Service Starters

Solos for Piano and Congregation

Sample

Lloyd Larson

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Foreword

I have served the local church as a Worship Pastor for nearly five decades now, going back to my first part-time position in Kokomo, Indiana while I was a college student. I suppose that means I have a bit of mileage on me at this point! 😐 But it also means that I have planned and led thousands of worship services. It seems that one of the benefits that comes with mileage is perspective. And with perspective, I have come to realize how important the start of a worship service can be for the gathered people of God.

Each week, as I sat down to think and pray through the best way to begin a worship service, I am often been reminded of the words of the Psalmist that say we are *"…to worship the Lord with gladness….come before Him with joyful songs….enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise…to give thanks and praise…to worship the Lord…" (Psalm 100)*. My experience in music and worship ministry and being in the trenches week in and week out has served as the catalyst for this collection, which I hope will serve as a useful resource for pianists, worship leaders, and congregations alike to begin a service meaningfully and creatively.

One of the primary goals of worship leading, in my opinion, is to do all we can to encourage broad-based participation by all of the gathered people. As you employ these hymn settings in your worship plans, I pray that they will be useful vehicles in leading the people of your faith community to inspiring and meaningful worship. Our God is worthy of only our best efforts in worship!

—Lloyd Larson

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Sample

Accessing the Parts

Parts for the narrators, instrumentalists, and vocalists, along with hymn lyrics that can be printed or projected are available as a free download. Go to www.lorenz.com/servicestarters and click the Free Download button under the cover image to access the PDF.

Using *SERVICE STARTERS*

Each arrangement follows the same format:

1. **Opening.** Recognizing that the Word of God is of central importance in worship, each hymn setting includes a role for a scripture reader or two. This will likely entail a brief rehearsal to coordinate timing. Additionally, some of the settings include partnering with a vocal soloist or optional ensemble or a solo instrumentalist.
2. **Hymn Introduction.** Typically piano only, and labelled "Hymn Intro" in the music, this marks the beginning of the congregation's participation in the singing of the hymn. A worship leader might invite the congregation to stand or to prepare to sing at this point.
3. **Congregational Singing.** Marked with "+Congregation (in parts)" in the music, this is when the congregation begins to sing the hymn, utilizing the traditional chorale settings found in most hymnals. The piano arrangement is merely a realized accompaniment to be used by pianists in supporting congregational singing with these familiar harmonizations.

   Hymn lyrics that may be used for print or projection purposes are included in the supplementary parts download. Or you may wish to direct your congregation to the appropriate hymn page and stanzas for the selected hymn. Recognizing that there are nominal variances on lyrics from hymnal to hymnal, you should check for any lyric discrepancies.
4. **Closing Stanza.** The last stanza of each hymn, marked "Congregation (in unison)," includes a transitional modulation and free harmonization accompaniment where the congregation should sing in unison as the hymn is concluded.

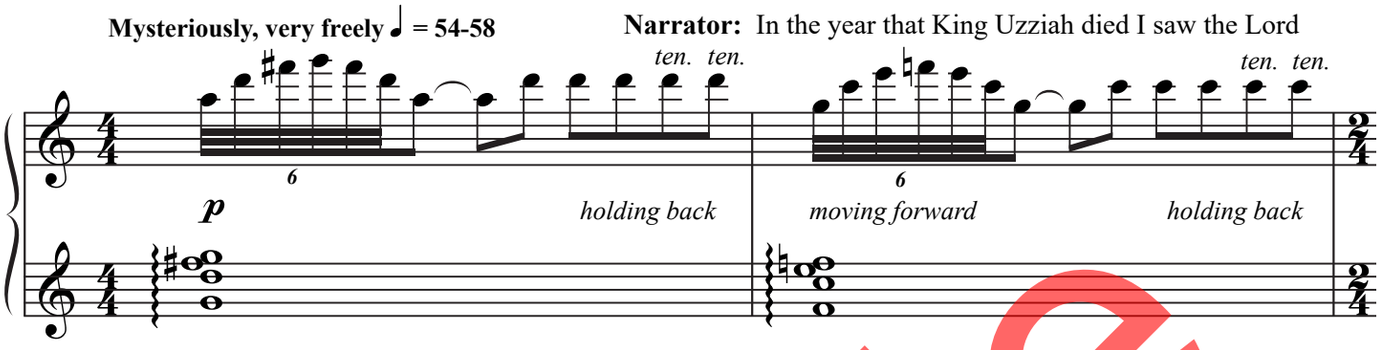
Sample

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

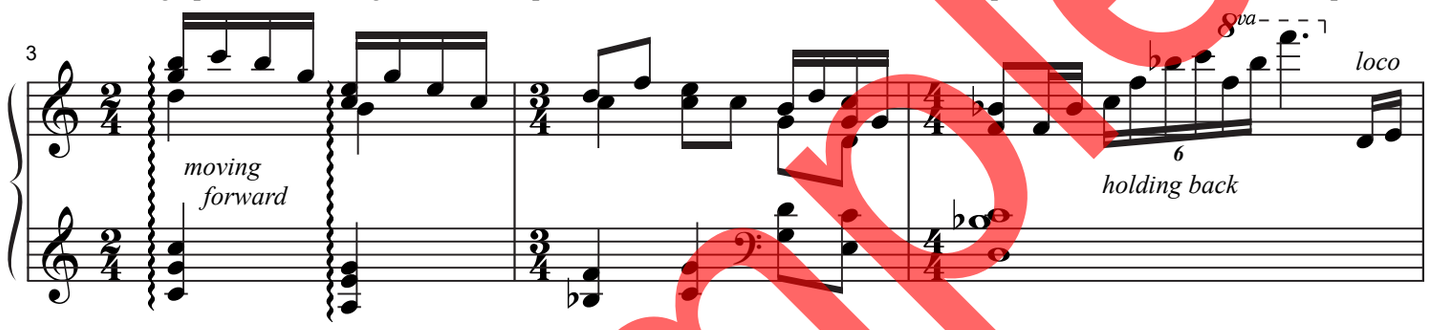
Piano, Solo, Congregation, and Narrator

Words by
Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

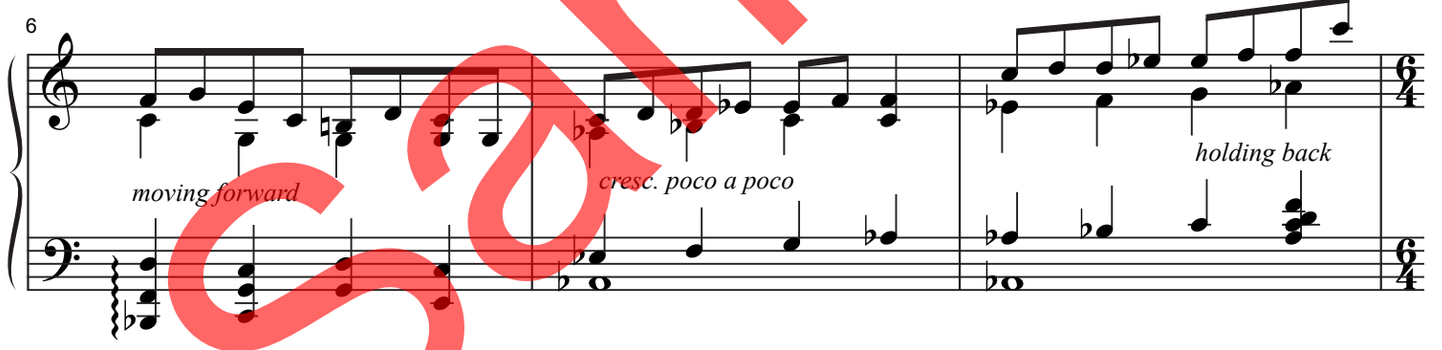
Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **NICAEA**
by **John B. Dykes** (1823-1876)



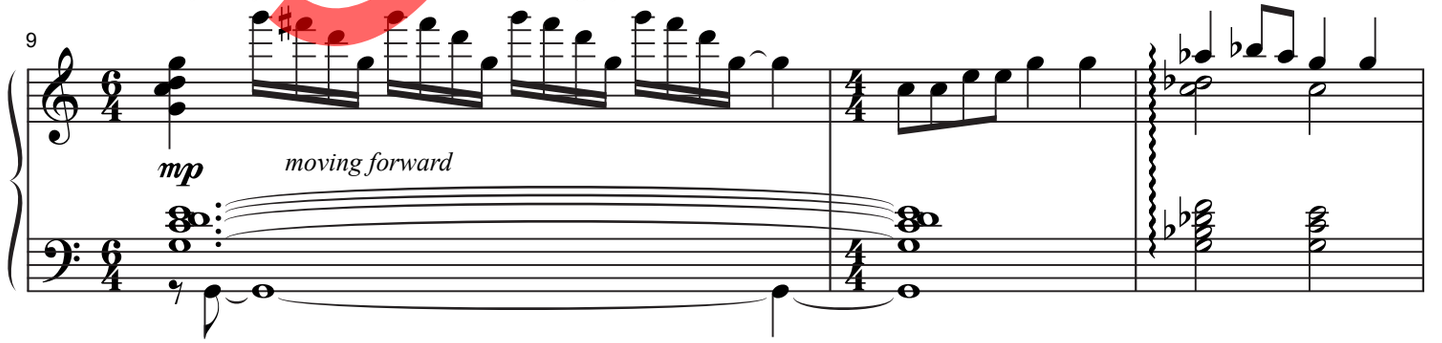
sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim.



Each had six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!" *(Is. 6:1-3)*



"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" *(Rev. 4:8b)*



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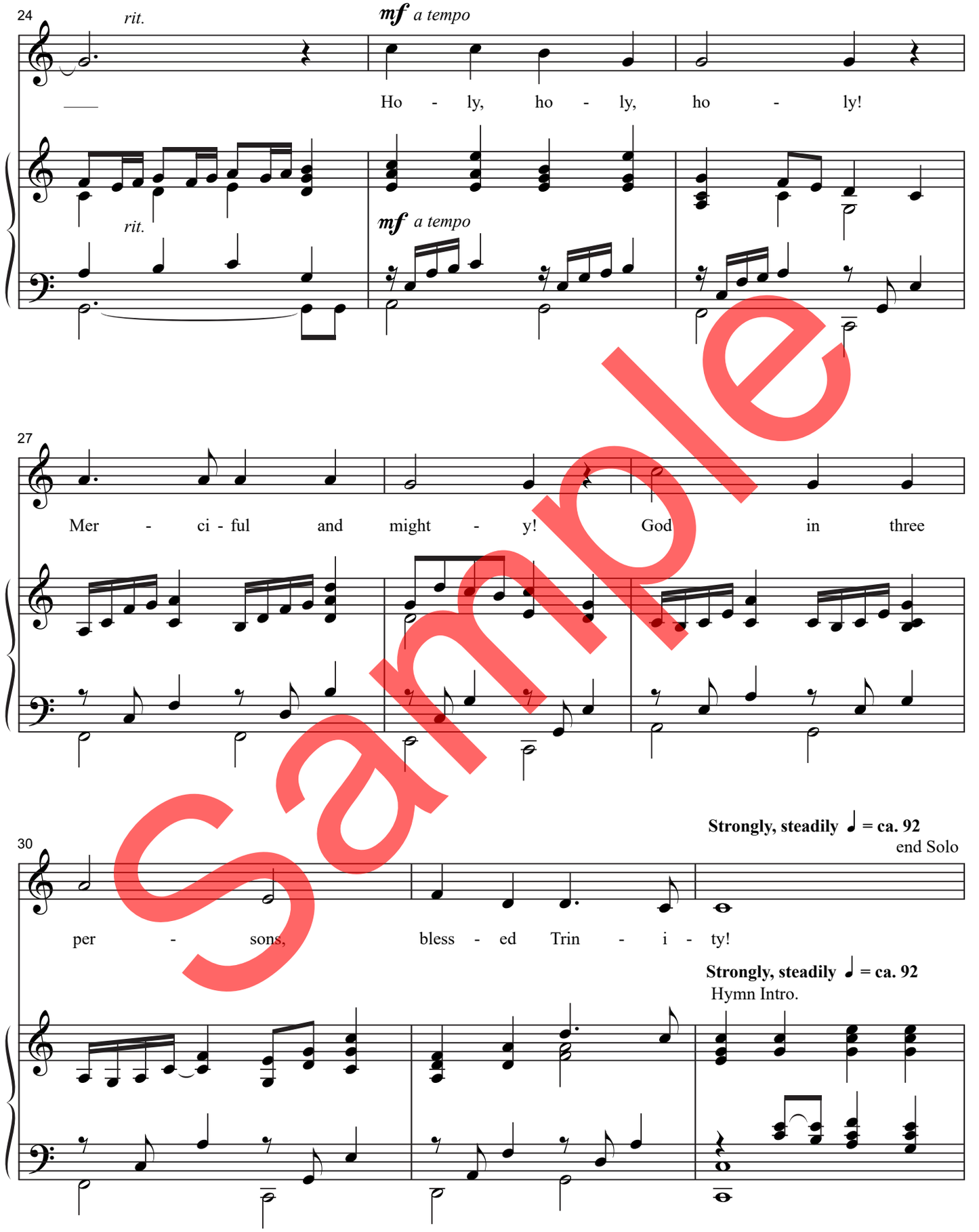
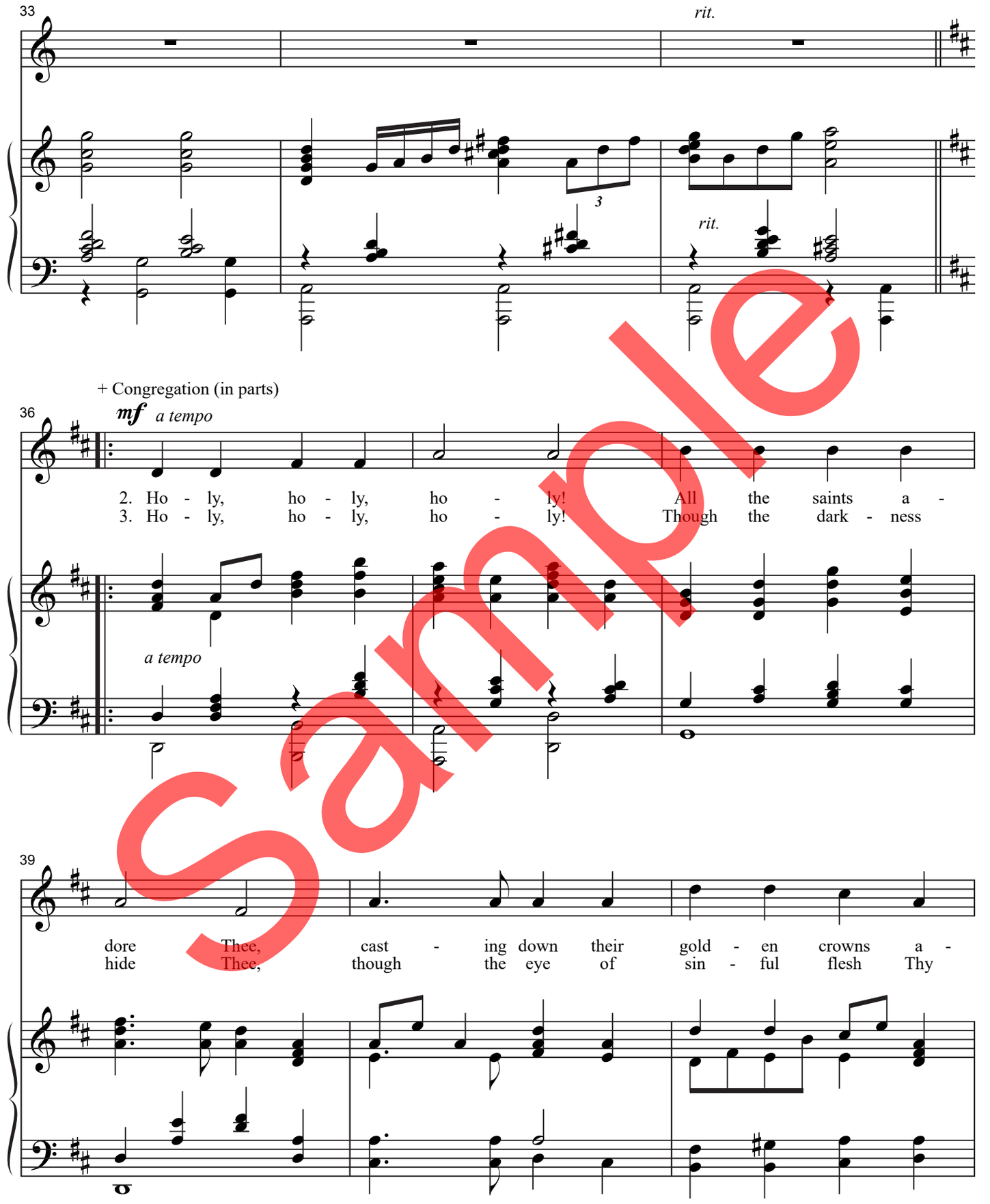
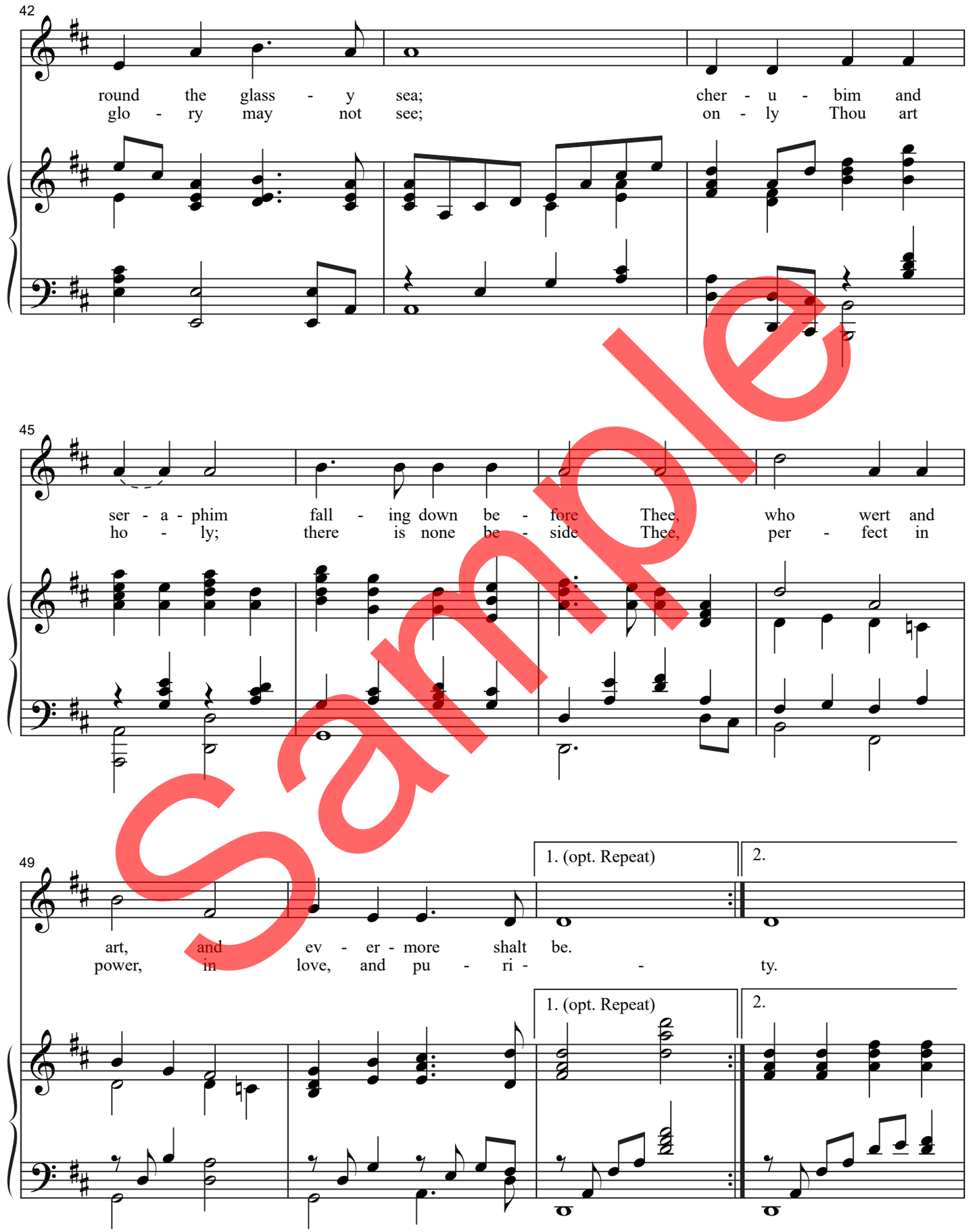

24
rit.
mf a tempo
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
rit.
mf a tempo
27
Mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three
30
Strongly, steadily ♩ = ca. 92
end Solo
per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Strongly, steadily ♩ = ca. 92
Hymn Intro.

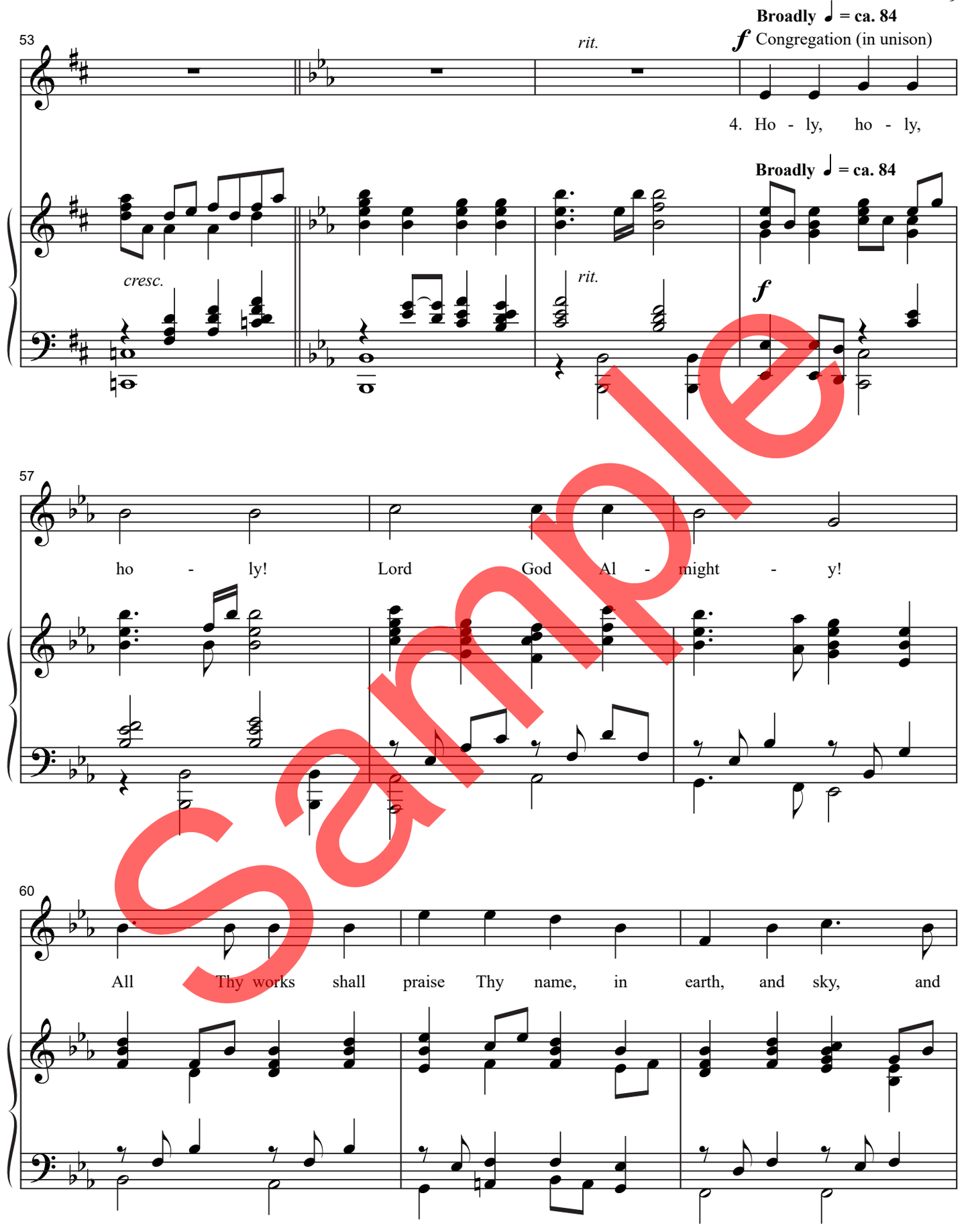
Sample


33
rit.
rit.
3
+ Congregation (in parts)
36
mf a tempo
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a -
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness
a tempo
39
dore Thee, cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a -
hide Thee, though the eye of sin - ful flesh Thy

