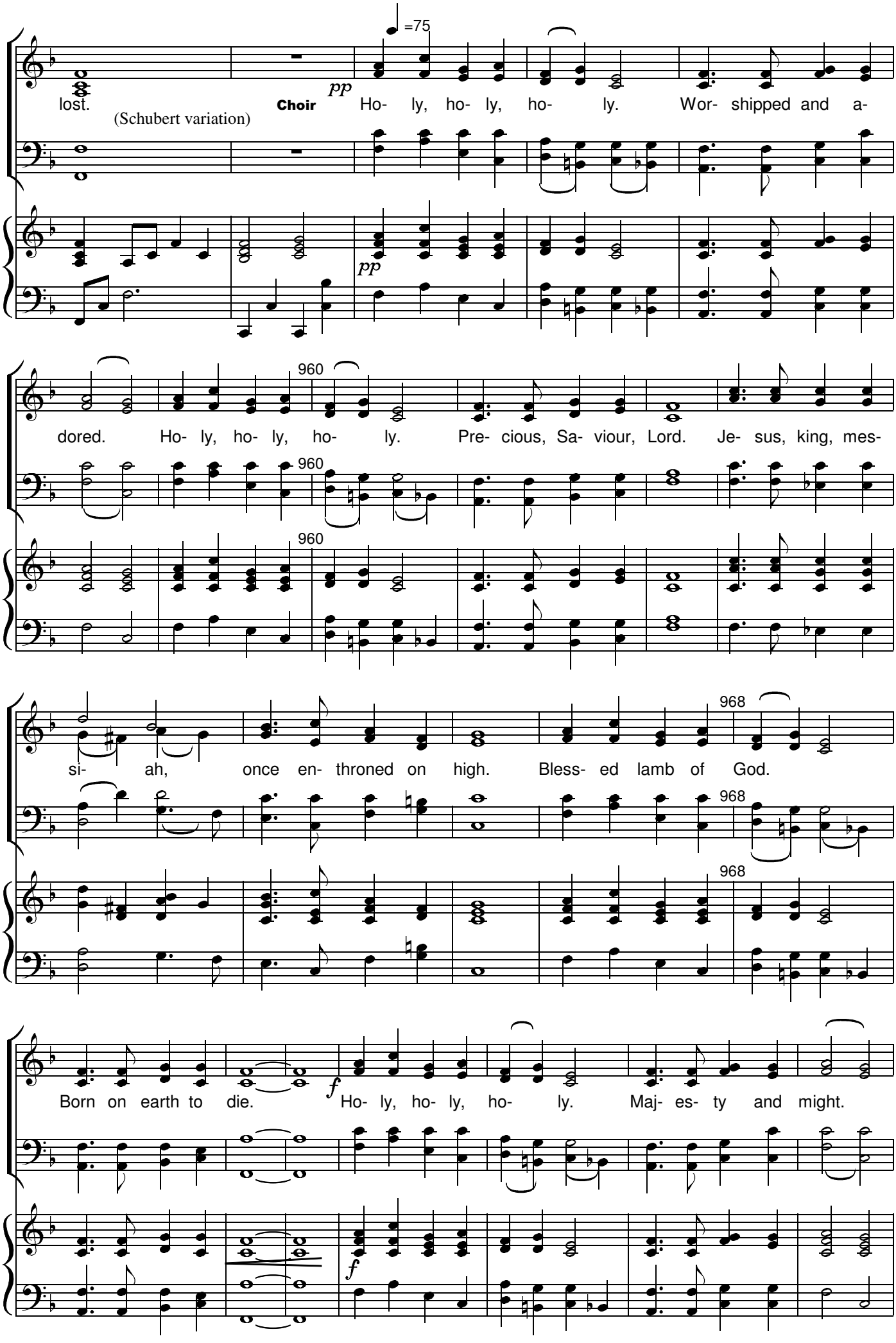

filled each nook and cran- ny. We doubt that health and safe- ty would ap-
prove the things we've done. To make a bit of ex- tra room we've
888
e- ven sold our gran- ny. We've packed them in the at- tic and the
888
888
cel- lar's o- ver- run. Sor- ry no room. Sor- ry no room.
=75
mp
Joseph Is it
mp

