Marching With the Lord

Exciting evangelistic children's choruses

Samantha Jellett

Marching With the Lord

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Marching With the Lord

Marching with the Lord

This collection of children's choruses was written to fulfil several needs that became apparent as our own Sunday School and Holiday Bible Club began to grow from small beginnings into an exciting ministry. Firstly, there seemed to be just a small number of Christ-glorifying, scripturally accurate choruses in existence, and whilst these were enjoyed by teacher and pupils alike, we found ourselves craving some additional material. Secondly, even amongst these faithful choruses there were not many that were evangelistic in nature, presenting the Gospel of God's free grace in Christ, and this became a central aim in the creation of new songs. Lastly, there were some subjects that had rarely or never before been treated in a children's song such as the events of Acts and the nature of heaven, and songs about these and more were written for specific Sunday School lessons or Bible Clubs. The end result of the whole is thus a mixture of both general songs suitable for any lesson or occasion and themed songs to tie in with specific stories or topics.

The music has been written to appeal to 21st century children whilst retaining a reverence for the subject matter and the Lord to whom the songs are being sung. A wide range of musical styles has been used, from very traditional to calypso and blues! All of the songs have been tried, tested and very much enjoyed by children, teachers and parents.

The aim of this volume is to glorify God for his wondrous plan of redemption in Christ and to show children the endless blessings that can be theirs if they simply look to him and cast themselves on his mercy: 'Help me know that all I need/ is just to look and to believe!' (*Can it be?*) Then, they will be truly 'Marching with the Lord', and able to say to others, 'Jesus is Saviour- have you heard?'

Samantha Jellett, February 2007

Actions

Some of the songs,in whole or in part, lend themselves particularly well to actions. Here are some ideas!

Open my Heart: Hands on heart for the word 'heart', make a looking action with one hand to forehead for the word 'see', put a finger to the head for the word 'know', make a big circle with the arms for the word 'praise' and make a building action with two fists for the word 'serve'.

Look and Live: Put one hand to forehead and raise head higher and higher with each 'look up'. Point up high to an imaginary serpent as you sing, 'the serpent on a pole lifted high'. Put hand to forehead again and raise head lower and lower for the line, 'If you look down unto the ground' and shake finger for 'You will very surely die'. For each 'Look and live', make a very quick looking action followed by a big circle with the arms. Second verse variation: point to self with one finger as you sing 'If you look to your sinful self'.

There's a Safe Place: 'There's a safe place': hug self with arms, 'There's a happy place': draw big smile on lips with finger, 'There's no hurting…dying…darkness': shake both head and one finger from side to side, 'for it's always day': make a big circle with arms to represent sun. Hold both hands open as you ask, 'How can I get there/ What must I do?', offer an imaginary bank note for 'can I buy a ticket?' and shake head and one finger for 'no, no, no!'. Open an imaginary door for 'One door there is', nod head and shake finger for 'the only way in'.

Out of Eygpt: Actions are suitable for the first half of the song. When singing 'Out of Eygpt'; point to the other side of the room. Cross both wrists and make up and down movements as if in chains as you sing 'out of slavery…', releasing hands dramatically on the word 'free'. A teacher or child can be nominated as Pharaoh and pointed to as 'out of Pharaoh's reign' is sung. 'The Lord will lead his people home again': use a finger to mark out points along an imaginary line.

Song of the Plagues: Walk on the spot (or in your seat) for 'Moses went to Pharaoh', and then open out arms in an asking gesture. Put hands on heart and then knock one clenched fist into one open palm as you sing 'But Pharaoh's heart was hard as stone'. Then shake your head and make sure that you shout, 'No!' very loud! For the actual plagues we use a set of cards depicting each plague for the children to hold up during the correct verse, but this of course is optional.

Twelve Spies: Works best standing up! 'Climbing up the mountain': make climbing movements with hands and feet. 'Twelve': very quickly flash all 10 and then two fingers, 'spies': make circles with thumb and forefinger of each hand and quickly put to each eye as if looking through binoculars. 'One from each of Israel's tribes': count along an imaginary line with pointed finger. 'Looking left…right': with bended knees and feet stationary on the floor, bounce upper body to the left and then right, putting your left and then right hand to forehead in a looking action to match. 'Looking down on Canaan…': with one hand still to forehead, look down to the floor. Either clap hands or tap knees twice with the two piano chords after each 'and they see'. For the list of what the spies see, we stand four children at the front each holding a picture up at the right time, which is very effective but could be replaced with further actions if required.

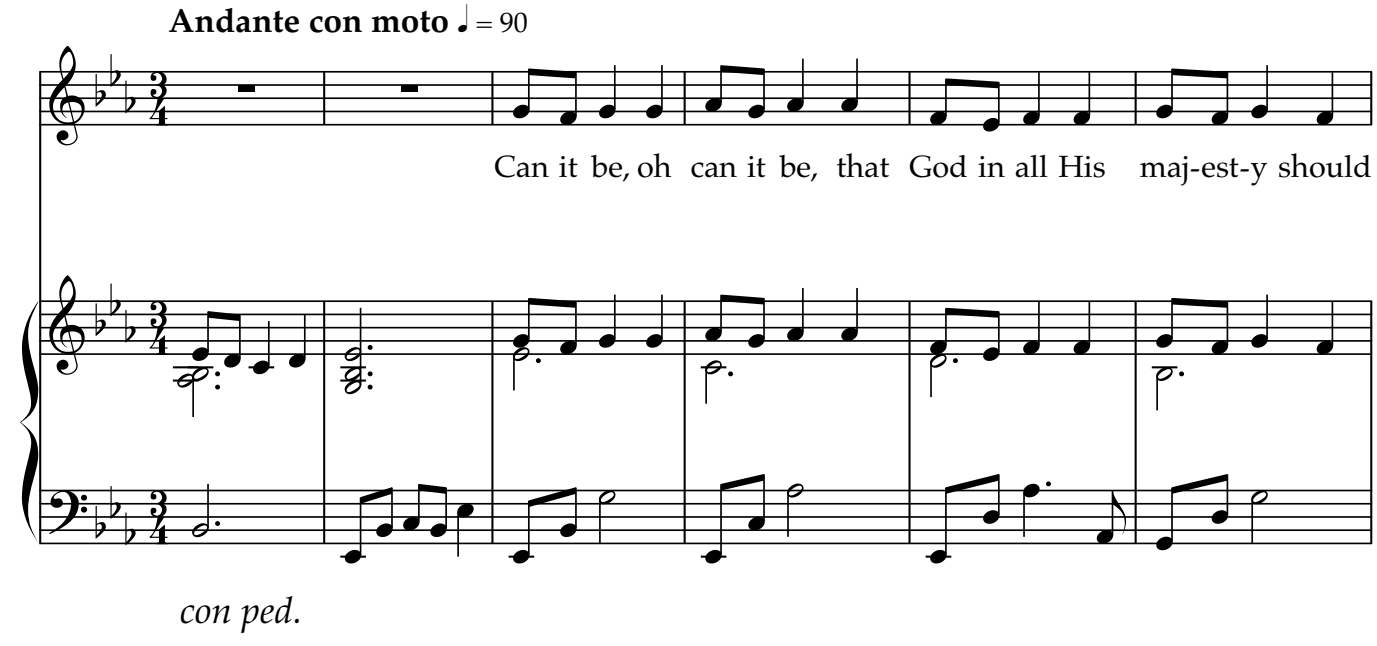
Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego: This can be sung as it is or fully mimed, with 4 children taking the roles of Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the King, who of course throws them into the fire after they refuse to worship his idol and is amazed when they are unharmed. Children watching can make a bowing action for 'would not to false gods bow their heads' and shake head and finger for 'oh no..', pointing upwards for 'they worshipped the Lord instead.

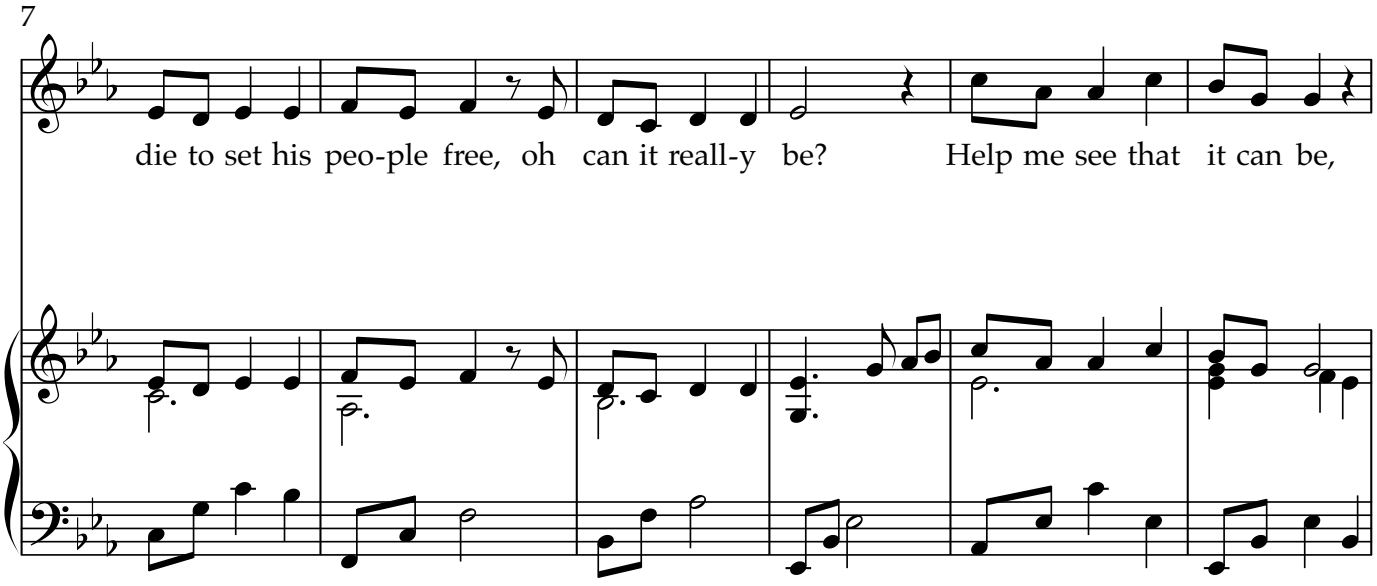
Running Away: The first half of each verse presents further opportunities for mime if required, with a group of children in an imaginary boat being joined by Jonah, who is subsequently thrown overboard. The chorus, which is the application of the story, features some memorable actions: 'Are you running away?': run on the spot, 'from the Lord': point upwards, 'turning away': turn face to one side and cover with hand, 'from his Word': make hands into a book. Shake head and finger for 'Don't be a Jonah…', put hands on knees firmly for 'stay, stay and listen', pretend to write on hand for 'message' and make another book with hands for 'in God's Word'.

Marching with the Lord: Plenty of actions here, and definitely one to sing standing up! 'Marching…' march on the spot, 'captain': salute, 'shield': make big circle shape with arms, 'sword': strike with an imaginary sword, 'Standing..': stand up very straight with feet together, 'his Word': make imaginary book with hands, 'have you heard?': cup one hand to ear. Second verse: put hands together as if praying for 'praying, we're praying..', and cast imaginary fishing rod for 'Casting, we're casting…'

Can it be?

Samantha Jellett





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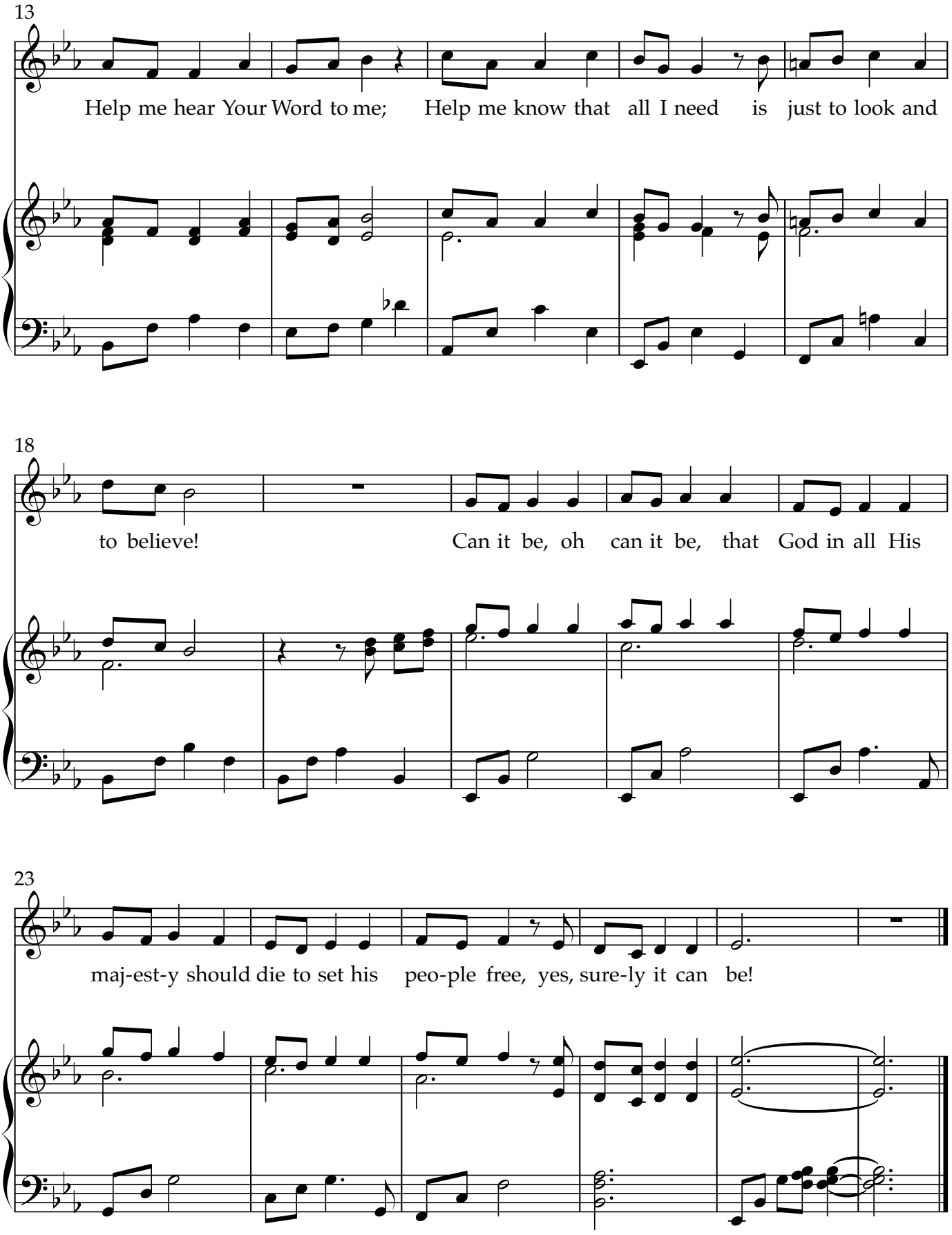
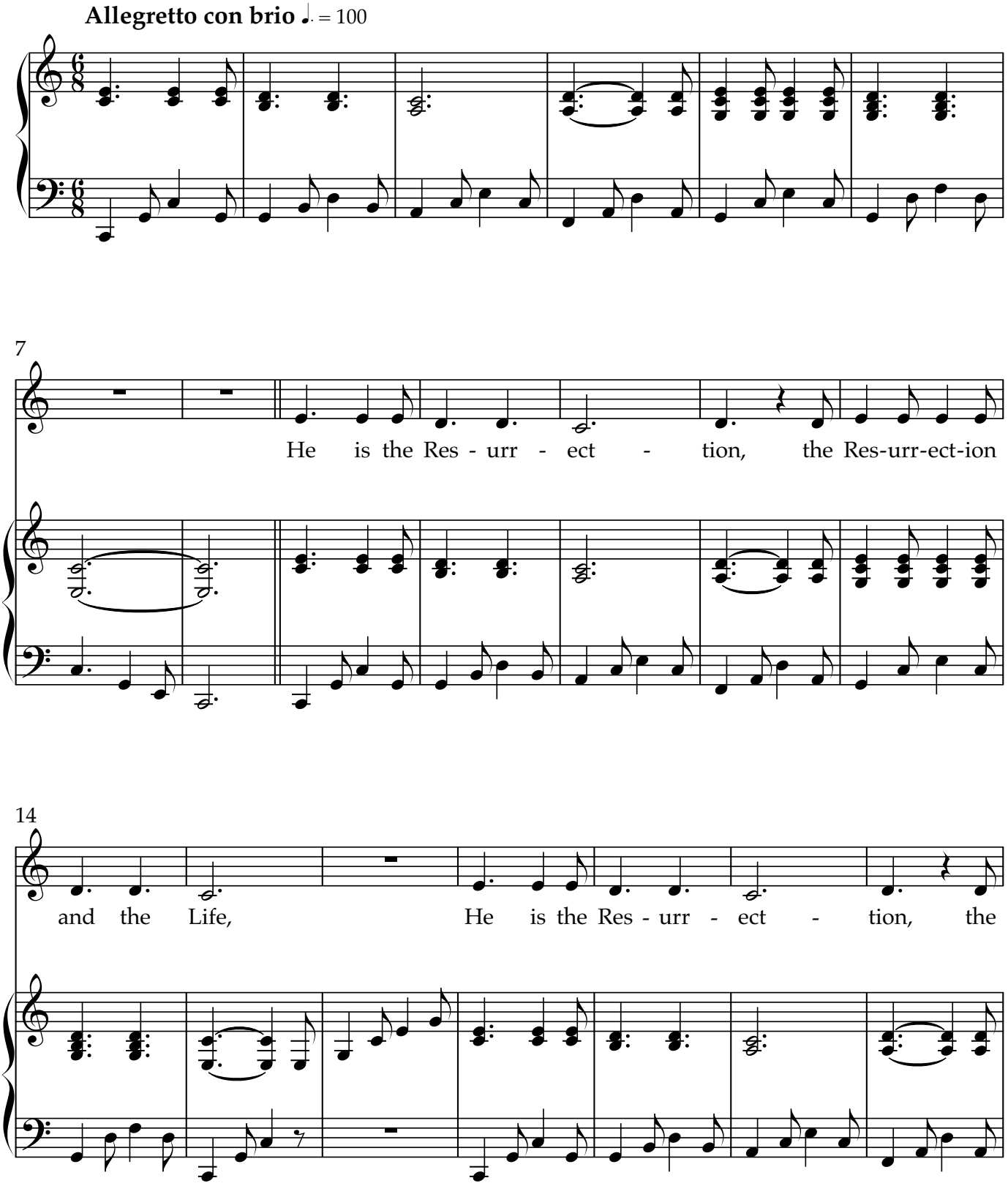

13
Help me hear Your Word to me; Help me know that all I need is just to look and
18
to believe! Can it be, oh can it be, that God in all His
23
maj-est-y should die to set his peo-ple free, yes, sure-ly it can be!