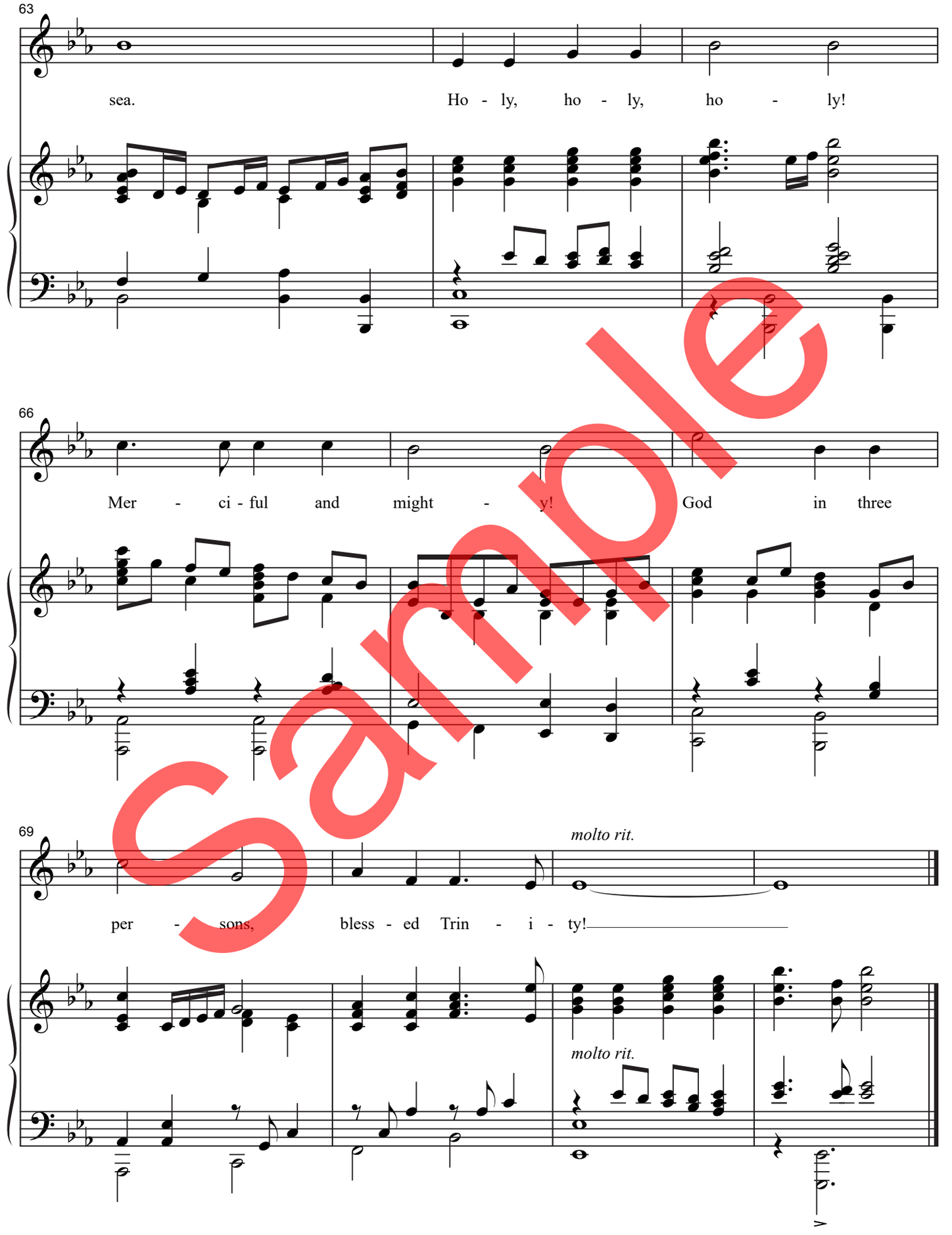
Sample


42
round the glass - y sea; cher - u - bim and
glo - ry may not see; on - ly Thou art
45
ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore Thee, who wert and
ho - ly; there is none be - side Thee, per - fect in
49
1. (opt. Repeat)
2.
art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
power, in love, and pu - ri - - ty.
1. (opt. Repeat)
2.

Sample


Broadly ♩ = ca. 84
53
rit.
f Congregation (in unison)
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly,
Broadly ♩ = ca. 84
cresc.
rit.
f
57
ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
60
All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth, and sky, and

Sample


63
sea. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly!
66
Mer - ci - ful and might - y! God in three
69
molto rit.
per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
molto rit.

Sample

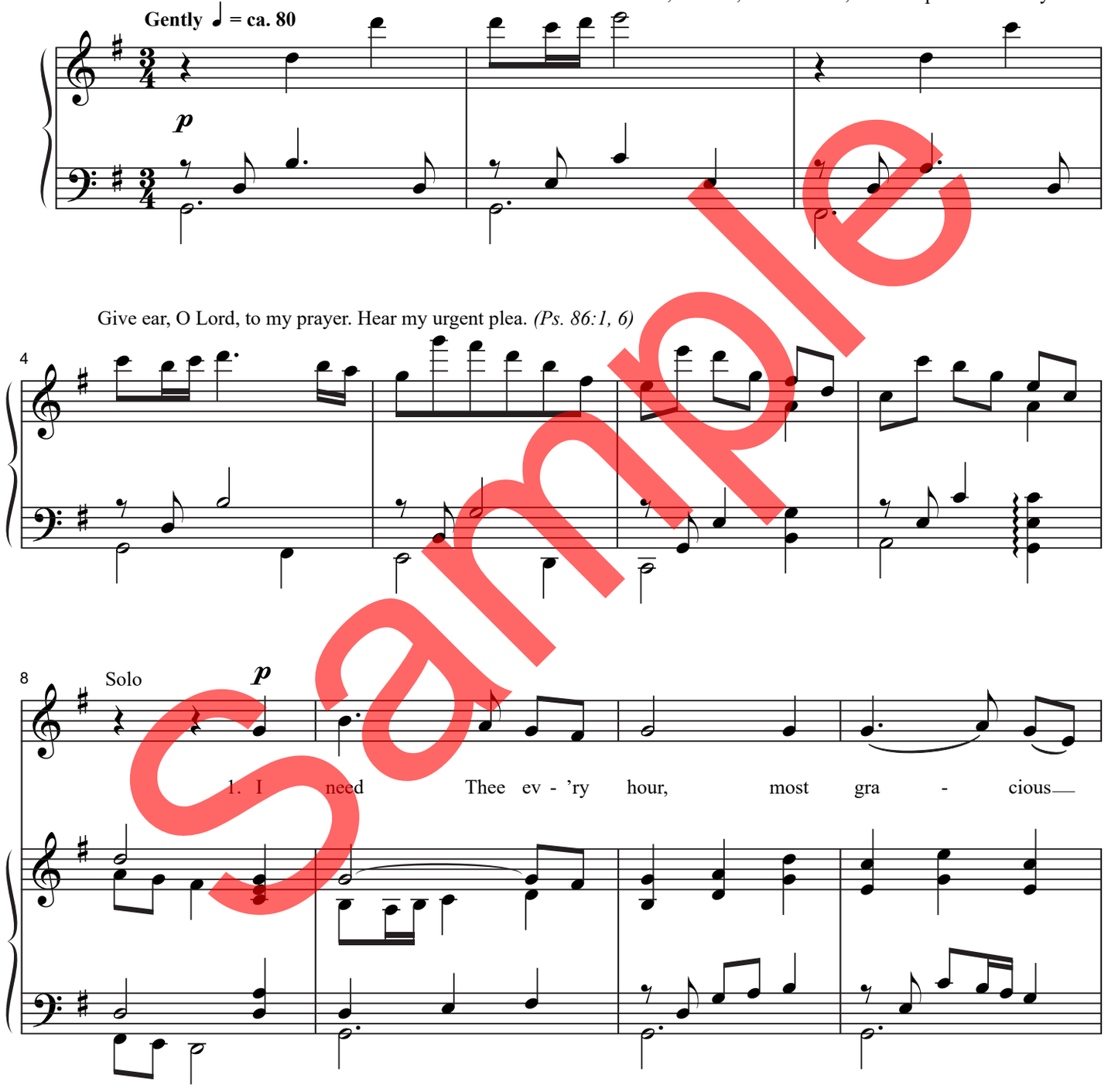
I Need Thee Every Hour

Piano, Solo, Congregation, and Narrator

Words by
Annie S. Hawks (1835-1918)

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **NEED**
by **Robert Lowry** (1826-1899)

Narrator: Incline Your ear, O Lord, and hear me, for I am poor and needy.



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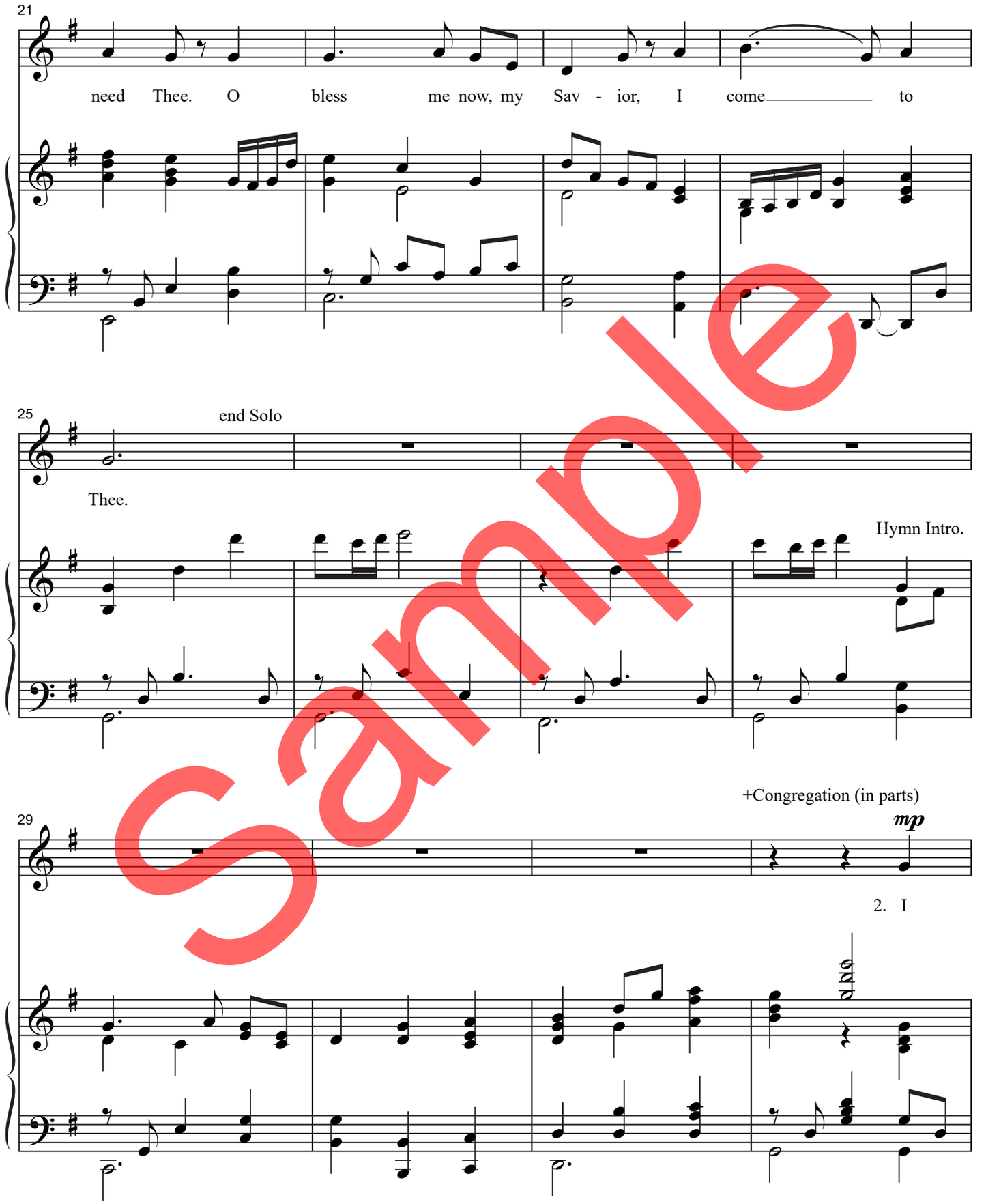
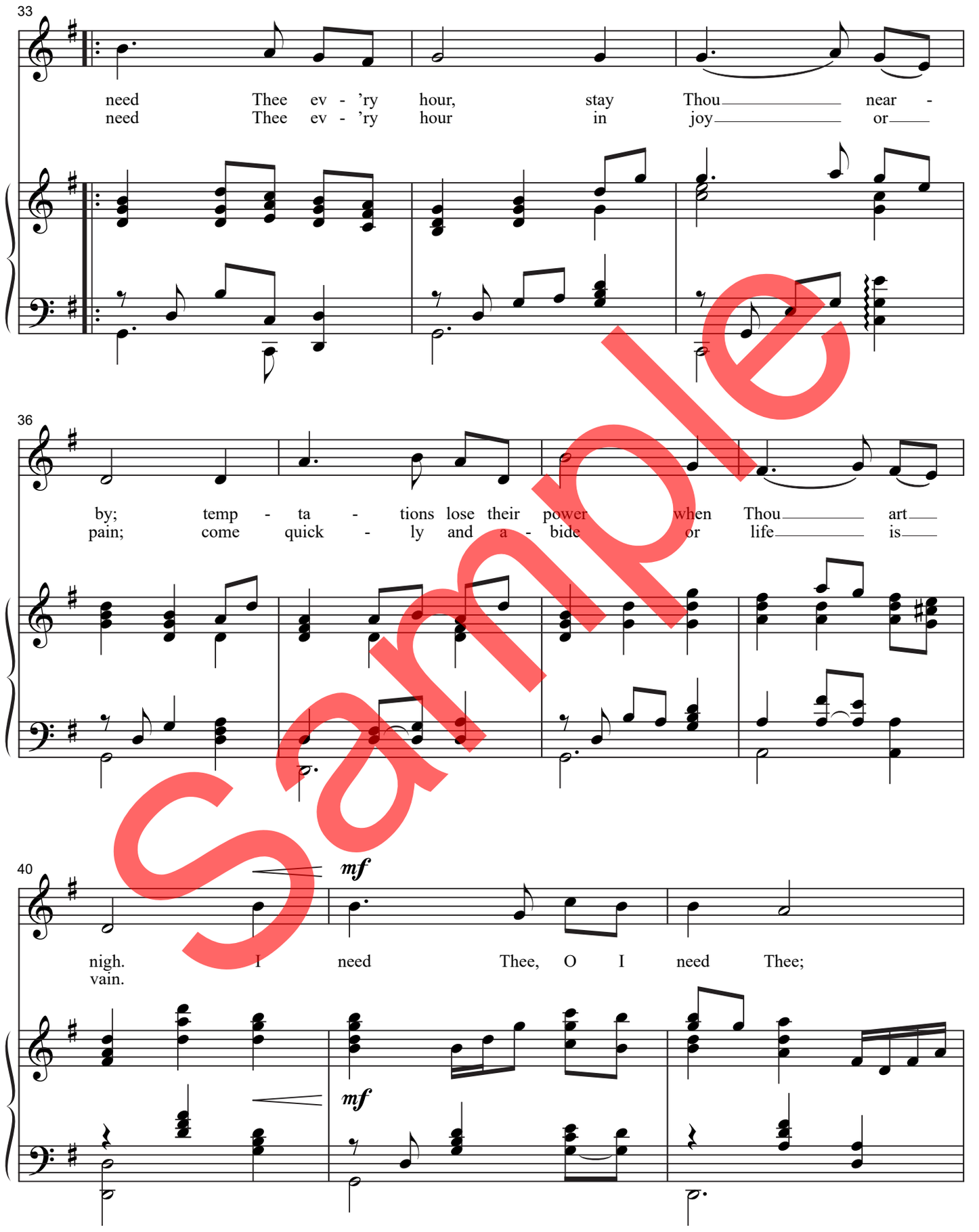
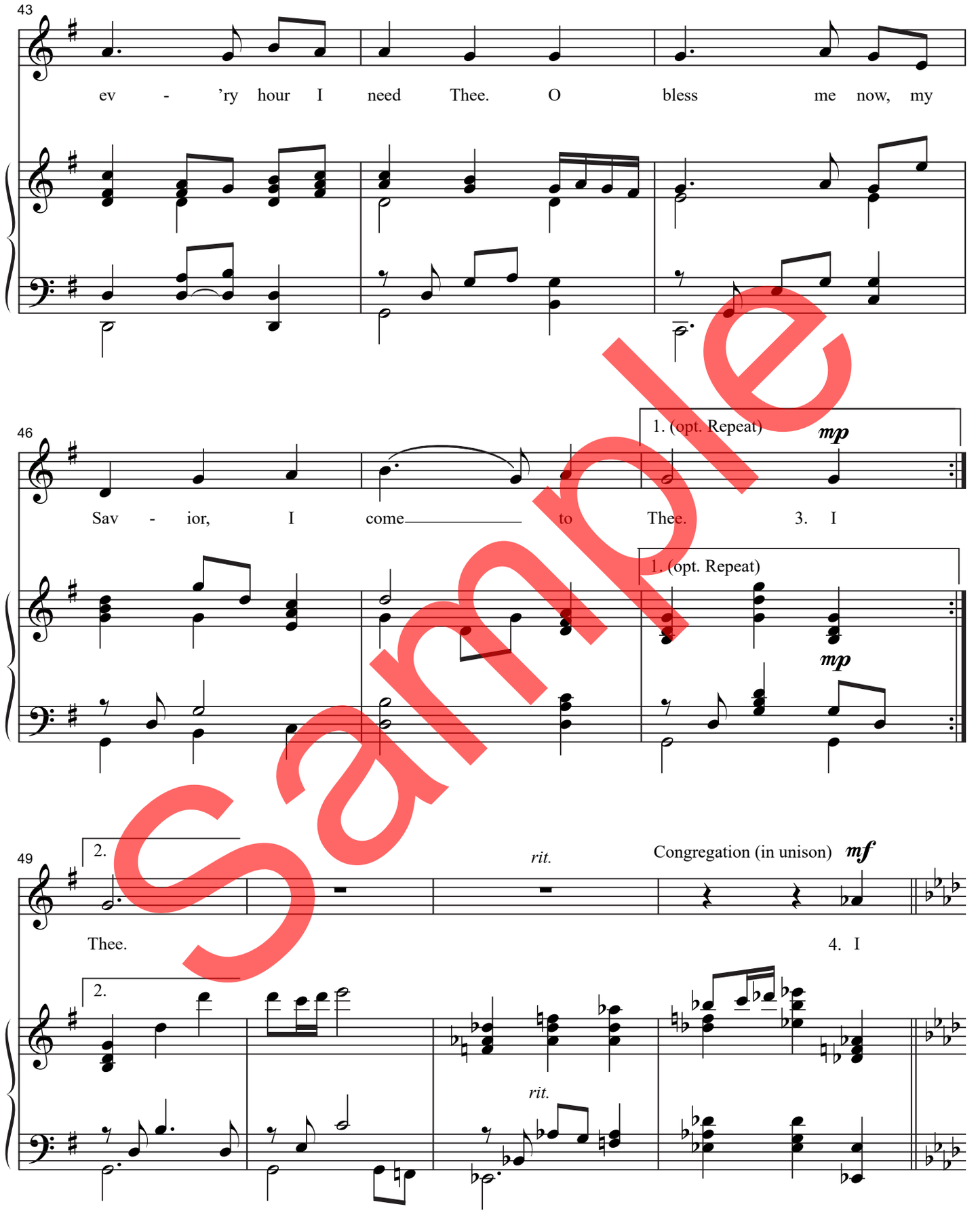

21
need Thee. O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to
25
end Solo
Thee.
Hymn Intro.
+Congregation (in parts)
29
mp
2. I

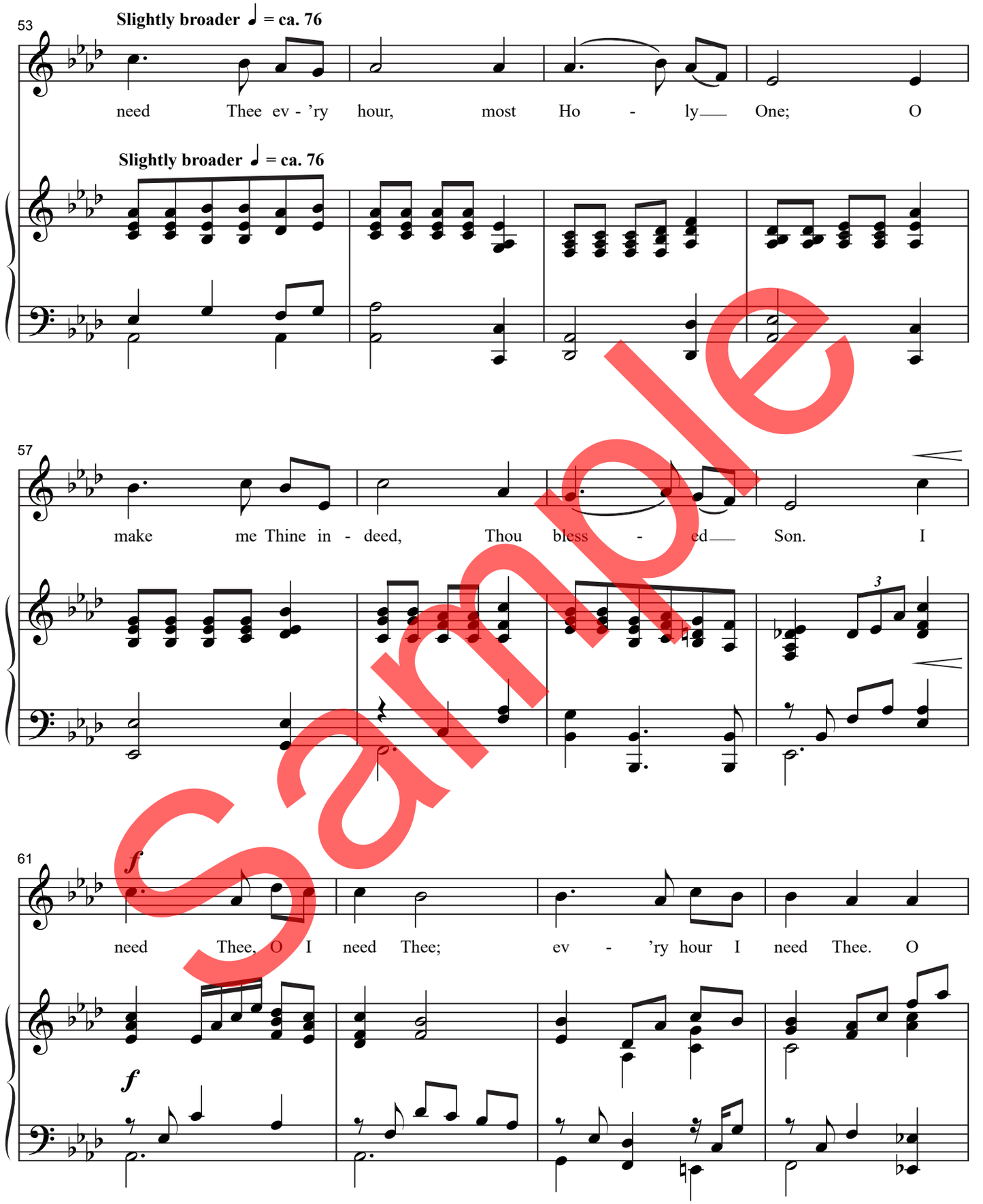
Sample


33
need Thee ev - 'ry hour, stay Thou near -
need Thee ev - 'ry hour in joy or
36
by; temp - ta - tions lose their power when Thou art
pain; come quick - ly and a - bide or life is
40
mf
nigh. I need Thee, O I need Thee;
vain.
mf

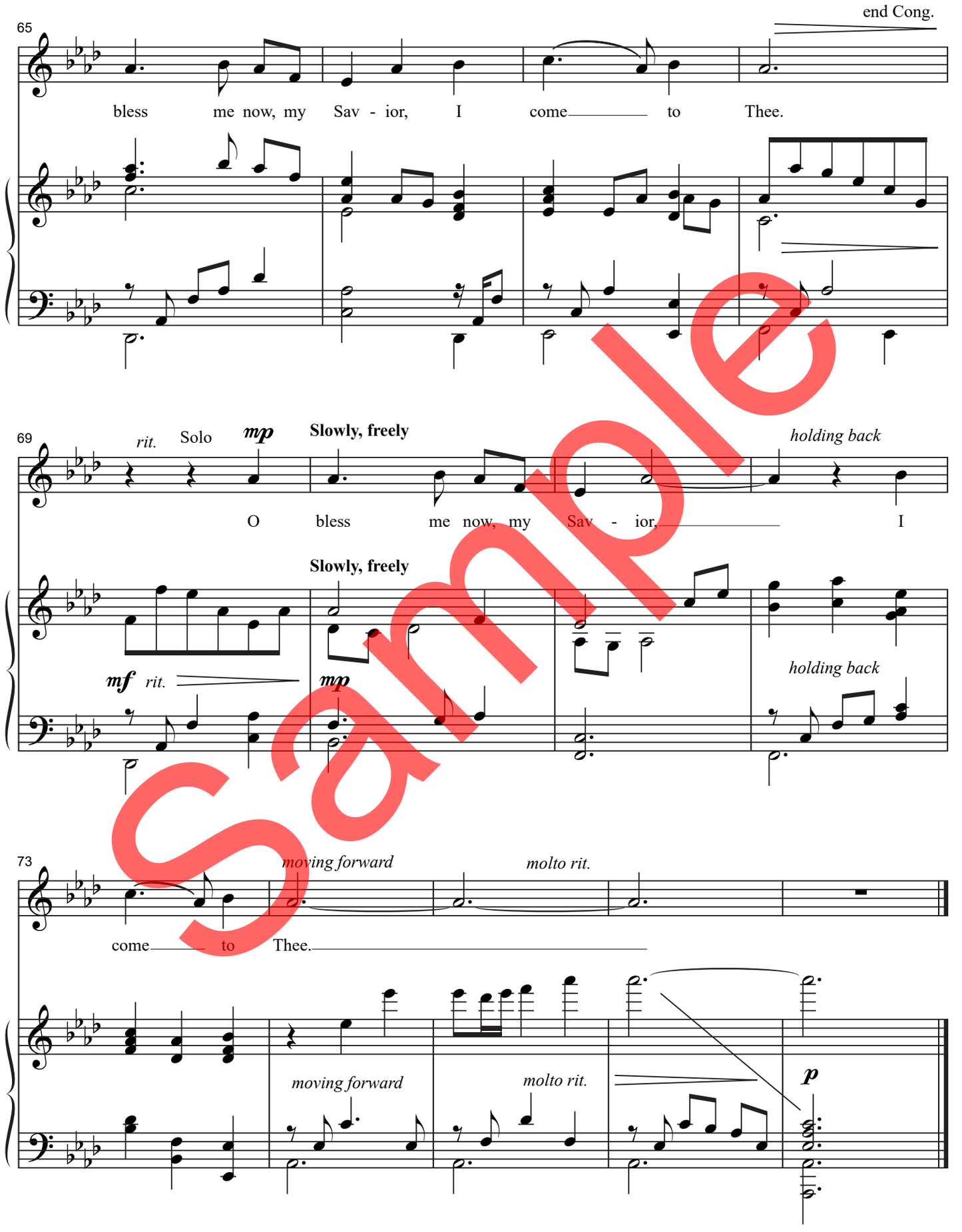
Sample


43
ev - 'ry hour I need Thee. O bless me now, my
46
Sav - ior, I come to Thee.
1. (opt. Repeat)
mp
3. I
1. (opt. Repeat)
mp
49
2.
rit.
Congregation (in unison)
mf
Thee.
4. I
2.
rit.

