

Vespers on the Afternoon of Great and Holy Friday
Aposticha, Tone 2, Automelon "When from the Tree..."
Optina Hermitage Chant

Reader: In the 2nd tone, the Original Melody, "When from the tree"

The musical score is written for four voices: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). It is in the key of G major (one sharp) and uses a 2/4 time signature. The melody is a simple, stepwise line with some rests, characteristic of the Optina Hermitage style. The lyrics are in English and describe the burial of Christ.

When _____ from the Tree, Joseph of Arimathea took Thee
down _____ dead, Who art the Life of all, he wrapped _____
Thee, O Christ, in pure linen with spic - - es. Moved _____ in his
heart _____ by love, with his lips he kissed thy most pure bod - - y;

Triodion text adapted from: "The Lenten Triodion", translated by Mother Mary and Archimandrite Kallistos Ware,
Reprinted by Saint Tikhon's Seminary Press, 2002

Psalm text: "The Psalter according to the Seventy", Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Brookline, MS, 1986

yet, draw-ing back in fear, he cried to Thee re-joic - - ing:

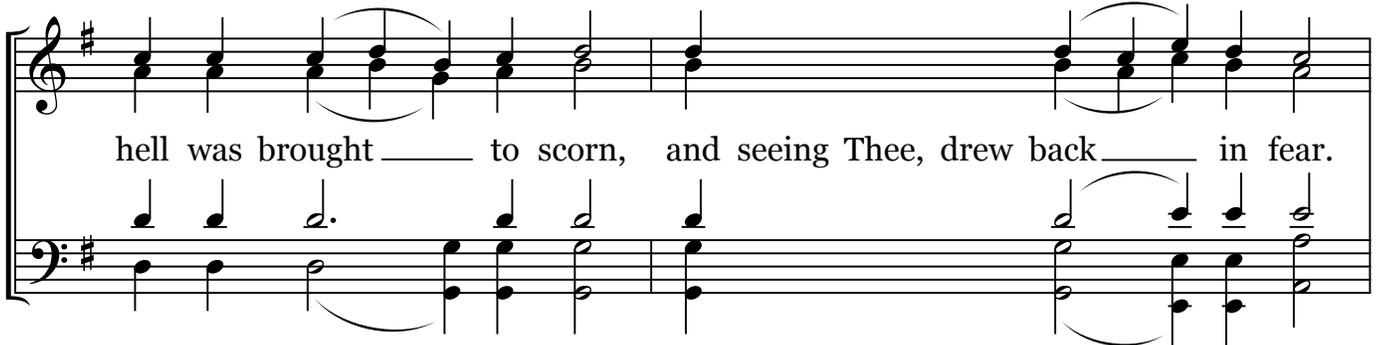
'Glory to Thy self-abasement, O Thou Who lov - est man - kind.'

Reader: The Lord is King,

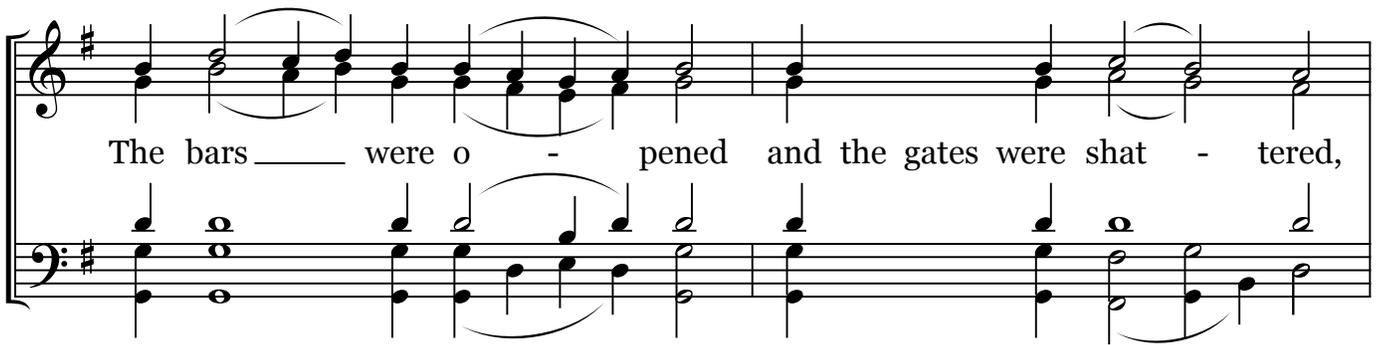
He is clothed with maj - es - ty.

