

The Lamentations for the Theotokos

These hymns are sung in some churches at Matins on the feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15), in imitation of the hymns for the burial of Christ sung at Matins on Holy and Great Saturday. They may also be sung at Vespers on the eve of the feast, between the Prayer of Simeon and the Trisagion that follows.

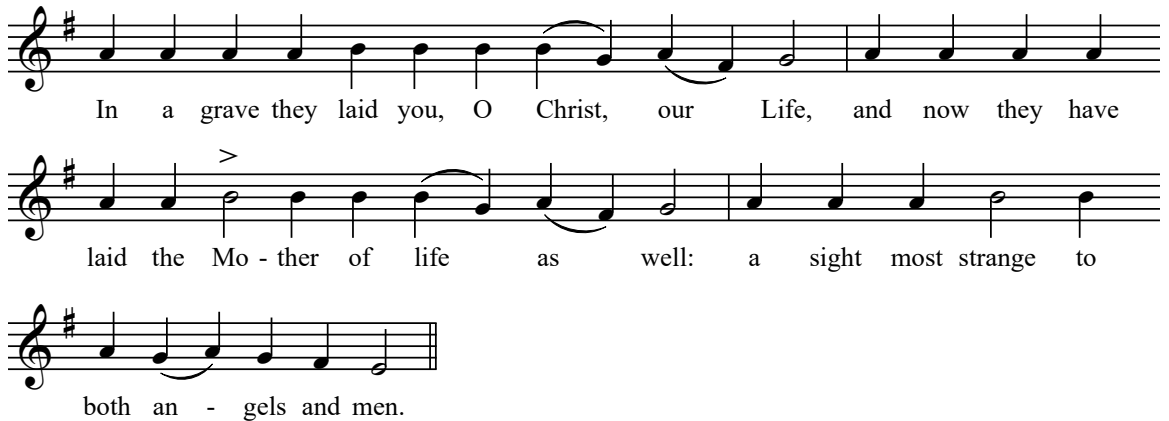
At Great Vespers, after the conclusion of the Song of Simeon, but before the Trisagion, the priest, deacon and servers with lit tapers and censer gather around the Burial Shroud (плащаниця) of the Mother of God or icon depicting her repose and begin:

The First Station

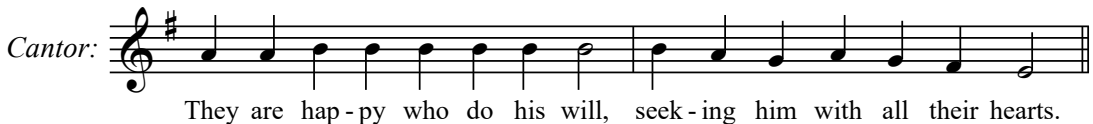
Psalm 118:1



All:



Psalm 118:2



All:



We ex-tol you great-ly, The-o - to - kos most pure, and we glo-ri - fy your ho - ly



Dor-mi - tion now, as we bow be-fore your ho-nored and pre - cious tomb.

Psalm 118:3

Cantor:



Who ne - ver do a - ny-thing e - vil, but walk in his ways.

All:



In your womb you held Him who can-not be con-tained; you are life to all the faith-ful,



how can you die, and your bo - dy be con-tained with - in a tomb?

Psalm 118:4

Cantor:



You have laid down your pre-cepts to be o-beyed with care.

All:



O Pure Mai-den, you brought forth God the heav'n-ly King, and to-day in roy-al



man-ner are car-ried forth to the King-dom of the Hea-vens as a Queen.

Psalm 118:5



May my foot-steps be firm to o - bey your sta - - - tutes.

All:



Ho - ly The - o - to - kos, you have passed from this world, and in de - part - ing have not



for - sa - ken those left on earth but de - li - ver this world from ev - ery ill - ness,

Psalm 118:6



Then I shall not be put to shame as I heed your com - mands.

All:



All the earth sings glo - rious - ly at your grave - side, O Christ, and with rev' - rence,



Mas - ter, we al - so praise the en - tomb - ment of your Mo - ther, ev - er pure.

Psalm 118:7



I will thank you with an up - right heart, as I learn your de - crees.

All:



O - ver - come with won - der are the an - gels struck with awe, be - hold - ing you, Pure Mai - den,



laid out as dead, for from you has light beamed forth to all the world.

Psalm 118:8



I will o - bey your sta-tutes; do not for - sake me.