Sample


53
Slightly broader ♩ = ca. 76
need Thee ev - 'ry hour, most Ho - ly One; O
Slightly broader ♩ = ca. 76
57
make me Thine in - deed, Thou bless - ed Son. I
3
61
f
need Thee, O I need Thee; ev - 'ry hour I need Thee. O
f

Sample


end Cong.
65
bless me now, my Sav - ior, I come to Thee.
69
rit.
Solo
mp
Slowly, freely
holding back
O bless me now, my Sav - ior, I
Slowly, freely
mf
rit.
mp
holding back
73
moving forward
molto rit.
come to Thee.
moving forward
molto rit.
p

Sample

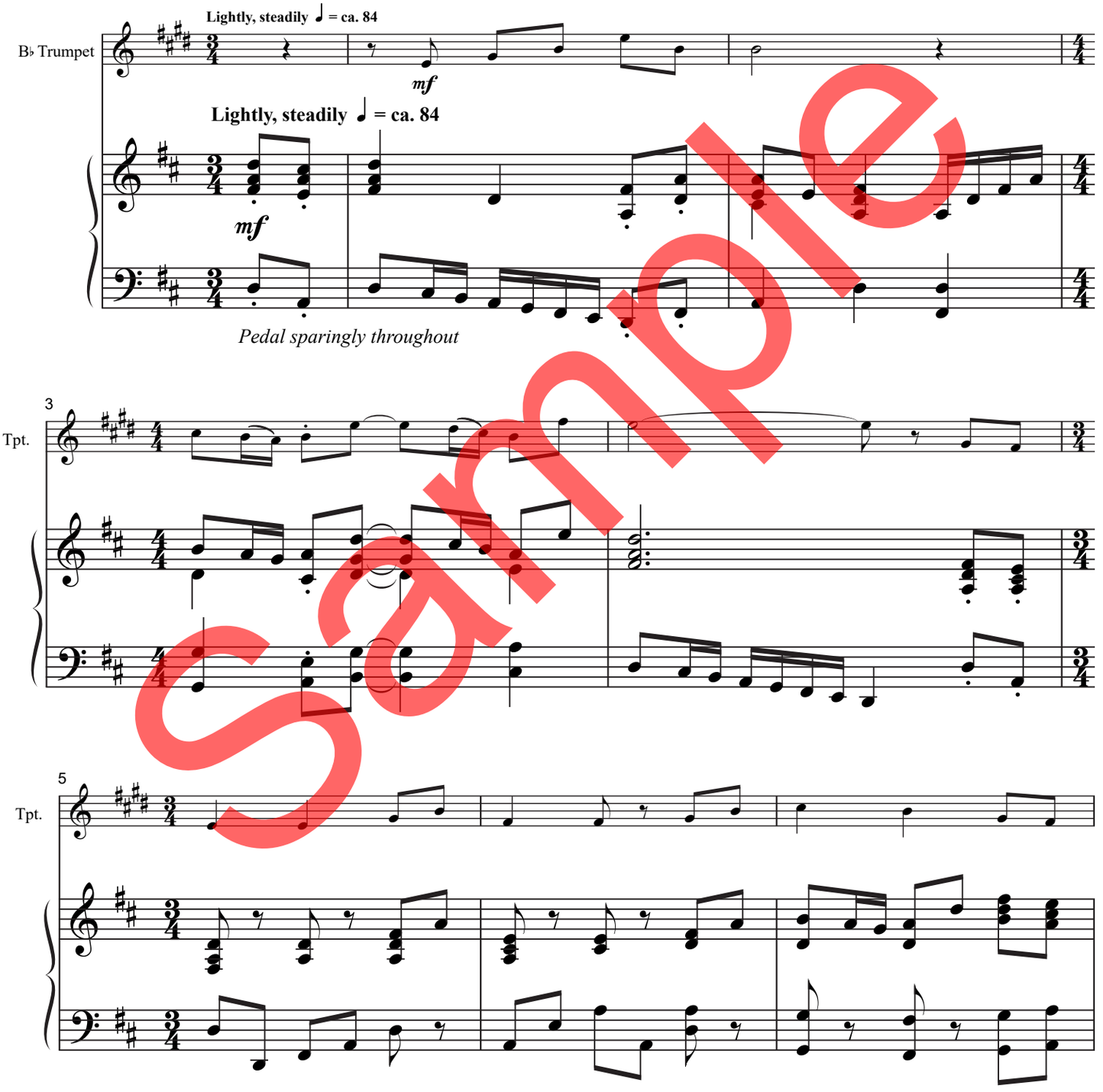
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Piano, Congregation, and Narrator with opt. Trumpet (or B♭ Instrument)

Words by
Robert Robinson (1735-1790), *alt.*

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **NETTLETON**
Traditional American Melody
from John Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second*, 1813

Narrator: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet God? *(Ps. 42:1-2)* ***(music begins)***



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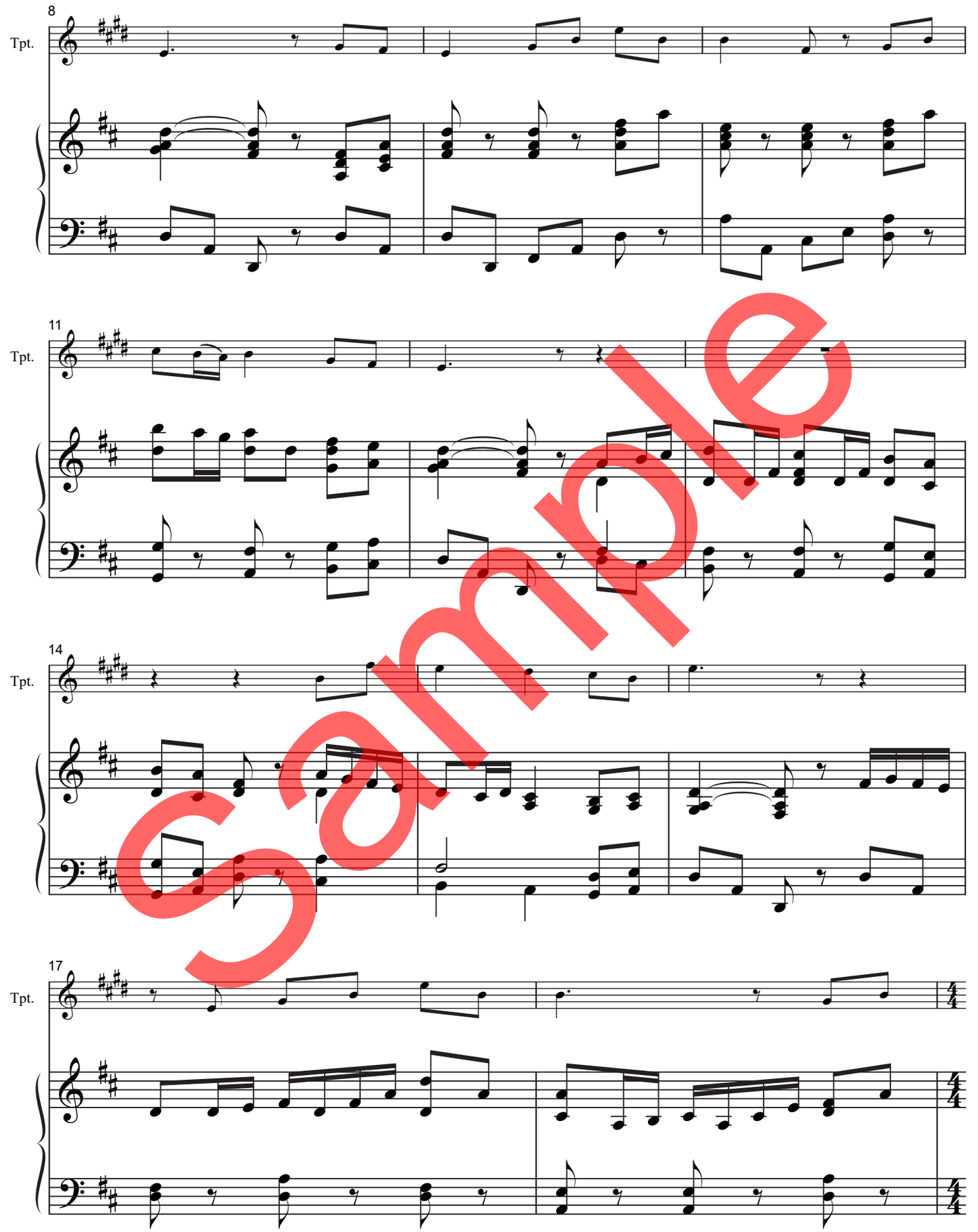

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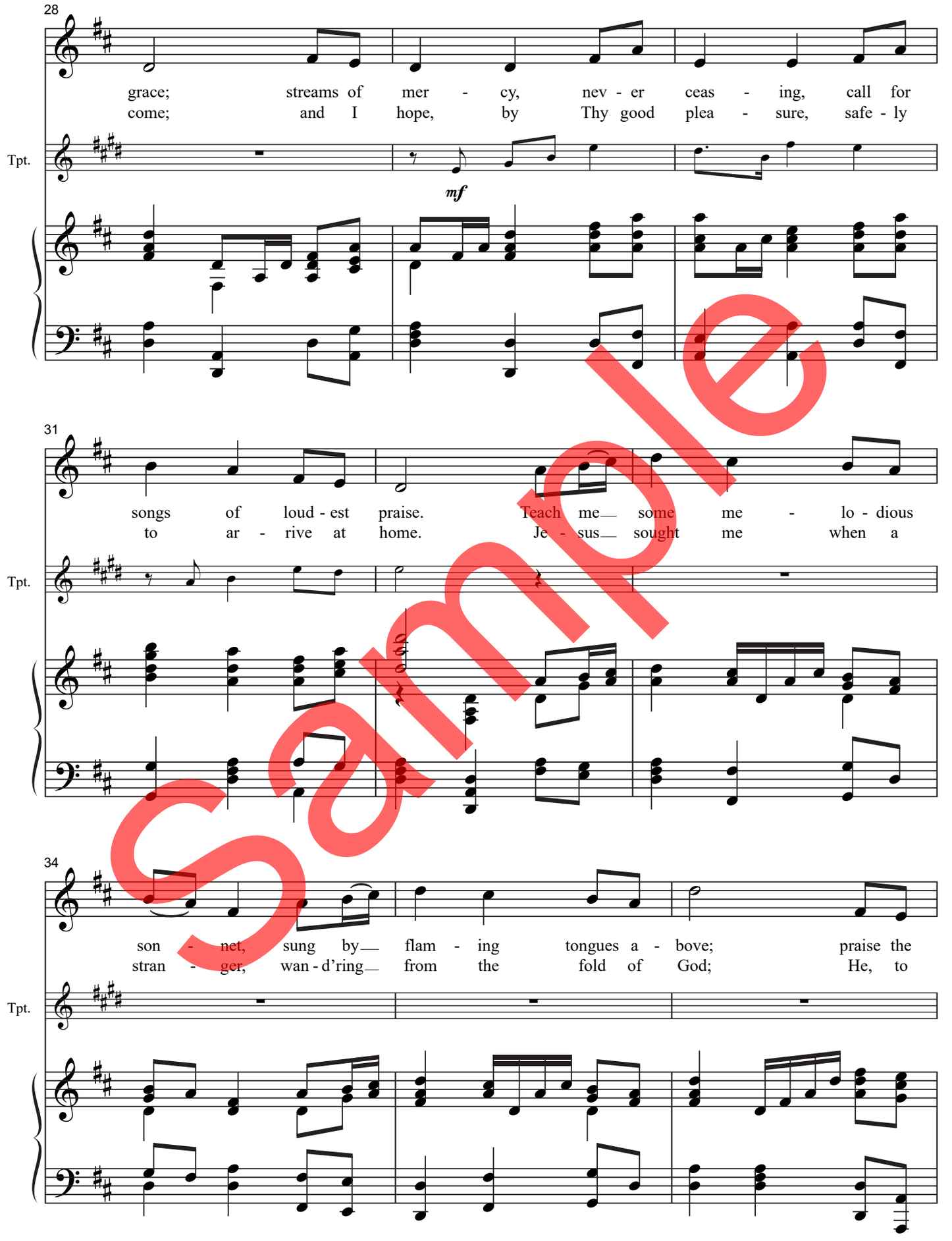
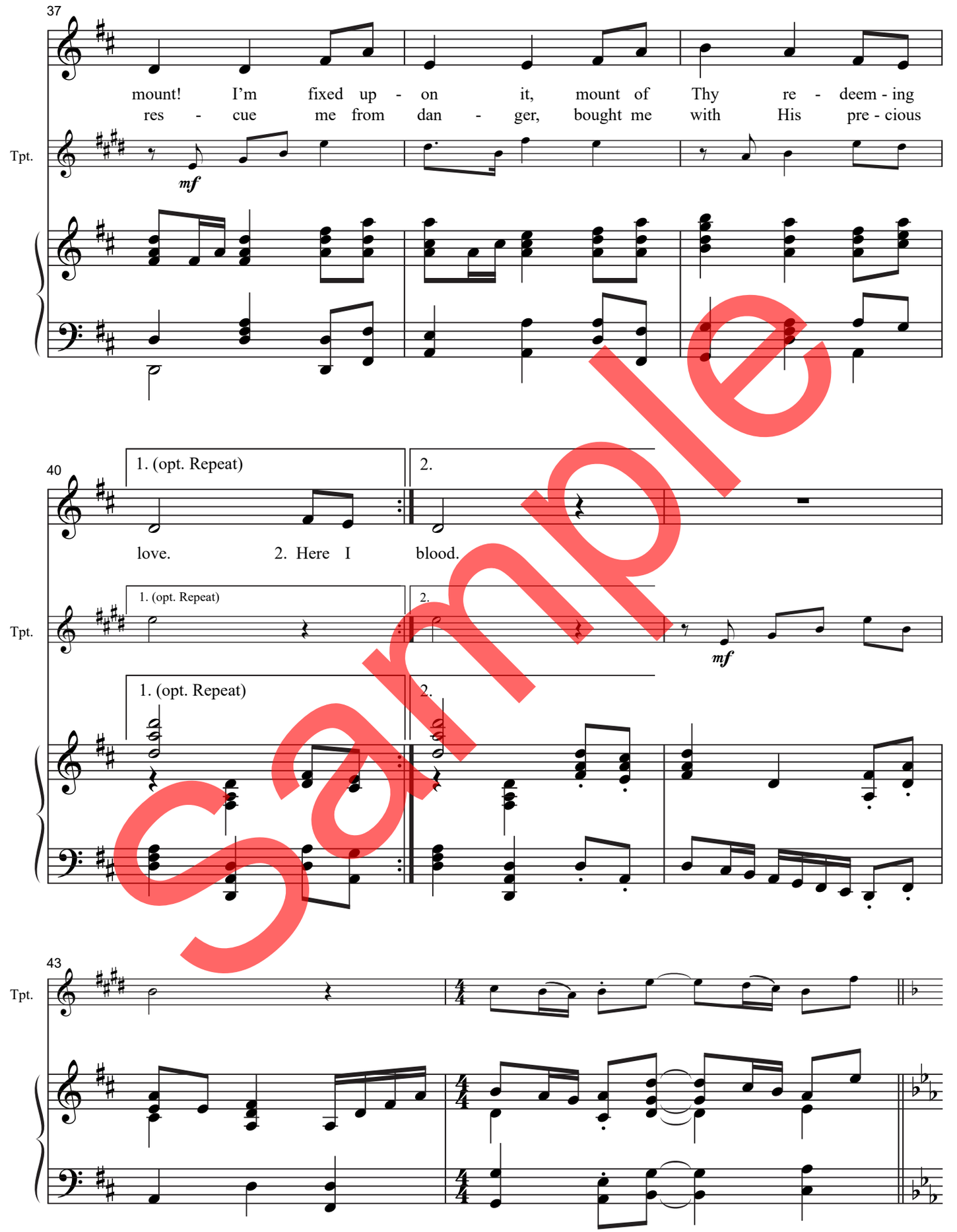
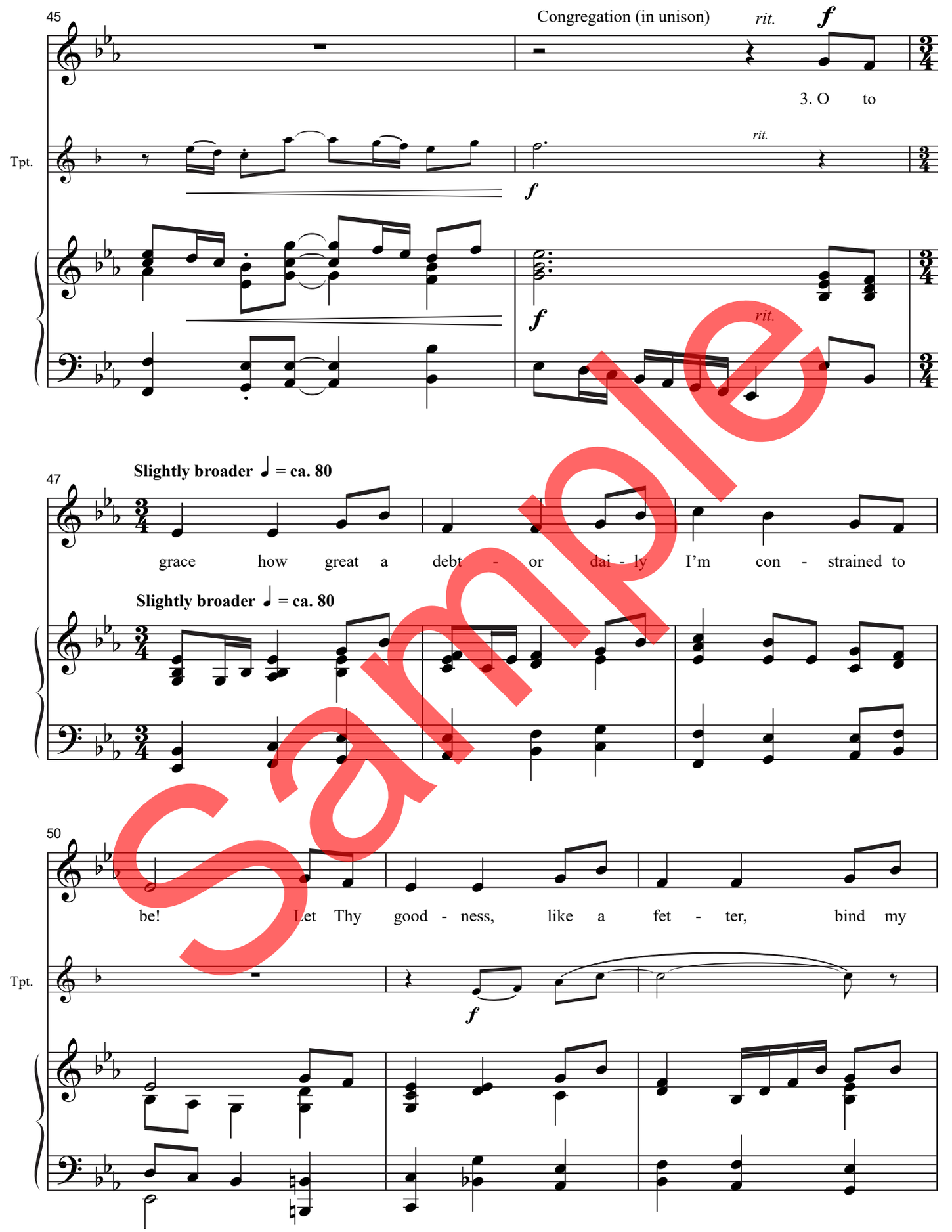

28
grace; streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for
come; and I hope, by Thy good plea - sure, safe - ly
Tpt.
mf
31
songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
Tpt.
34
son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; praise the
stran - ger, wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
Tpt.

