Vespers of Holy Saturday

The *Apokathelosis* Service on Holy Friday Afternoon

Text and Music prepared by
Fr. Seraphim Dedes

2011

Vespers. Mode 1. *Pa=D.*

Diatonic

D

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me,

O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give

U **D**

heed to the voice of my sup - pli - ca-

F **D**

- tion when I cry *3* to You. Hear me,

hear me, O Lord.

D **U** **D**

Let my prayer be set forth be-

U **D**

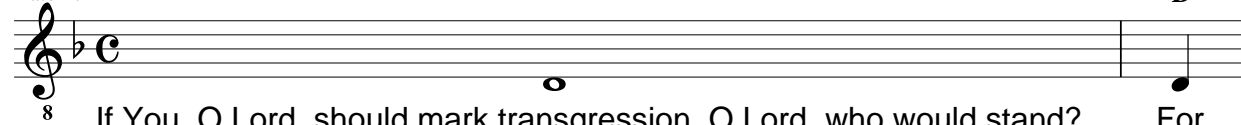- fore You as in - cense, the lift-ing

F

up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri-

D

- fice. Hear me, hear me, O Lord.

1

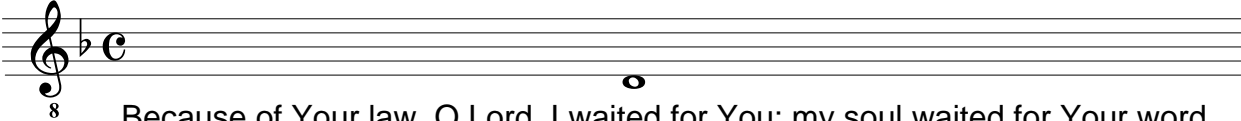# Idiomelon 1 & 2. Mode 1. *Pa=D.*

Diatonic

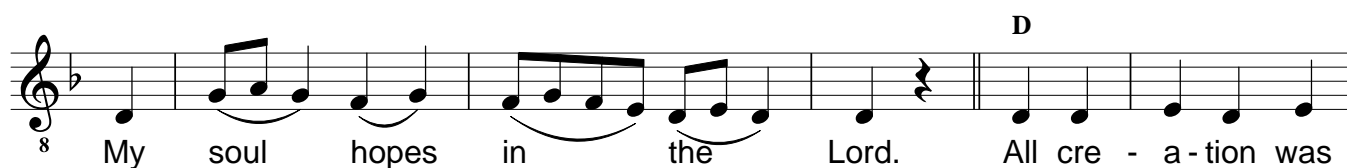If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O Lord, who would stand?   For

there is for - give - ness   with   You.   All creation... *(see below)*

Diatonic

Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your word.

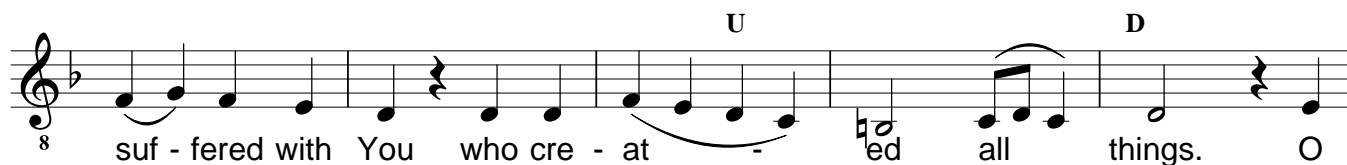My   soul   hopes   in   the   Lord.   All cre - a - tion was

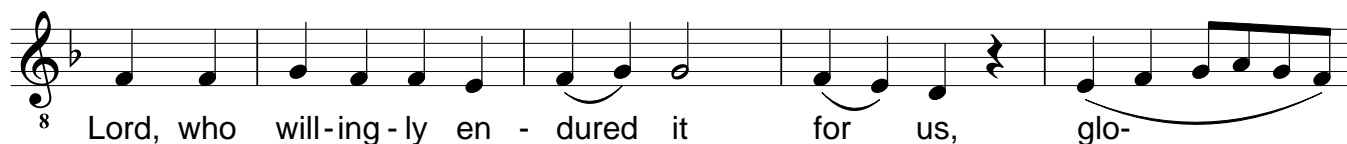al - tered in   awe,   as it   saw You   hang-ing on a   cross,   O