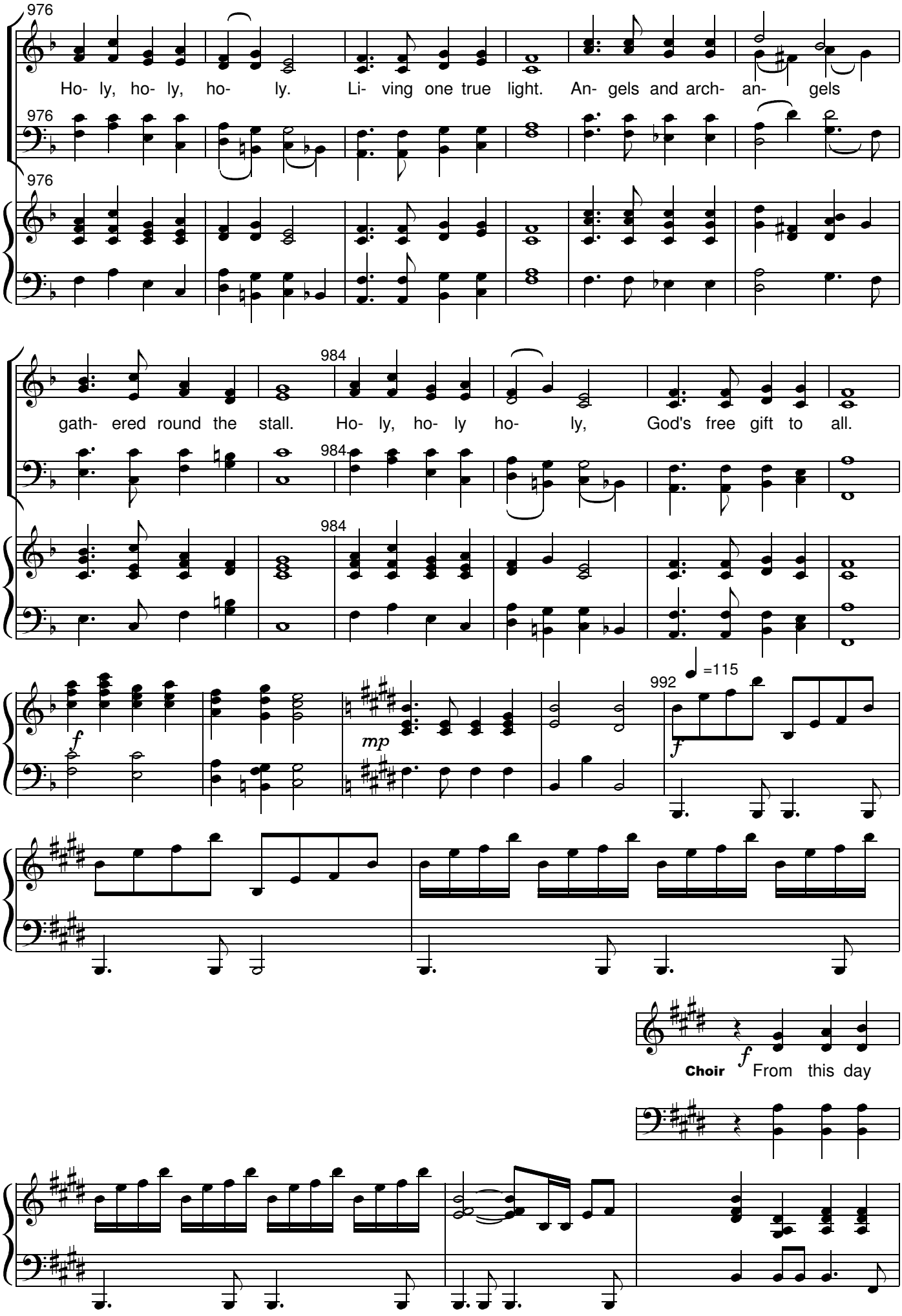

pos- si- ble that you could squeeze my wife and me in- side? We've
896
jour- neyed down from Na- za- reth it's been a length- y ride. And
896
as you see my wife would like to take a lit- tle rest. We on- ly ask a place where you can
=115
f
fit in two more guests.
Choir
You real- ly must be jo- king this is
f