The Resurrection and the Life

Samantha Jellett



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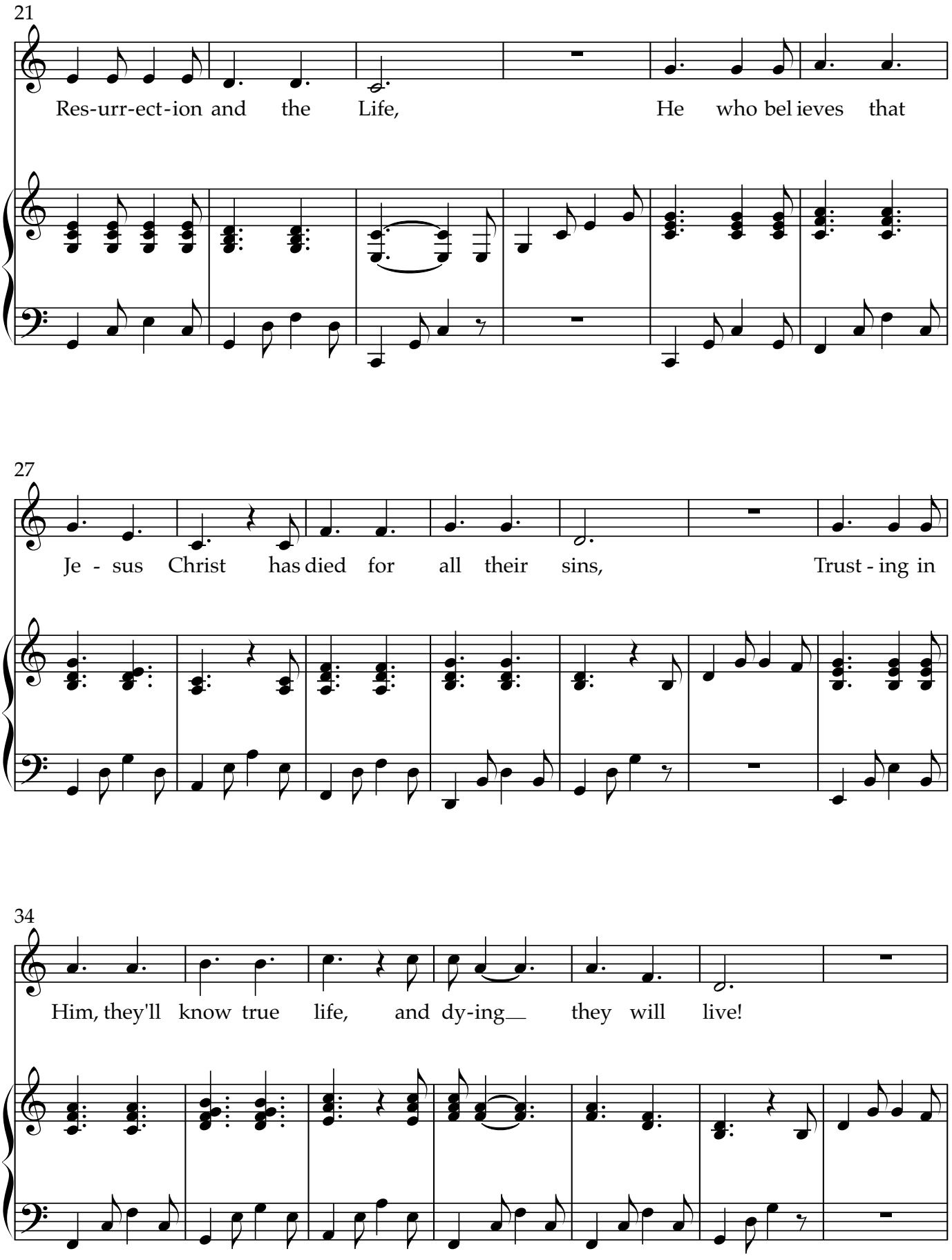
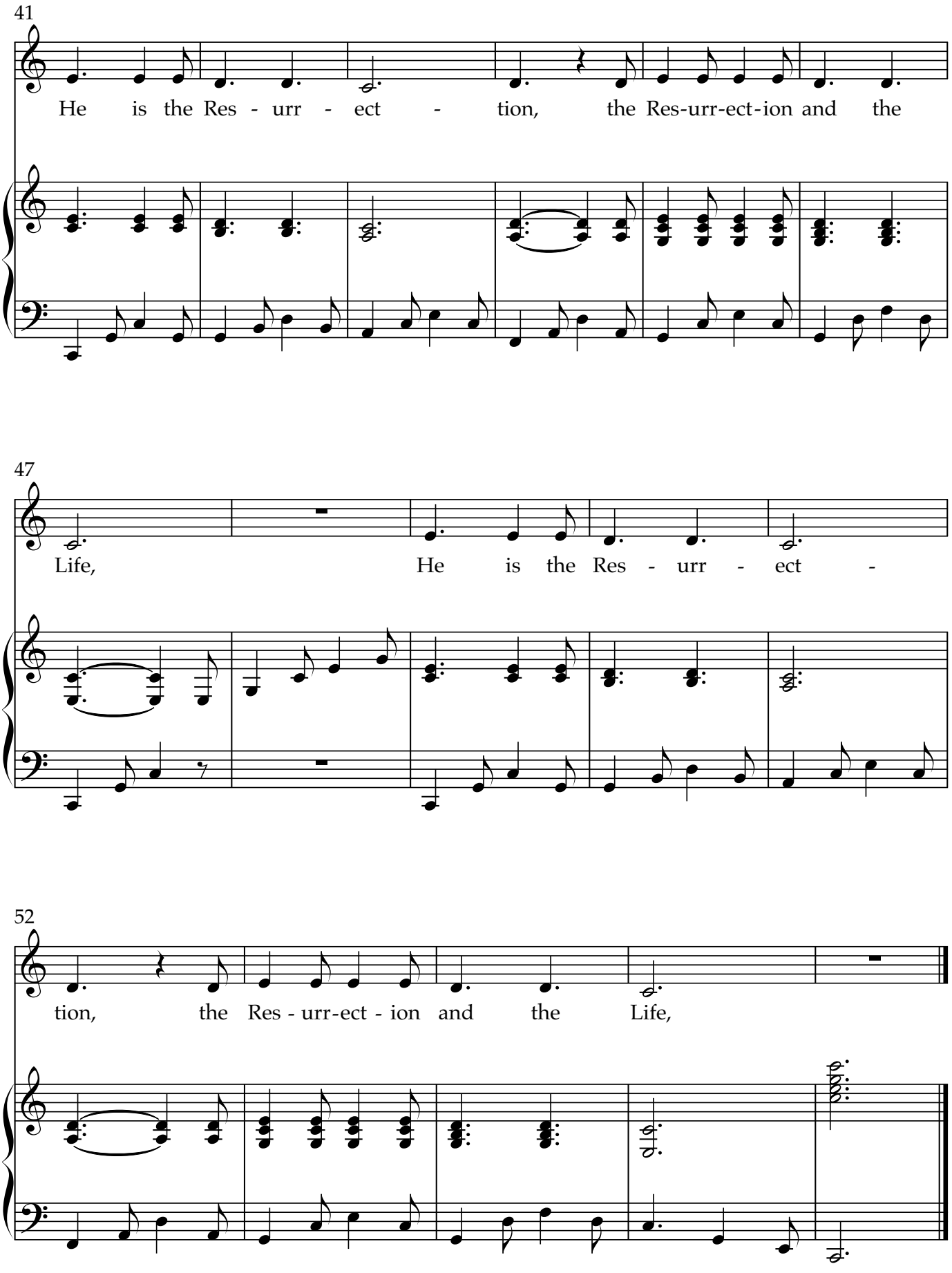
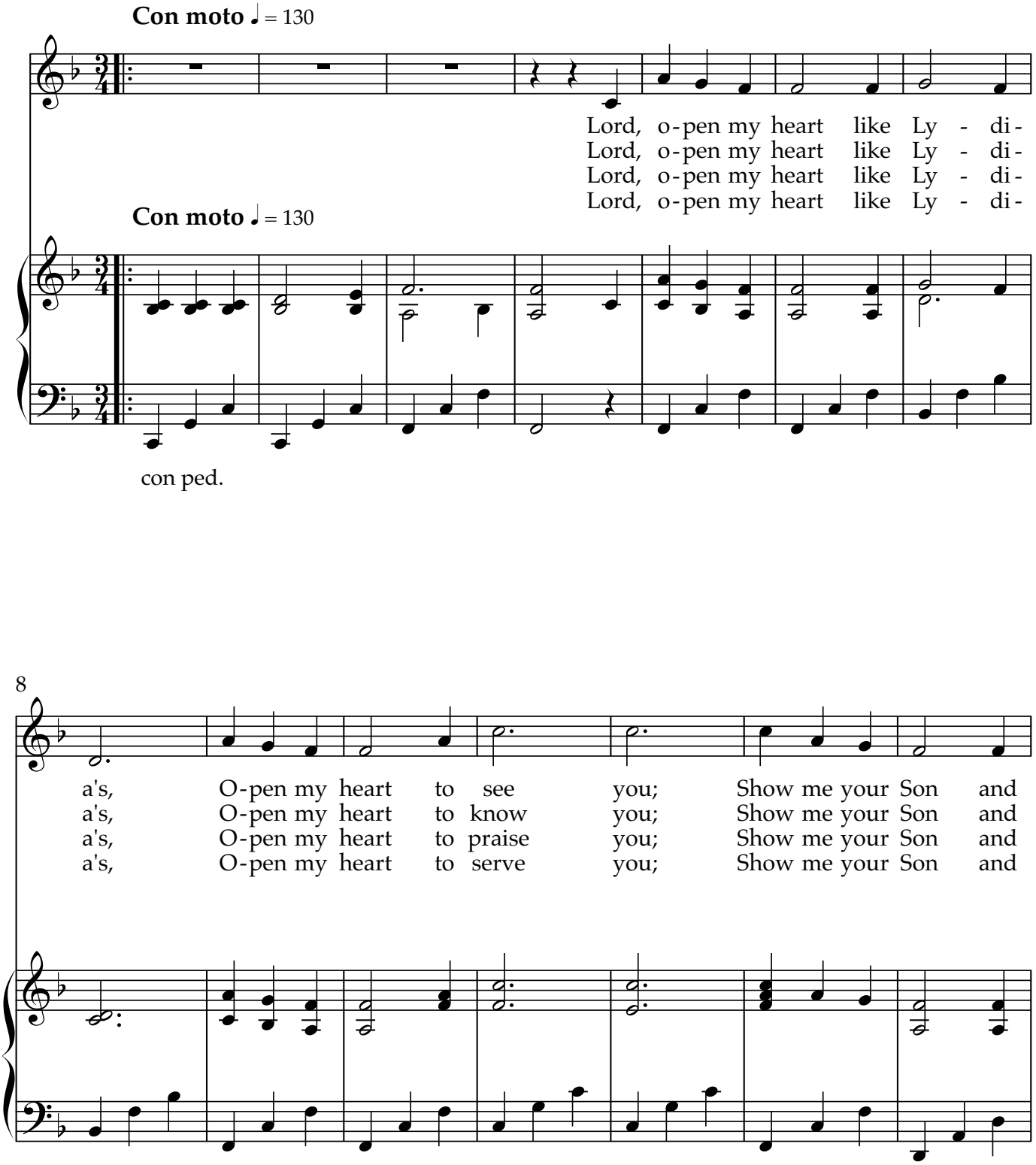

21
Res-urr-ect-ion and the Life, He who bel ieves that
27
Je - sus Christ has died for all their sins, Trust - ing in
34
Him, they'll know true life, and dy-ing they will live!


41
He is the Res - urr - ect - tion, the Res-urr-ect-ion and the
47
Life, He is the Res - urr - ect -
52
tion, the Res - urr-ect - ion and the Life,

Open my heart

Samantha Jellett



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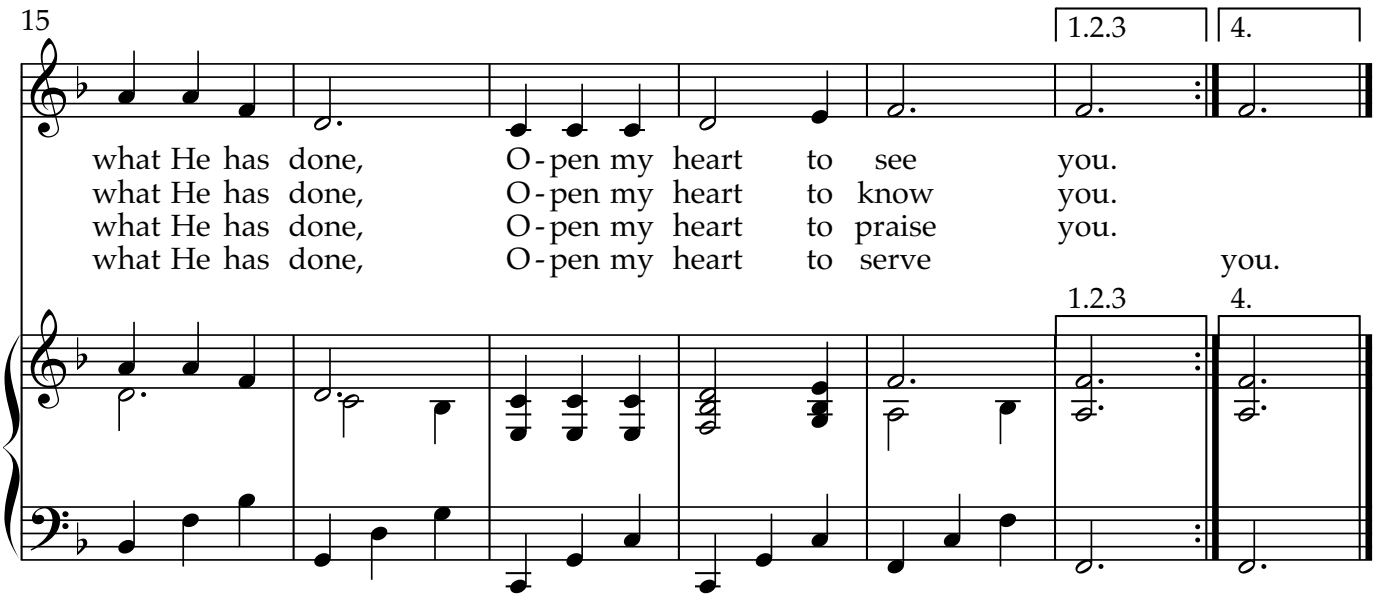
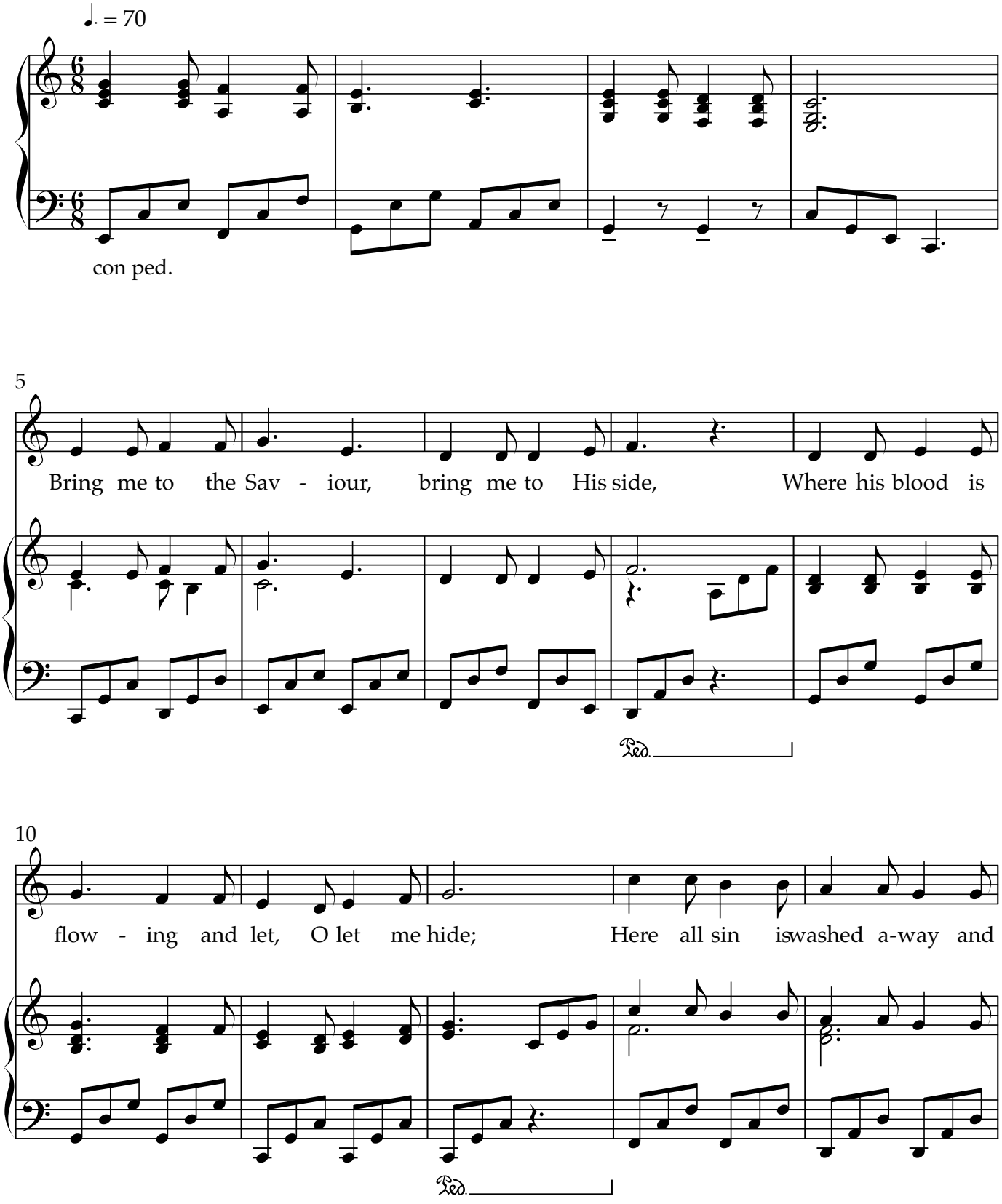

15
1.2.3
4.
what He has done, O-pen my heart to see you.
what He has done, O-pen my heart to know you.
what He has done, O-pen my heart to praise you.
what He has done, O-pen my heart to serve you.
1.2.3
4.