All:



O Mai-den pure and spot-less, our hea-ven - ly Queen, once a - gain has God sent



Gab-ri - el down to earth with the joy - ful news that you have left this life.

Psalm 118:9



How shall the young re - main sin - less? By o - bey - ing your word.

All:



Now the Bride-groom calls you: Re - joice, Bride of God, in a man-ner both



di - vine, and most beau - ti - ful in the bri - dal cham-ber, ho - ly and di - vine.

Psalm 118:10



I have sought you with all my heart; let me not stray from your com-mands.

All:



You, O Vir-gin, now ap proach the throne of God where the awe-some light shines



forth from the Tri - ni - ty and lights the place where you now re - pose.

Psalm 118:11



I trea - sure your pro - mise in my heart, lest I sin a - gainst you.

All:



Your most hon - ored bo - dy, O Mo - ther of God, was un - cor - rup - ted by de - cay



as you lay en - tombed but it passed with you from the earth to hea - ven.

Psalm 118:12



Bles - sed are you, O Lord; teach me your sta - - - - tutes.

All:



We your chil - dren of - fer lam - en - ta - tions and songs of love to you who



are our Mo - ther: ac - cept the gift we of - fer from the depths of our souls.

Psalm 118:13



With my tongue I have re - count - ed the dec - rees of your lips.

All:



Look u - pon your chil - dren who are ga - thered here this day: may your ho - nored eyes be



o - pen that you may be - hold those who glo - ri - fy your Dor - mi - - - - tion.

Psalm 118:14



I re-joiced to do your will as though all rich - es were mine.

All:



Mo-ther An-na, join us! Come stand in our midst! Come and lead us in the ce - le -



bra-tion of this joy-ous feast of your ho - ly daugh-ter, the Mo-ther of our God.

Psalm 118:15



I will pon - der all your pre-cepts and con - sid - er your paths.

All:



Filled with glad-ness, hea-ven is re - ceiv - ing her Queen, for the Mo-ther of cre - a -



tion comes in glo - ry, and ap-pears in glo-ry, reign-ing with her God.



Glo - ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

All:



Now let us with glad-ness bring forth our hymns to the Fa-ther and the



Sp-rit and the Word and God of all, and we glo-ri - fy your coun-te-nance di-vine.



Now and e - ver and for - e - ver. A - men.

All:



Ev - 'ry ge - ne - ra - tion calls you bles - sed, and your pure Dor - mi - tion,



we glo - ri - fy, Ev - er - Vir - gin, Sov - 'reign Queen and Mo - ther of God!

The Second Station

Psalms 118:74



Your faith - ful will see me and re - joice, for I trust in your word.

All:



It is tru - ly right to mag - ni - fy You who



be - stow life, just as you mag - ni - fy your pure Mo - ther



for her life - cre - a - - - - ting fall - ing a - sleep.

Psalms 118:85



For me the proud have dug pit - falls, a - gainst your law.

All:

O strange and new won - der! The Door now pass-es through the
Door - - - way! Hea-ven en - ters Hea - ven, and we stand in awe
as the Throne of God as - cends to the Throne of God.

Psalms 118:93

Cantor:

I will nev-er forget your pre-cepts, for with them you give me life.

All:

All the an-gel-ic hosts stood and mar - veled when be-hold-ing Christ God who is
un-ap-proach - a - ble, now free - ly ap-proach - ing as a Son
to give his Mo - - - ther hon - or.

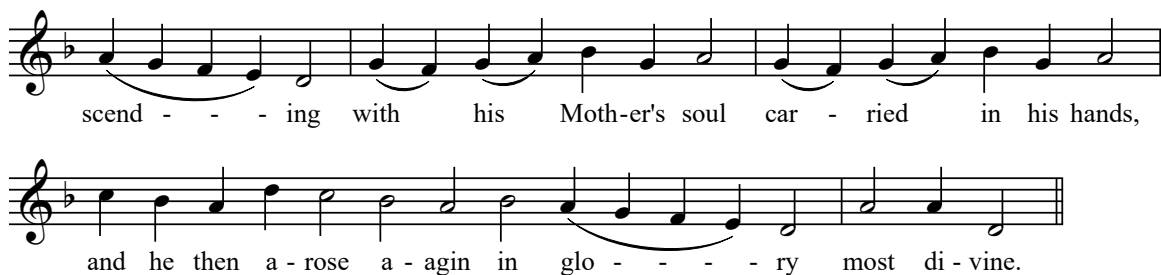
Psalms 118:94

Cantor:

Save me, for I am yours, since I seek your pre-cepts.