When Thou, the Re - deem - er of all,

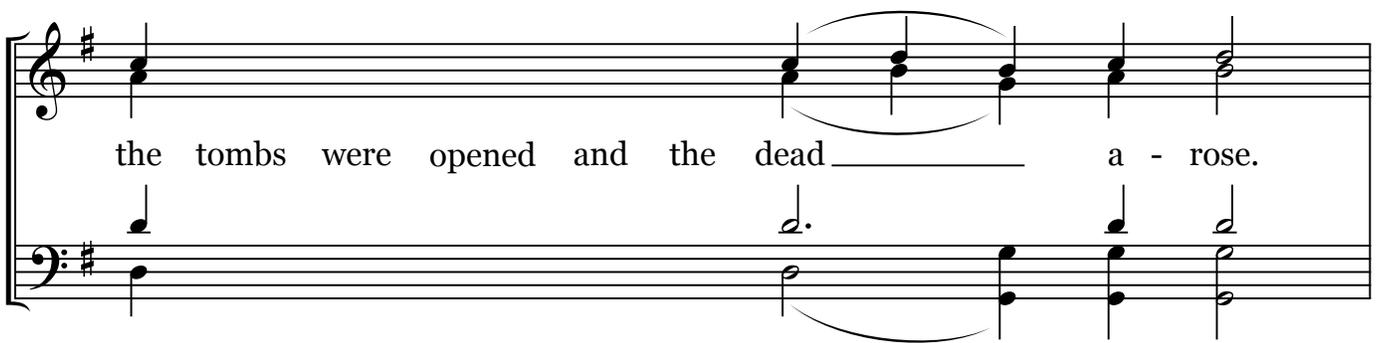
wast laid for the sake of all in a new tomb,



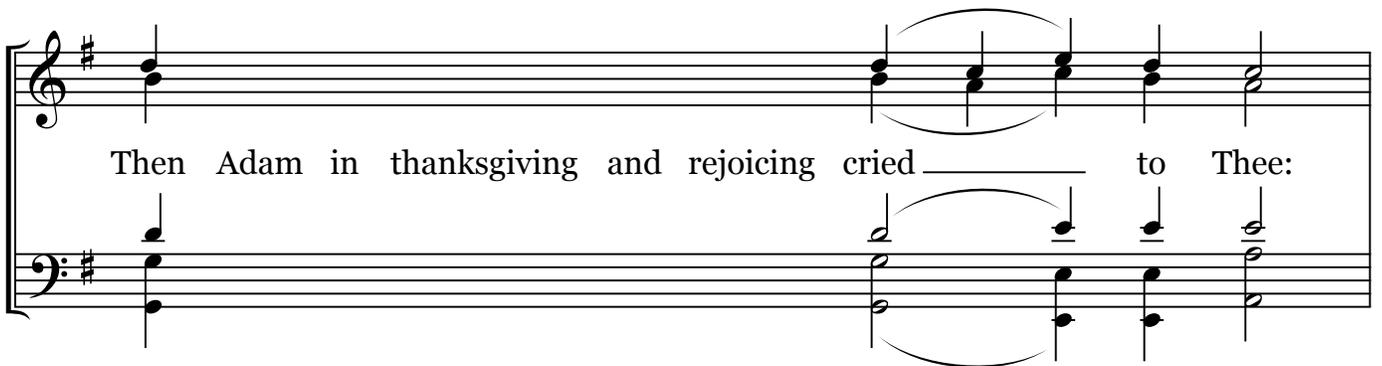
hell was brought _____ to scorn, and seeing Thee, drew back _____ in fear.



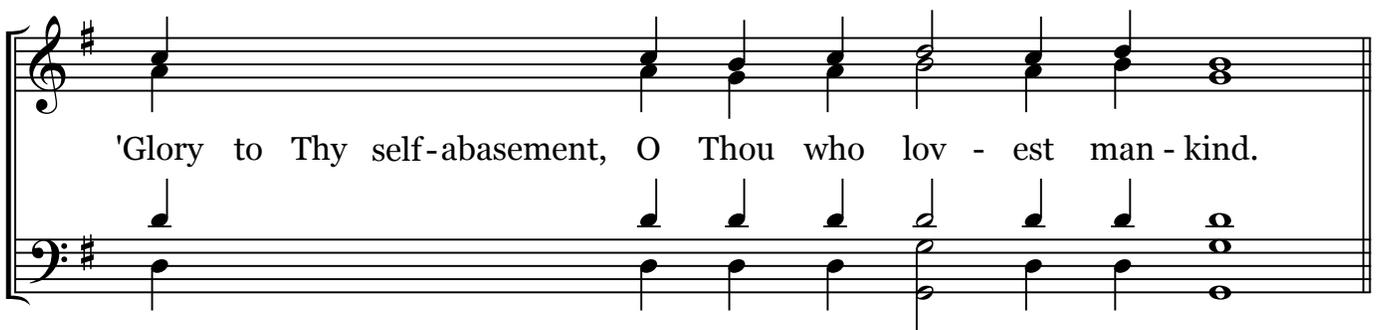
The bars _____ were o - pened and the gates were shat - tered,



the tombs were opened and the dead _____ a - rose.