Bring me to the Saviour

Samantha Jellett



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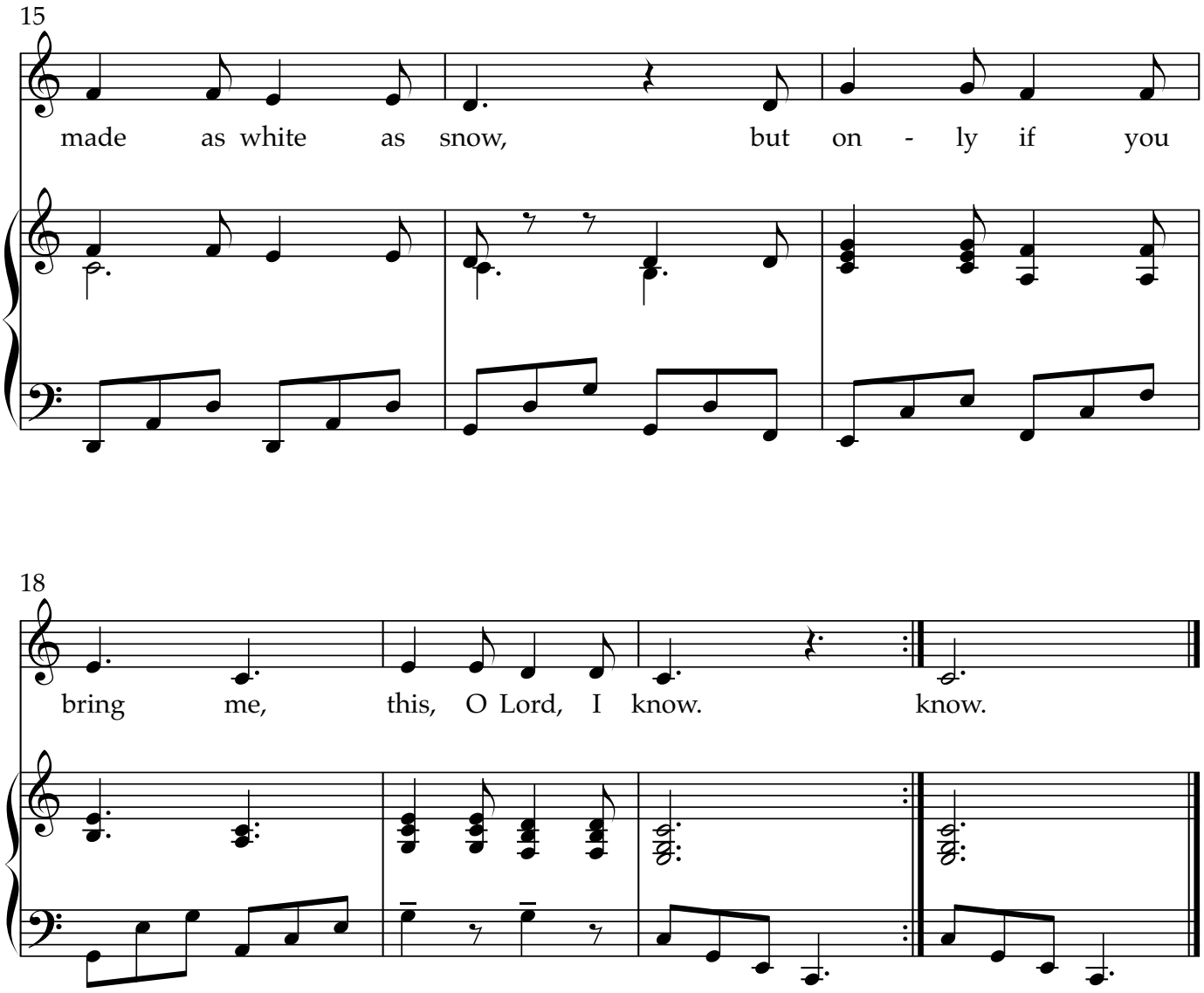
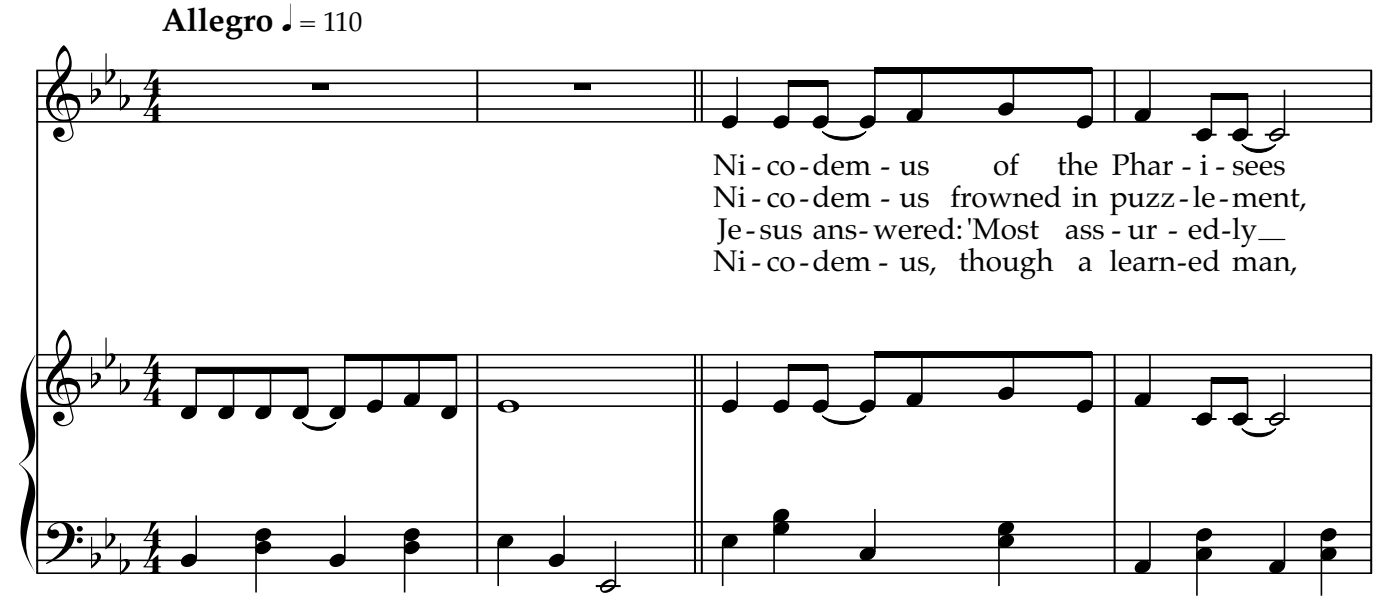
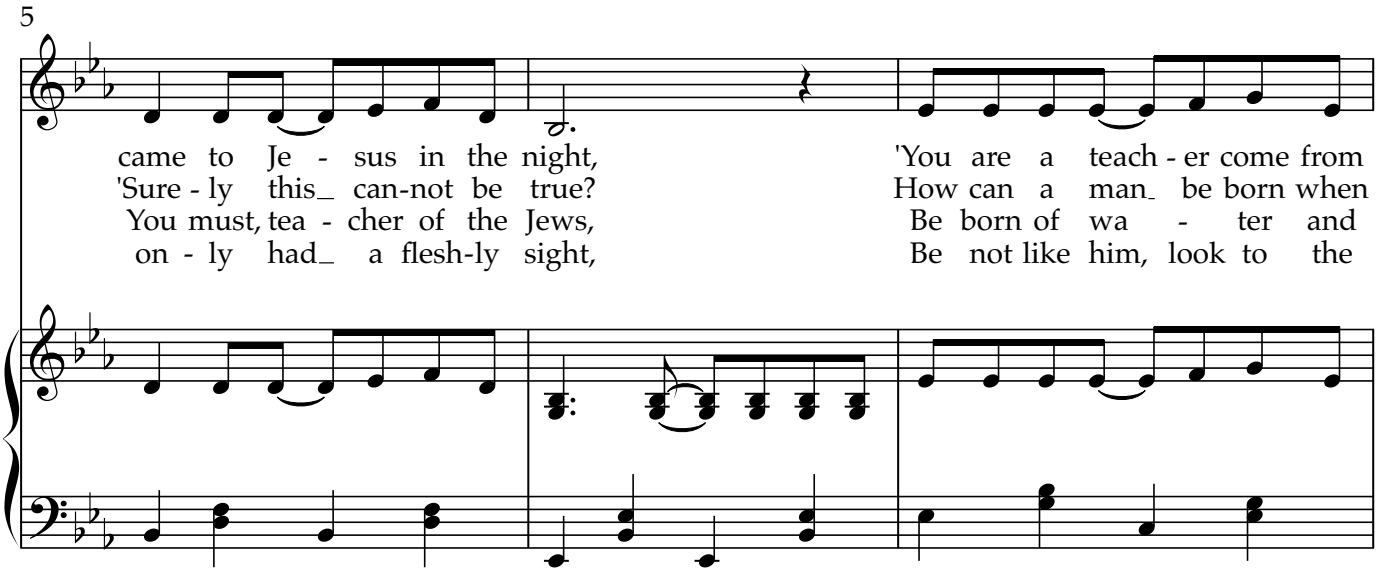

15
made as white as snow, but on - ly if you
18
bring me, this, O Lord, I know. know.

You must be born again

Samantha Jellett





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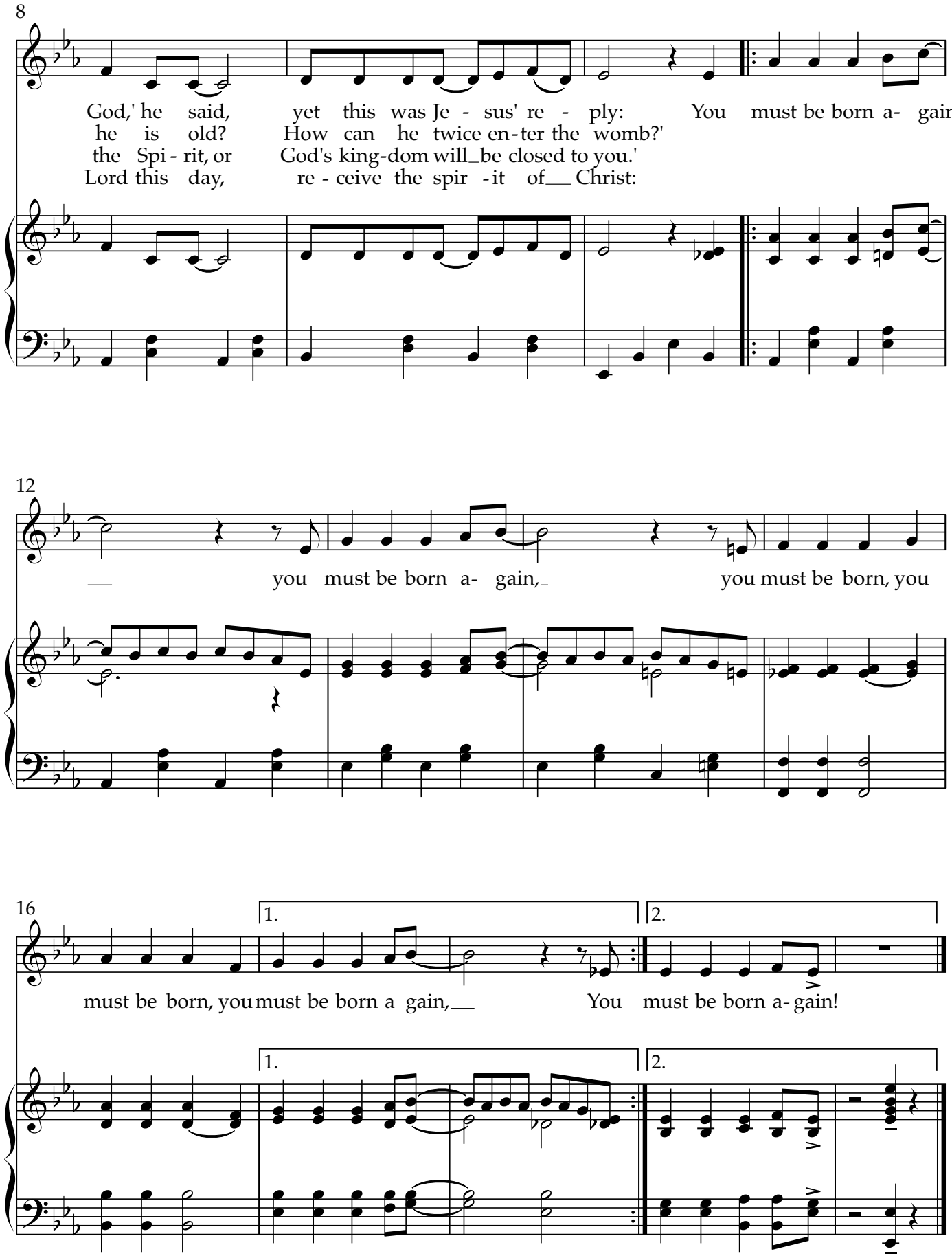
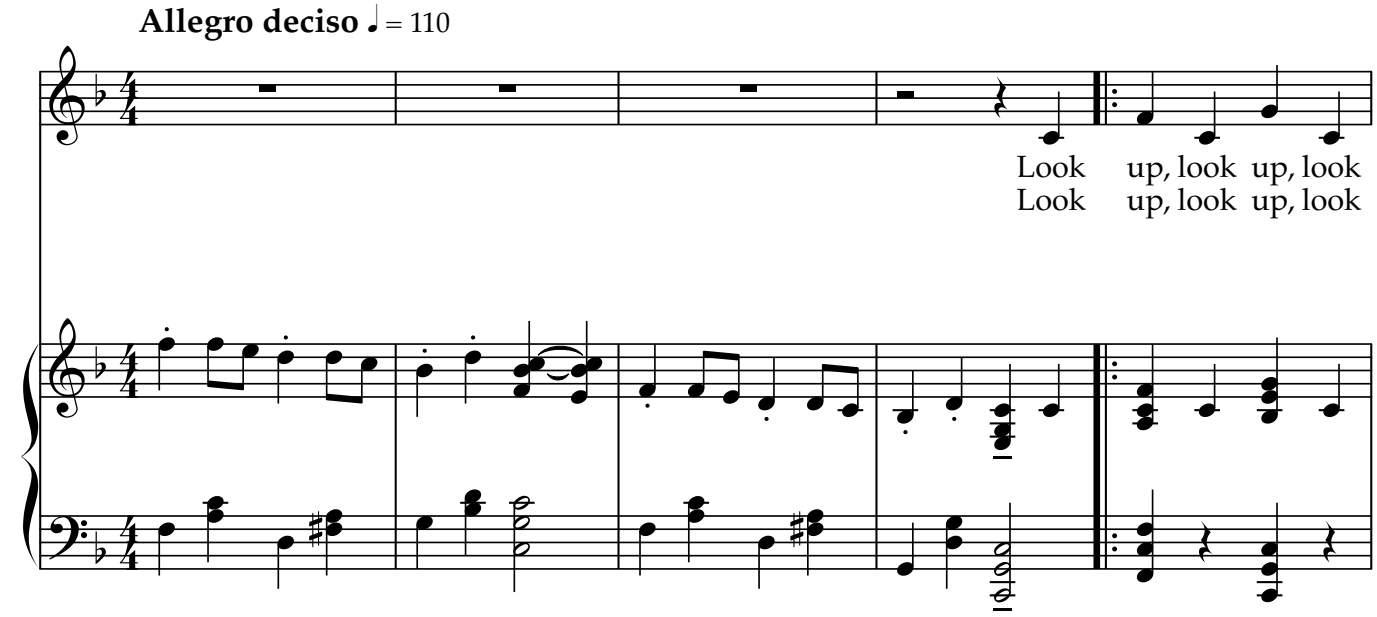
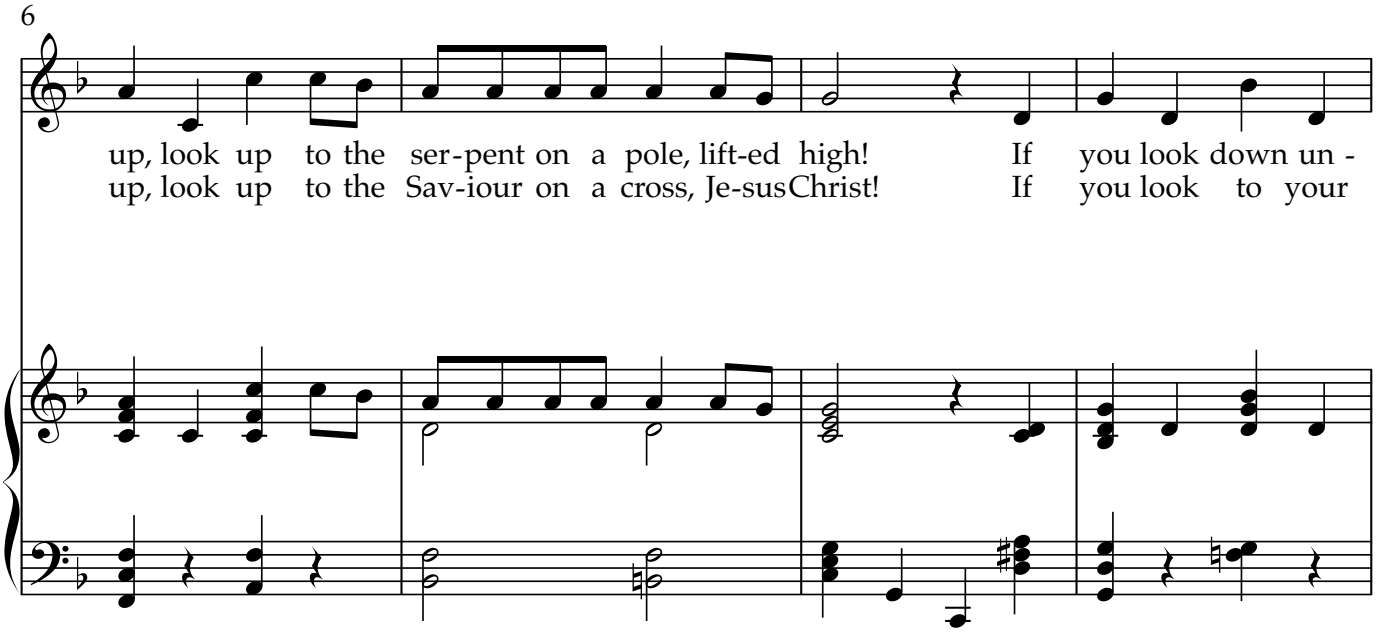

8
God,' he said, yet this was Je - sus' re - ply: You must be born a- gain,
he is old? How can he twice en-ter the womb?'
the Spi - rit, or God's king-dom will_be closed to you.'
Lord this day, re - ceive the spir - it of__ Christ:
12
__ you must be born a- gain,_ you must be born, you
16
1.
2.
must be born, you must be born a gain,__ You must be born a- gain!
1.
2.