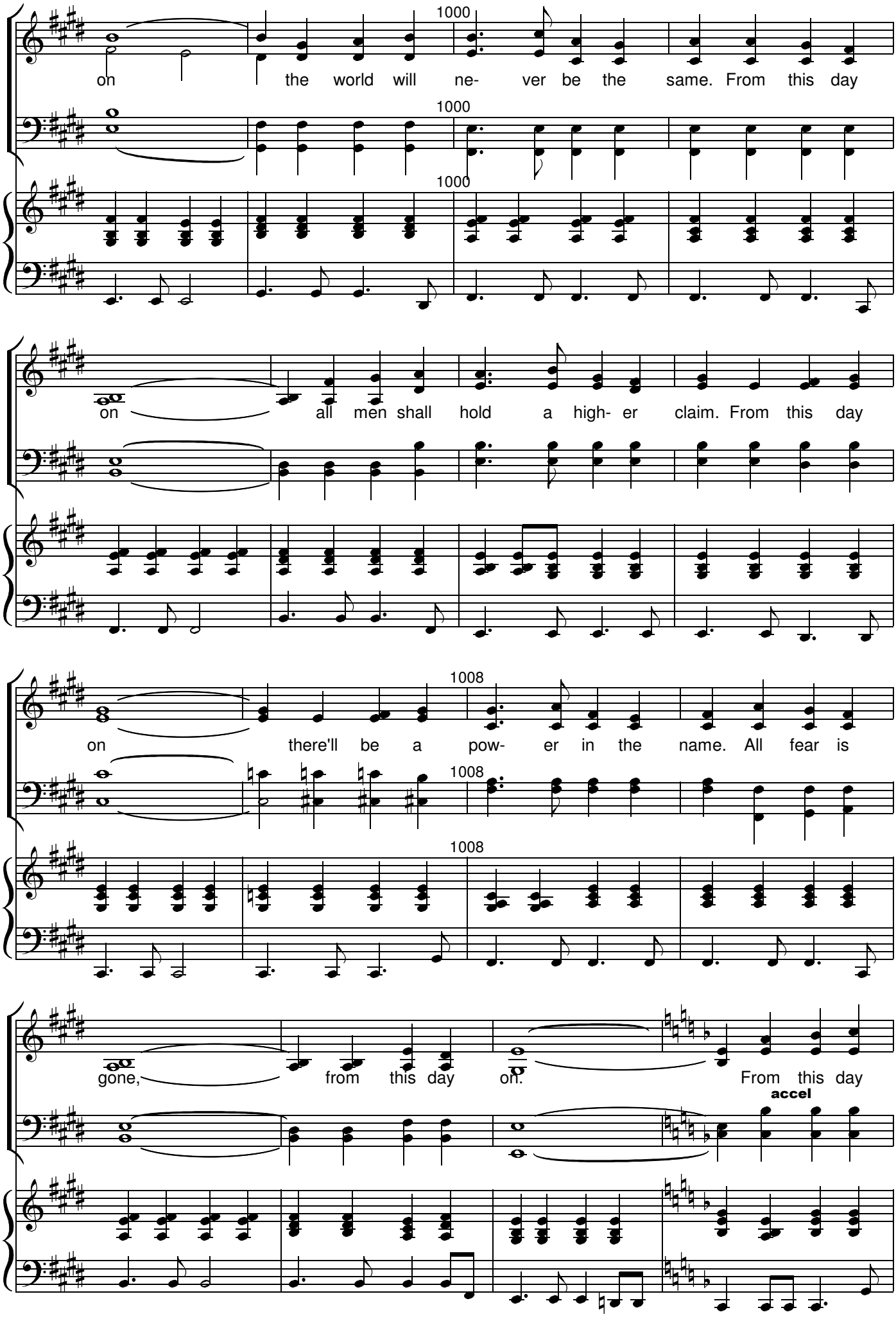

904
like the tower of Ba- bel. We've ren- ted out the pan- try to a fam- i- ly of four. And
904
904
both the rooms are ta- ken in the space be- neath the ta- ble. We've
done the things we can do and we can't do a- ny more. Sor- ry no room. The
912
man- age- ment is sor- ry but re- grets to have to tell you that there is- n't a- ny room.
912
912
A capella