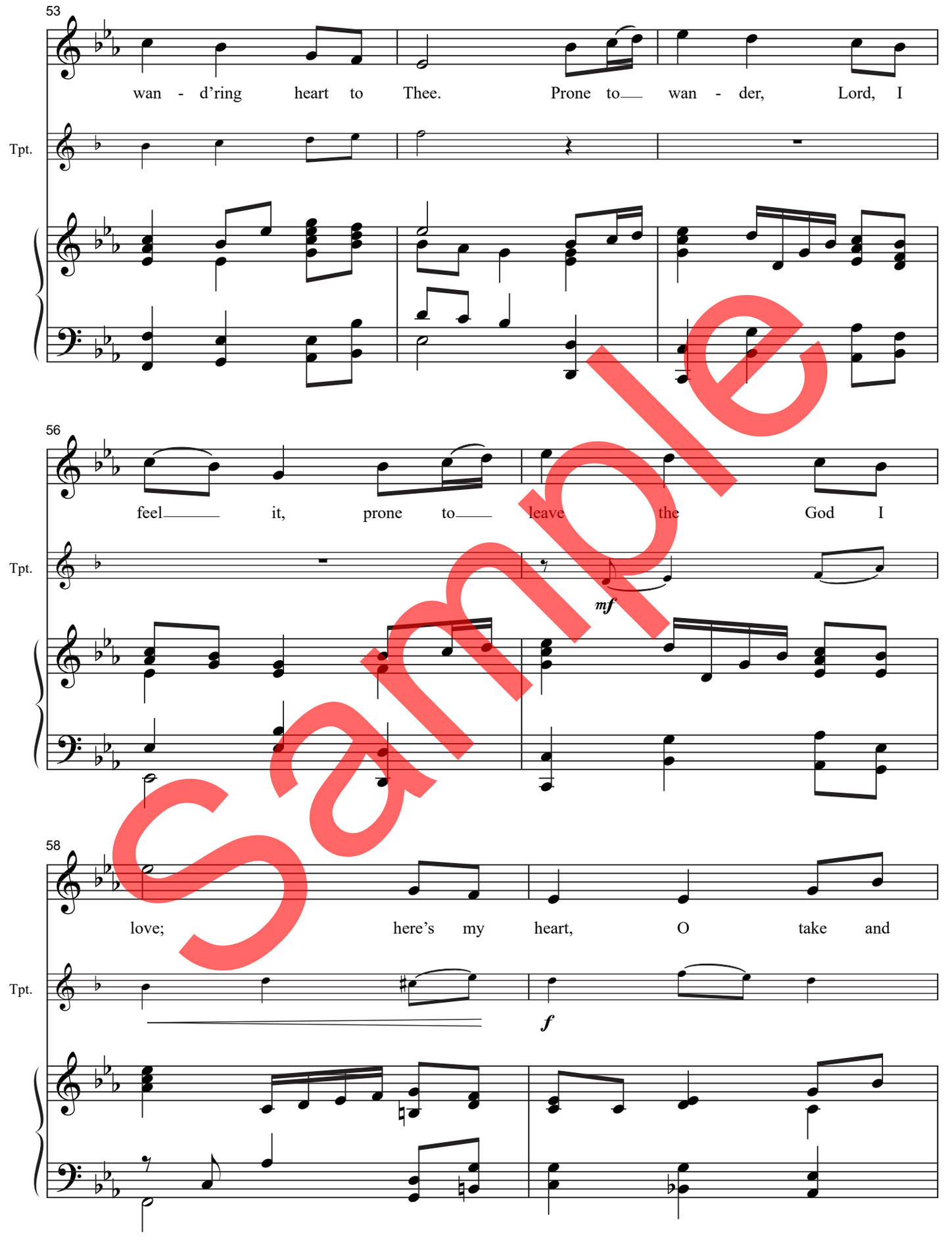
Sample


37
mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of Thy re - deem - ing
res - cue me from dan - ger, bought me with His pre - cious
Tpt.
mf
40
1. (opt. Repeat)
2.
love. 2. Here I blood.
Tpt.
mf
43
Tpt.

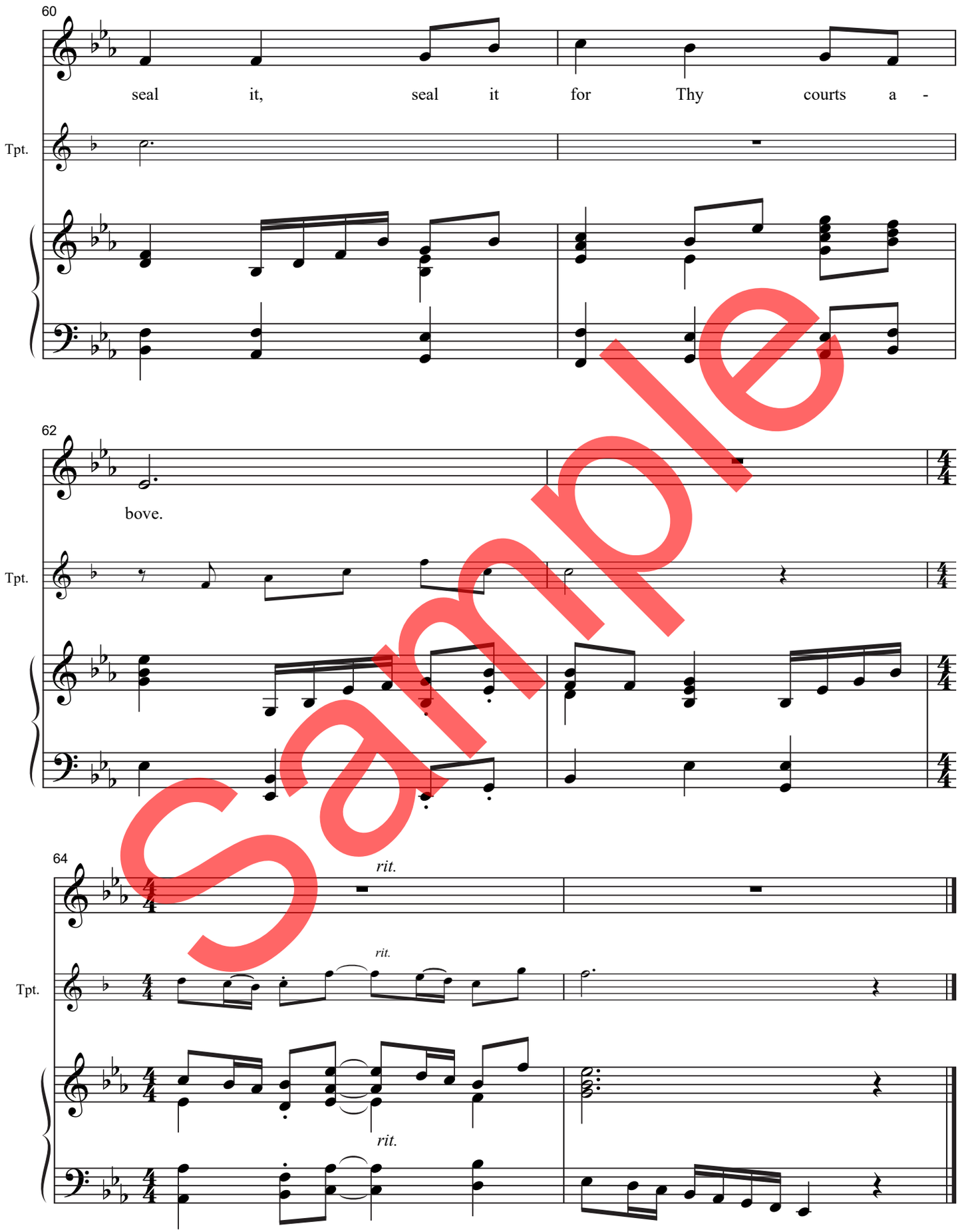
Sample


45
Congregation (in unison)
rit.
f
3. O to
Tpt.
rit.
f
f
rit.
47
Slightly broader ♩ = ca. 80
grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to
Slightly broader ♩ = ca. 80
50
be! Let Thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, bind my
Tpt.
f

Sample


53
wan - d'ring heart to Thee. Prone to wan - der, Lord, I
Tpt.
56
feel it, prone to leave the God I
Tpt.
mf
58
love; here's my heart, O take and
Tpt.
f

Sample


60
seal it, seal it for Thy courts a -
Tpt.
62
bove.
Tpt.
64
rit.
Tpt.
rit.
rit.

Sample

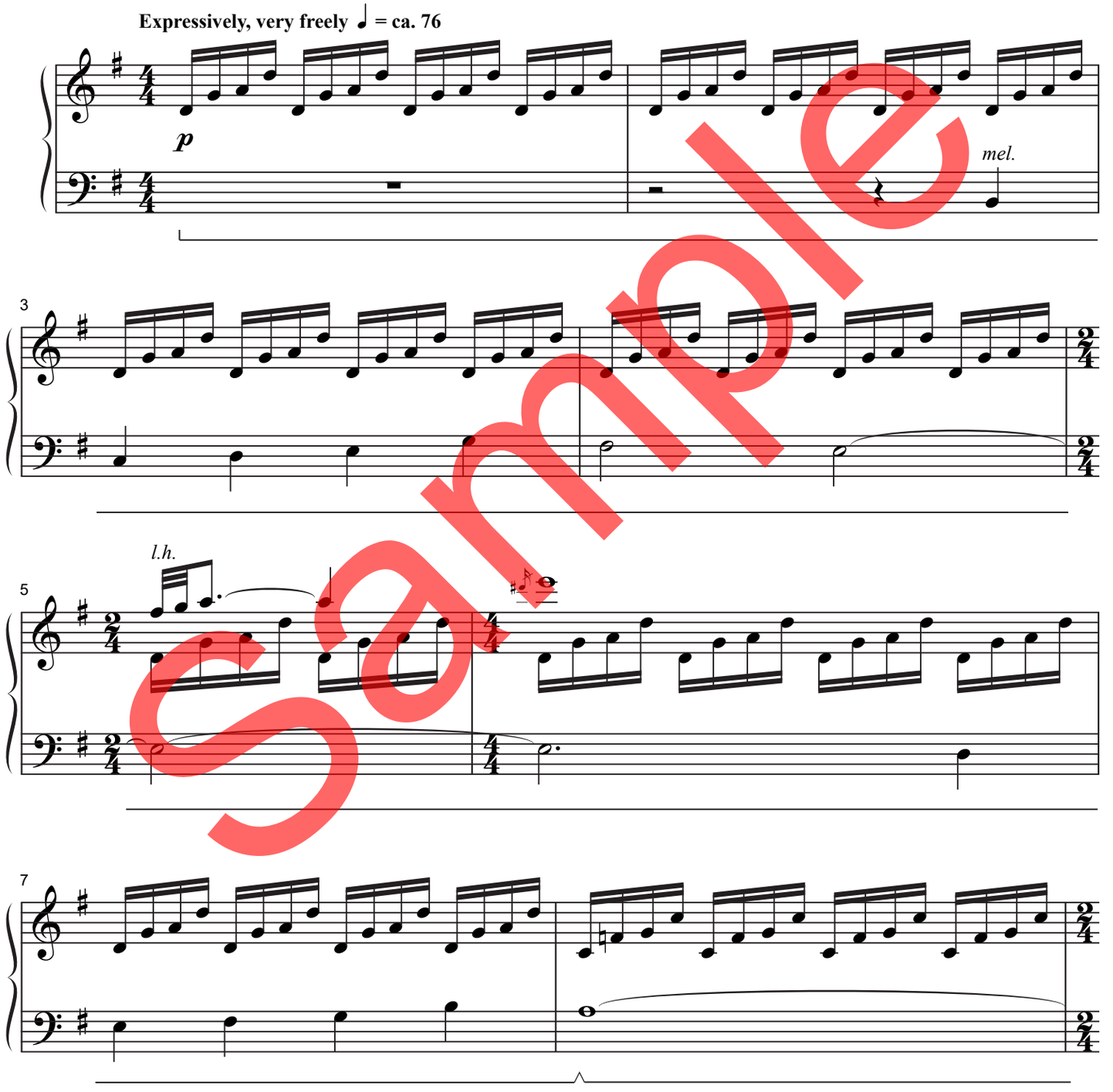
When Morning Gilds the Skies

Piano, Congregation, and Narrator

Words from
Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828;
tr. **Edward Caswall** (1814-1878)

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **LAUDES DOMINI**
by **Joseph Barnby** (1838-1896)

Narrator: The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. *(Ps. 19:1-4)* ***(music begins)*** Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is God's faithfulness. *(La. 3:22-23)*



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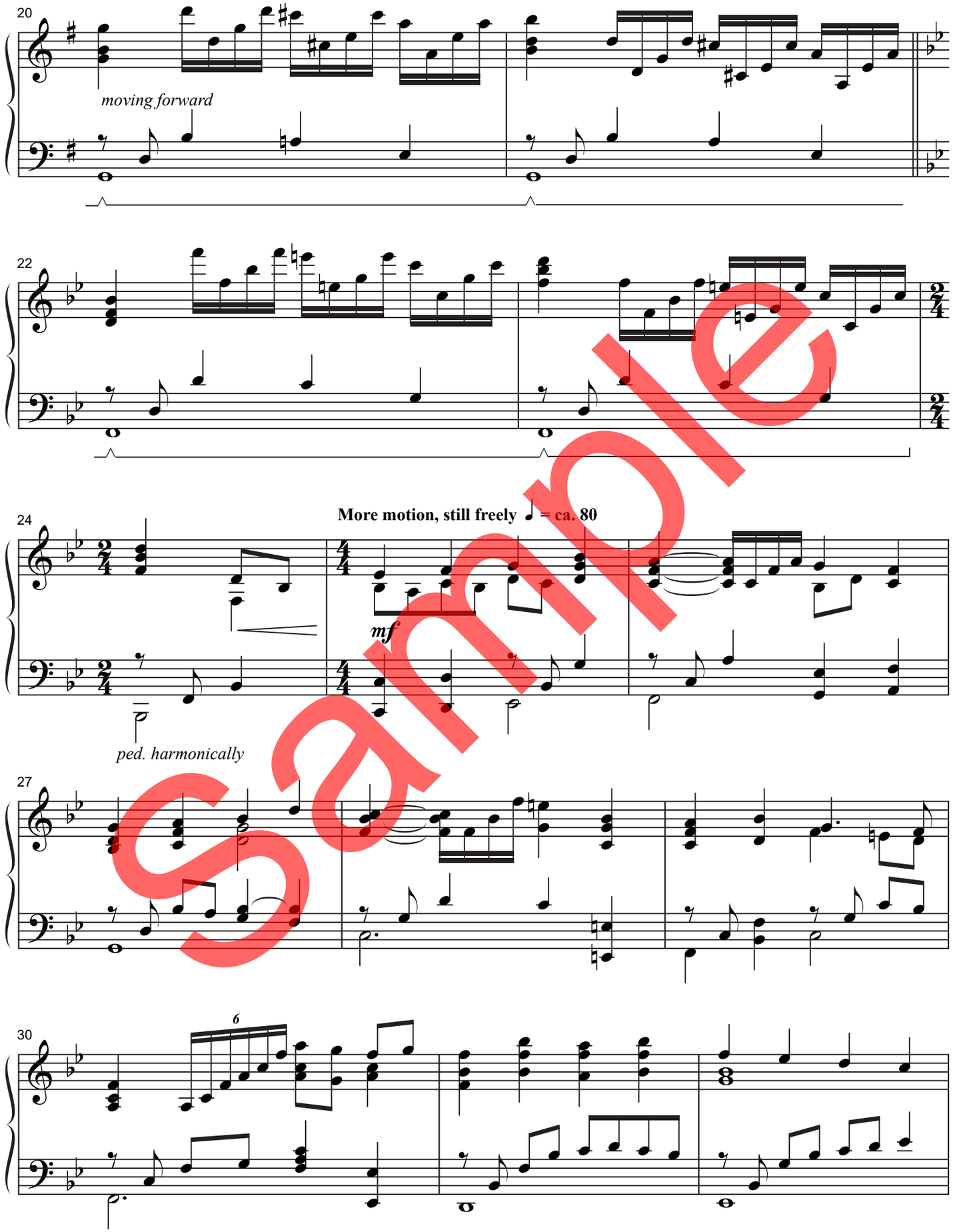
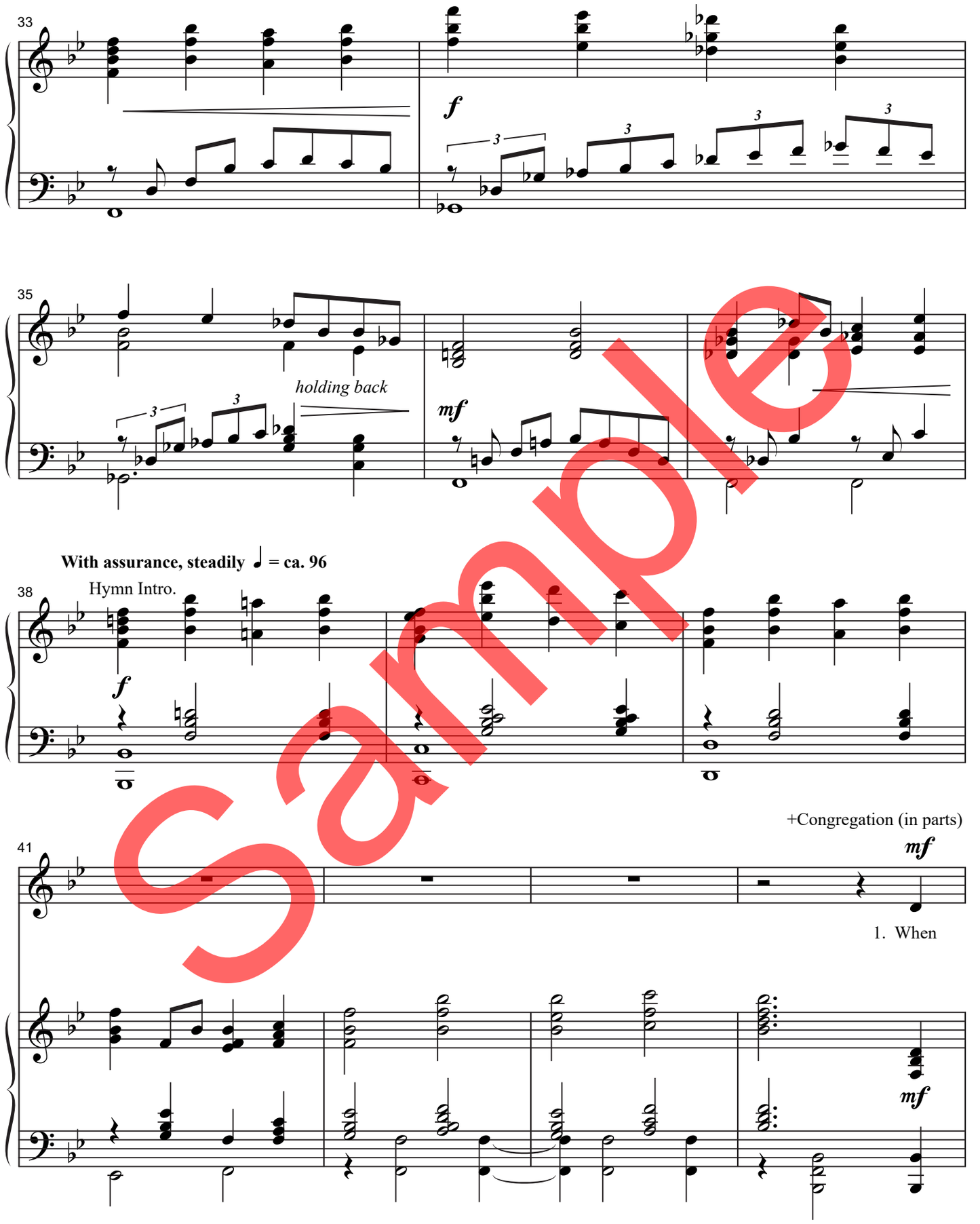
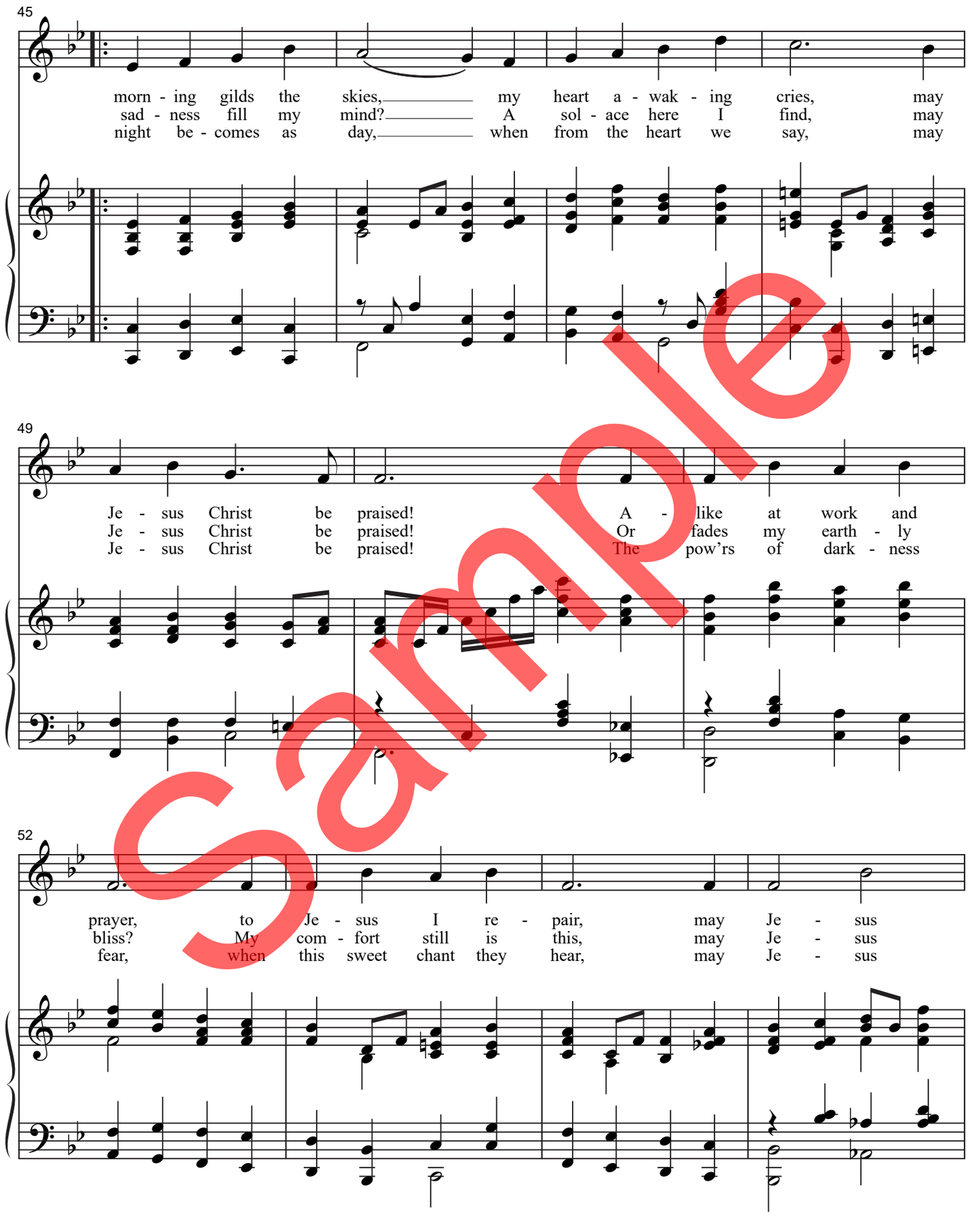

20
moving forward
22
24
More motion, still freely ♩ = ca. 80
mf
ped. harmonically
27
30
6

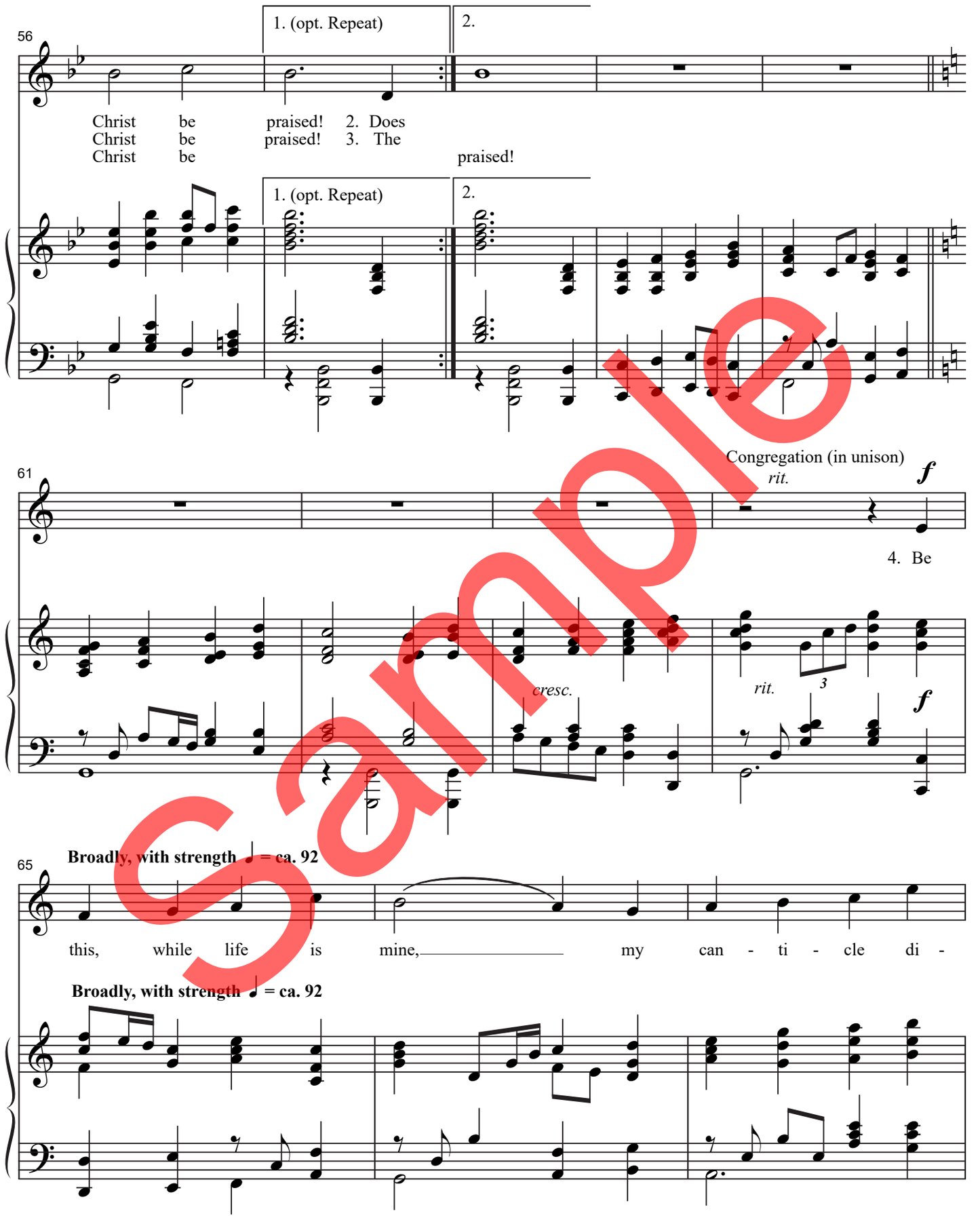
sample


33
f
35
holding back
mf
With assurance, steadily ♩ = ca. 96
38
Hymn Intro.
f
+Congregation (in parts)
41
mf
1. When
mf