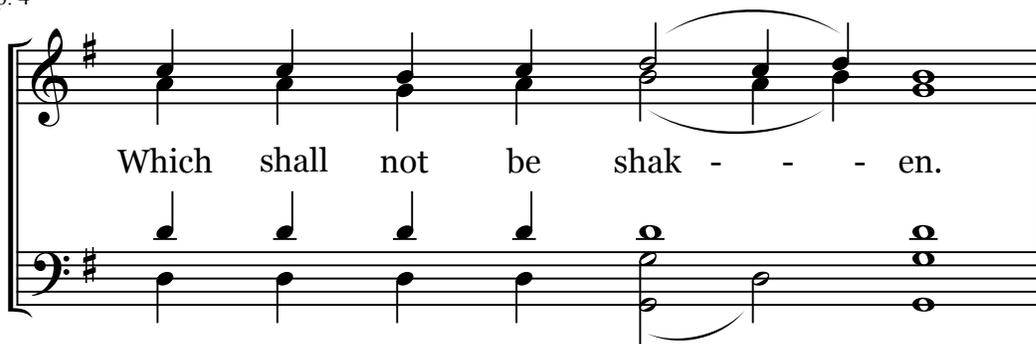


Then Adam in thanksgiving and rejoicing cried _____ to Thee:

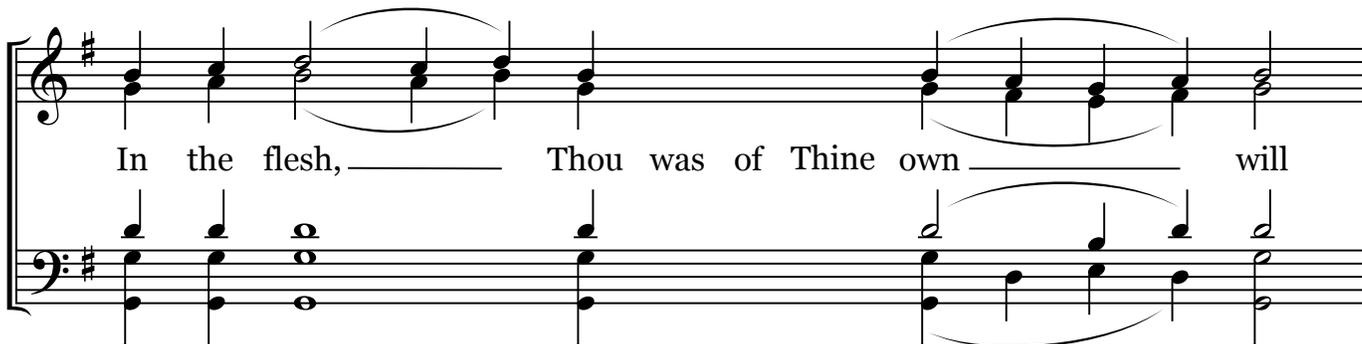


'Glory to Thy self-abasement, O Thou who lov - est man - kind.

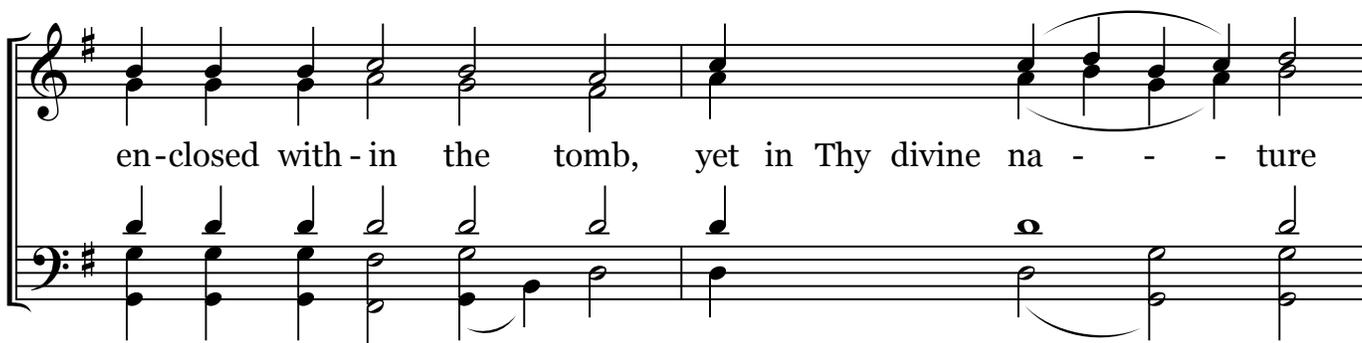
Reader: For He hath established the world