All:

The heav-en - ly an - gels shook with fear to be-hold their God a-gain de -



scend - - - ing with his Moth-er's soul car - ried in his hands,
and he then a - rose a - gain in glo - - - - ry most di - vine.

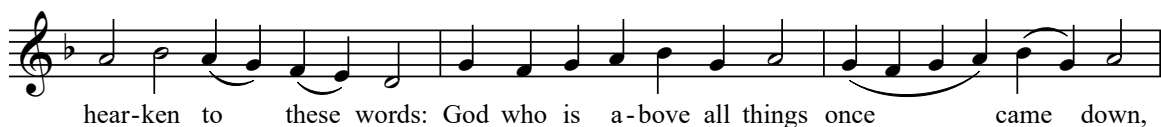
Psalm 118:95

Cantor: 

All: Though the wick-ed lie in wait to des-troy me, yet I pon-der your will.



Hea - - - - - ven shall be awed, and the earth shall



hear-ken to these words: God who is a-bove all things once came down,



and for his Moth-er's sake a sec - ond time now de-scends!

Psalm 118:102

Cantor: 

All: I have not turned from your de-crees; You your-self have taught me.



The Vir - gin Bride of God did not de-scend



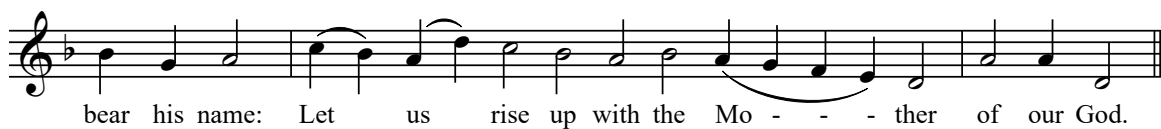
to us from hea - - - - ven, but from this world to the hea-vens



Psalm 118:103



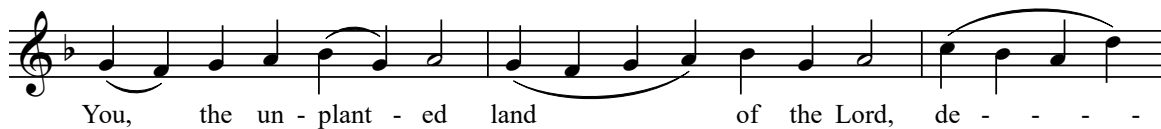
All:



Psalm 118:105



All:



Psalm 118:110



Though the wick-ed try to en-snare me, I do not stray from your pre-cepts.

All:



Ta - ken from the earth, you a - rose to be with God



in hea - - - ven. All the earth re - joi - ces a - - - long with you



and it glo - ri - fies your re - - - - pose, O Vir - gin.

Psalm 118:123



My eyes yearn for your sav-ing help and the prom-ise of your jus-tice.

All:



Let all the souls of the or - tho-dox re-joyce, and let the fa -



ces be ra - di - ant, be - - - cause of you, our all - ho - ly La - dy,



who de - part - ing now from us will join the Lord.

Psalm 118:124



Treat your ser - vant with love and teach me your sta - tutes.

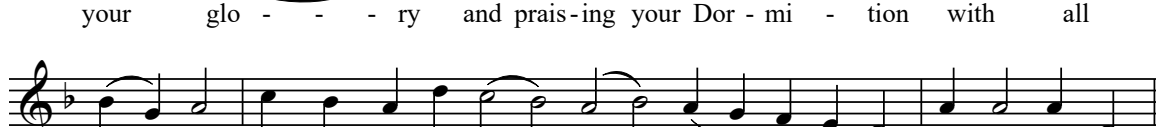
All:



We, the faith - ful, rise ear - ly in the dawn to sing



your glo - - - ry and prais-ing your Dor - mi - tion with all



our love, Sov-'reign Vir-gin Mai - den, free us from all our sin.

Psalms 118:126

Cantor: 

It is time for the Lord to act, for your law has been bro - ken.