Look and Live

Samantha Jellett





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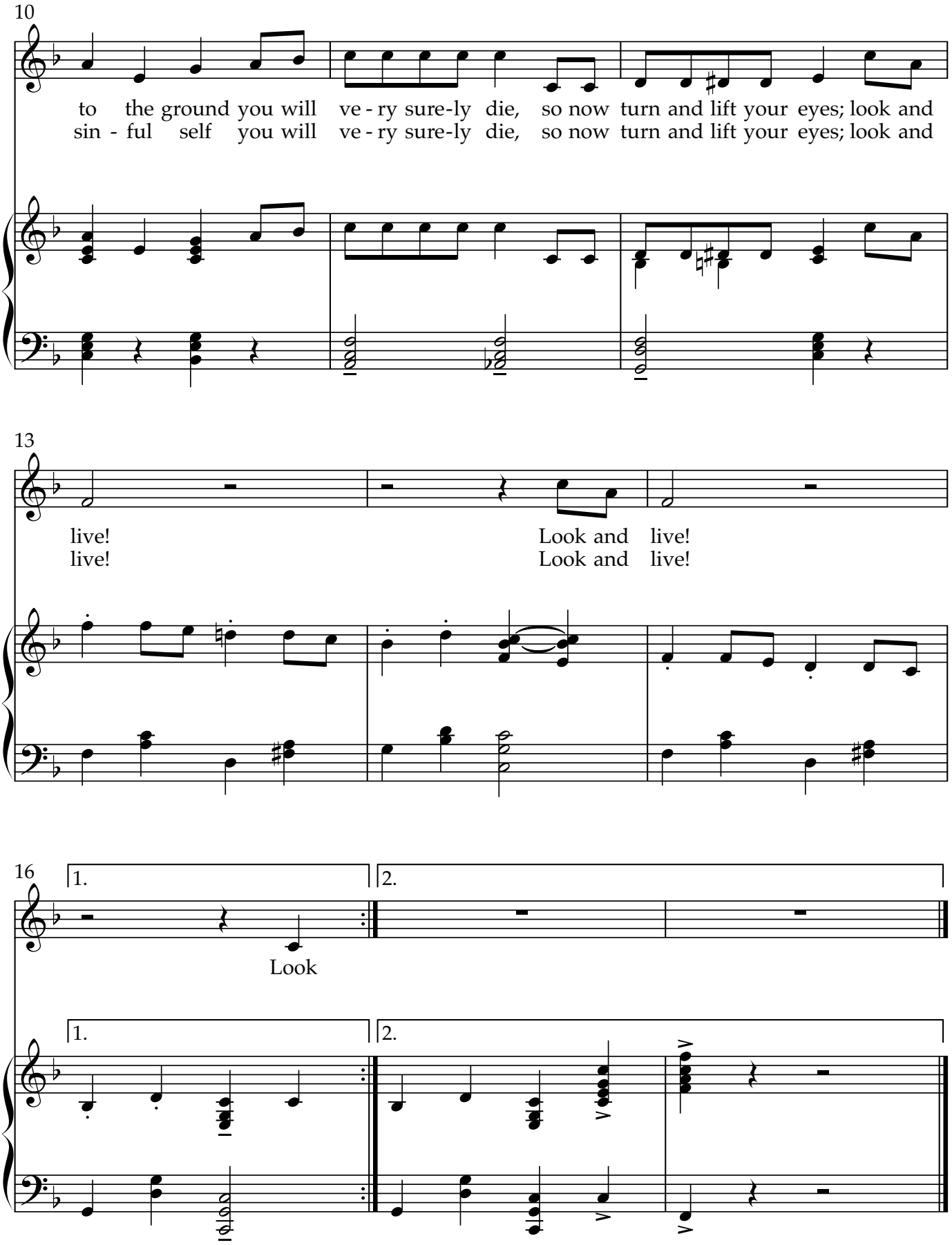
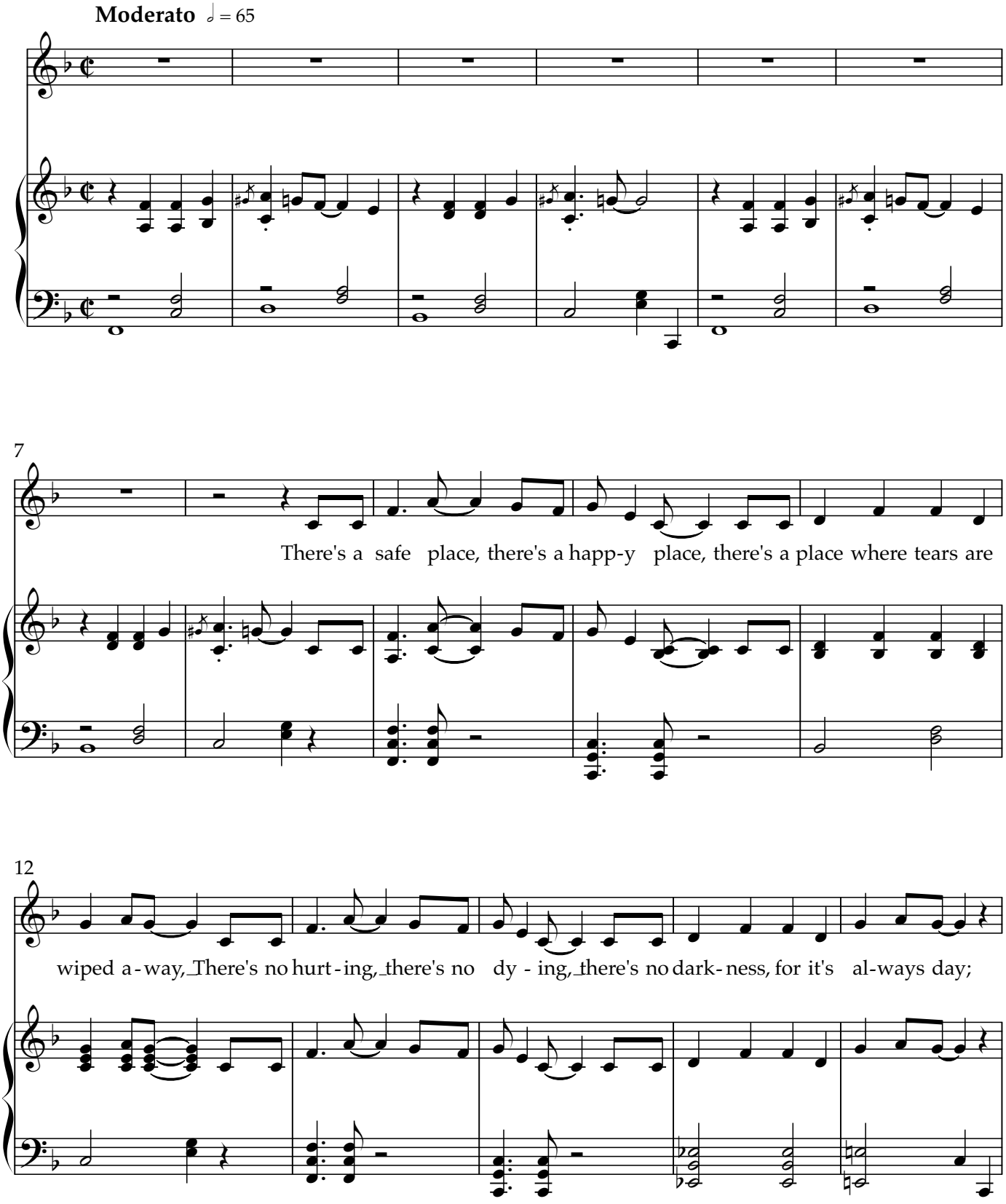

10
to the ground you will ve - ry sure-ly die, so now turn and lift your eyes; look and
sin - ful self you will ve - ry sure-ly die, so now turn and lift your eyes; look and
13
live!
live!
Look and live!
Look and live!
16
1.
2.
Look
1.
2.

There's a safe place

Samantha Jellett



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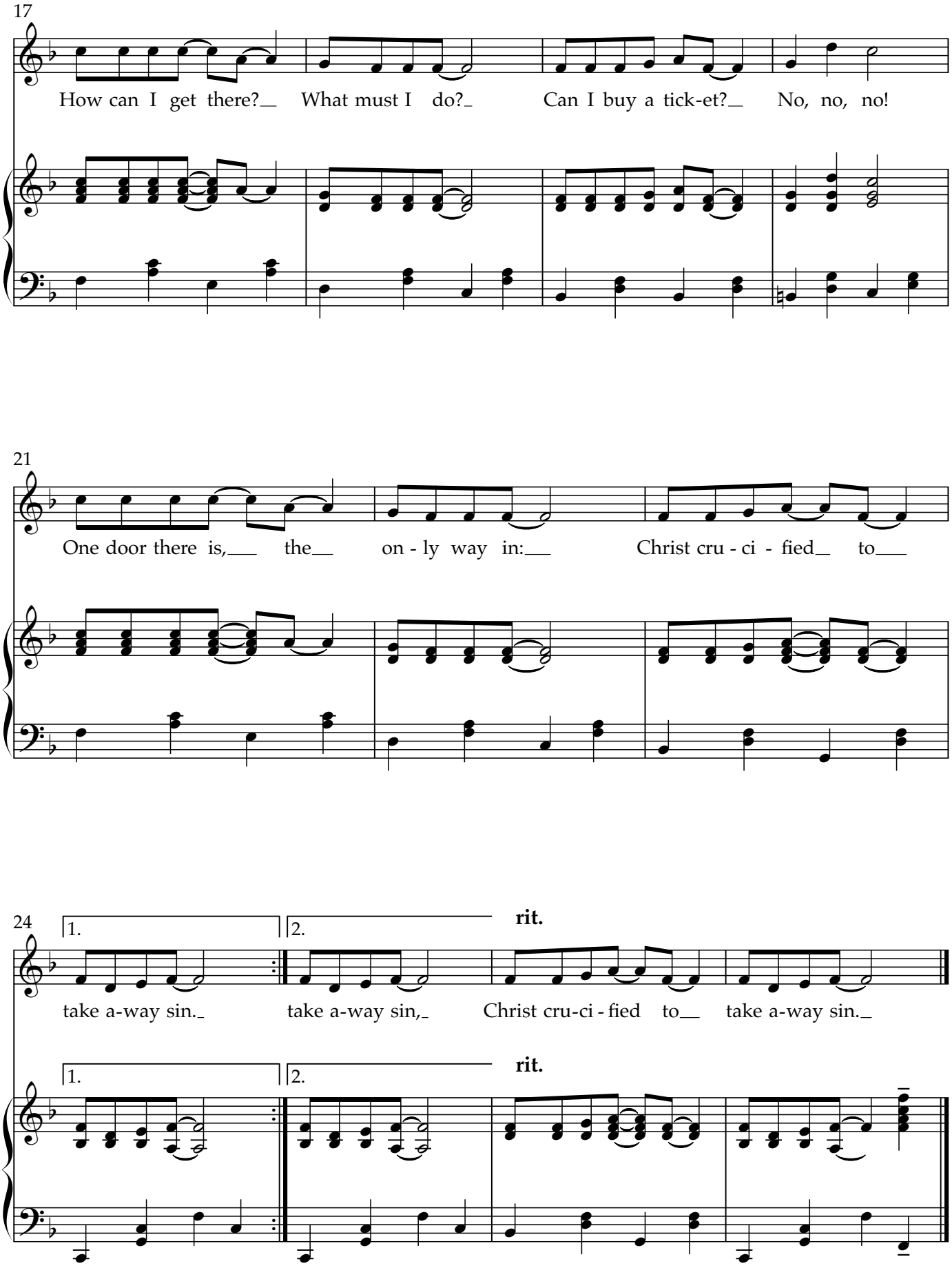
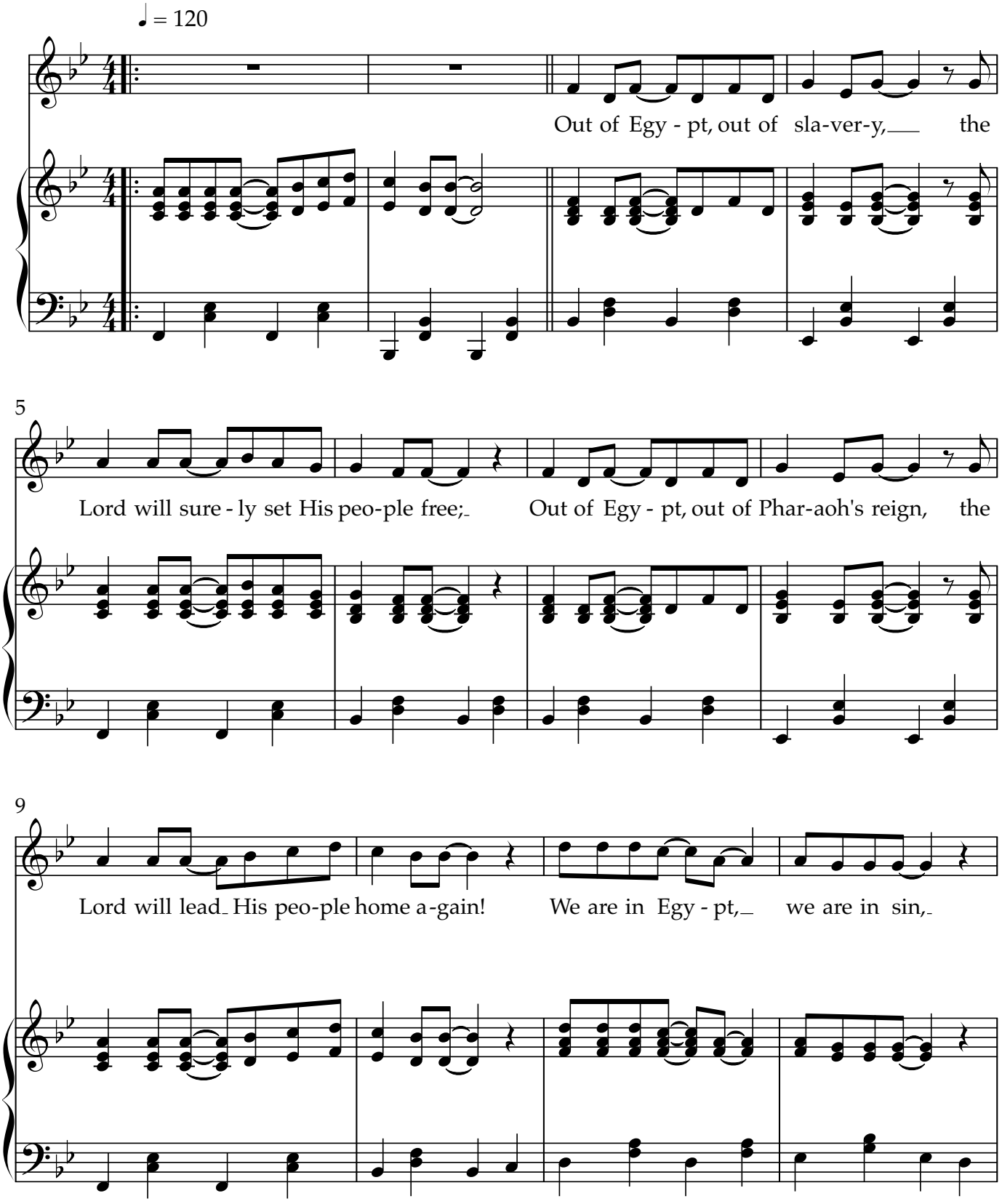

17
How can I get there? What must I do? Can I buy a tick-et? No, no, no!
21
One door there is, the on - ly way in: Christ cru - ci - fied to
24
1.
2.
rit.
take a-way sin. take a-way sin, Christ cru-ci - fied to take a-way sin.
1.
2.
rit.