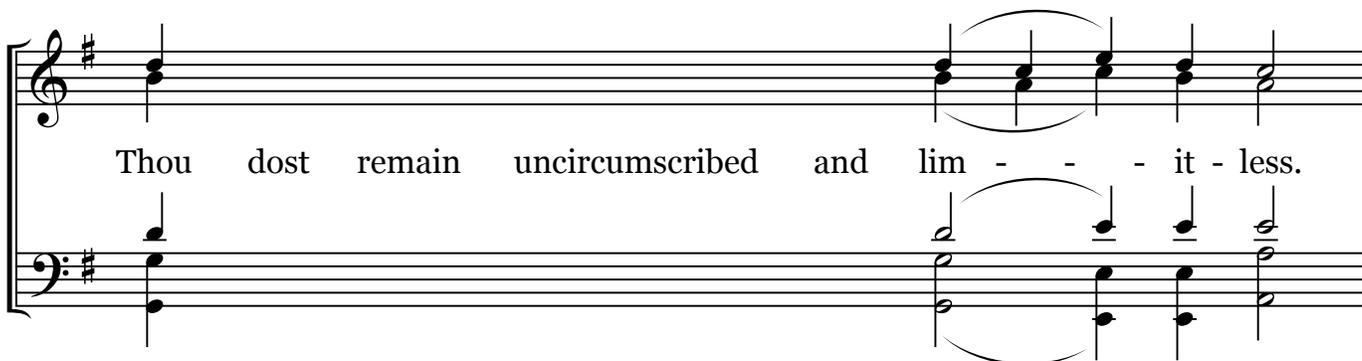
Which shall not be shak - - - en.



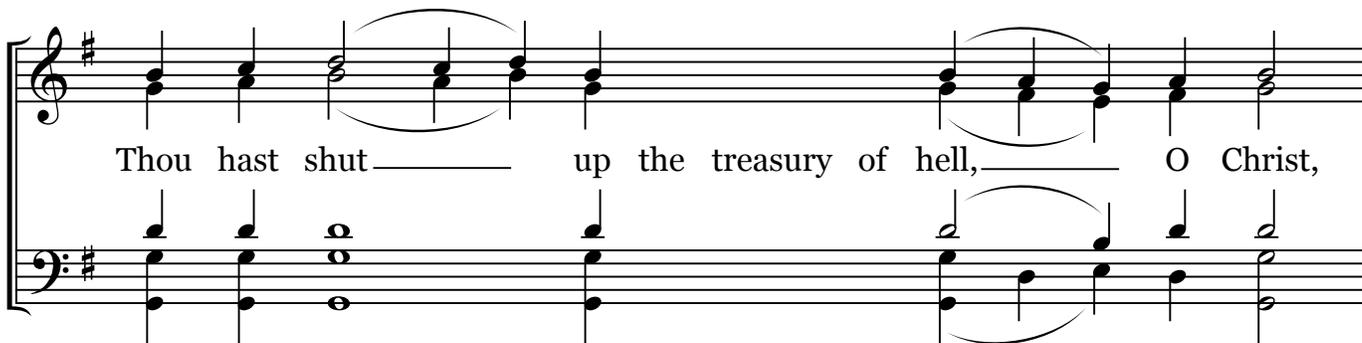
In the flesh, _____ Thou was of Thine own _____ will



en-closed with-in the tomb, yet in Thy divine na - - - - - ture



Thou dost remain uncircumscribed and lim - - - it - less.



Thou hast shut _____ up the treasury of hell, _____ O Christ,

and emptied all his pal - ac - es. Thou hast honored this Sab - bath

with Thy divine bless - ing, with Thy glo-ry and Thy ra - di-ance.

Reader: Holiness
becometh Thy house,

O Lord, un - to length _____ of days.

The pow - - - ers of heaven be - held _____ Thee, O Christ,

falsely accused by lawless men as a de - ceiv - - - er,

and they saw the stone be-fore — Thy tomb sealed by the hands

which had pierced Thy most — pure — side; and they — were

filled — with fear at Thine ineffable for-bear - ance. Yet, rejoicing

at our sal - va - - - tion, they cried a - loud — to Thee:

'Glory to Thy self - abasement, O Thou Who lov - est man - kind.'