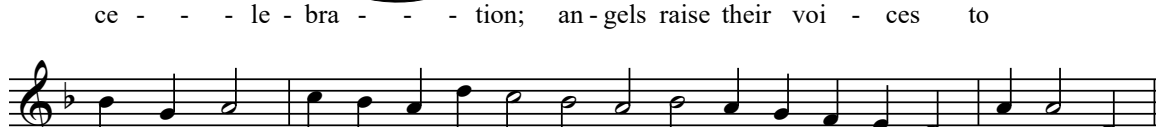
All:



All the earth is glad and the hea - vens sing in



ce - - - le - bra - - - tion; an - gels raise their voi - ces to



join with men and as you as-cend to hea-ven all cre - a - - tion re - joi - ces.

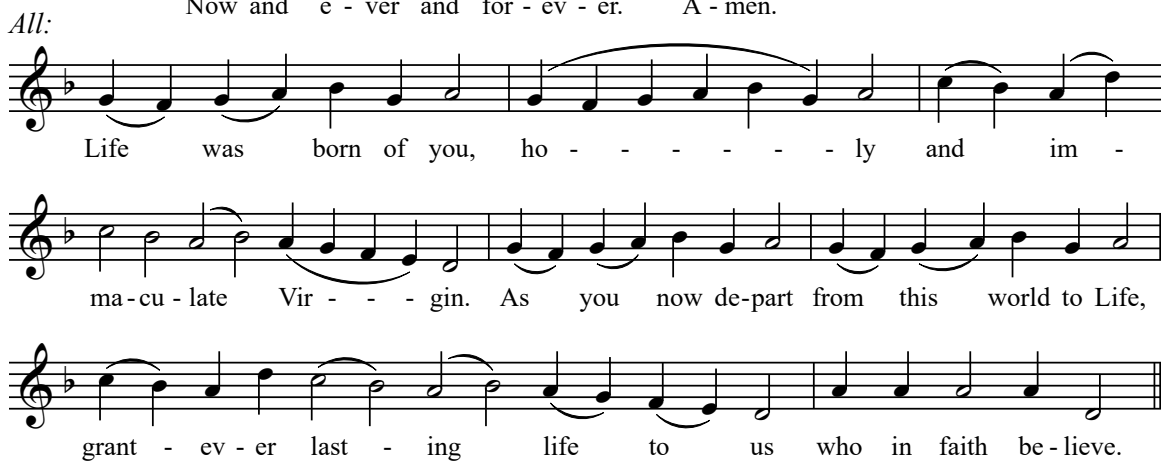
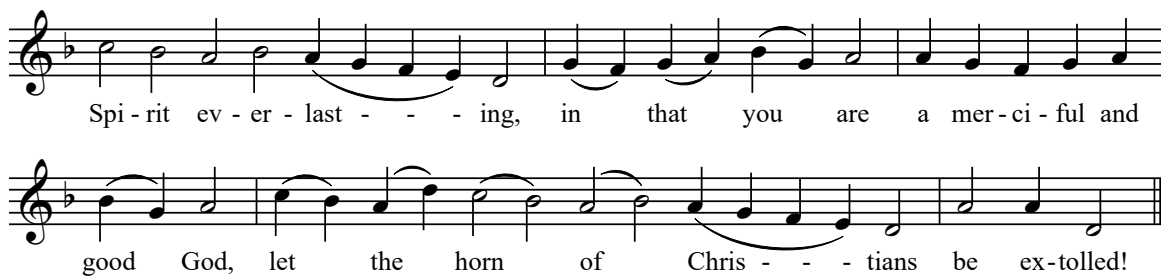
Cantor: 

Glo - ry to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spi - rit.

All:



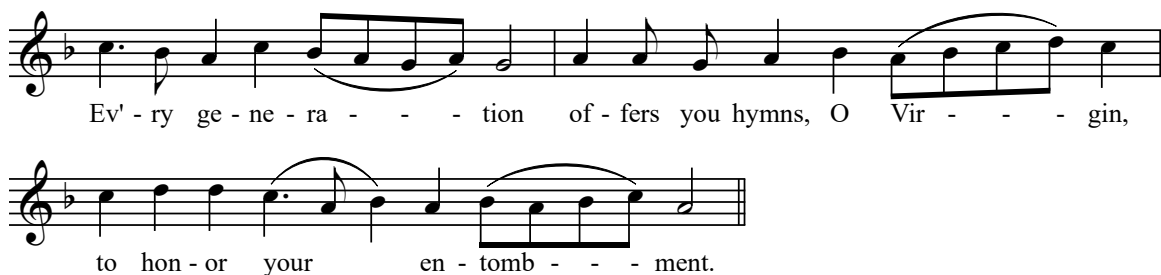
God be - yond all time, with the Word and the



The Third Station

The psalm verses in the Third Station are chanted by the cantor to the usual psalm tone.