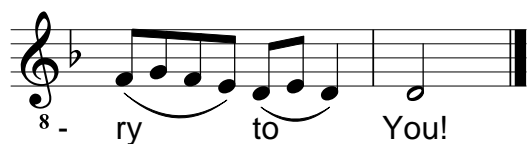Christ.   The   sun   went   dark,   and   the foun - da - tions

of   the   earth   shook.   All   things

suf - fered with You   who cre - at   -   ed   all   things.   O
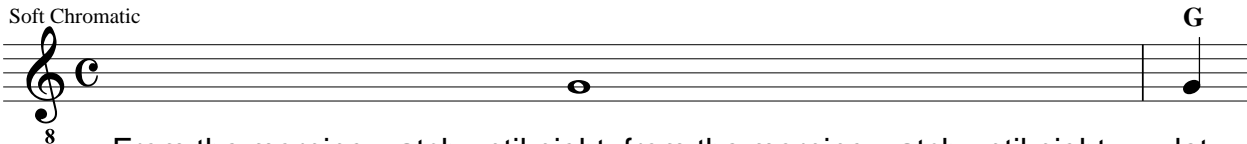
Lord, who   will-ing - ly en - dured it   for   us,   glo-
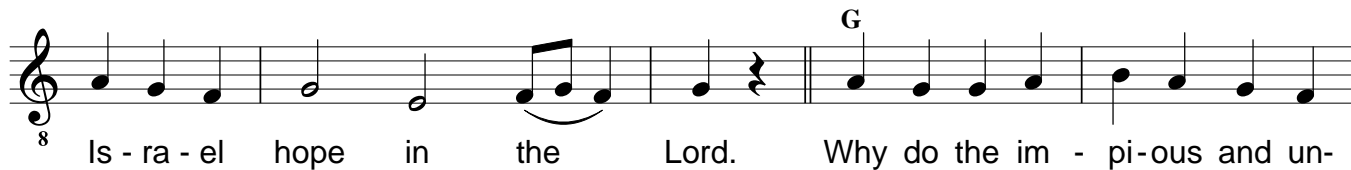
- ry   to   You!

2

Idiomelon 3. Mode 2. *Di=G.*
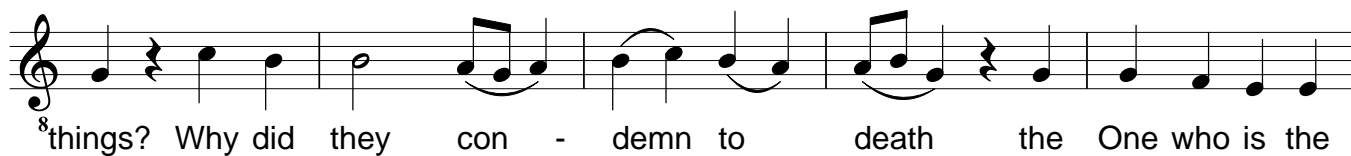
Soft Chromatic

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night,   let
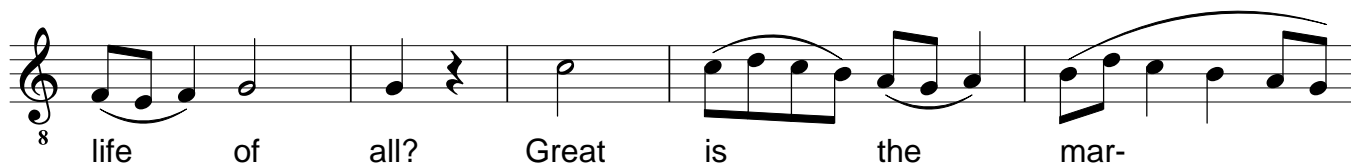
Is - ra - el   hope   in   the   Lord.   Why do the im - pi-ous and un-

- law   -   ful   peo - ple   med - i - tate   on   vain

things? Why did   they   con   -   demn to   death   the   One who is the
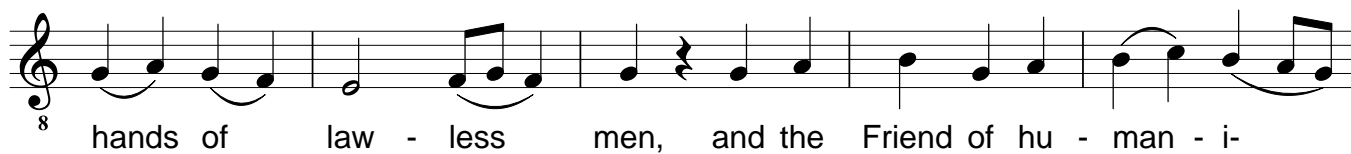
life   of   all?   Great   is   the   mar-

- vel!   The Cre - a - tor of the   world   is de - liv - ered   in - to the
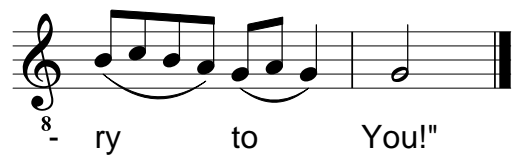
hands of   law - less   men,   and the   Friend of hu - man - i-