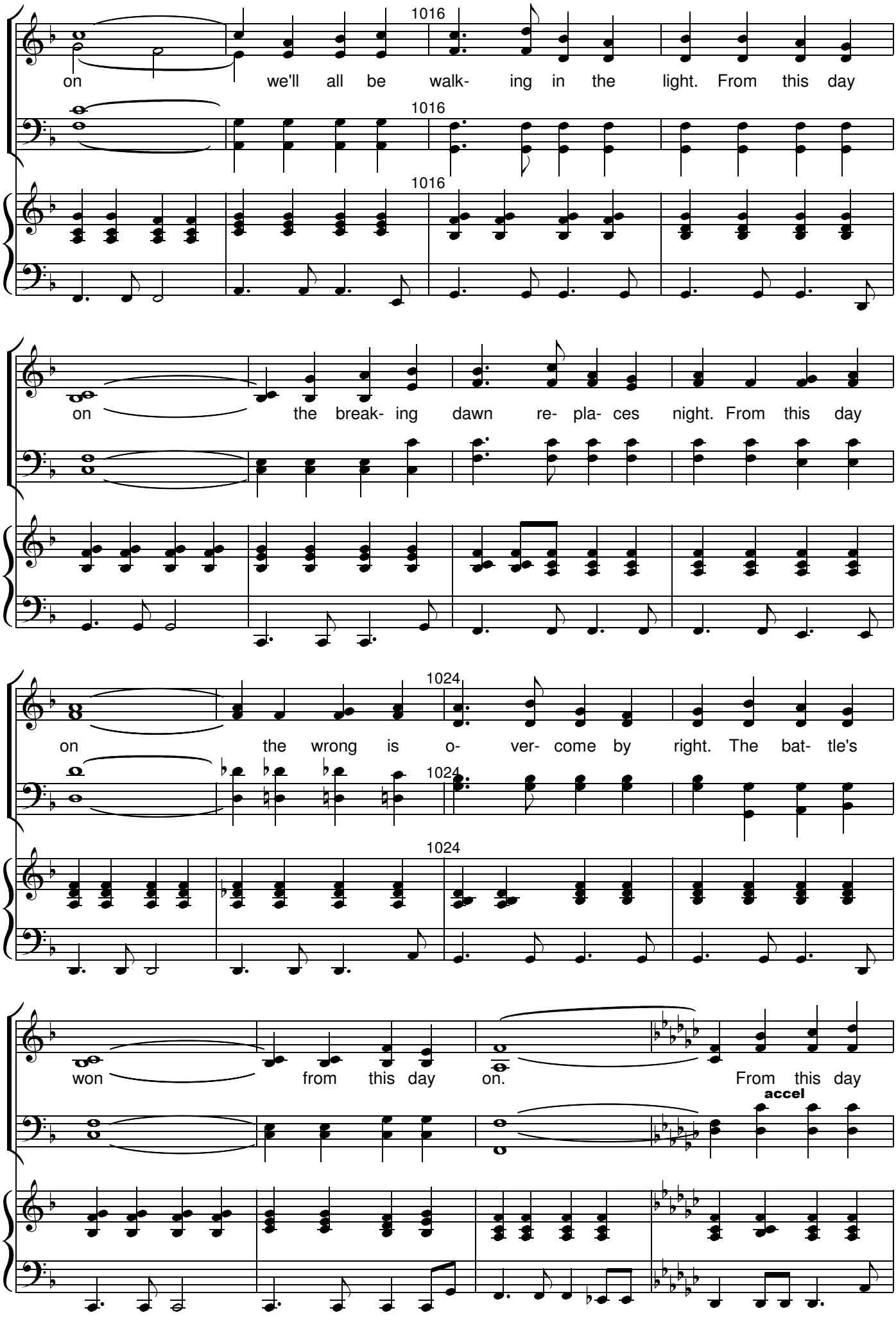

=80
920
No room. Inn-keeper I think that I can of- fer you a place where you can rest. I
mf
wish I could do more but this real- ly is the best. It's not at all hy- gien- ic and it's
not up to the mark. There's space with- in the sta- ble but it's dir- ty damp and dark.
928
mp
=75
Scene 10: Nativity
936