Cantor: Turn and show me your mercy; * show justice to **your** friends. (Psalm 118:132)



Cantor: Let my steps be guided by your promise; * let no *evil* rule me. (Psalm 118:133)

Come let all cre - a - - - tion sing the hymns of par - - - ting

as you are raised, O Vir - - - gin.

Cantor: Redeem me from those who oppress me, * and I will keep **your** precepts. (Psalm 118:134)

Dis - ci - ples of my Lord and Christ ar - rive to tend the bo - - - dy

of my God's im - mac - u - late Moth - - - er.

Cantor: Let your face shine on your servant * and teach me your *decrees*. (Psalm 118:135)

An - gels and arch - an - - - gels, at - tend - ing in - vis - i - bly in ranks

sing hymns to praise you.

Cantor: Tears stream from my eyes * because your law is disobeyed. (Psalm 118:136)

Wom-en high in hon - - - or a - long with the a - pos - - - tles

are la - men - ting and weep - - - ing.

Cantor: Lord, you are just indeed; * your decrees **are** right. (Psalm 118:137)

The time of your de - part - - - ing holds joy for all cre - a - - - tion,
but al - so leaves us weep-ing and mourn - - - ful.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with a long note on 'de' and a long note on 'ing'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, with a long note on 'mourn'.

Cantor: The justice of your will is eternal; * if you teach me I **shall** live. (Psalm 118:144)

Moth-er, do not leave us be-hind as if we were or - - - phans,
with out your love and mo-ther - ly care.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with a long note on 'be-hind' and a long note on 'orphans'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, with a long note on 'care'.

Cantor: I call with all my heart: Lord, hear me, * I will keep **your** statutes. (Psalm 118:145)

Vir - gin who bore the Light, how shall we bear this,
no more to see your sweet eyes?

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with a long note on 'bore' and a long note on 'bear'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, with a long note on 'eyes'.

Cantor: I call upon you, save me * and I will do **your** will. (Psalm 118:146)

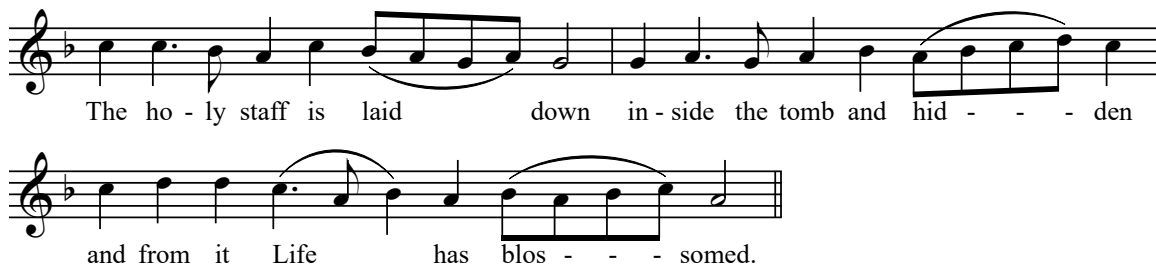
A - las! Your lips, which loved God, and ev - er spoke a - bout him
have now been bound by si - - - lence.

The musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, with a long note on 'loved' and a long note on 'speak'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, with a long note on 'silence'.

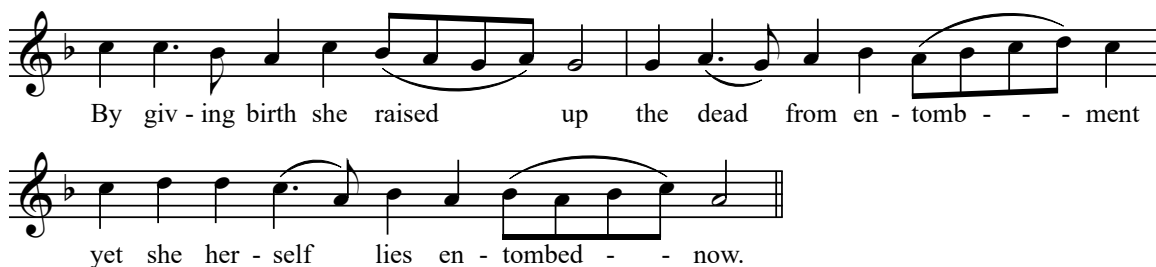
Cantor: I rise before dawn and cry for help, * I hope in **your** word. (Psalm 118:147)