- ty   is   lift   -   ed up   on   a

cross,   in   or-der to   free the   pris-on-ers in   Ha - des, who   cry

3

to Him, "Long - suf - fer - ing Lord, glo-

\- ry to You!"
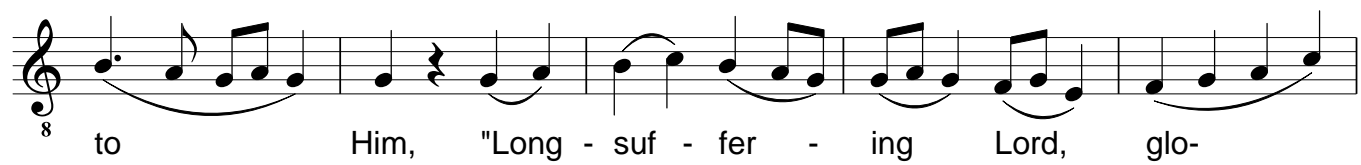
Idiomelon 4. Mode 2. *Di=G.*
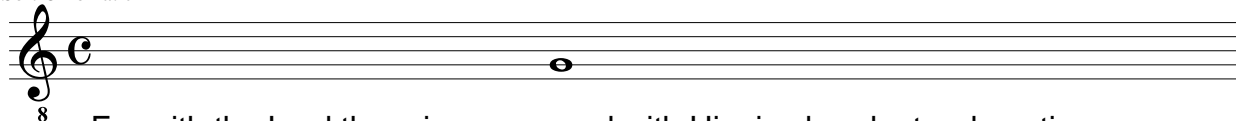
For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption;

and He will redeem Israel from all his trans - gres - sions. The

blame - less Vir - gin was watch - ing as You were sus-

- pend - ed on the Cross to - day, O Word of

God. She la - ment - ed with moth - er - ly e-

- mo - tions, and it cru - el - ly broke her heart.

She sighed with pain from the depths

of her soul, tear-ing at her face and her hair,

5
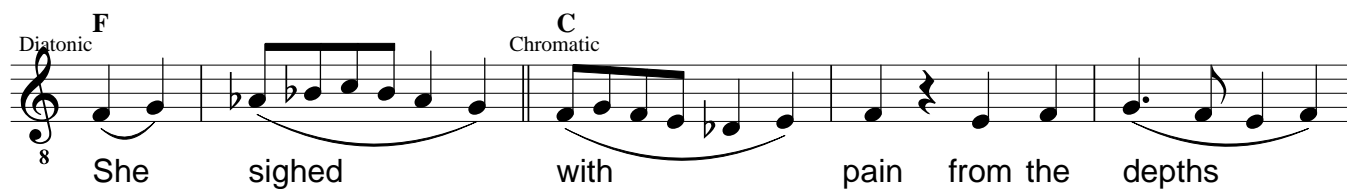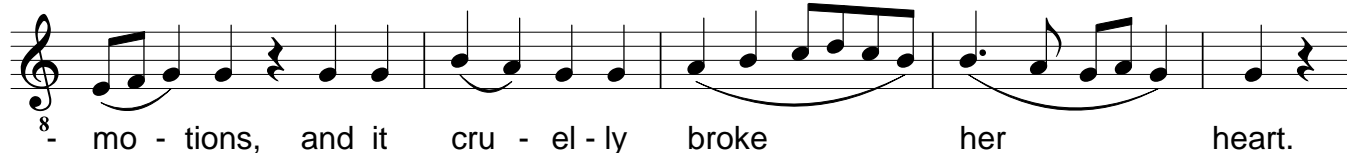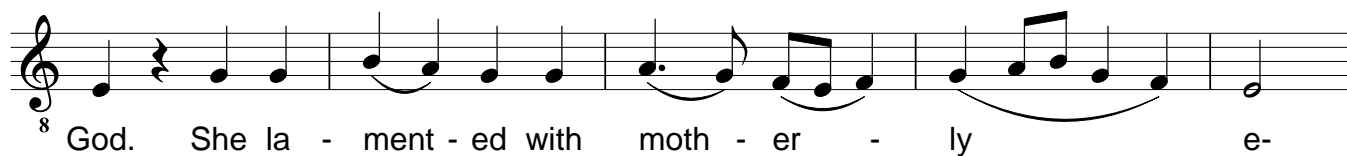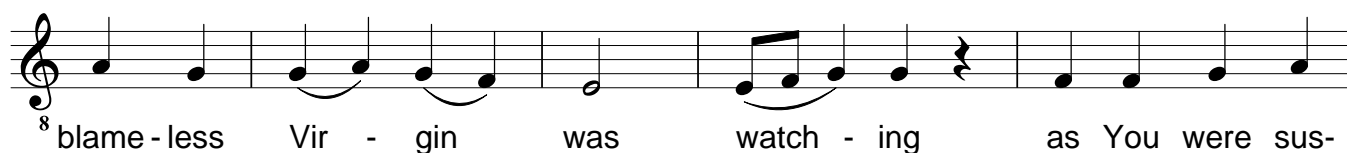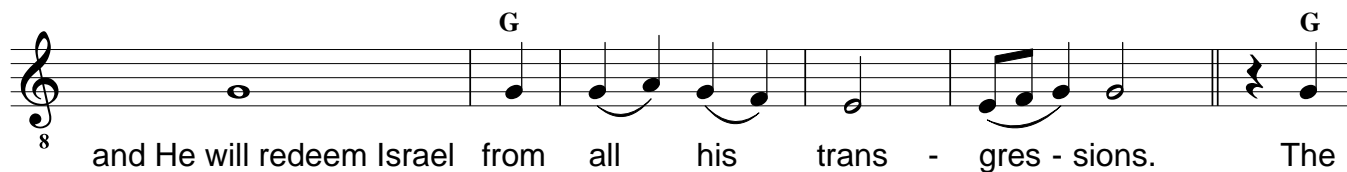
and it wore her out. Then, beat-