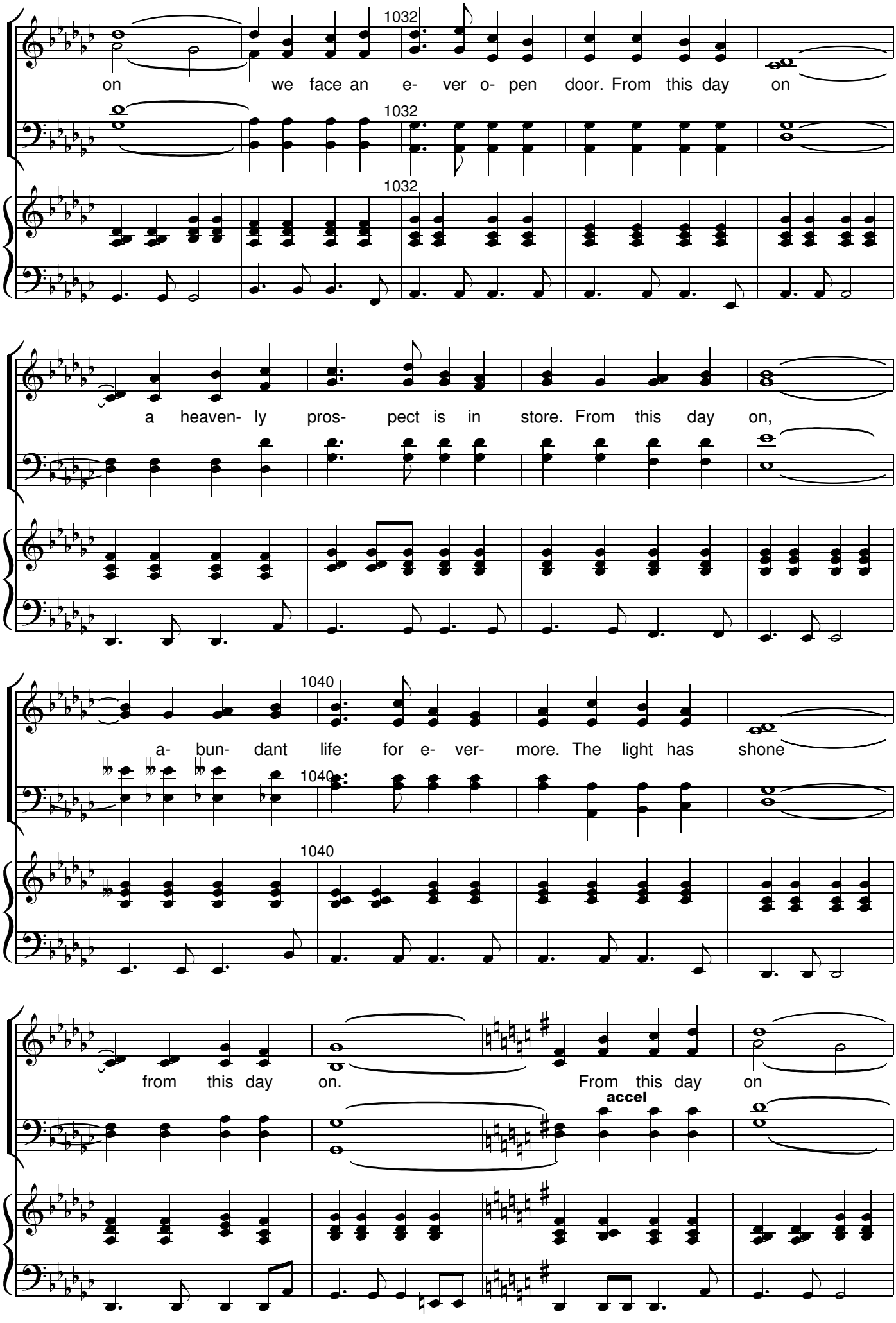

mp
Melch Bles- sed Sa- viour we a- dore, who we bend the knee be- fore,
take these gifts of pur- est gold; king- ly child by heaven fore- told.
944
944
mp
Take our gift of frank- in- cense. Of- fered with much rev- er- ence.
Aaah
Myrhh de- clares the to- tal cost, sa- ving those whose lives are
952
952
952