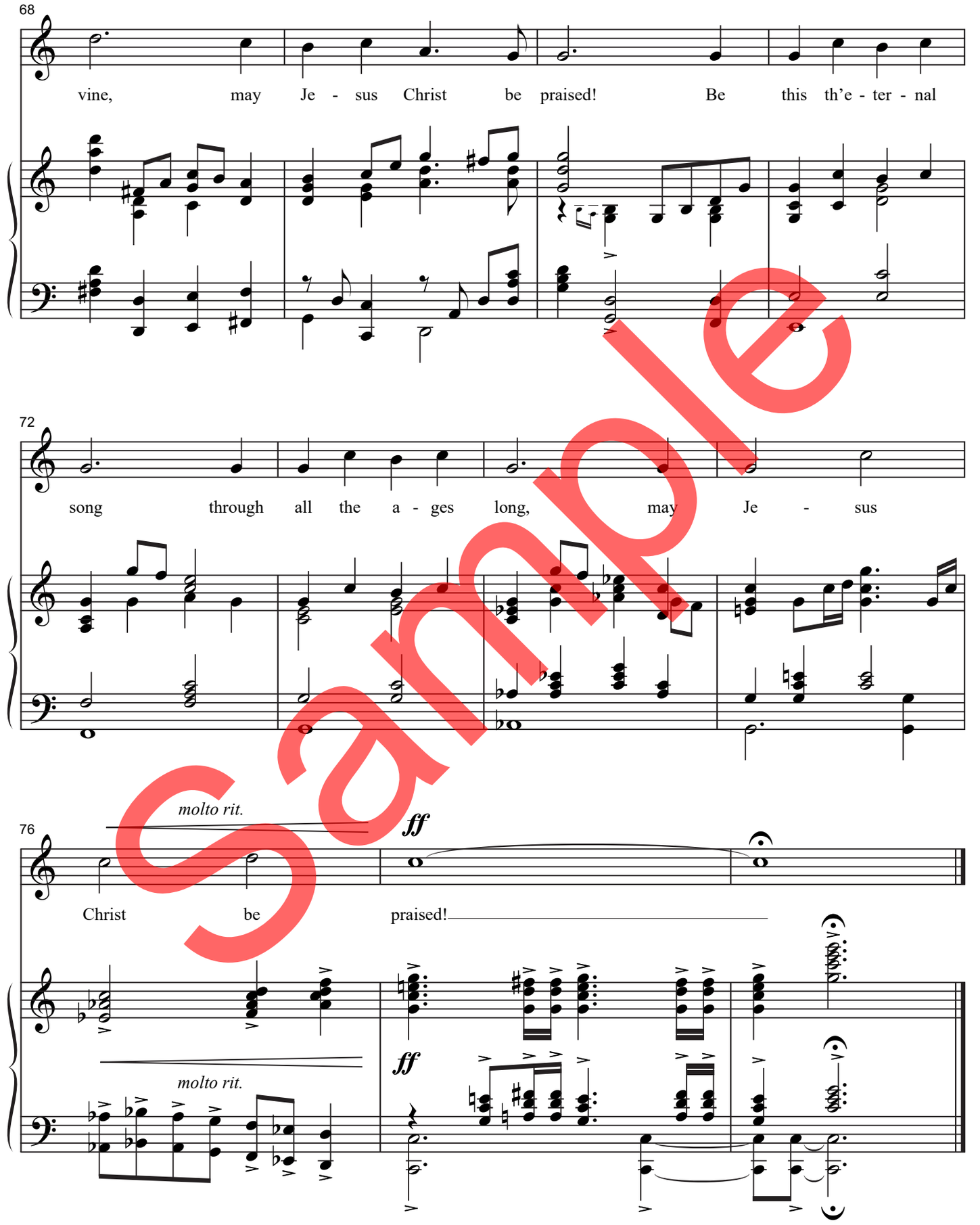
Sample


45
morn - ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak - ing cries, may
sad - ness fill my mind? A sol - ace here I find, may
night be - comes as day, when from the heart we say, may
49
Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and
Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly
Je - sus Christ be praised! The pow'rs of dark - ness
52
prayer, to Je - sus I re - pair, may Je - sus
bliss? My com - fort still is this, may Je - sus
fear, when this sweet chant they hear, may Je - sus

Sample


56
1. (opt. Repeat)
2.
Christ be praised! 2. Does
Christ be praised! 3. The
Christ be praised!
1. (opt. Repeat)
2.
61
Congregation (in unison)
rit.
f
4. Be
cresc.
rit.
3
f
65
Broadly, with strength ♩ = ca. 92
this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di -
Broadly, with strength ♩ = ca. 92

Sample


68
vine, may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this th'e - ter - nal
72
song through all the a - ges long, may Je - sus
76
molto rit.
ff
Christ be praised!
molto rit.
ff

Sample

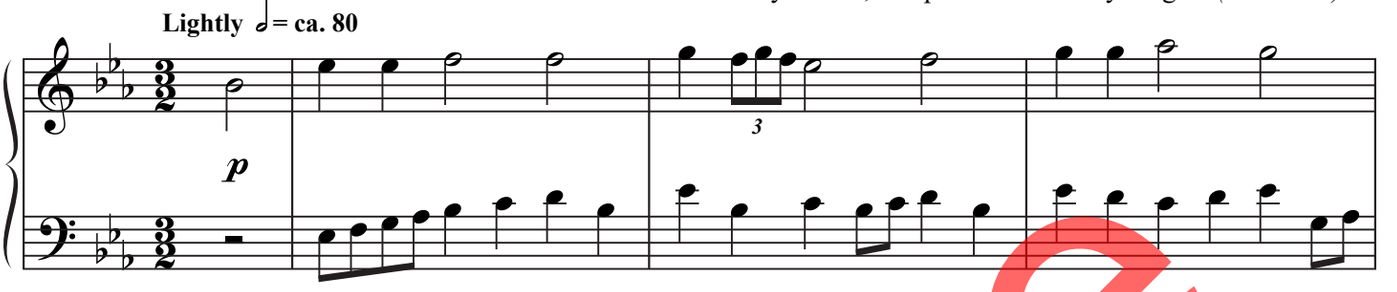
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Piano, Congregation, and Two Narrators

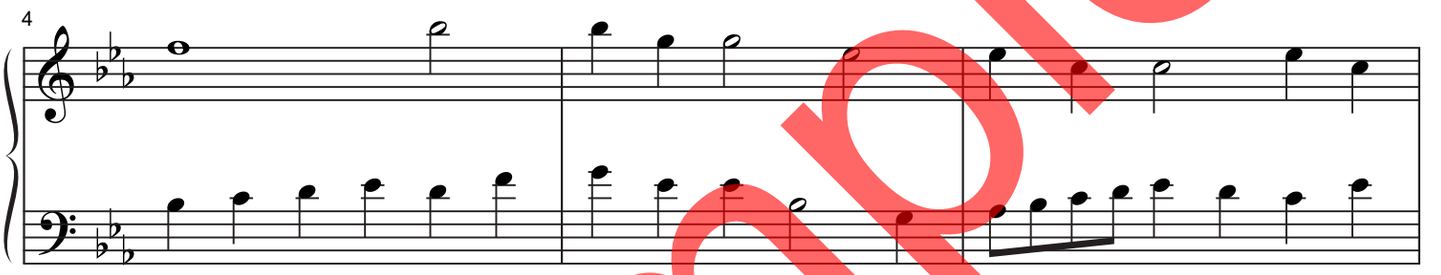
Words by
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **AZMON**
by **Carl G. Gläser** (1784-1829)

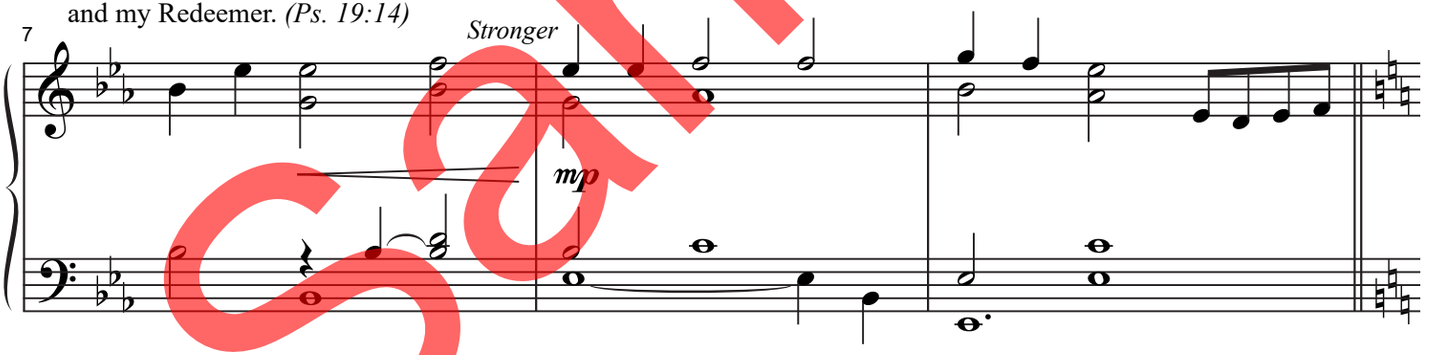
Narrator 1: I cried out to the Lord with my mouth; His praise was on my tongue. *(Ps. 66:17)*



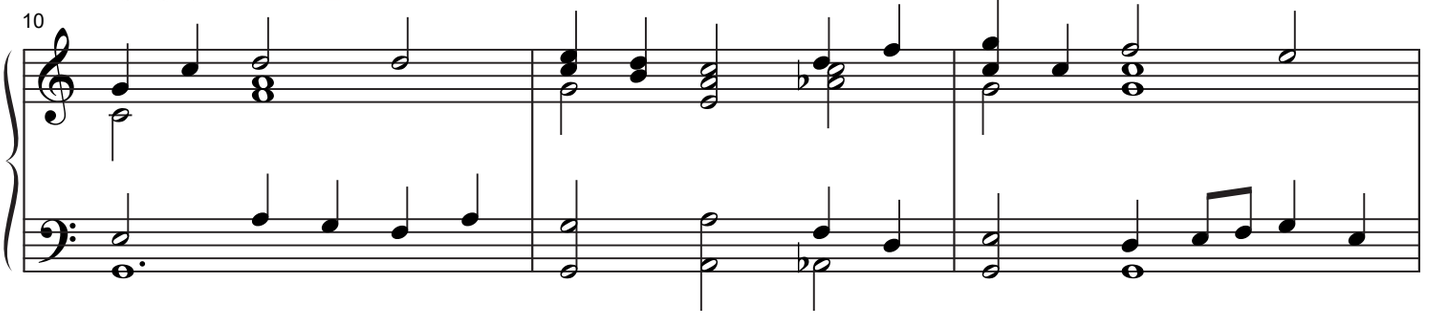
Narrator 2: Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. *(Ps. 126:2a-3)*



Narrator 1: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock, and my Redeemer. *(Ps. 19:14)*



Narrator 2: If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. *(I Co. 13:1)*



Sample

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Narrator 1: At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *(Php. 2:10-11)*

13

7

16

mf

Narrator 2: O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise, the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of His grace!

19

rit.

a tempo

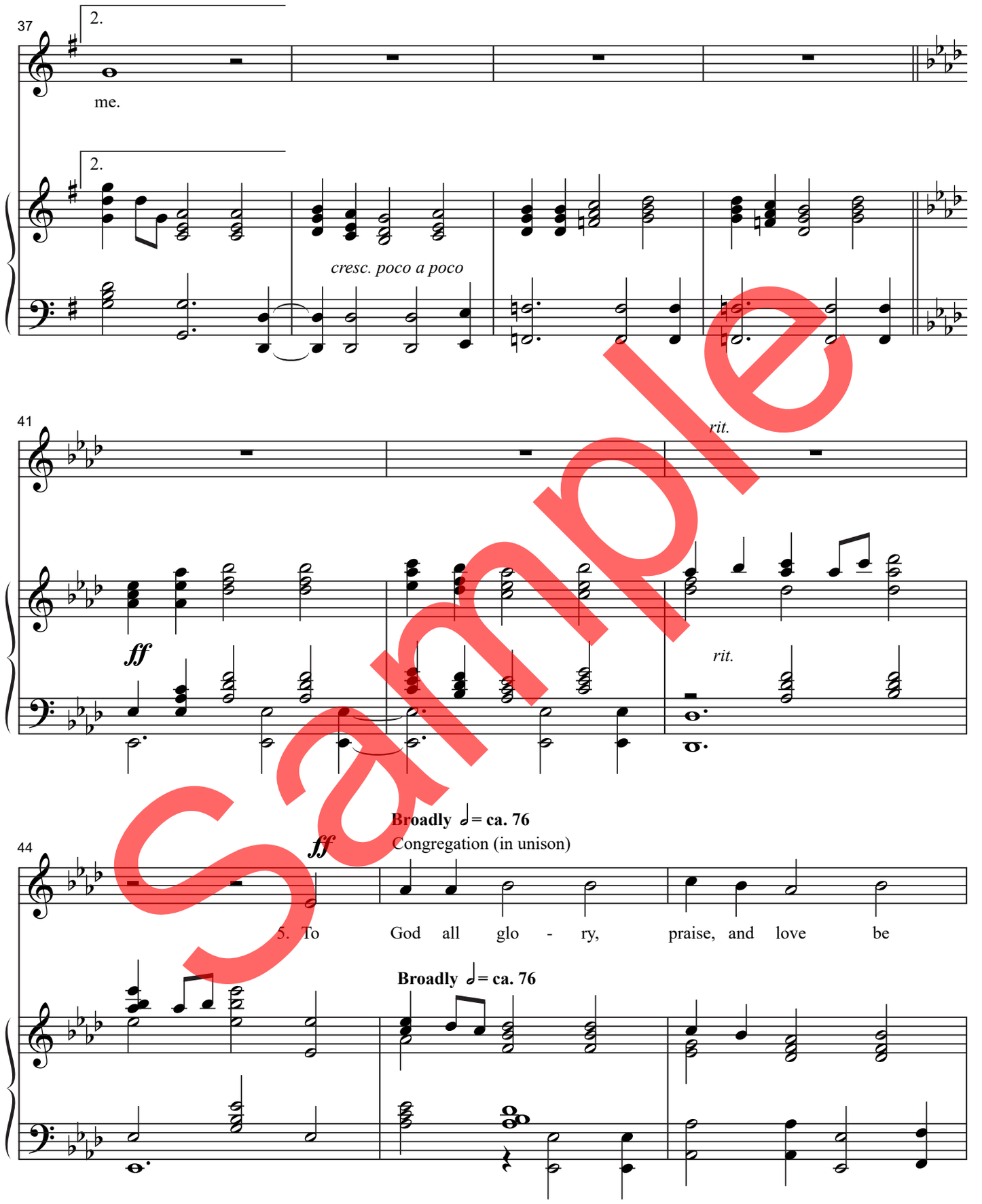
22

25

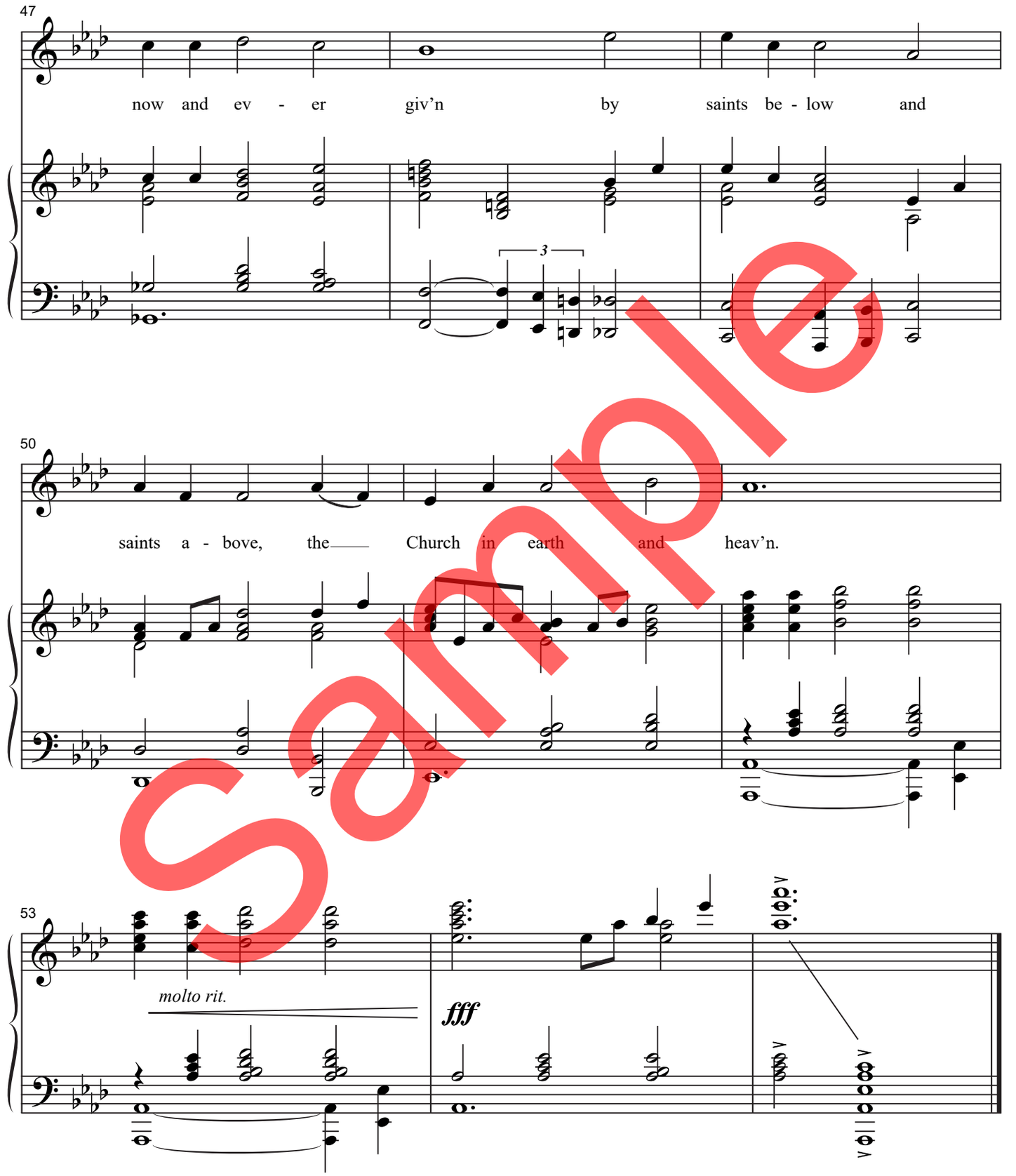
Hymn intro.

cresc. poco a poco

Sample


37
2.
me.
2.
cresc. poco a poco
41
rit.
ff
rit.
44
Broadly ♩= ca. 76
Congregation (in unison)
ff
5. To God all glo - ry, praise, and love be
Broadly ♩= ca. 76

Sample


47
now and ev - er giv'n by saints be - low and
3
50
saints a - bove, the Church in earth and heav'n.
53
molto rit.
fff

Sample

O Worship the King

Piano, Solo and/or Ensemble, Congregation, and Narrator

Words by
Lloyd Larson based on **I Ch. 16:29** and **Jn. 4:24**;
and **Robert Grant** (1779-1838); para. of **Ps. 104**

Arranged with New Music by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **LYONS**
Attr. **Johann M. Haydn** (1737-1806);
From William Gardiner's *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

Narrator: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name. Bring an offering and come before Him; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. *(I Ch. 16:29)* God is Spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. *(Jn. 4:24)* ***(music begins)***

With gentle motion ♩ = ca. 126

mf

5 *mf* Solo and/or Ensemble

Wor - ship the Lord in the splen - dor of ho - li - ness.