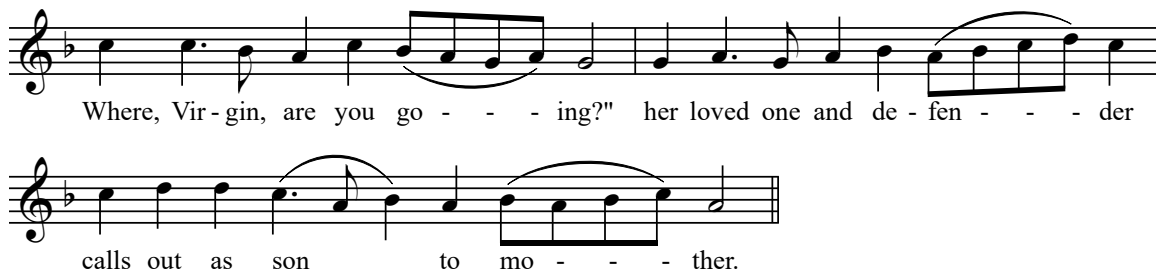
Cantor: My eyes watch through the night * to ponder **your** promise. (Psalm 118:148)



Cantor: In your love, hear my voice, O Lord; * give me life by your **decrees**. (Psalm 118:149)



Cantor: Those who harm me unjustly draw near; * they are far from **your** law. (Psalm 118:150)



Cantor: But you, O Lord, are close, * your commands *are* truth. (Psalm 118:151)

You, who are God's Mo - - - ther, with joy - ful heart now en - - - ter

in - to your Son's joy - ous pres - - - ence.

Cantor: Numberless, Lord, are your mercies; * with your decrees give *me* life. (Psalm 118:156)

Take me as your child to - day, O Vir - gin, as you are raised up

to be with your di - vine Son.

Cantor: I take delight in your promise * like one who finds *a* treasure. (Psalm 118:162)

To hea-ven you are ta - - - ken, and with your Son are now liv - - - ing:

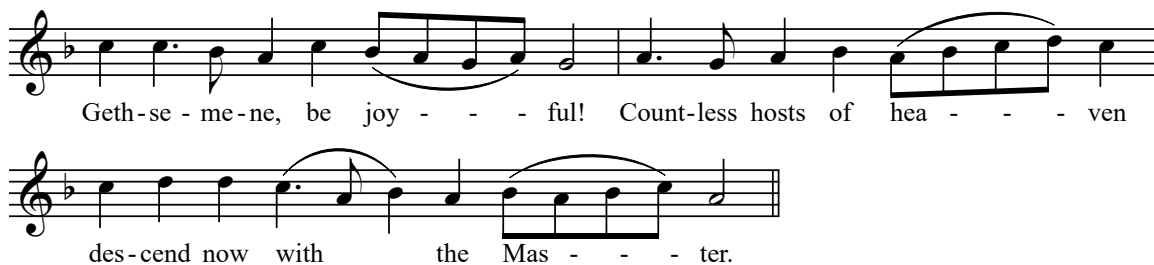
let me be al - - - so ta - - - - ken.

Cantor: The lovers of your law have great peace; * they **never** stumble. (Psalm 118:165)

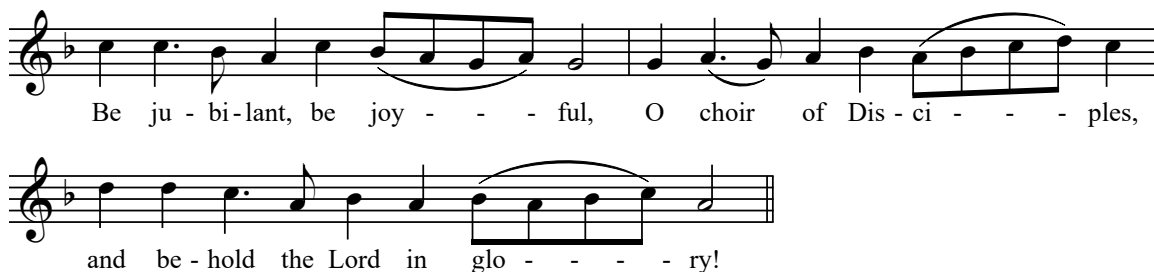
To - ge - ther with the hea - ven - ly hosts, may we now stand to glo - ri - fy

the one who stood at the Cross in pain.