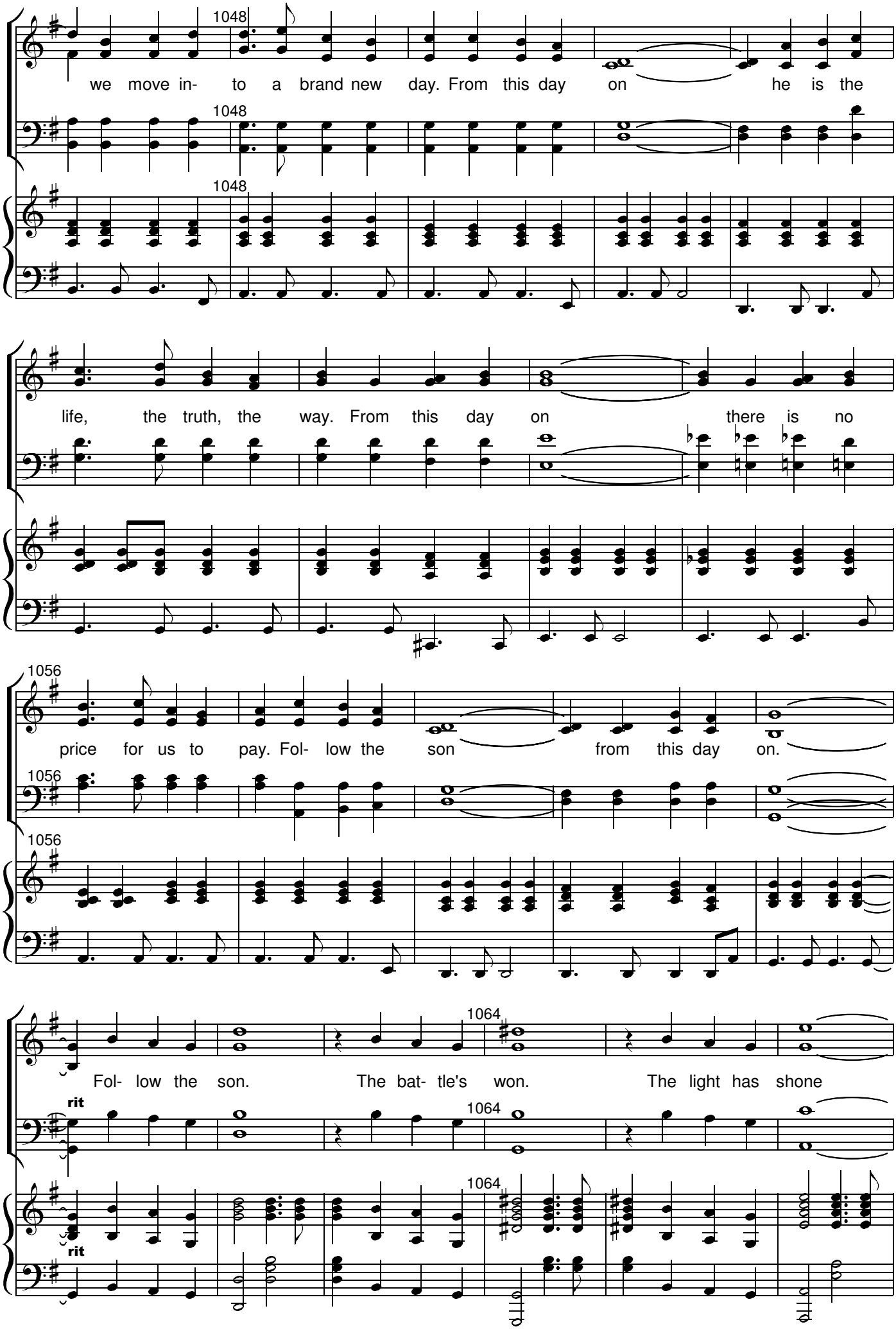

=75
lost.
(Schubert variation)
pp
Choir
Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly.
Wor- shipped and a-
pp
960
dored.
Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly.
Pre- cious, Sa- viour, Lord.
Je- sus, king, mes-
960
960
968
si- ah,
once en- throned on high.
Bless- ed lamb of God.
968
968
f
Born on earth to die.
Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly.
Maj- es- ty and might.
f