9

Wor - ship the Lord in spir - it and truth. Lift your

Sample

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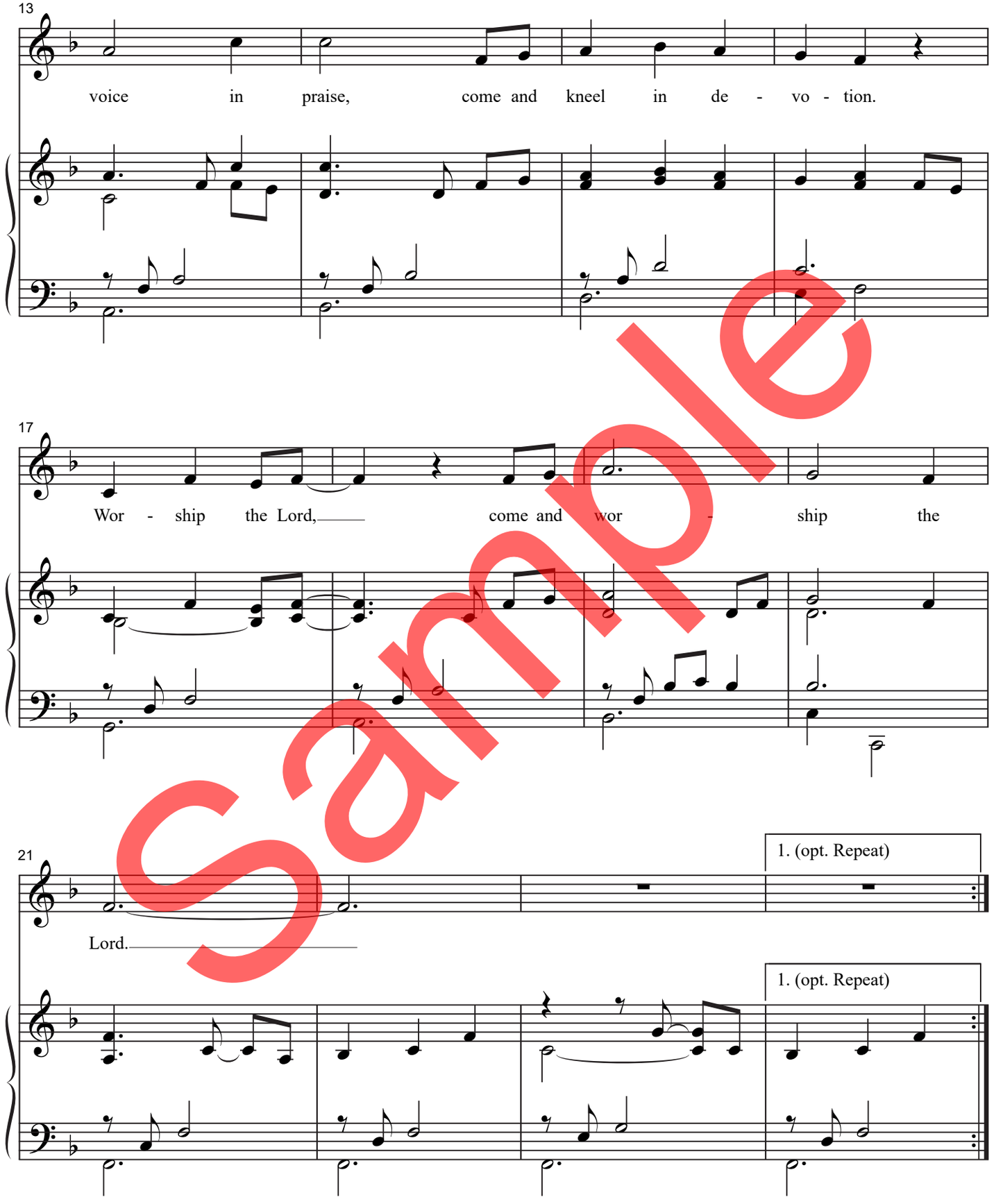
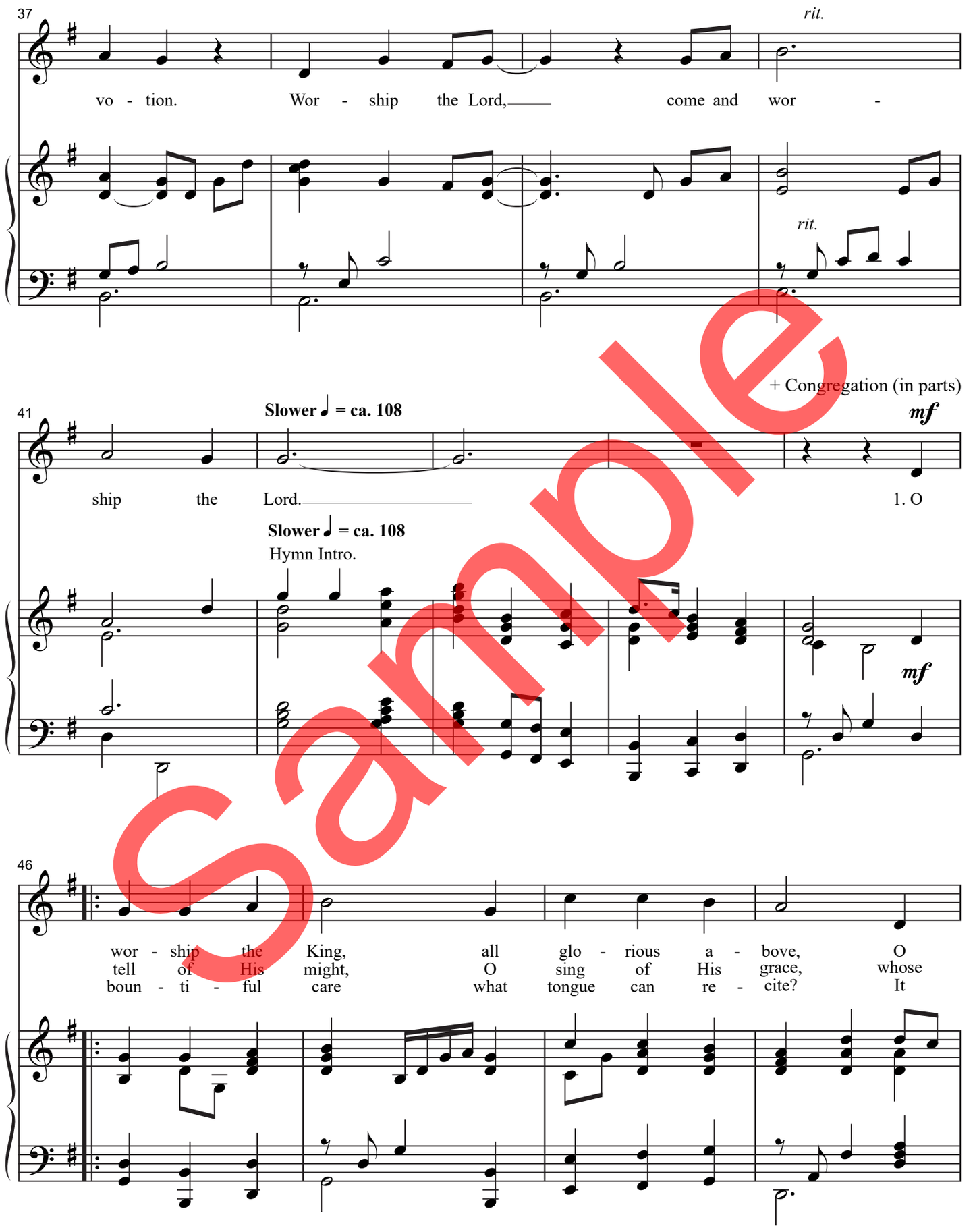
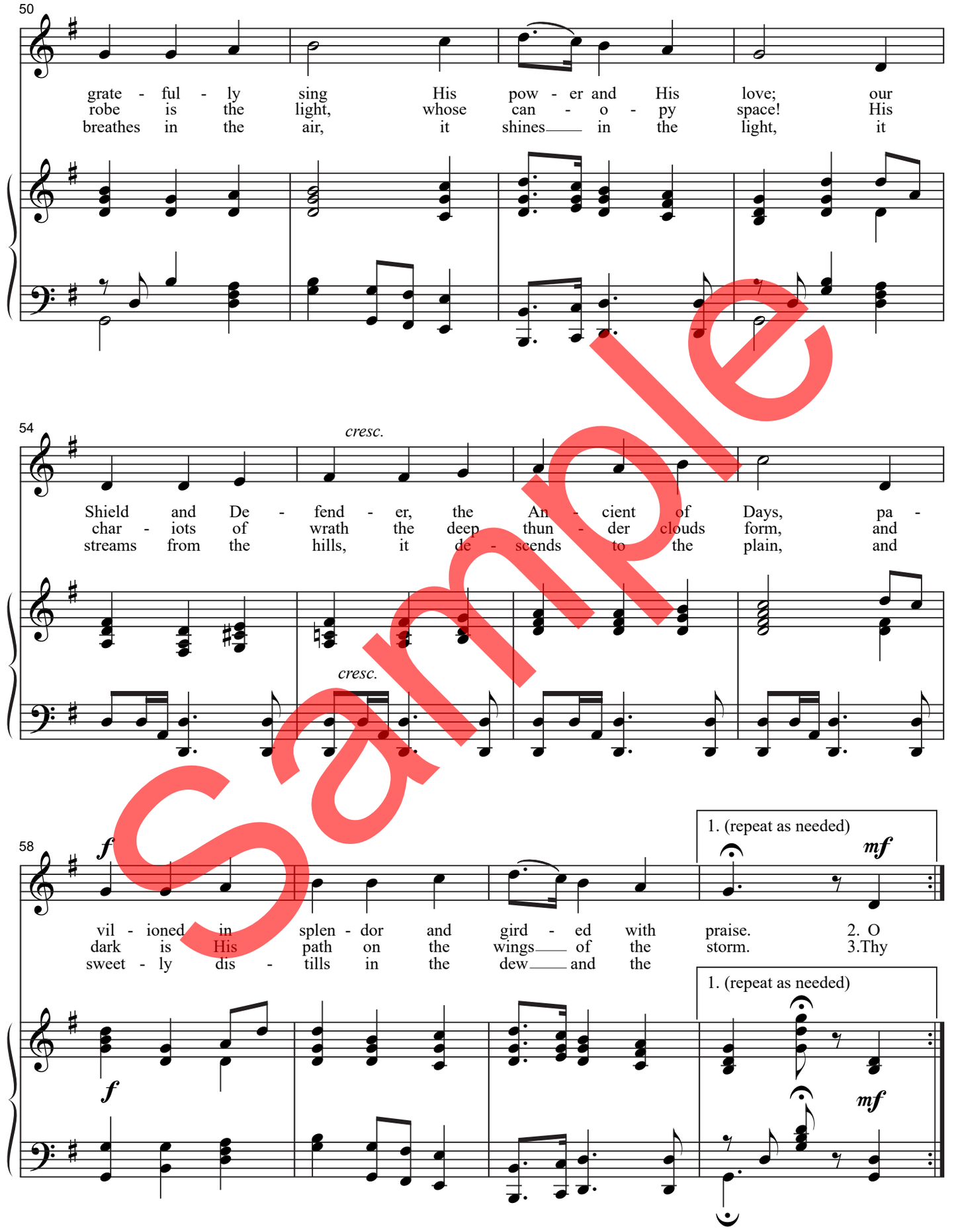

13
voice in praise, come and kneel in de - vo - tion.
17
Wor - ship the Lord, come and wor - ship the
21
1. (opt. Repeat)
Lord.
1. (opt. Repeat)

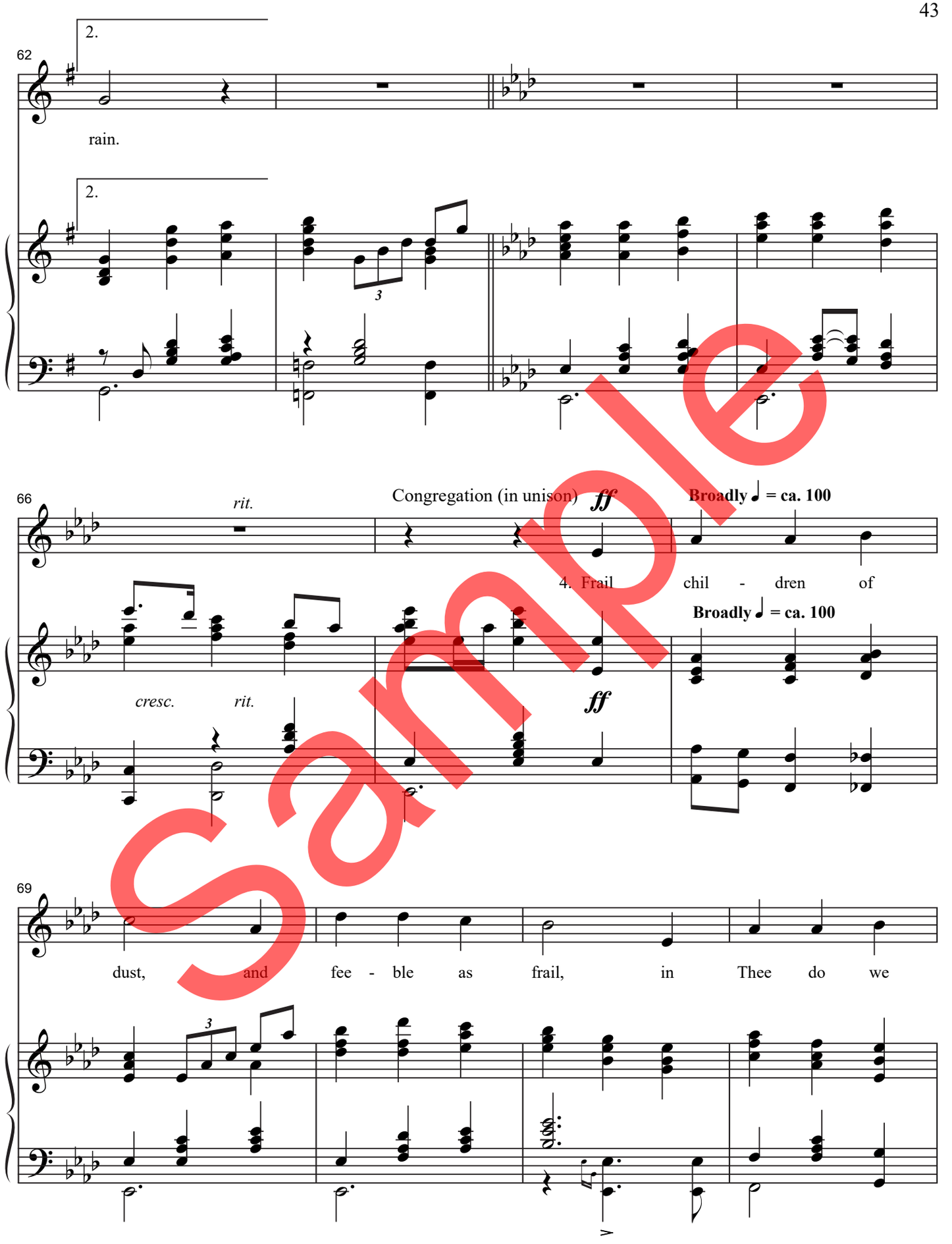
Sample


37
vo - tion. Wor - ship the Lord, come and wor -
rit.
rit.
+ Congregation (in parts)
41
Slower ♩ = ca. 108
mf
ship the Lord. 1. O
Slower ♩ = ca. 108
Hymn Intro.
mf
46
wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove, O
tell of His might, O sing of His grace, whose
boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It

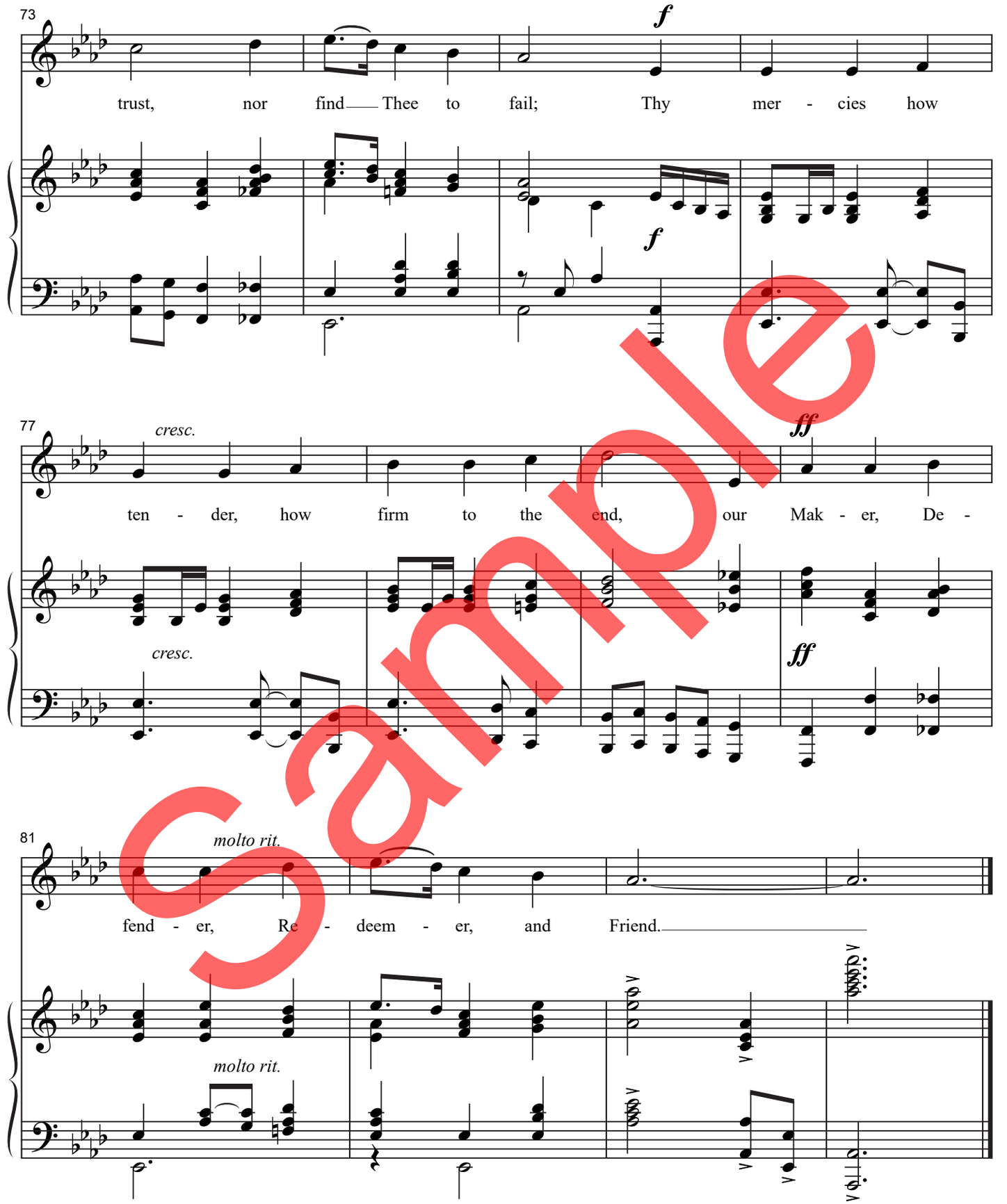
Sample


50
grate - ful - ly sing His pow - er and His love; our
robe is the light, whose can - o - py space! His
breathes in the air, it shines in the light, it
54
cresc.
Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days, pa -
char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der clouds form, and
streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain, and
cresc.
58
f
1. (repeat as needed)
mf
vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise. 2. O
dark is His path on the wings of the storm. 3.Thy
sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the
f
1. (repeat as needed)
mf

Sample


62
2.
rain.
2.
3
66
rit.
Congregation (in unison)
ff
Broadly ♩ = ca. 100
4. Frail chil - dren of
Broadly ♩ = ca. 100
cresc.
rit.
ff
69
dust, and fee - ble as frail, in Thee do we
3

Sample


73
f
trust, nor find Thee to fail; Thy mer - cies how
f
77
cresc.
ten - der, how firm to the end, our Mak - er, De -
ff
cresc.
ff
81
molto rit.
fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.
molto rit.

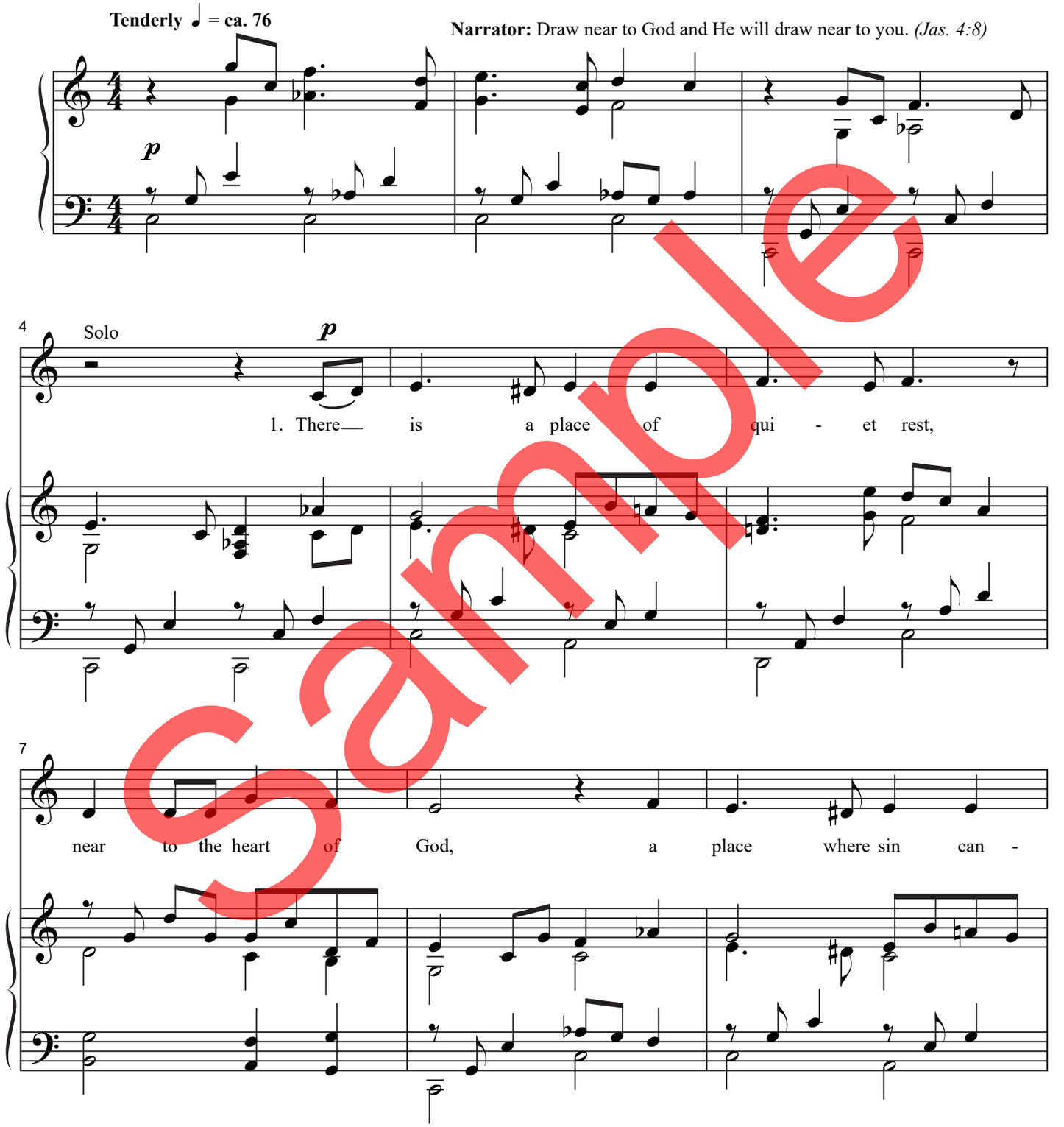
Sample

Near to the Heart of God

Piano, Solo, Congregation, and Narrator

Words by
Cleland B. McAfee (1866-1944)

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **McAFEE**
by **Cleland B. McAfee**



Sample

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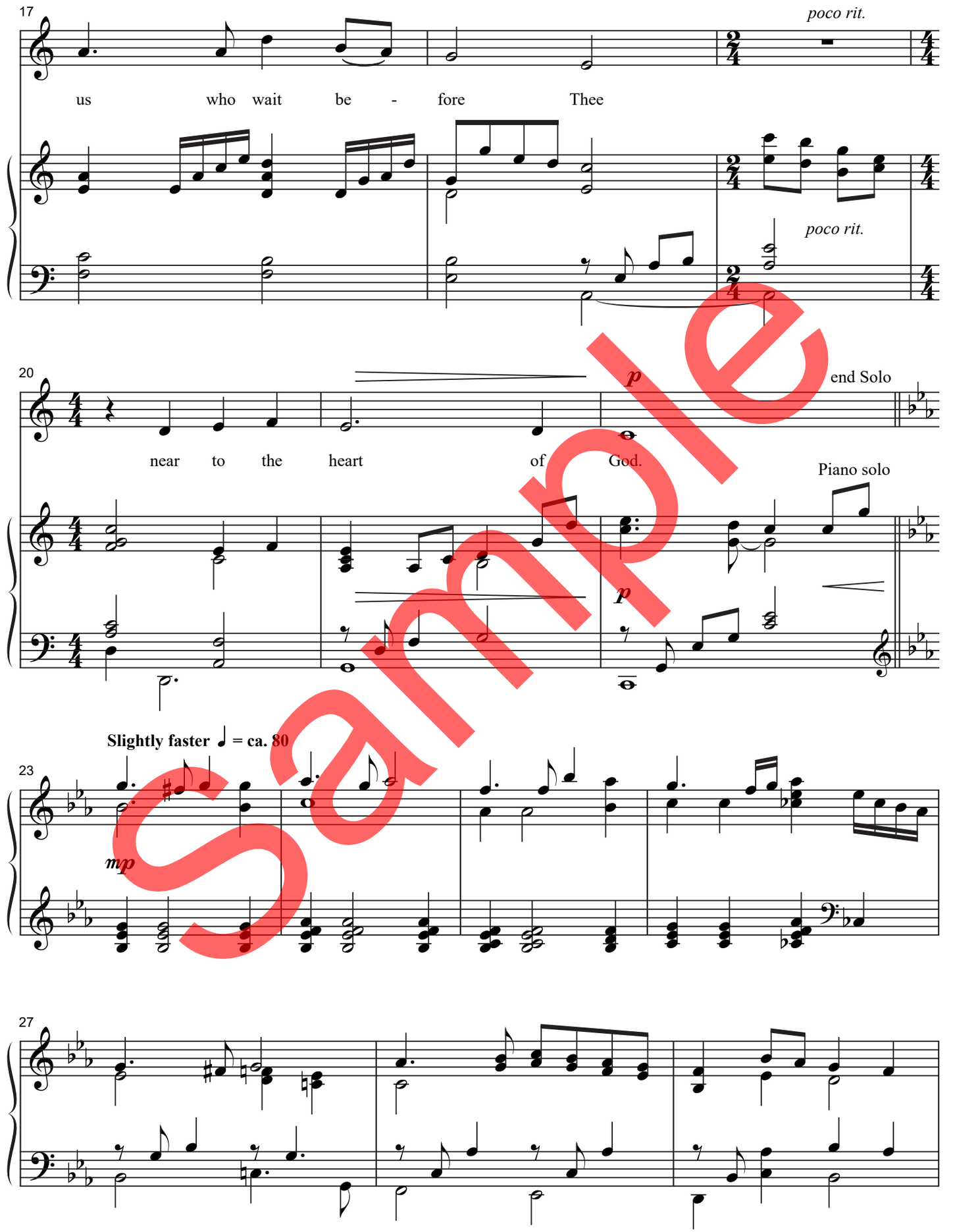
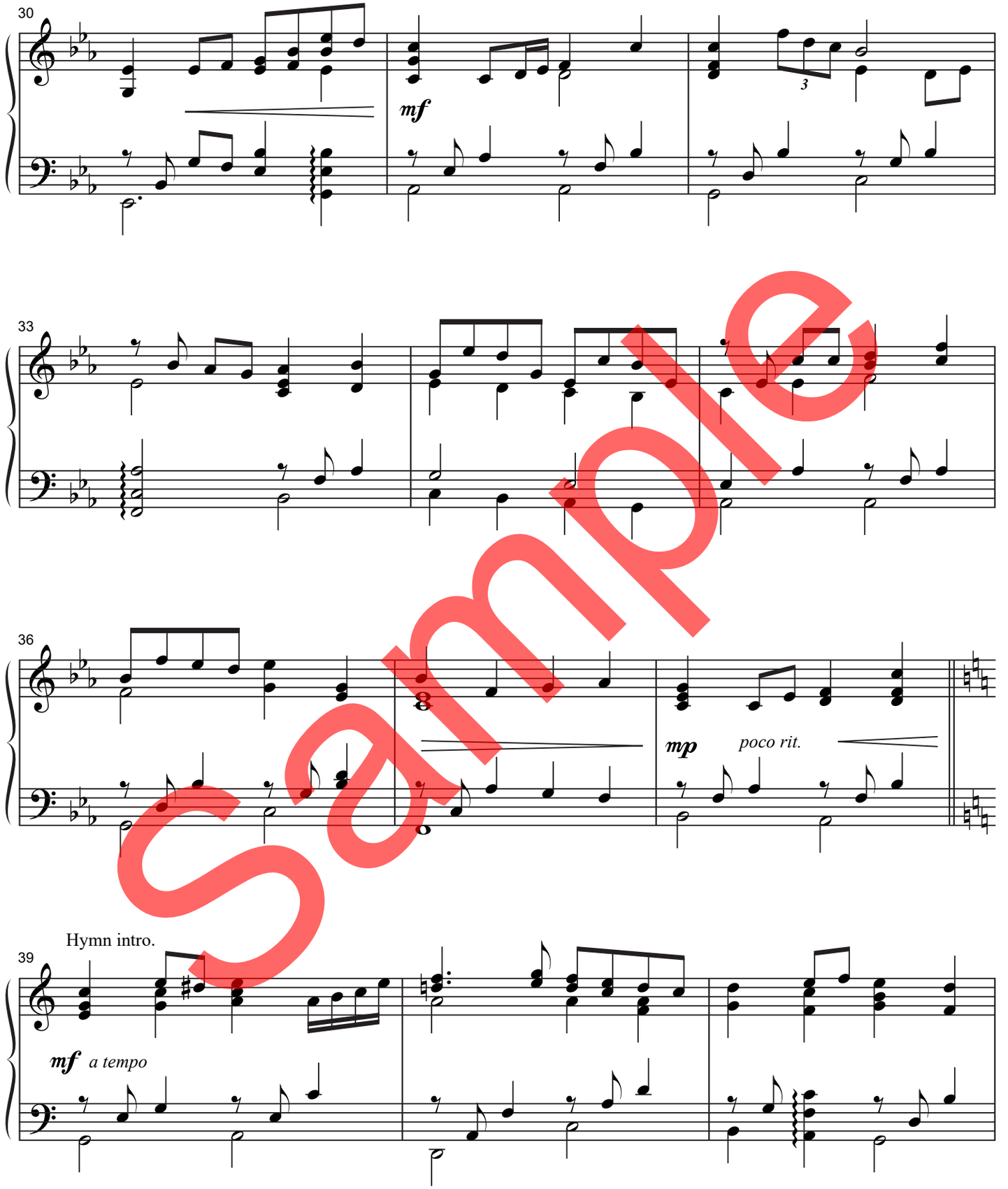