Out of Egypt

Samantha Jellett



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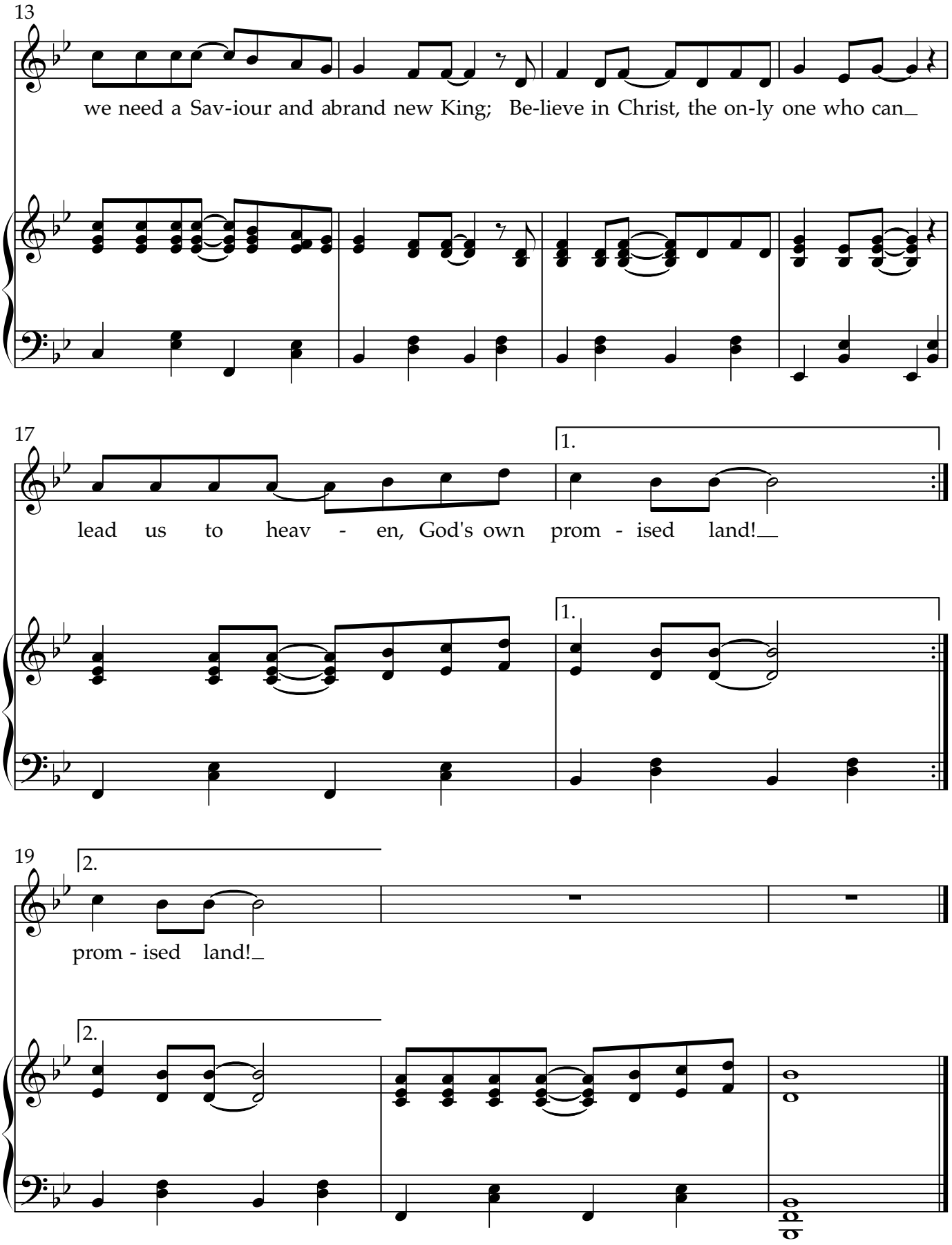
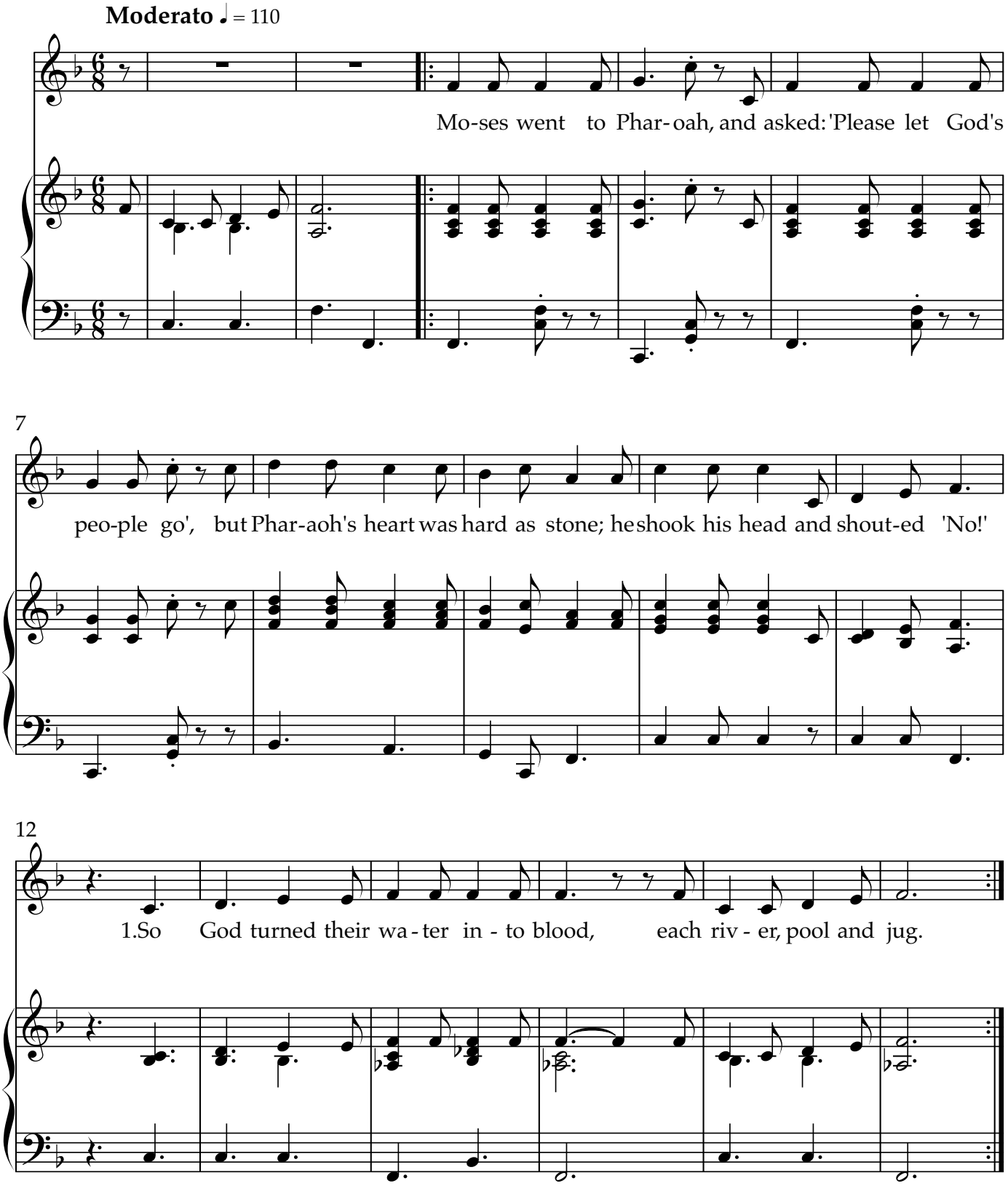

13
we need a Sav-iour and abrand new King; Be-lieve in Christ, the on-ly one who can_
17
1.
lead us to heav - en, God's own prom - ised land!_
1.
19
2.
prom - ised land!_
2.

Song of the Plagues



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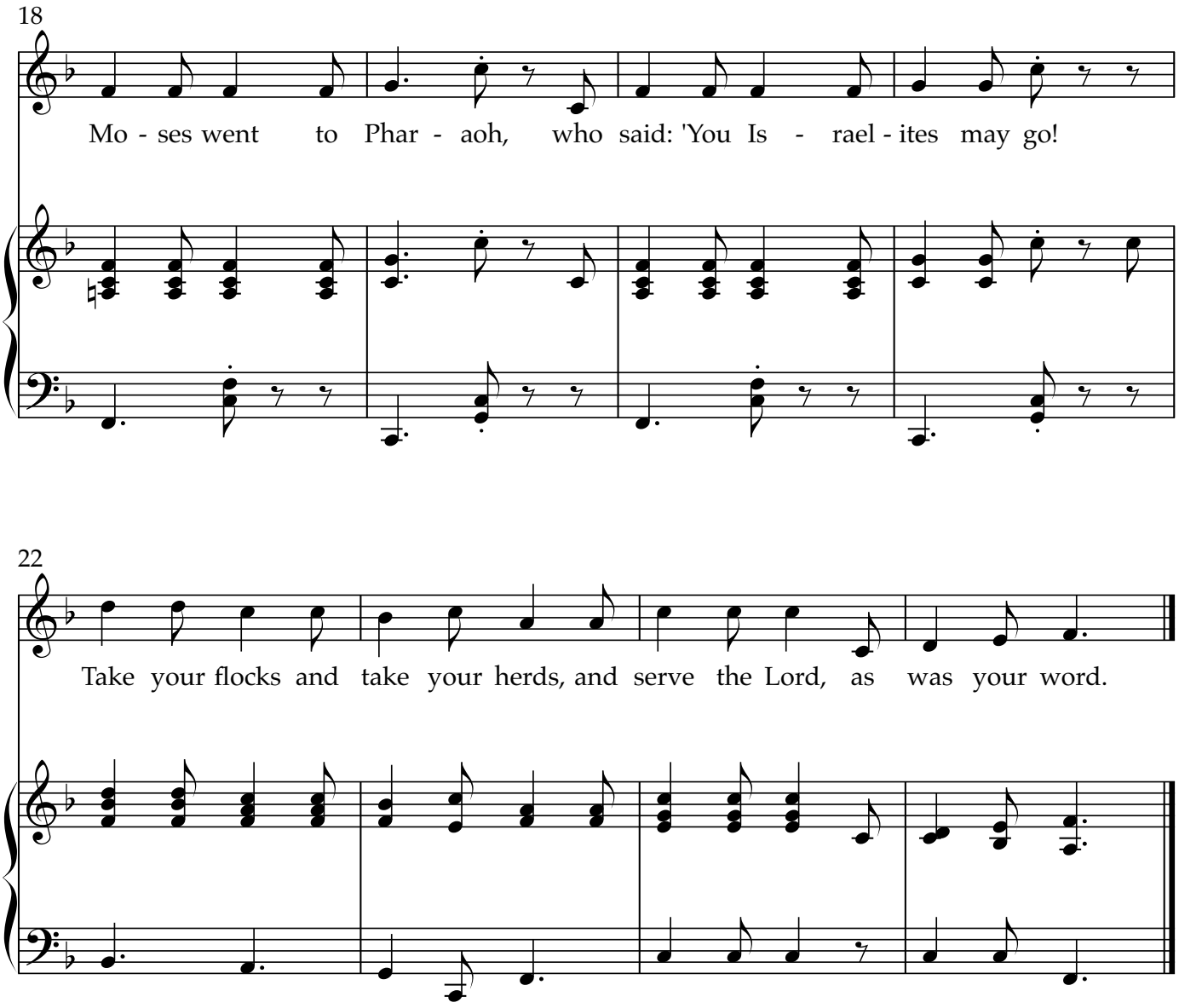

2. So God sent a plague of many frogs, to houses, beds and bowls.
3. So God turned the dust to itchy lice: it wasn't very nice.
4. So God sent flies in might swarms, upon all Egypt's land.
5. So God struck the Egyptians' cattle dead; just israel's remained.
6. So God sent a plague of terrible boils, to cover them in sores.
7. So God sent thunder, hail and fire to rain down from the sky.
8. So God sent locusts in a wind to eat their plants so green.
9. So God sent darkness over the land, for three days thick and black.
10. So God said, 'The first born child shall die: from every house a cry.

Twelve Spies

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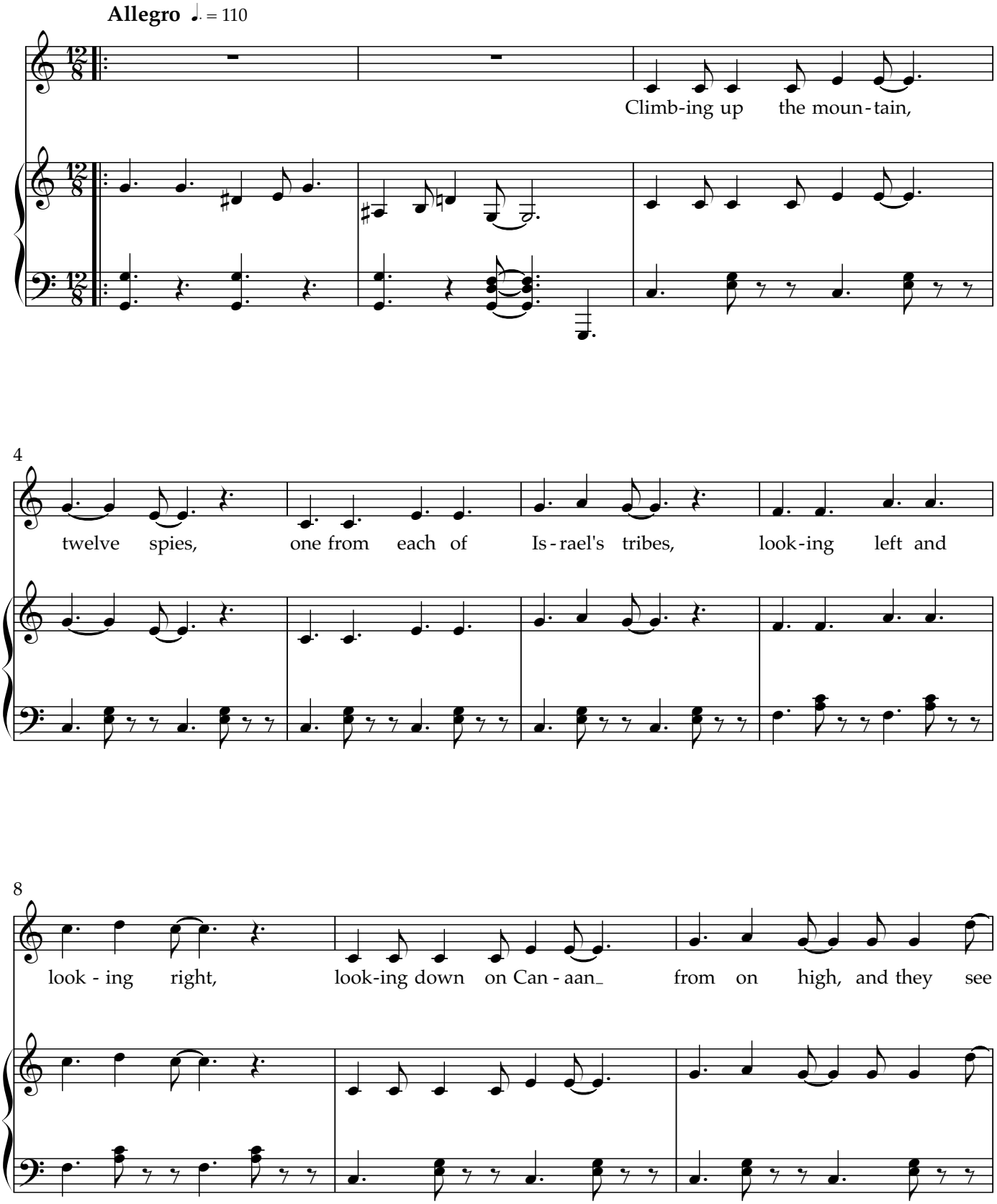