Cantor: I await your saving help, O Lord, * I fulfill your **com**mands. (Psalm 118:166)



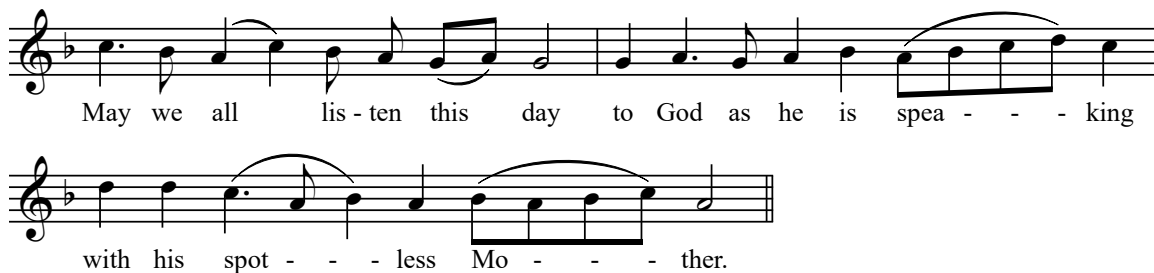
Cantor: My soul obeys your will * and loves **it** dearly. (Psalm 118:167)



Cantor: I obey your precepts and your will; * all that I do is **be**fore you. (Psalm 118:168)



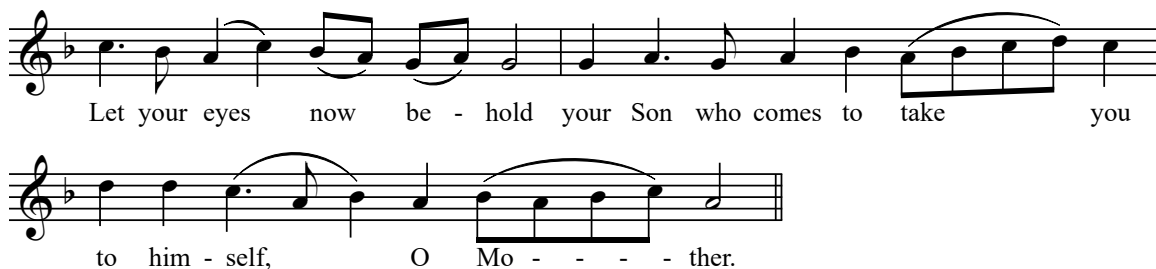
Cantor: Lord, let my cry come before you; * teach me by **your** word. (Psalm 118:169)



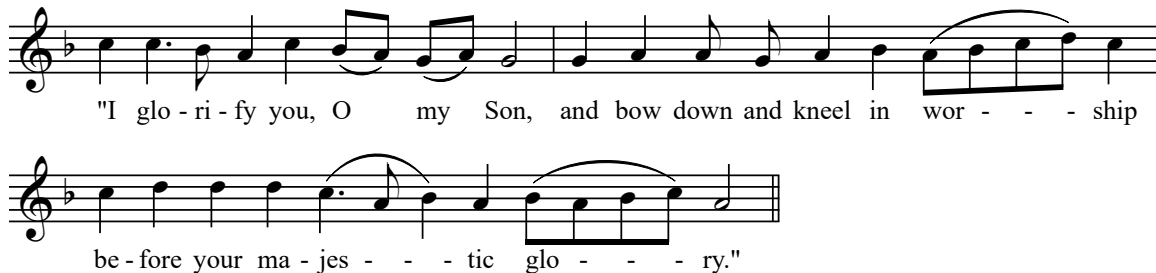
Cantor: Let my pleading come before you; * save me by *your* promise. (Psalm 118:170)