17
poco rit.
us who wait be - fore Thee
poco rit.
20
p
end Solo
near to the heart of God.
Piano solo
p
Slightly faster ♩ = ca. 80
23
mp
27

Sample



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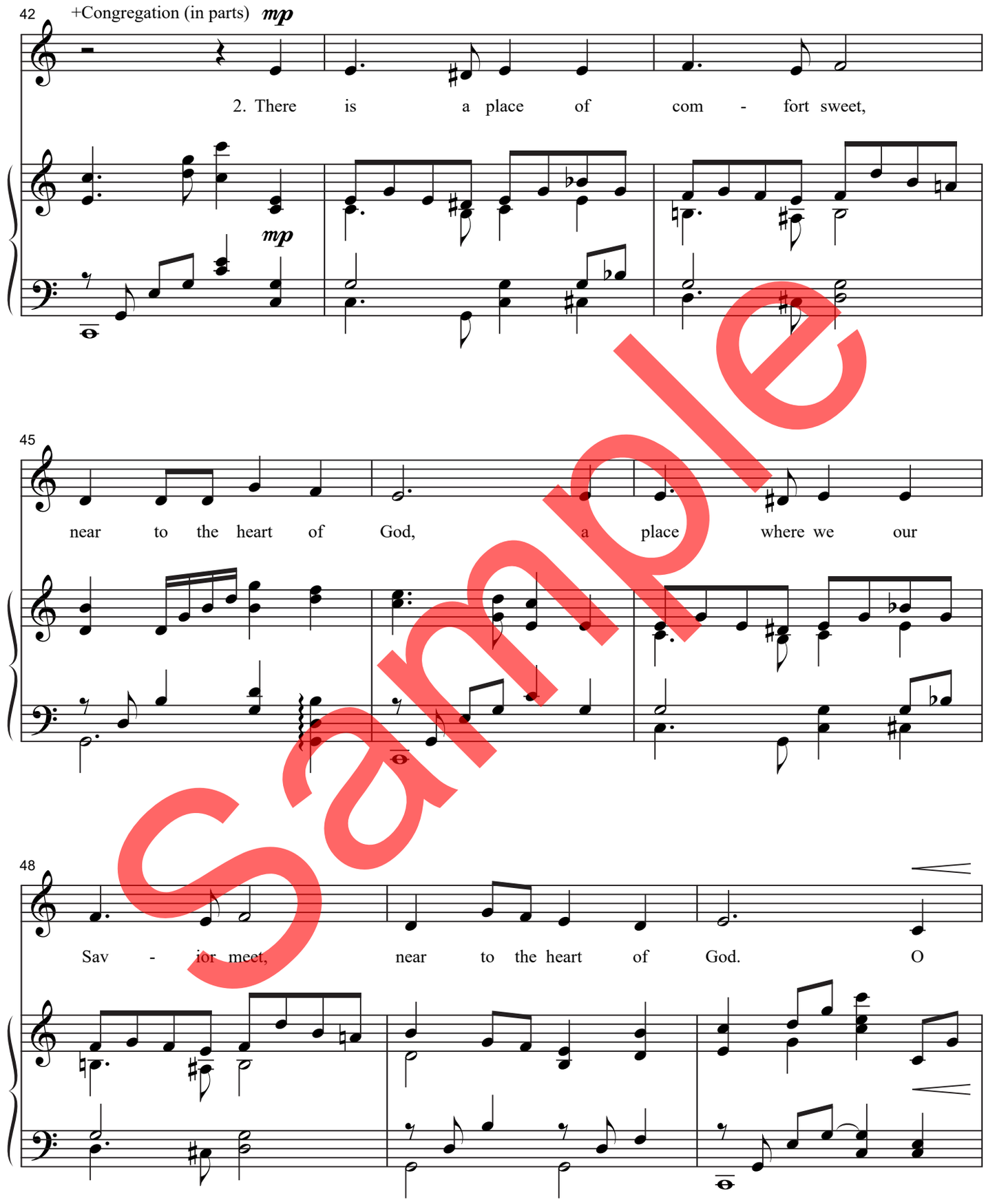
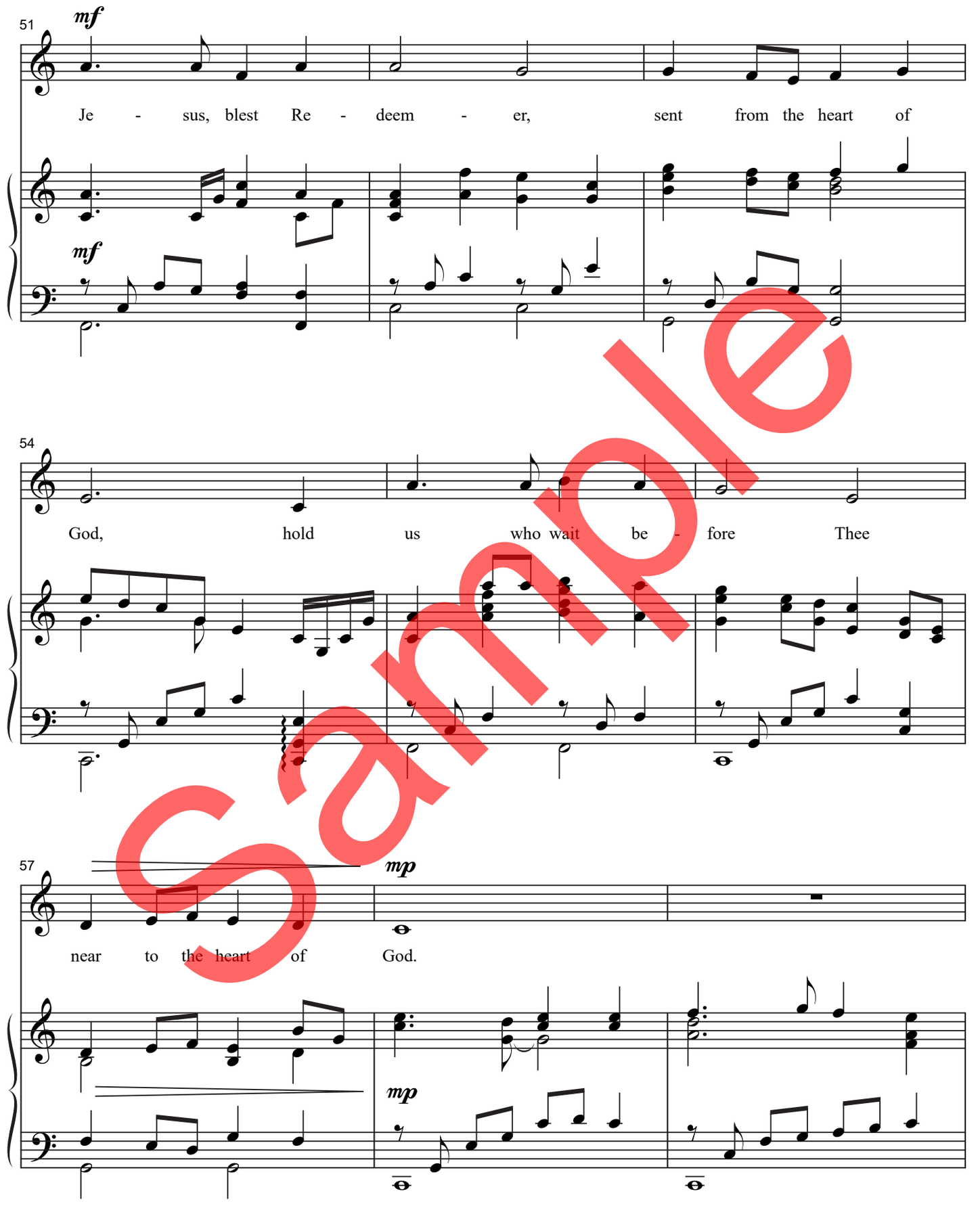
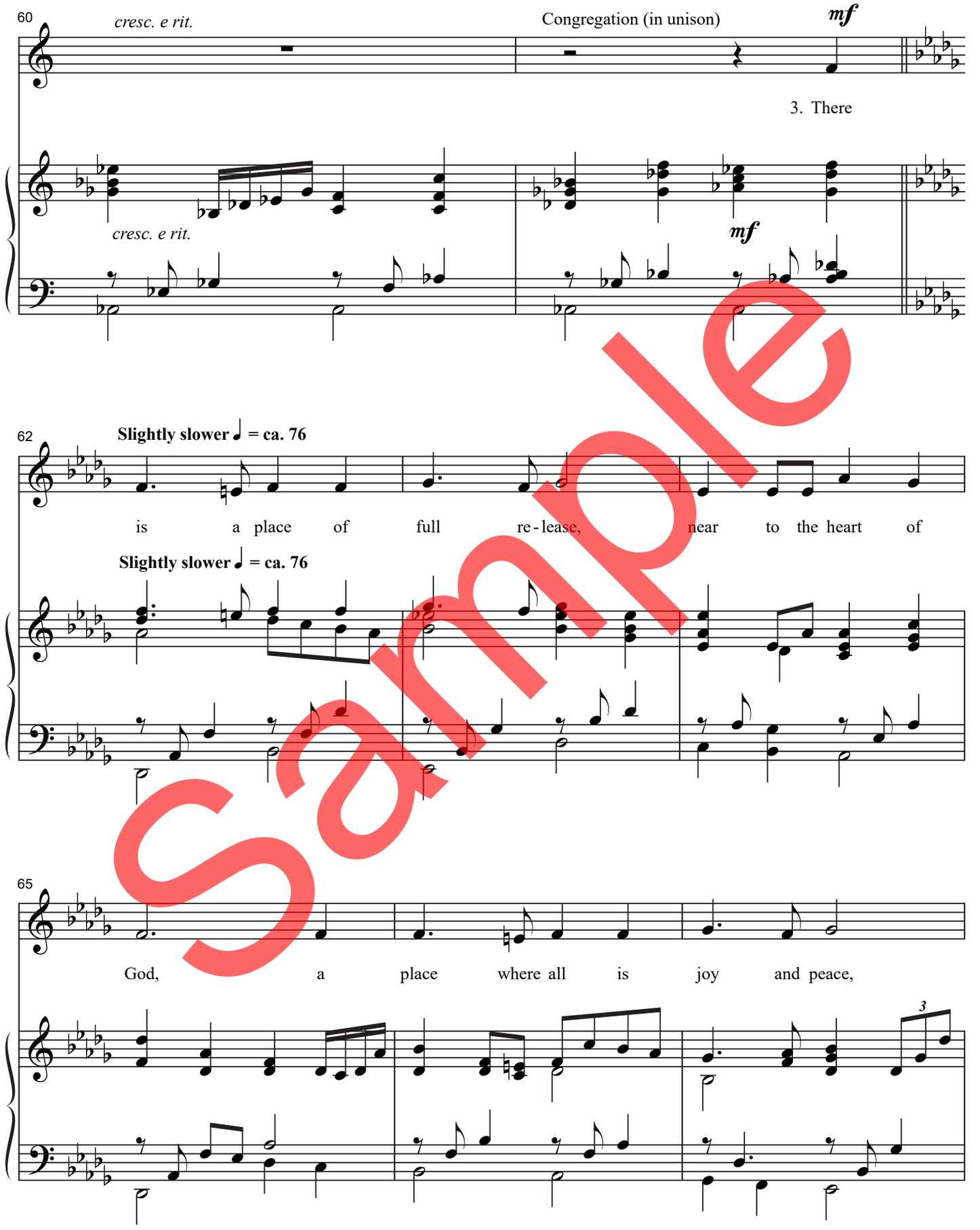

42
+Congregation (in parts)
mp
2. There is a place of com - fort sweet,
mp
45
near to the heart of God, a place where we our
48
Sav - ior meet, near to the heart of God. O

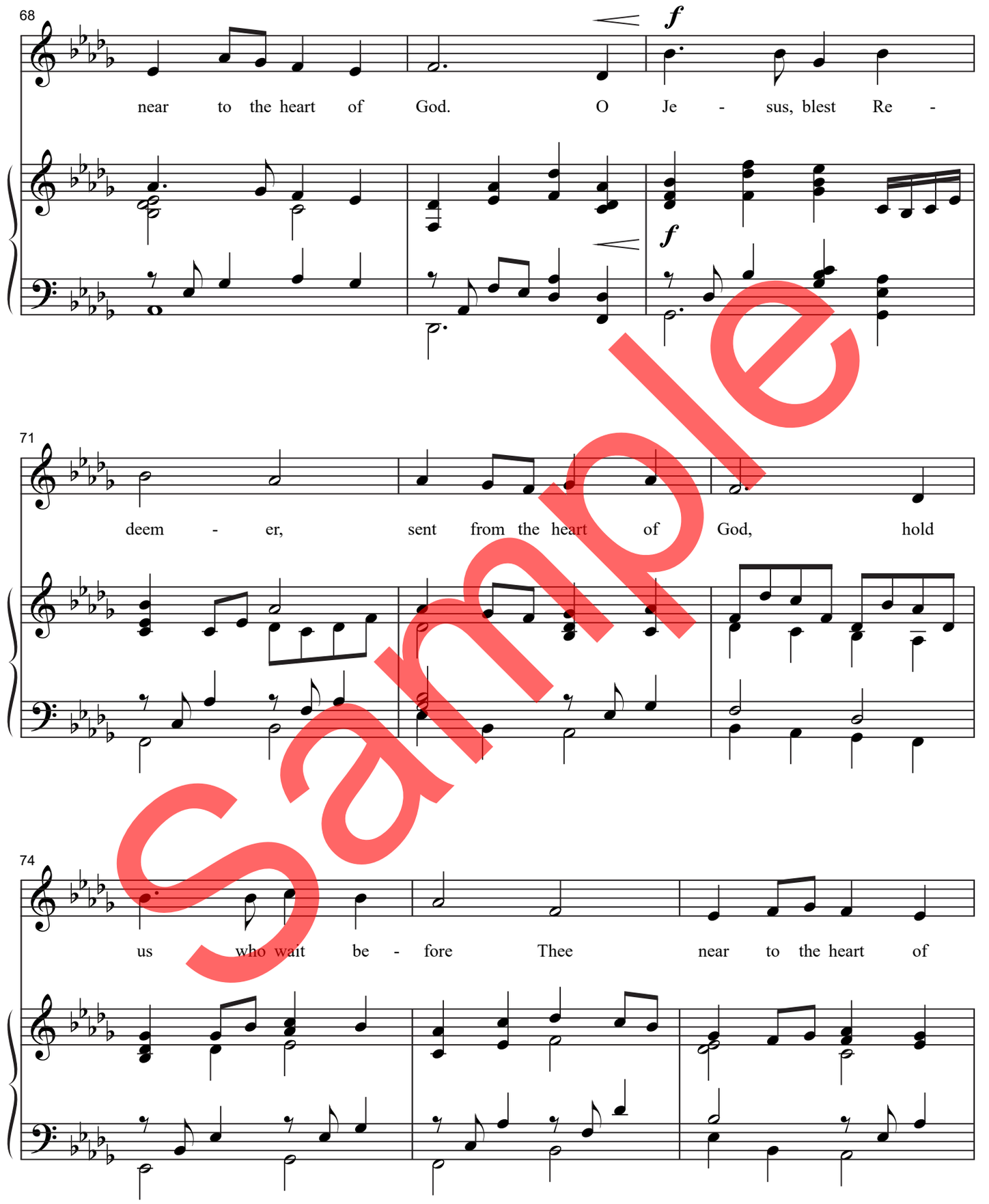
Sample


51
mf
Je - sus, blest Re - deem - er, sent from the heart of
mf
54
God, hold us who wait be - fore Thee
57
mp
near to the heart of God.
mp

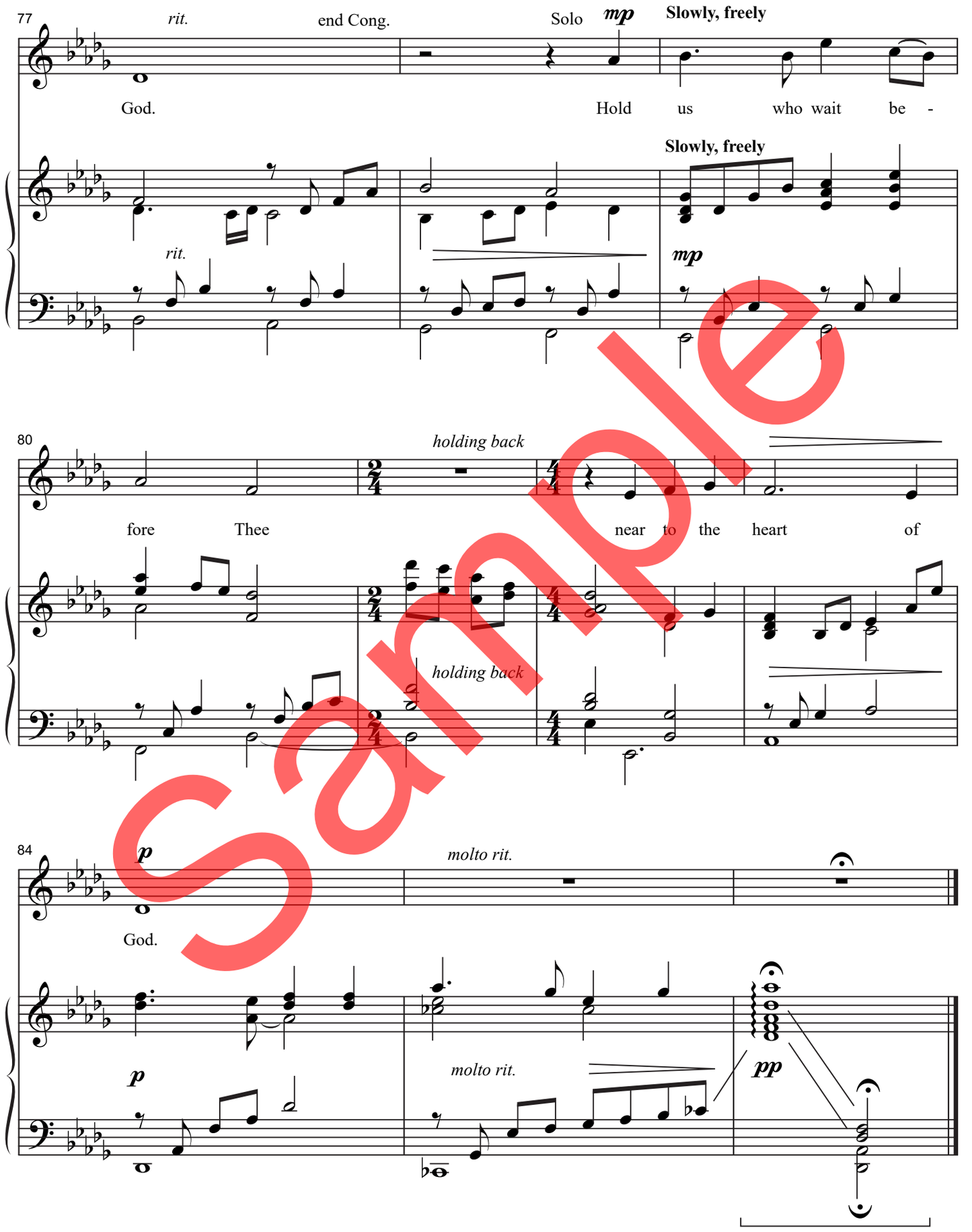
Sample


60
cresc. e rit.
Congregation (in unison)
mf
3. There
cresc. e rit.
mf
62
Slightly slower ♩ = ca. 76
is a place of full re-lease, near to the heart of
Slightly slower ♩ = ca. 76
65
God, a place where all is joy and peace,
3

Sample


68
near to the heart of God. O Je - sus, blest Re -
f
f
71
deem - er, sent from the heart of God, hold
74
us who wait be - fore Thee near to the heart of

Sample


77
rit.
end Cong.
Solo
mp
Slowly, freely
God.
Hold us who wait be -
Slowly, freely
rit.
mp
80
holding back
fore Thee
near to the heart of
holding back
84
p
molto rit.
God.
p
molto rit.
pp