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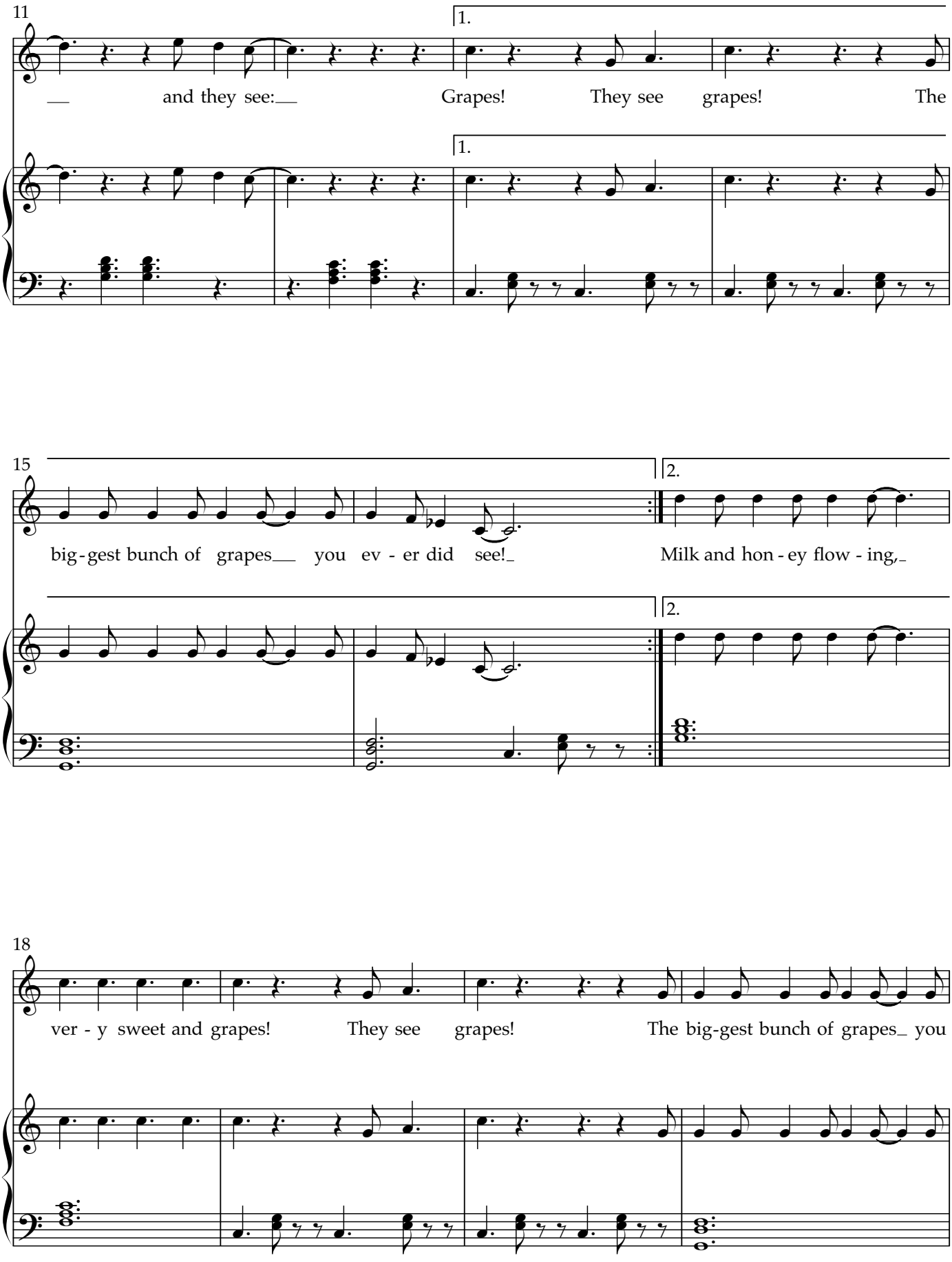
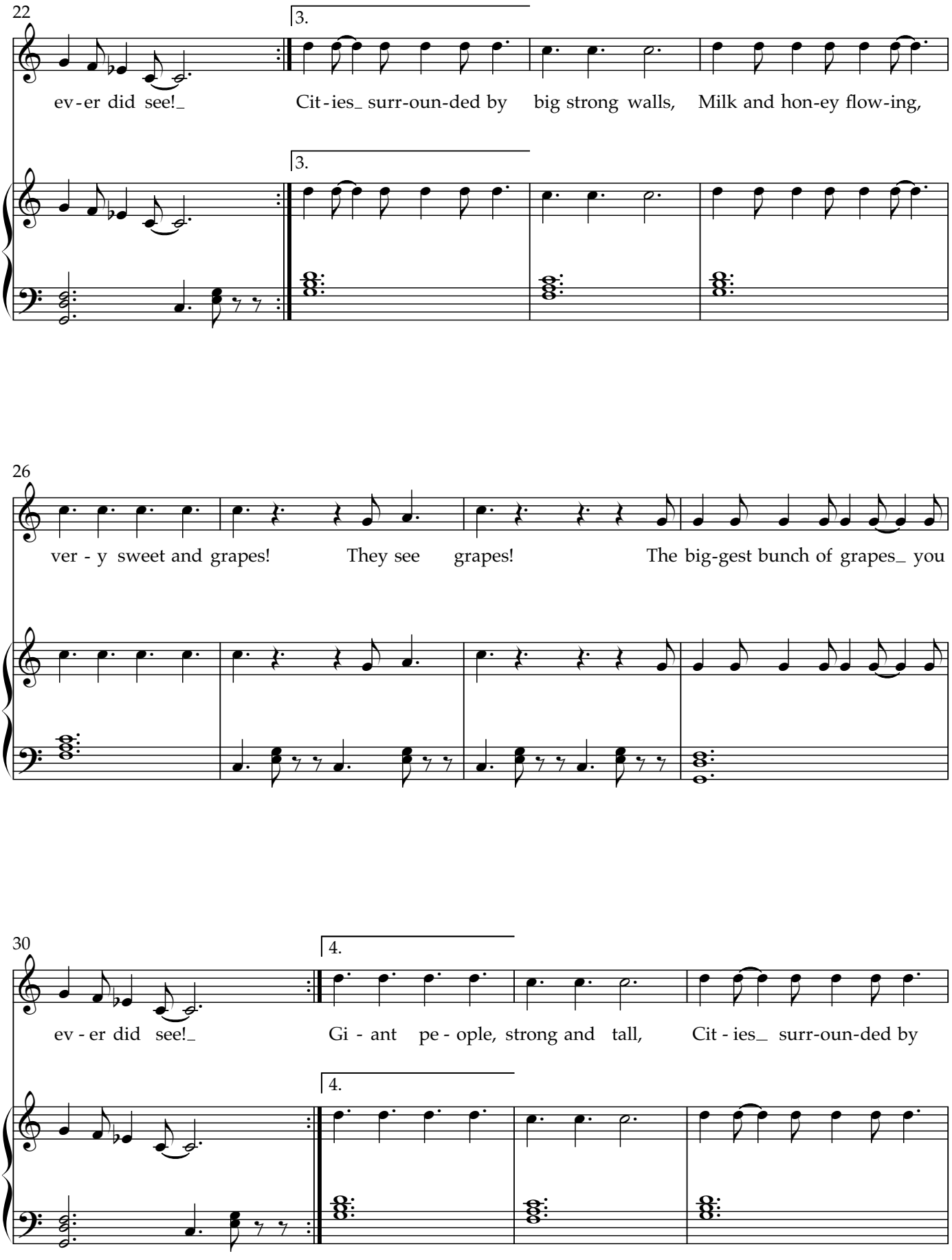
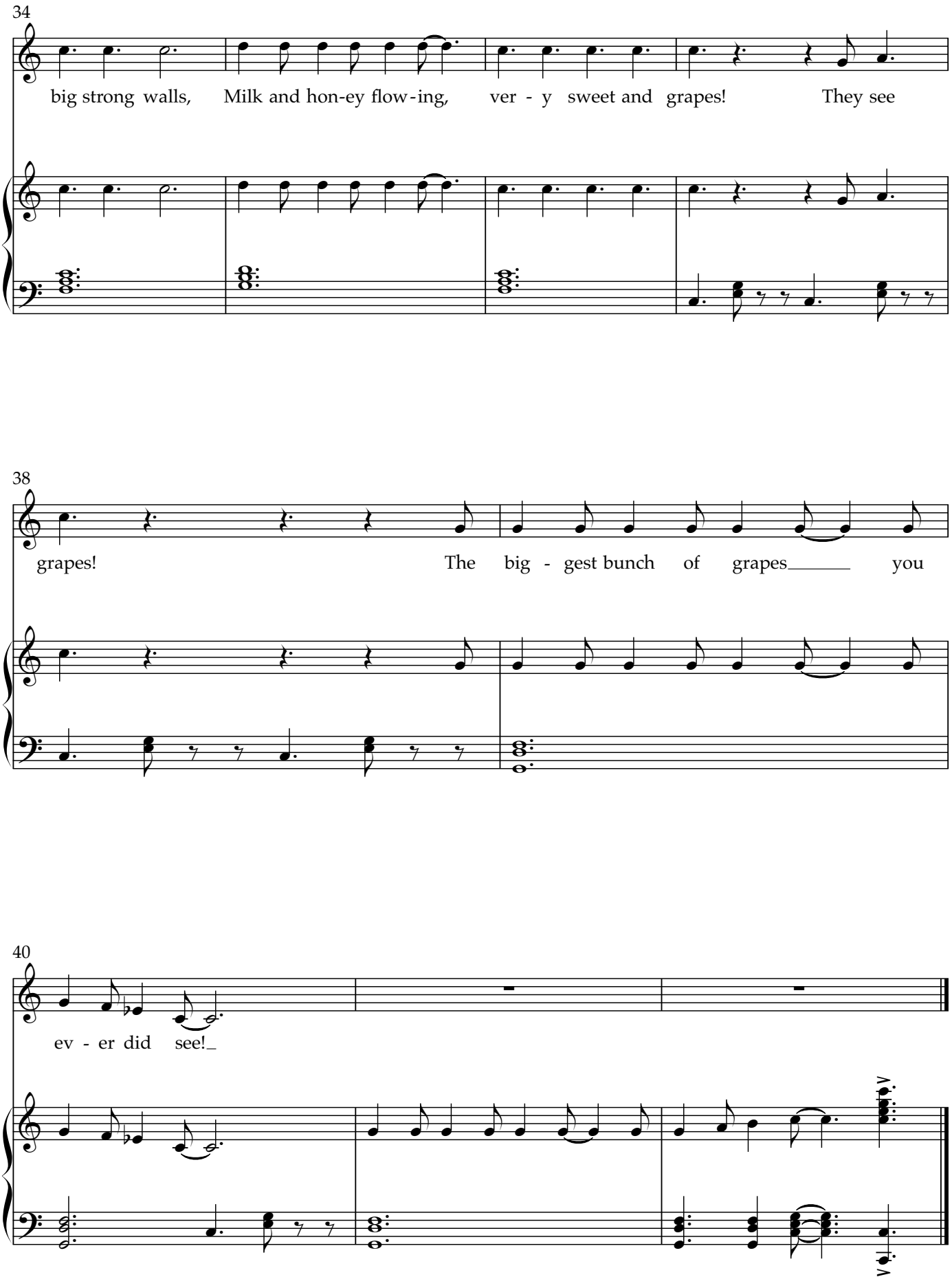
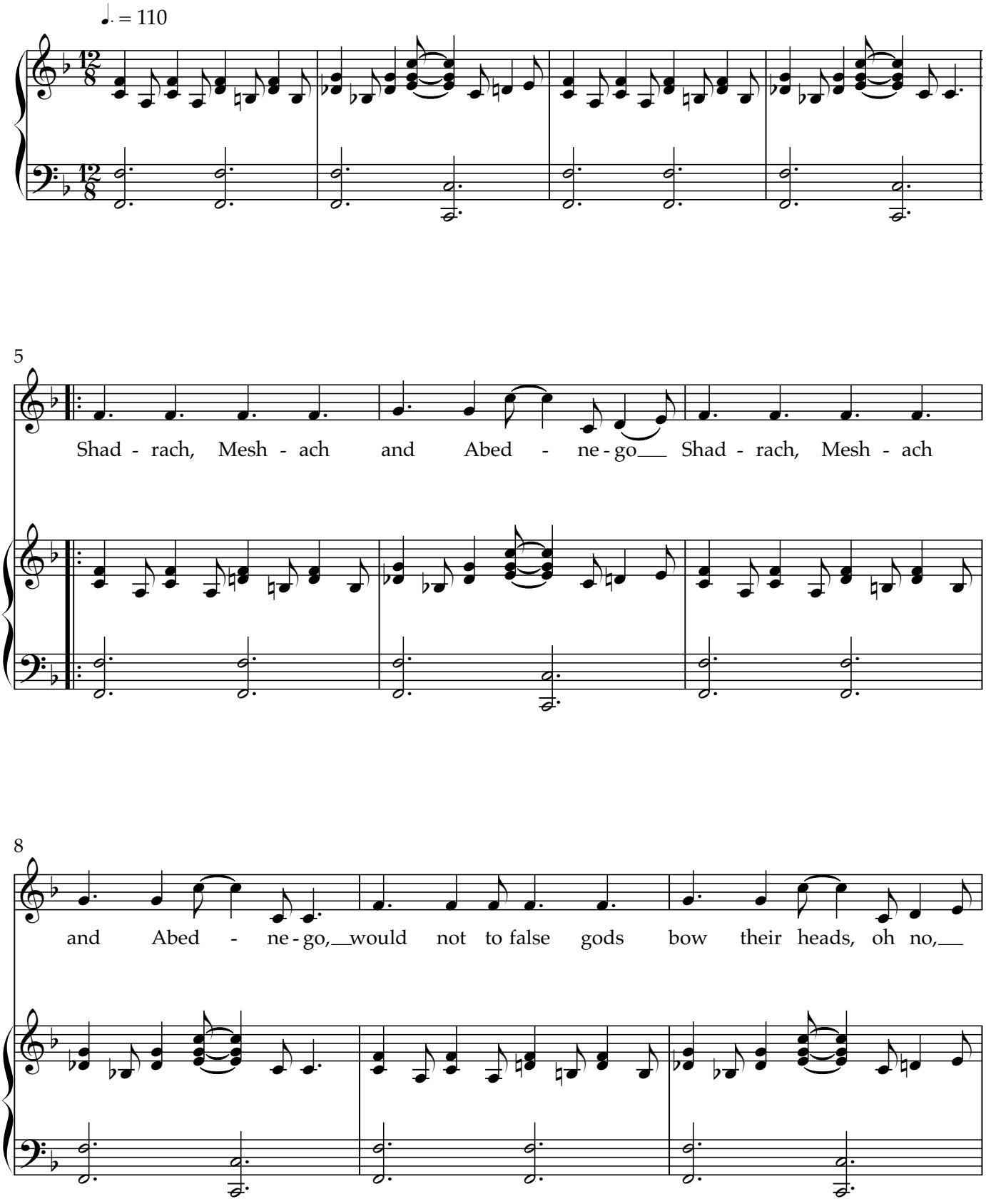

11
1.
and they see:
Grapes!
They see
grapes!
The
15
2.
big-gest bunch of grapes
you
ev - er did
see!
Milk and hon - ey flow - ing,
18
ver - y sweet and grapes!
They see
grapes!
The big-gest bunch of grapes
you


22
3.
ev-er did see!_
Cit-ies_ surr-oun-ded by big strong walls, Milk and hon-ey flow-ing,
26
ver - y sweet and grapes! They see grapes! The big-gest bunch of grapes_ you
30
4.
ev - er did see!_
Gi - ant pe - ople, strong and tall, Cit - ies_ surr-oun-ded by


34
big strong walls, Milk and hon-ey flow-ing, ver - y sweet and grapes! They see
38
grapes! The big - gest bunch of grapes you
40
ev - er did see!

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

Samantha Jellett



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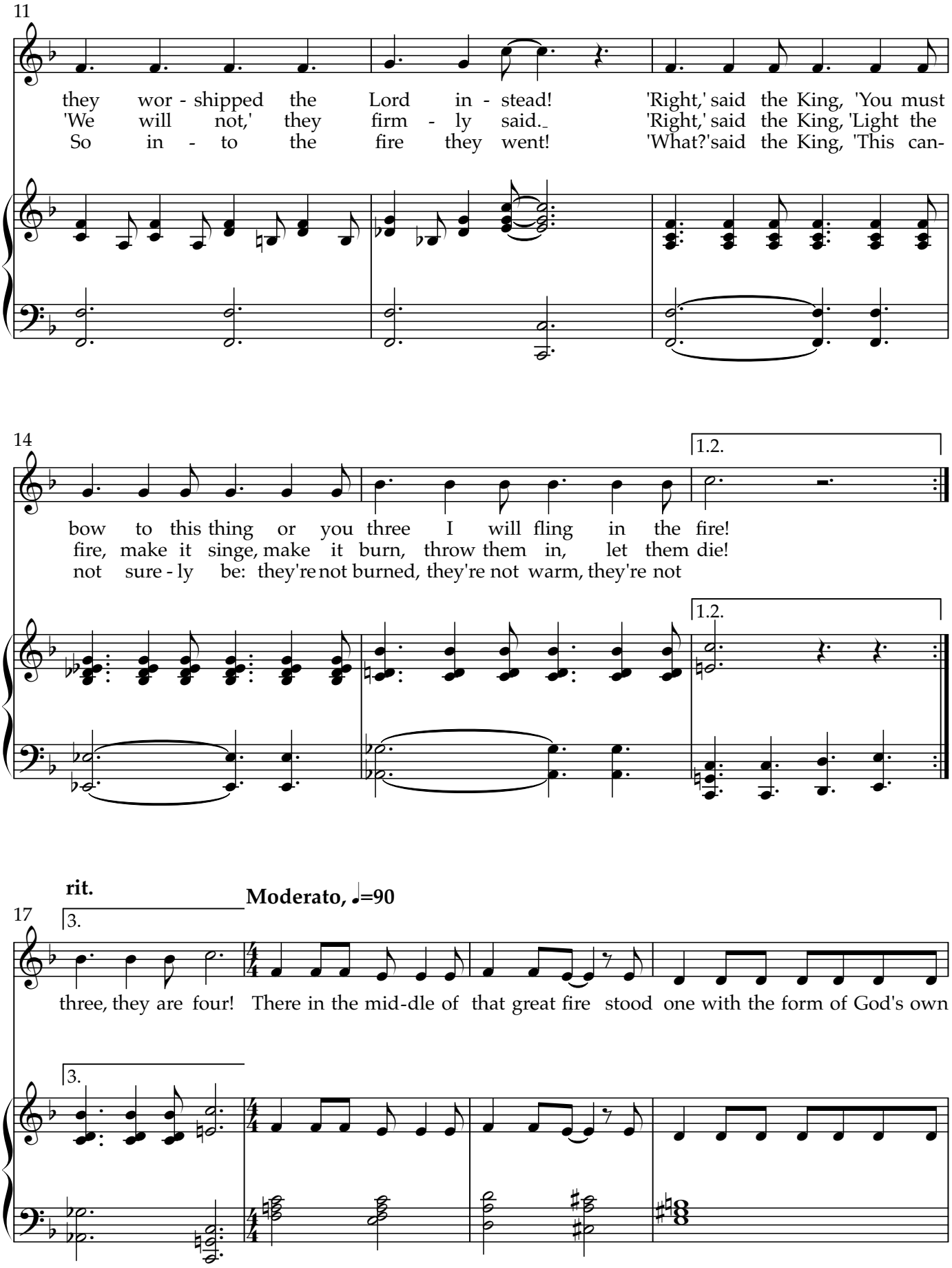
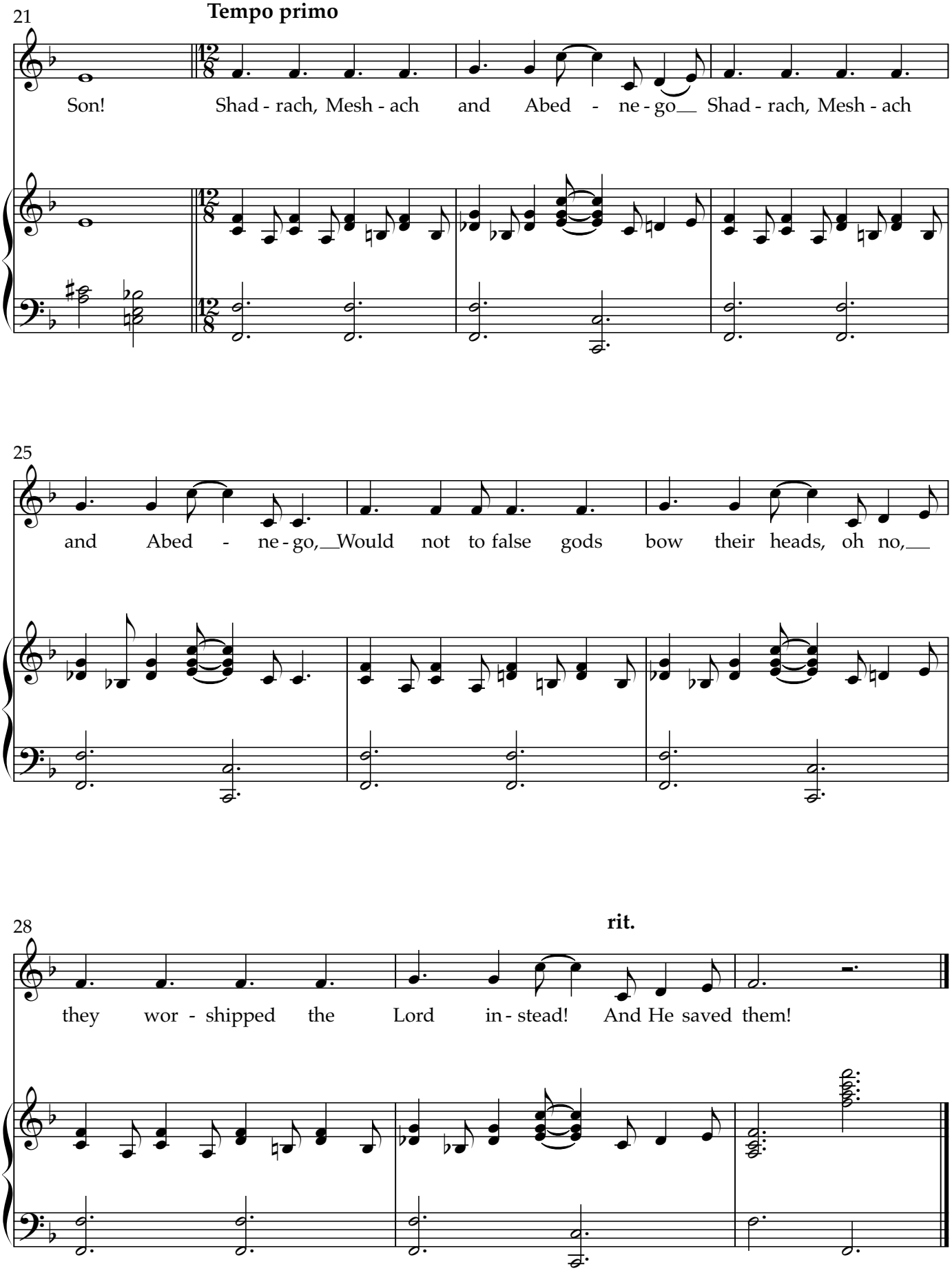
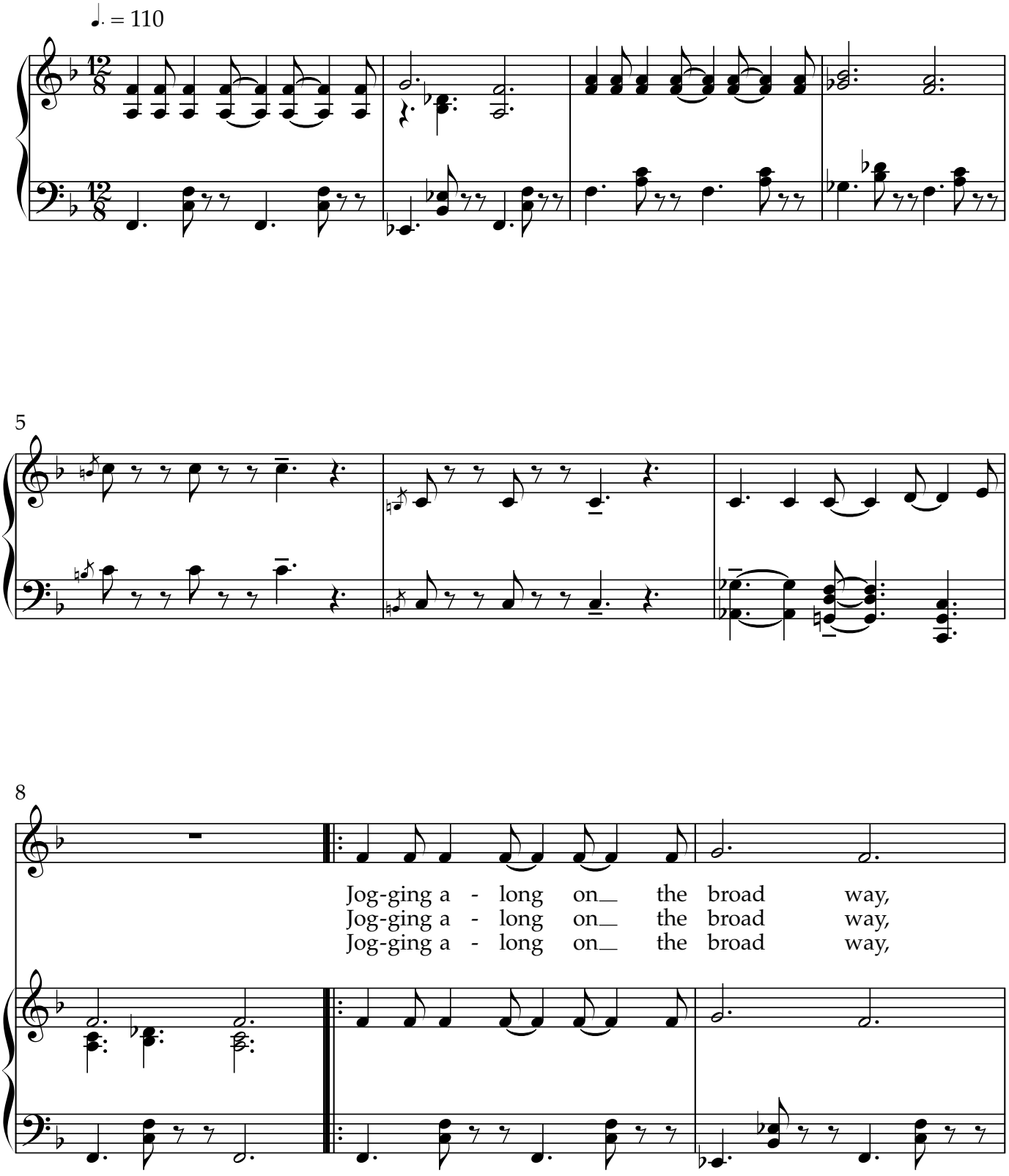

11
they wor - shipped the Lord in - stead! 'Right,' said the King, 'You must
'We will not,' they firm - ly said. 'Right,' said the King, 'Light the
So in - to the fire they went! 'What?' said the King, 'This can-
14
1.2.
bow to this thing or you three I will fling in the fire!
fire, make it singe, make it burn, throw them in, let them die!
not sure - ly be: they're not burned, they're not warm, they're not
1.2.
rit.
Moderato, ♩=90
17
3.
three, they are four! There in the mid-dle of that great fire stood one with the form of God's own
3.