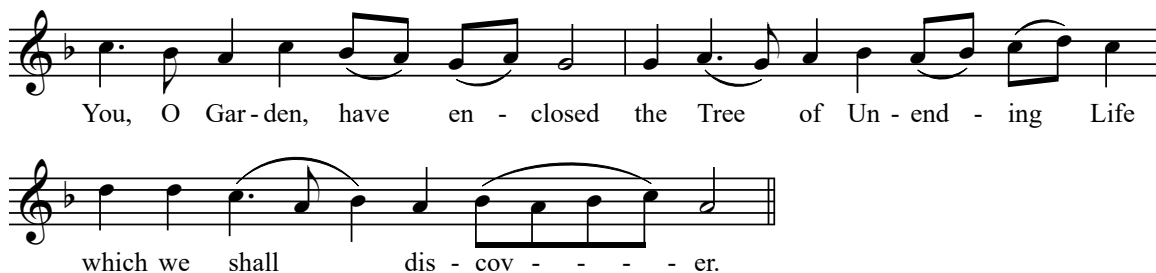
Cantor: Let my tongue sing your promise, * for your commands *are* just. (Psalm 118:172)



Cantor: Let your hand be ready to help me, * since I have chosen *your* precepts. (Psalm 118:173)



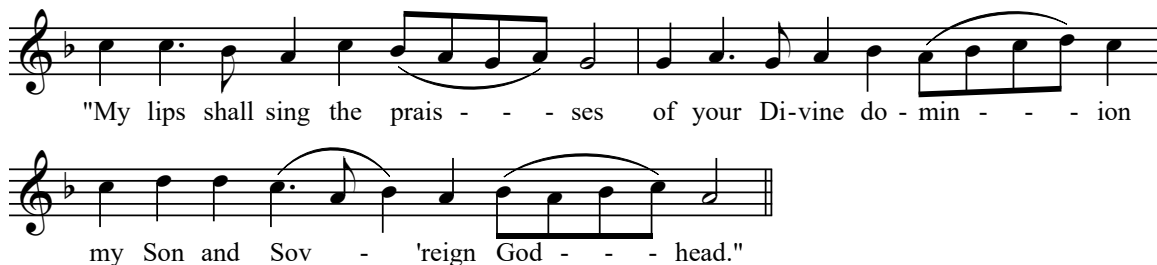
Cantor: Lord, I long for your saving help, * and your law is my *delight*. (Psalm 118:174)



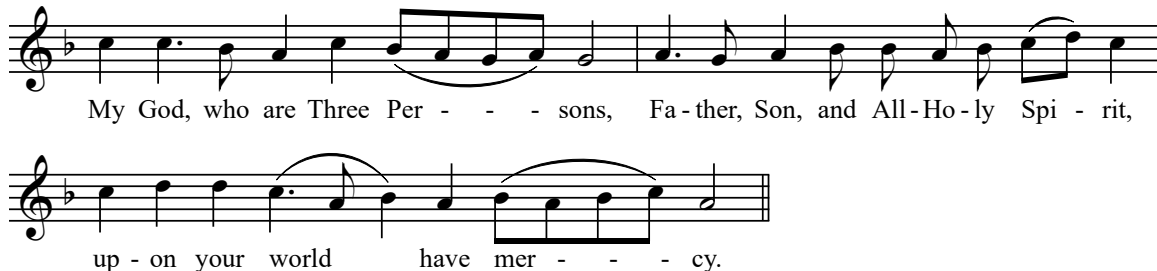
Cantor: Give life to my soul that I may praise you. * Let your decrees give **me** help. (Psalm 118:175)



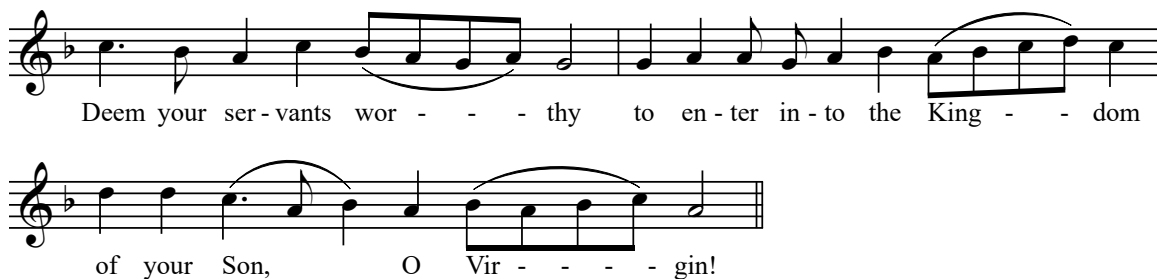
Cantor: I am lost like a sheep; seek your servant * for I remember your **com**mands. (Psalm 118:176)



Cantor: Glory to the Father and to the Son * and to the Holy Spirit.



Cantor: Now and ever * and forever. Amen.



End of the Lamentations for the Theotokos