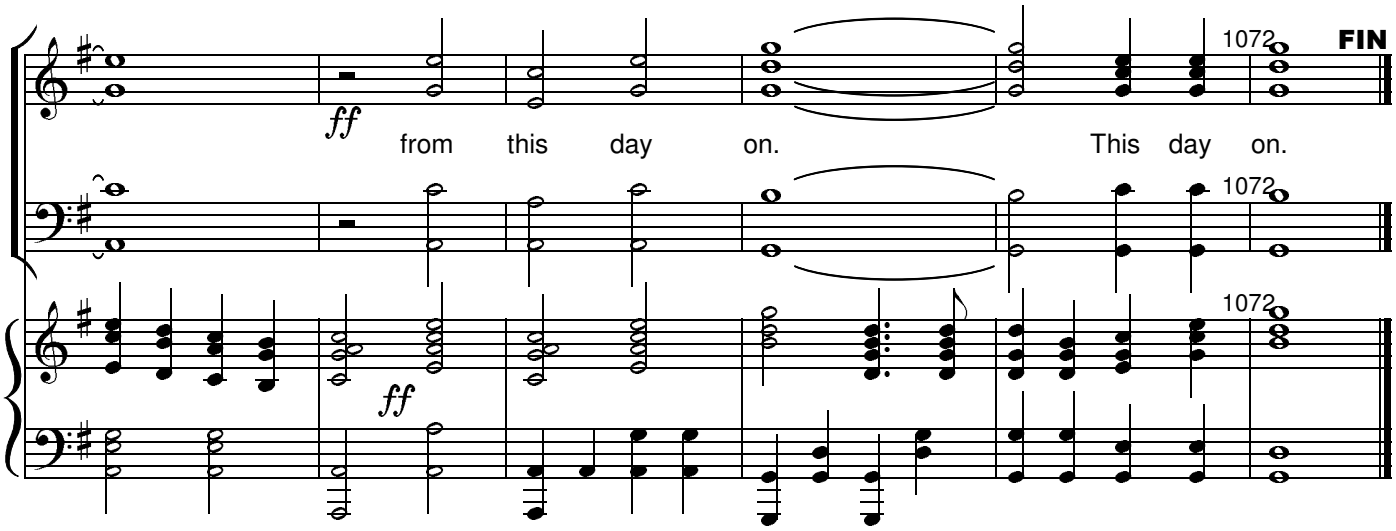

976
Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly. Li- ving one true light. An- gels and arch- an- gels
976
976
984
gath- ered round the stall. Ho- ly, ho- ly ho- ly, God's free gift to all.
984
984
992
=115
f
mp
f
Choir
f
From this day


1000
on the world will ne- ver be the same. From this day
1000
1000
on all men shall hold a high- er claim. From this day
1008
on there'll be a pow- er in the name. All fear is
1008
1008
gone, from this day on. From this day
accel


1016
on we'll all be walk- ing in the light. From this day
1016
1016
on the break- ing dawn re- pla- ces night. From this day
1024
on the wrong is o- ver- come by right. The bat- tle's
1024
1024
won from this day on.
From this day
accel


1032
on we face an e- ver o- pen door. From this day on
1032
1032
a heaven- ly pros- pect is in store. From this day on,
1040
a- bun- dant life for e- ver- more. The light has shone
1040
1040
from this day on.
From this day on
accel


1048
we move in- to a brand new day. From this day on he is the
life, the truth, the way. From this day on there is no
1056
price for us to pay. Fol- low the son from this day on.
1064
Fol- low the son. The bat- tle's won. The light has shone
rit


1072
FIN
ff
from this day on.
This day on.
1072
1072
ff