21
Tempo primo
Son!
Shad - rach, Mesh - ach and Abed - ne - go__ Shad - rach, Mesh - ach
25
and Abed - ne - go,__Would not to false gods bow their heads, oh no,__
28
rit.
they wor - shipped the Lord in - stead! And He saved them!

Jogging Along

Samantha Jellett



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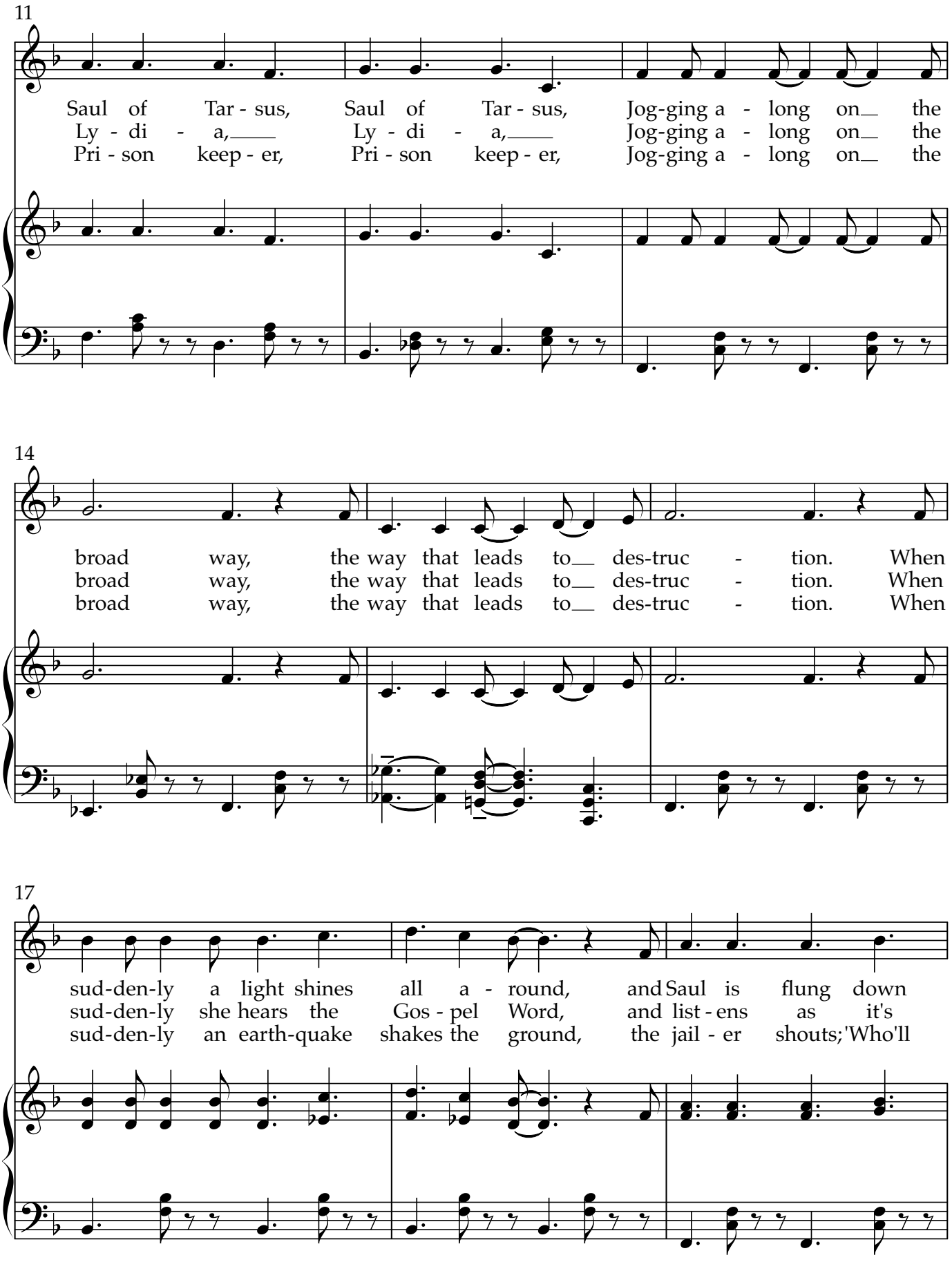
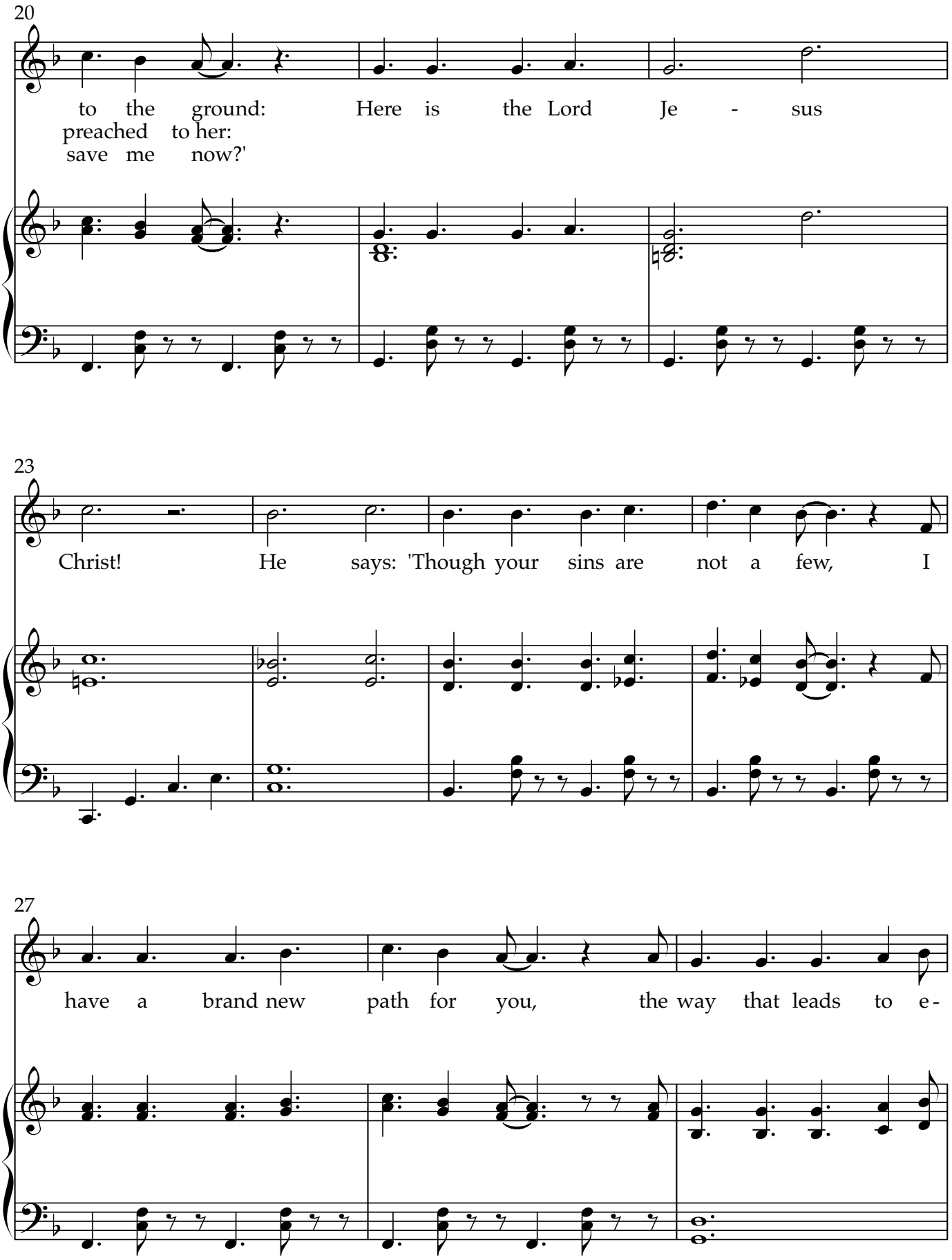
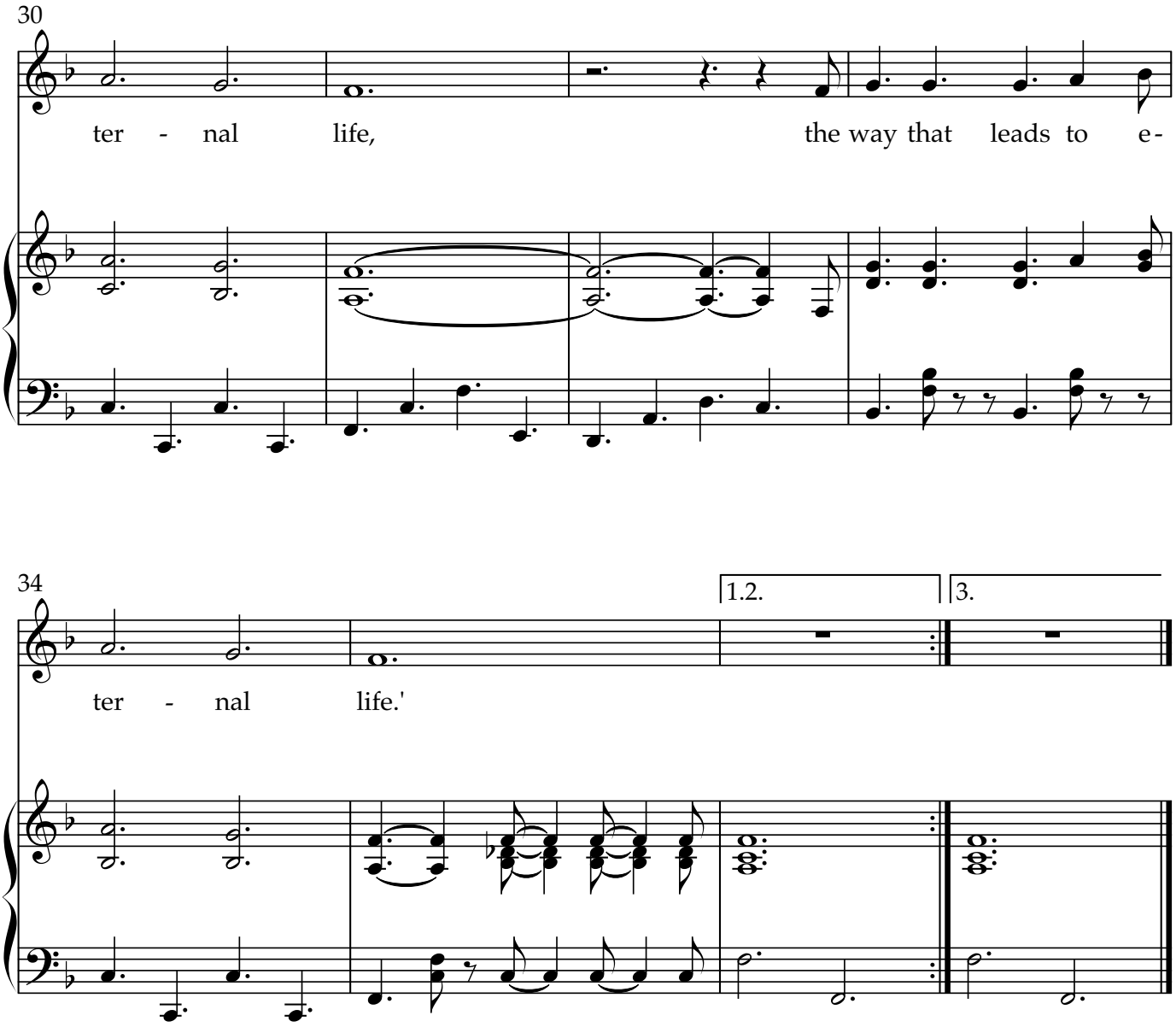
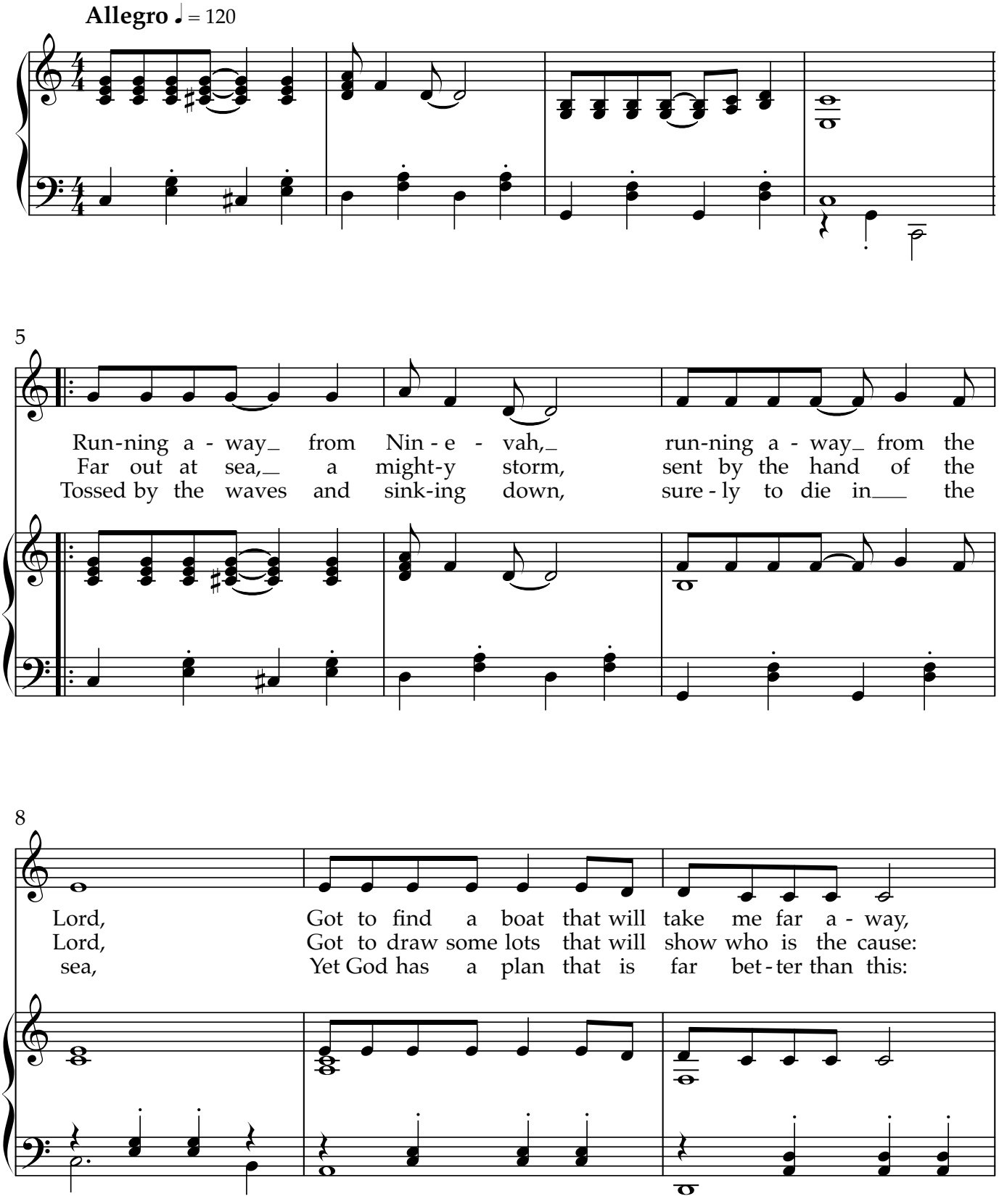

11
Saul of Tar - sus, Saul of Tar - sus, Jog-ging a - long on the
Ly - di - a, Ly - di - a, Jog-ging a - long on the
Pri - son keep - er, Pri - son keep - er, Jog-ging a - long on the
14
broad way, the way that leads to des-truc - tion. When
broad way, the way that leads to des-truc - tion. When
broad way, the way that leads to des-truc - tion. When
17
sud-den-ly a light shines all a - round, and Saul is flung down
sud-den-ly she hears the Gos - pel Word, and list - ens as it's
sud-den-ly an earth-quake shakes the ground, the jail - er shouts;'Who'll


20
to the ground: Here is the Lord Je - sus
preached to her:
save me now?'
23
Christ! He says: 'Though your sins are not a few, I
27
have a brand new path for you, the way that leads to e-


30
ter - nal life, the way that leads to e-
34
1.2.
3.
ter - nal life.'