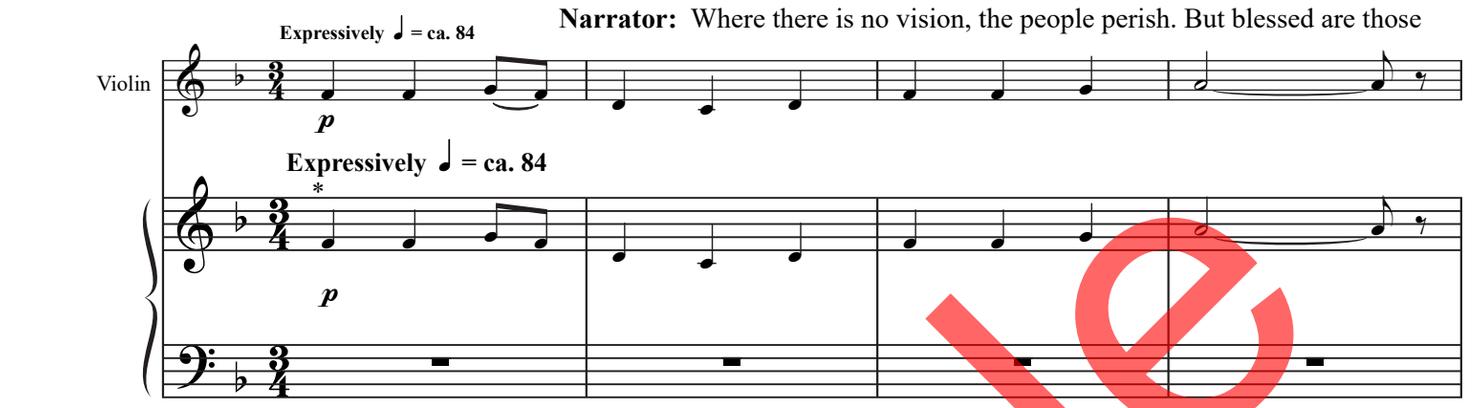
Sample

Be Thou My Vision

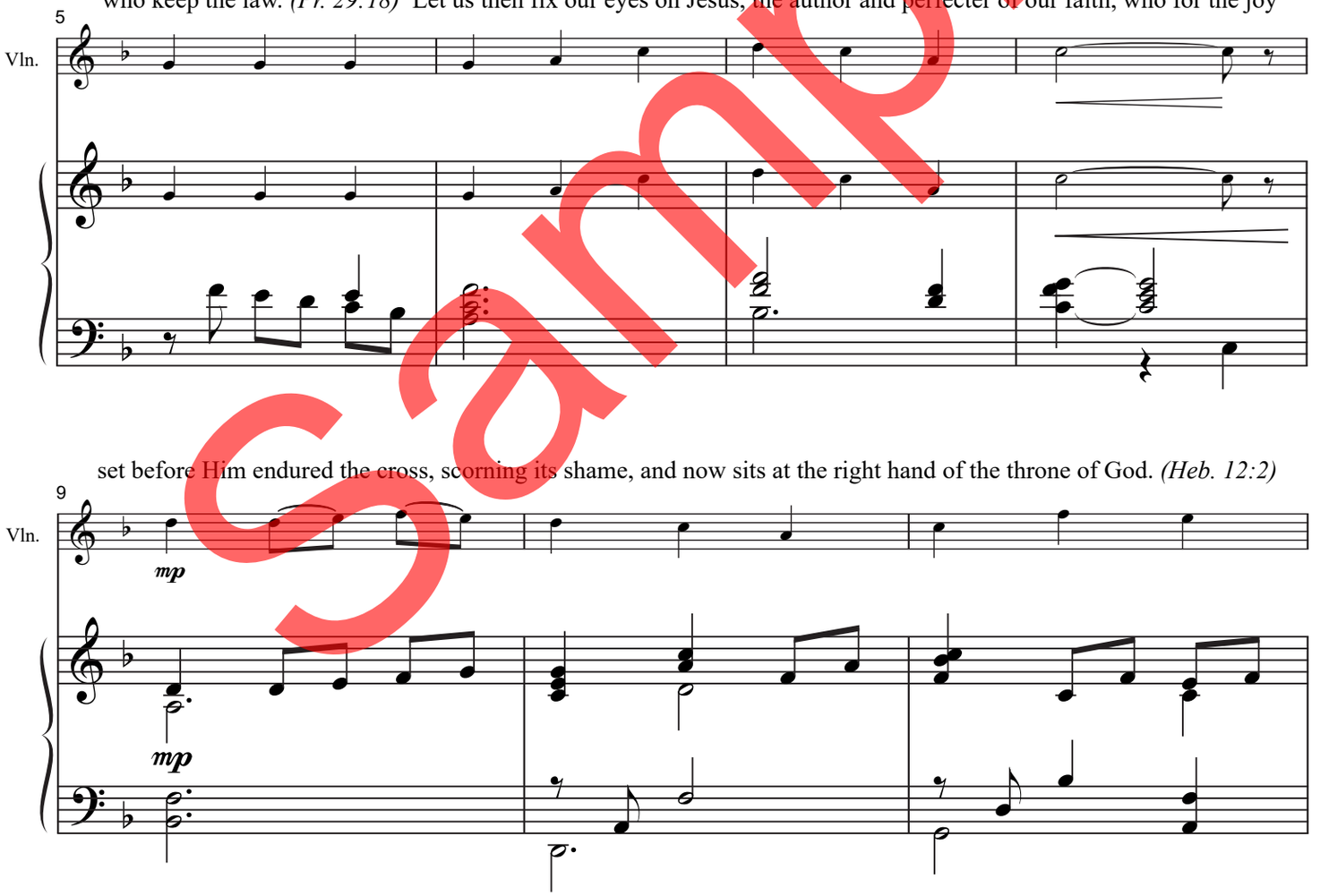
Piano, Congregation, and Narrator with opt. Violin (or C Instrument)

Words: Traditional Irish Hymn, 8th C;
tr. **Mary E. Byrne** (1880-1931)
vers. **Eleanor H. Hull** (1860-1935)

Arranged by **Lloyd Larson**
Tune: **SLANE**
Traditional Irish Melody



Narrator: Where there is no vision, the people perish. But blessed are those who keep the law. *(Pr. 29:18)* Let us then fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and now sits at the right hand of the throne of God. *(Heb. 12:2)*



*Omit RH cued notes throughout if (opt.) Violin/C-Instrument plays.

Sample

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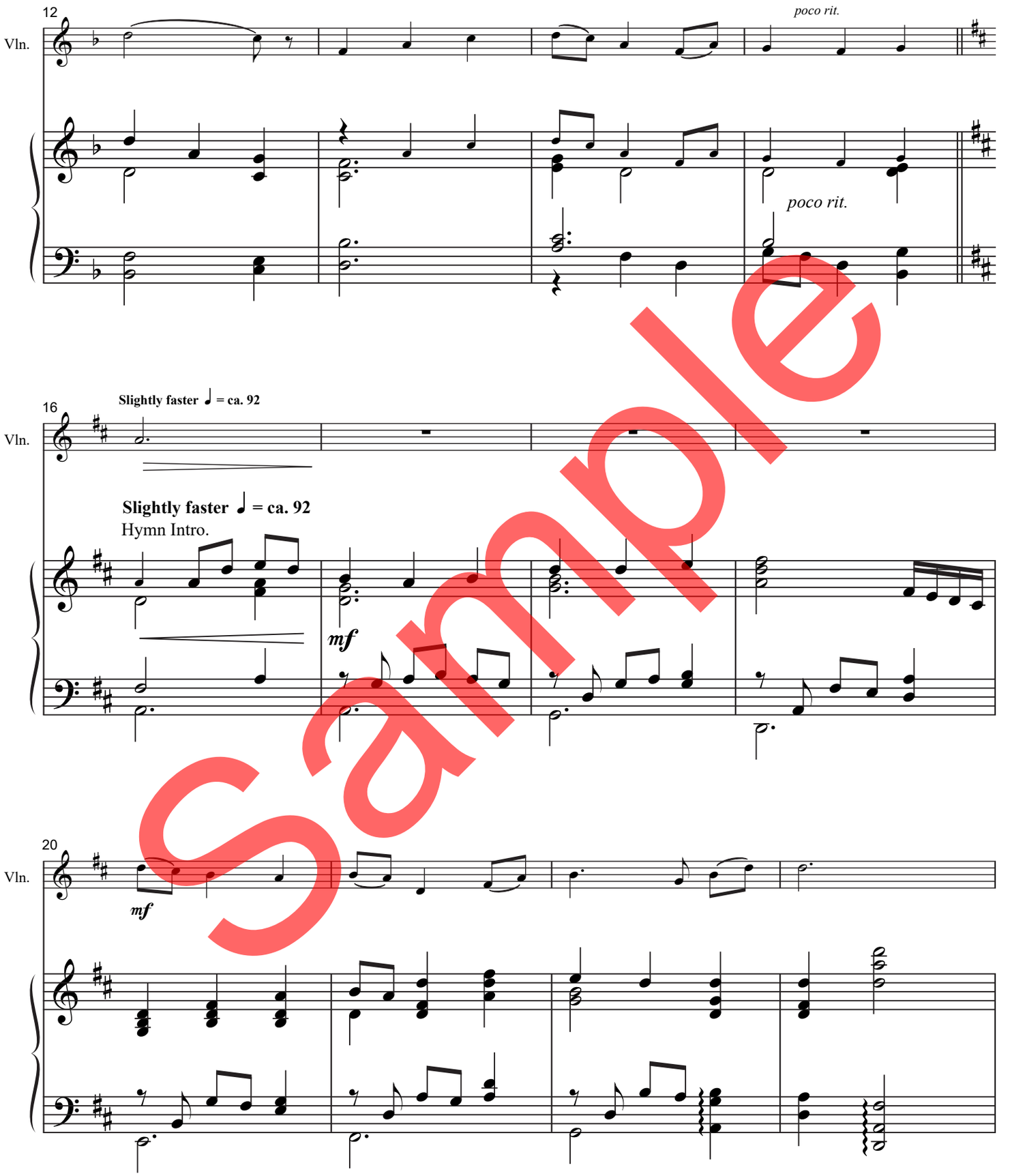
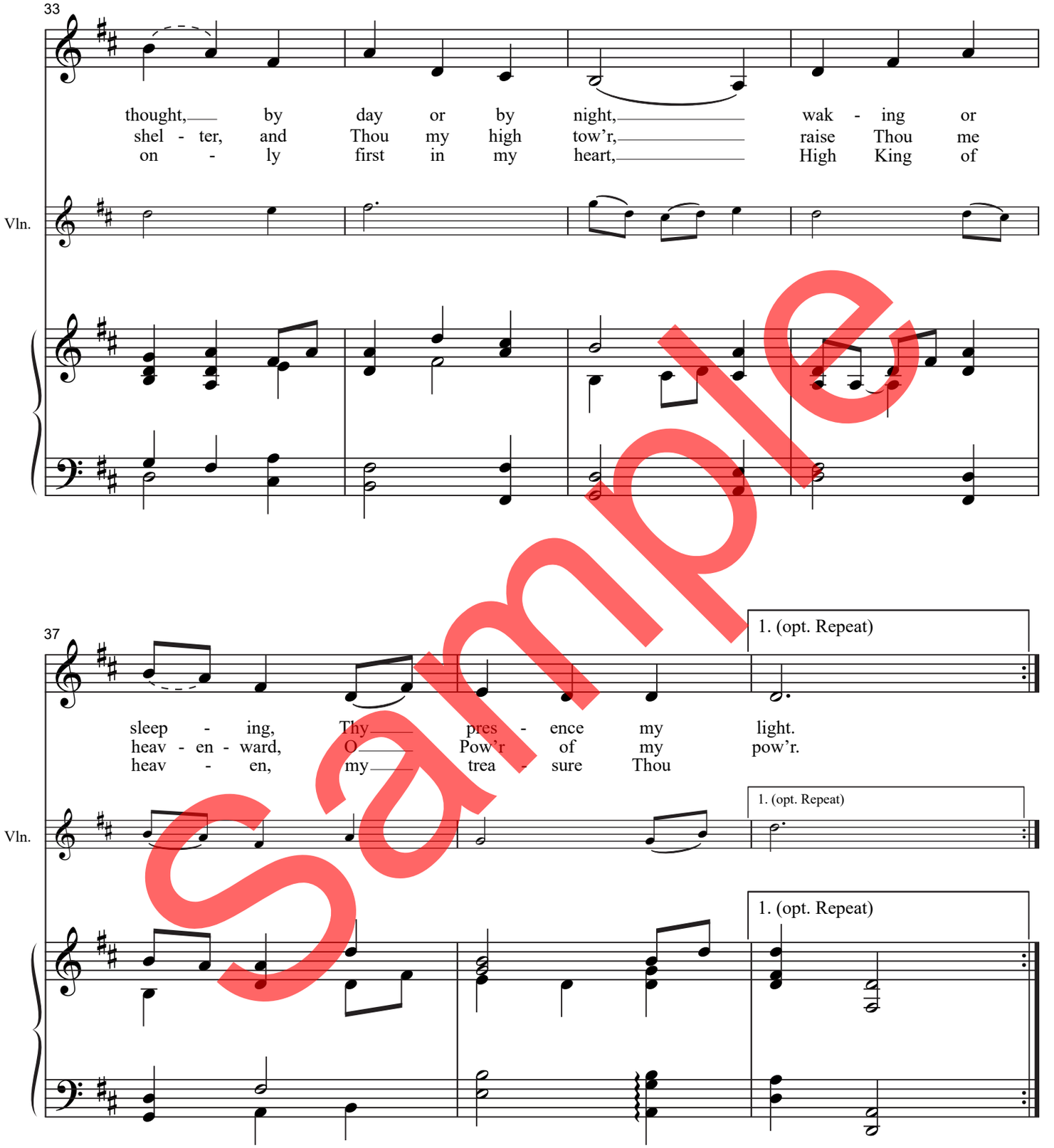
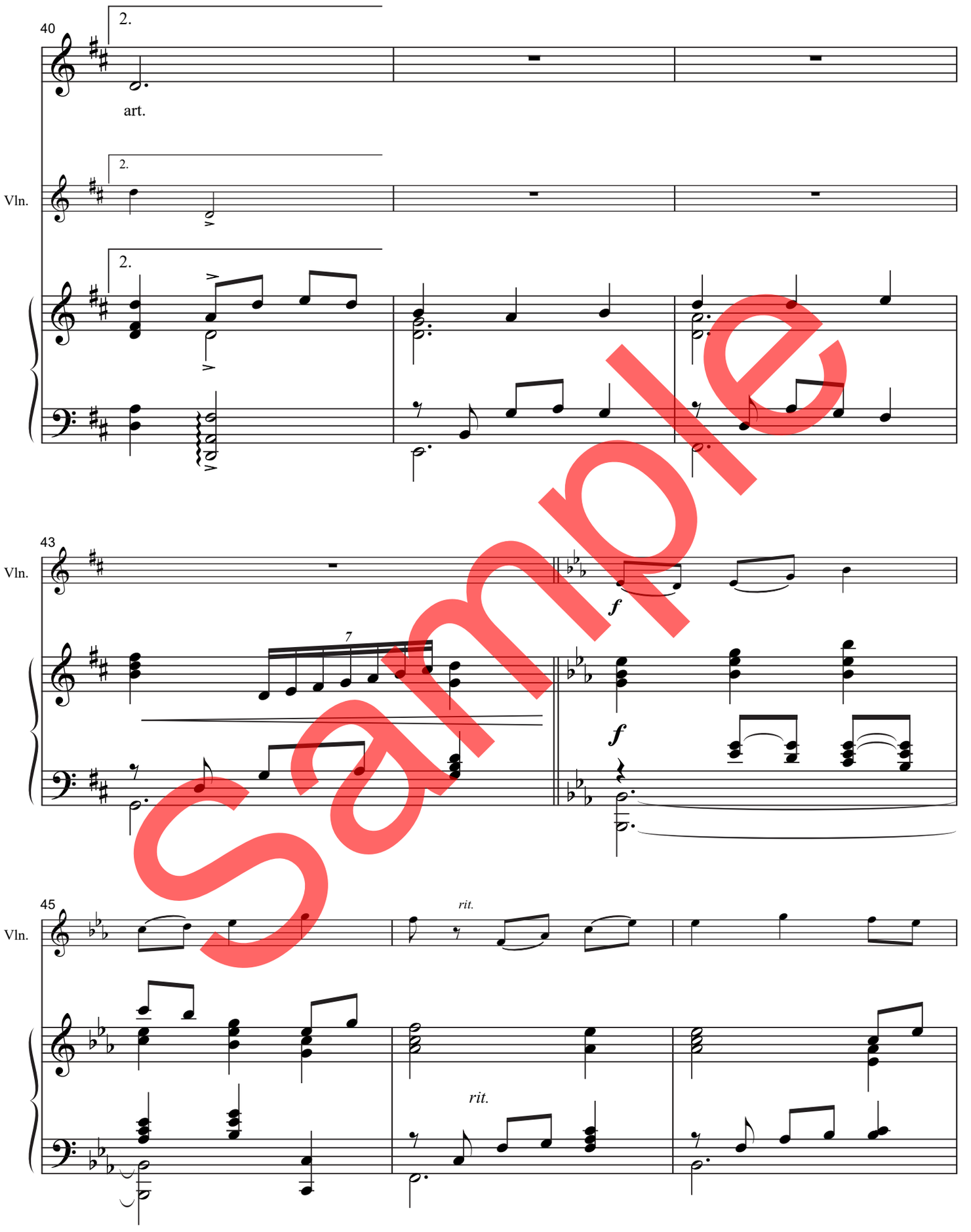

12
Vln.
poco rit.
poco rit.
16
Vln.
Slightly faster ♩ = ca. 92
Slightly faster ♩ = ca. 92
Hymn Intro.
mf
20
Vln.
mf

Sample


33
thought, by day or by night, wak - ing or
shel - ter, and Thou my high tow'r, raise Thou me
on - ly first in my heart, High King of
Vln.
37
sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
heav - en - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
heav - en, my trea - sure Thou
1. (opt. Repeat)
Vln.
1. (opt. Repeat)
1. (opt. Repeat)

Sample



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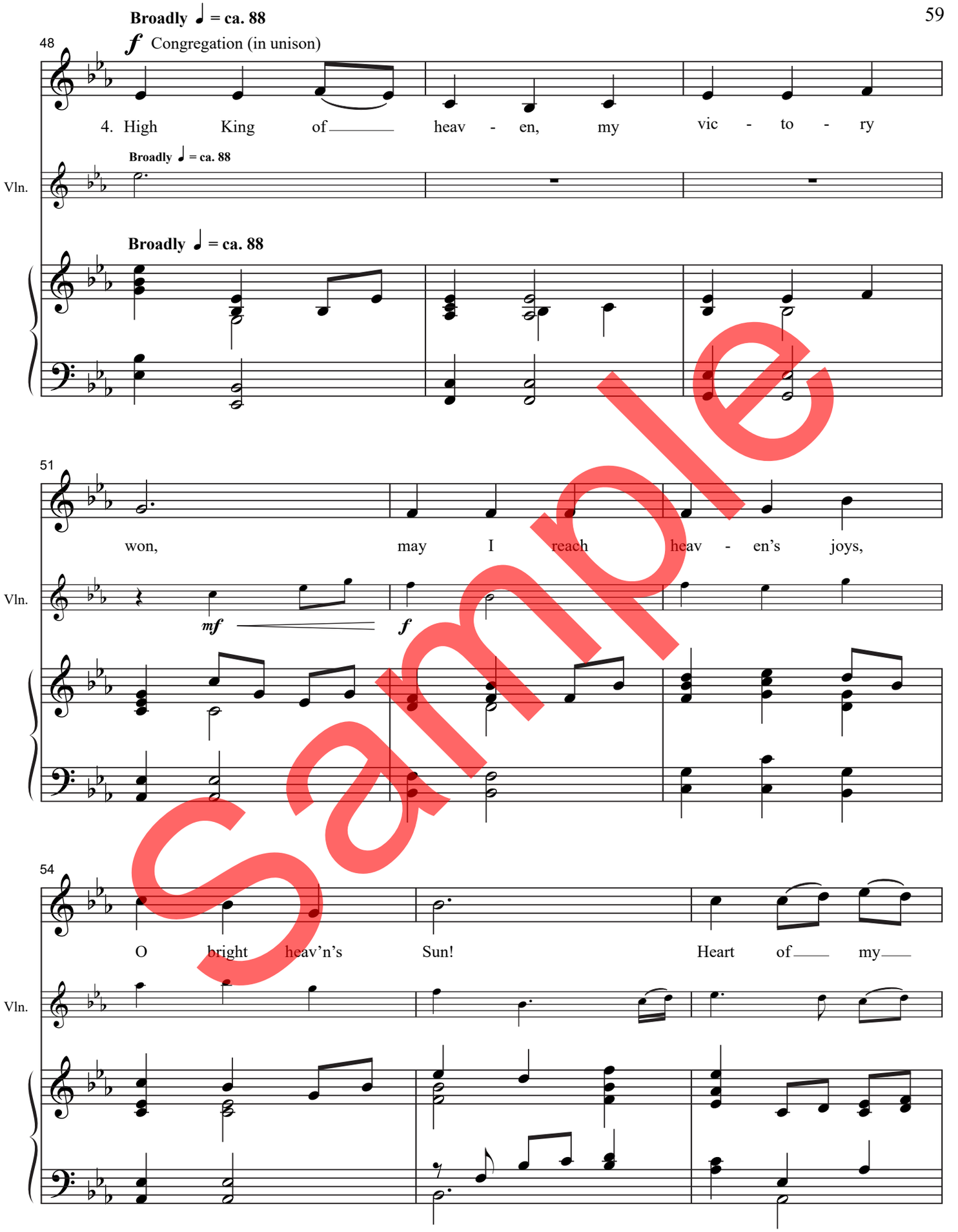
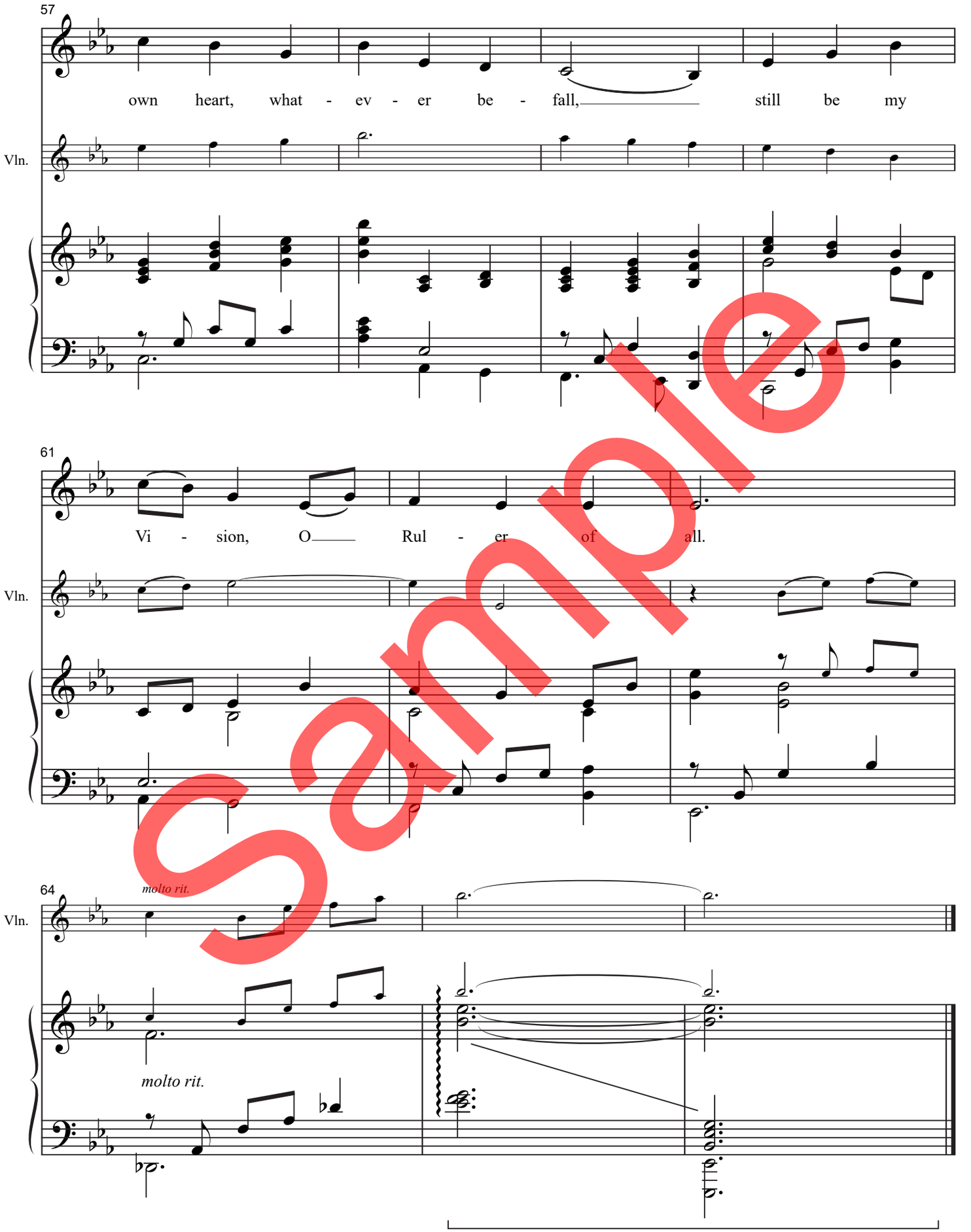

Broadly ♩ = ca. 88
48
f Congregation (in unison)
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry
Vln.
Broadly ♩ = ca. 88
Broadly ♩ = ca. 88
51
won, may I reach heav - en's joys,
Vln.
mf
f
54
O bright heav'n's Sun! Heart of my
Vln.

Sample


57
own heart, what - ev - er be - fall, still be my
Vln.
61
Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.
Vln.
64
molto rit.
Vln.
molto rit.

Sample