Running Away

Samantha Jellett



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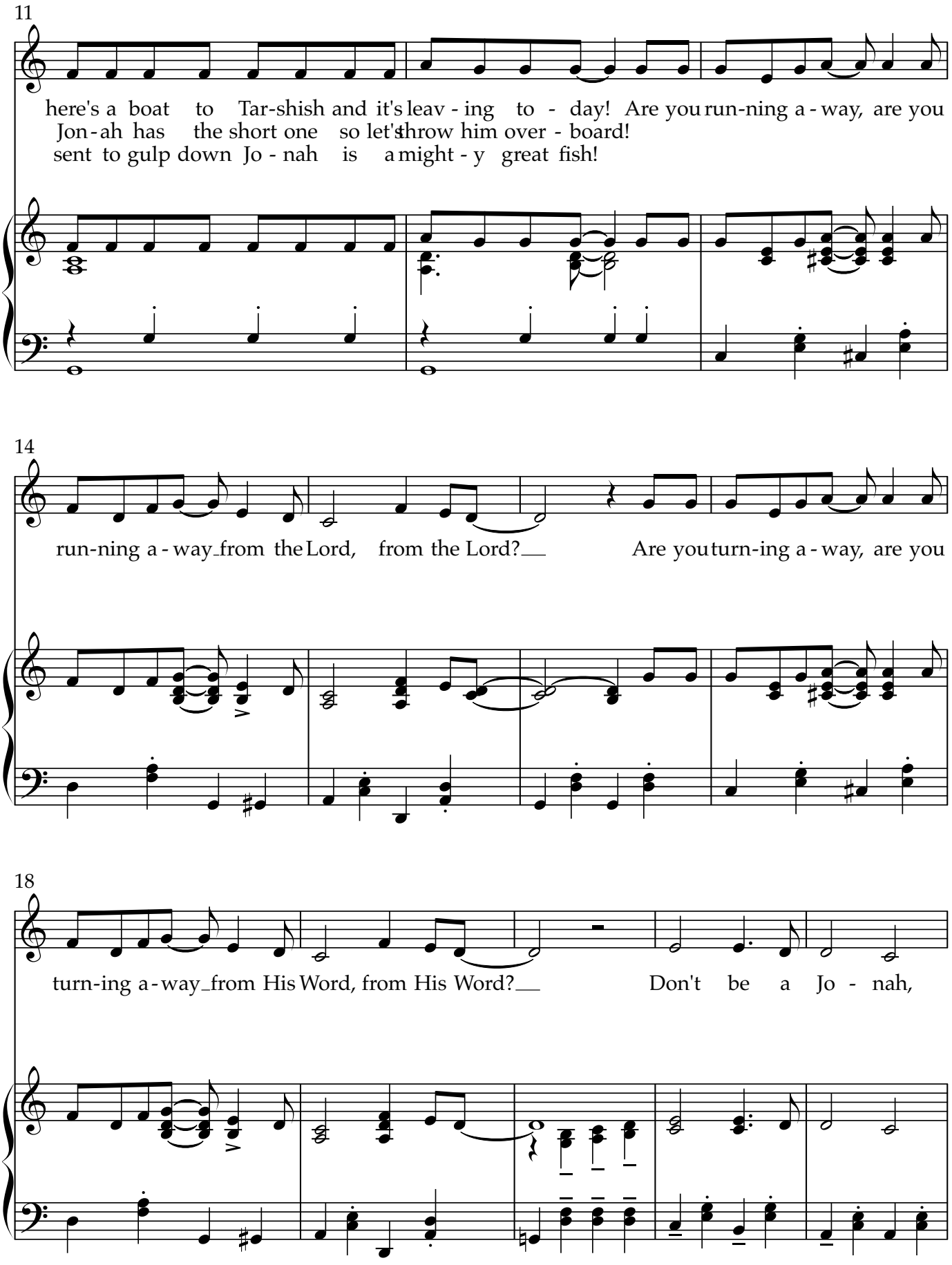
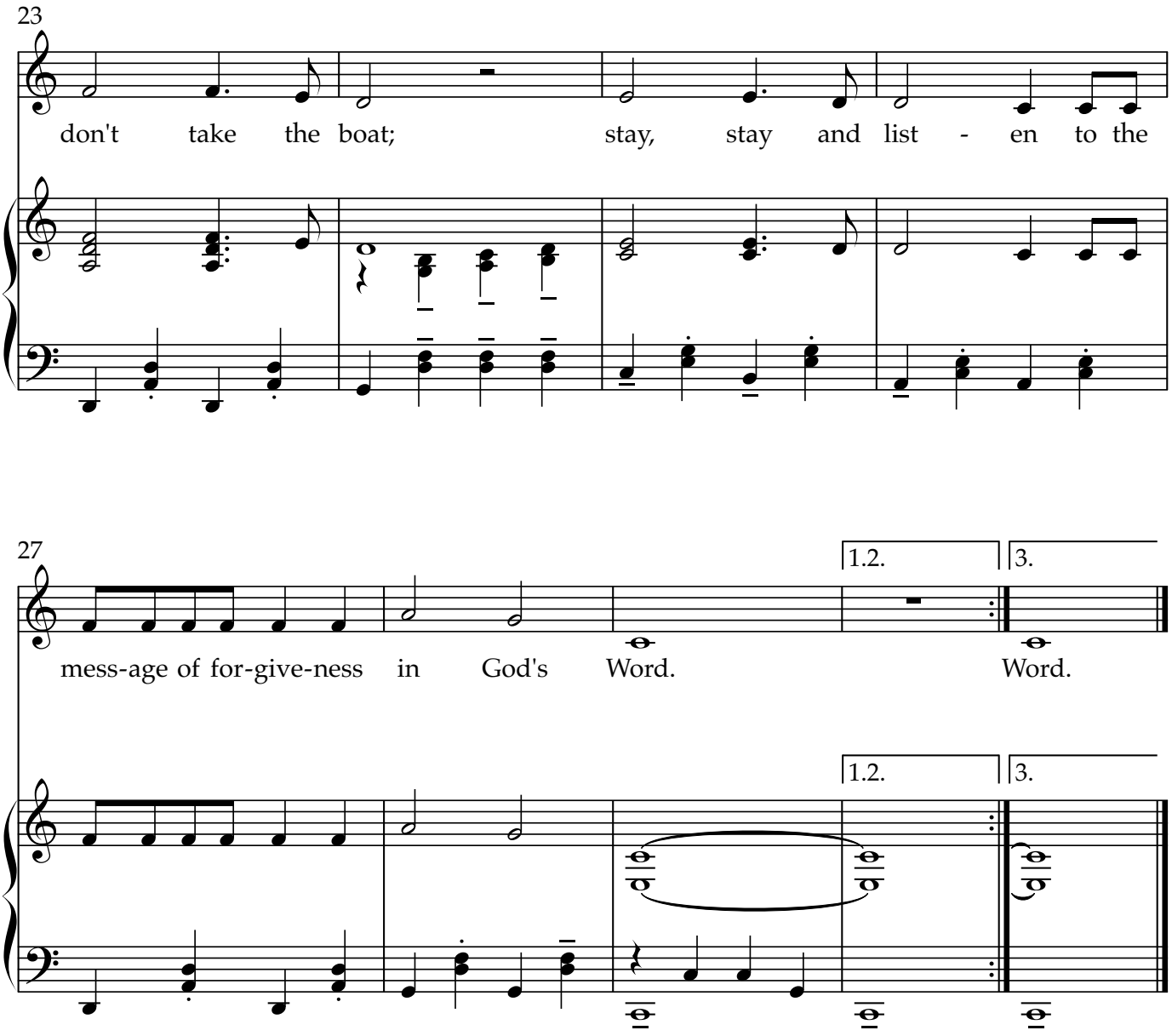
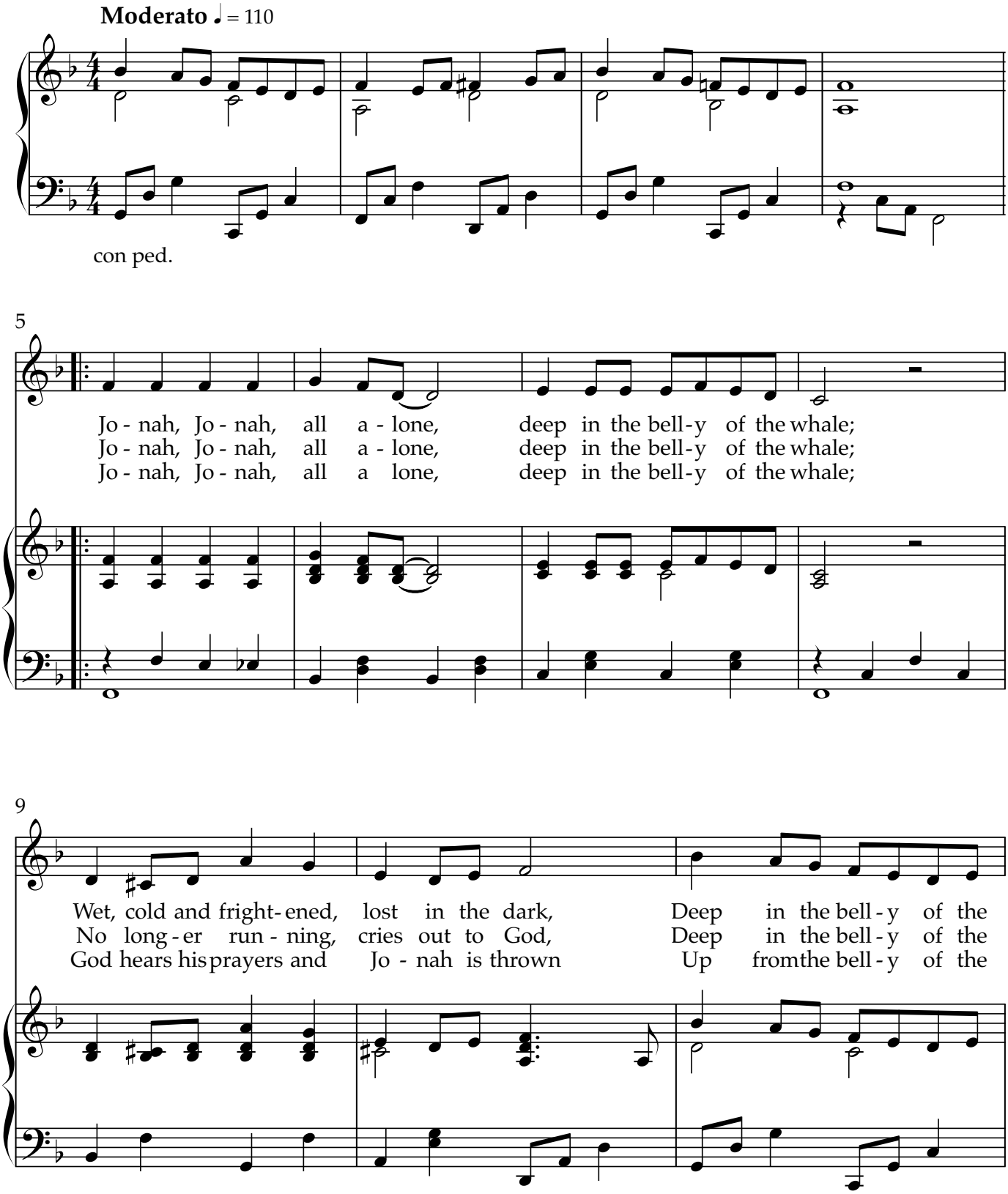

11
here's a boat to Tar-shish and it's leav - ing to - day! Are you run-ning a - way, are you
Jon - ah has the short one so let's throw him over - board!
sent to gulp down Jo - nah is a might - y great fish!
14
run-ning a - way from the Lord, from the Lord? Are you turn-ing a - way, are you
18
turn-ing a - way from His Word, from His Word? Don't be a Jo - nah,


23
don't take the boat; stay, stay and list - en to the
27
1.2.
3.
mess-age of for-give-ness in God's Word. Word.
1.2.
3.

Deep in the belly of the whale

Samantha Jellett



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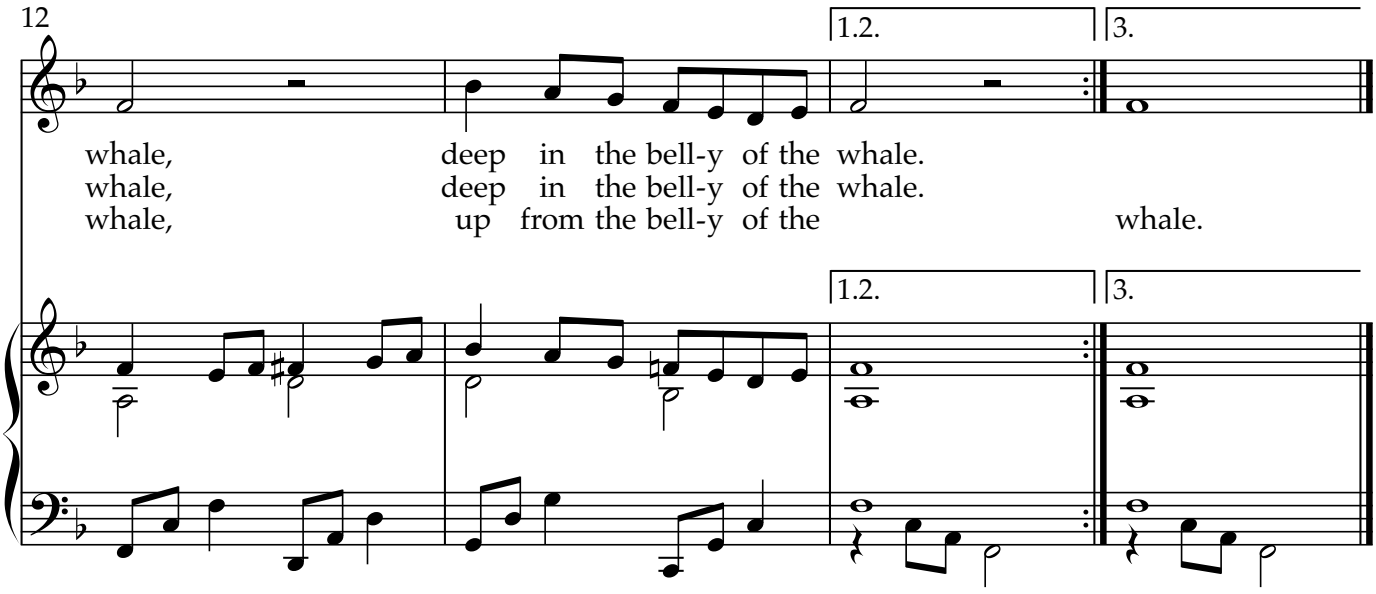
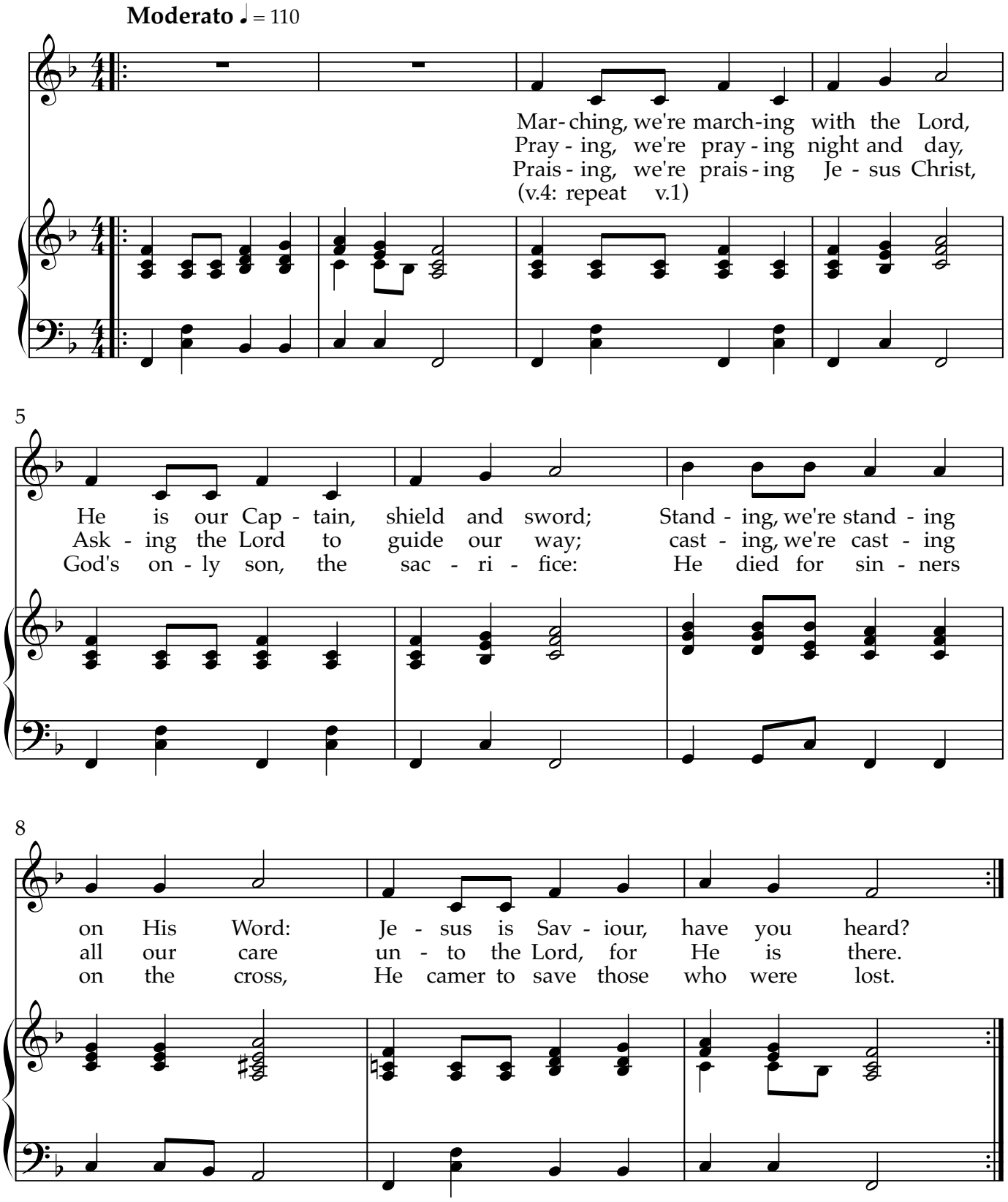

12
1.2.
3.
whale, deep in the bell-y of the whale.
whale, deep in the bell-y of the whale.
whale, up from the bell-y of the whale.
1.2.
3.

Marching with the Lord

Samantha Jellett



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