-ing her breasts, she mourn - ful - ly

cried a - loud, "Woe is me, my di-

-vine Child! A - las, the Light of the

world! Why did you sink from be - fore my eyes, O Lamb

of God?" Then the hosts of bod - i - less An - gels were

o - ver - come by trem - bling and they said, "In - com - pre-

-hen - si - ble Lord, glo - ry to You!"

6

Idiomelon 5. Mode 2. *Di=G.*

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peo - ples. O Christ God, the Cre - a - tor of all, Your Moth-er, who with - out seed gave birth to You, saw You hang-ing on the Cross, and she cried out in an- guish, "O my Son, where has the hand - som sight of You set? I can - not bear to see You un - just - ly cru- ci - fied. So, hur - ry and rise a- gain, so that I may see Your res - ur - rec - tion from the dead on the third day."

Idiomelon 6. Mode pl. 2. *Pa=D.*

Chromatic   D

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord en - dures for-

D   A

- ev - er. To - day the Mas-ter of cre - a-tion stands

D

be - fore Pi - late; the Cre - a - tor of

all is de - liv-ered to be cru - ci - fied; like a

lamb, He is brought of His own will to the

Cross. He is fixed with the nails, He is pierced

Diatonic   G

in the side, and He sips from the

Chromatic   D

sponge, He who caused the man - na to rain

8

down of old. The Re - deem-er of the world is smit - ten

on the cheek. The Mak - er of all is

mocked by His own ser - vants. Such is the

Mas-ter's love for hu - man - i - ty!

He prayed to His Fa - ther for those who cru - ci-

- fied Him, and He said, "For - give them this

sin, for the law - less do not know

what they are un - just - ly do - ing."

9

Glory. **Mode pl. 2.** *Pa=D.*

Ne Glo - ry to the Fa - ther

and the Son and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Oh! How could that un - law - ful syn-

- a - gogue con-demn to death the King of

all cre - a - tion, with no re - gard for the

good things that He had done for them! In His

own de - fense, He re - mind - ed

them of all these, and said to

them, "My peo - ple, what did I do for

you? Did I not fill Ju - de - a with mir-

A　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　**D**

- a - cles? Did I not raise the dead with

but a word? Did I not cure ev-ery sick - ness

G　　　　　Diatonic

and dis - ease? And what do you give Me

Chromaitc　　　　**D**

in re - turn? Why do you not re - mem - ber

Me? In - stead of heal - ings, you in - flict
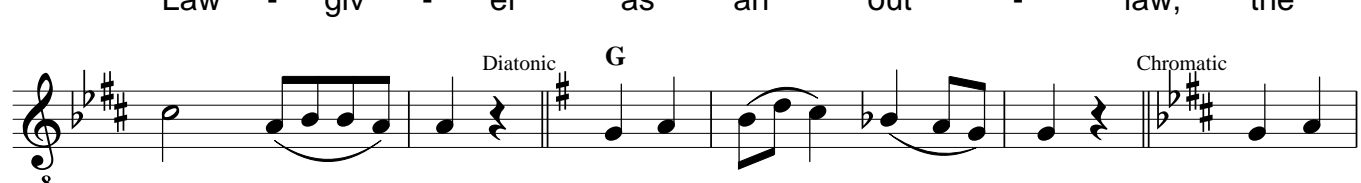
Soft Chromatic　　**U**

wounds on Me; in - stead of life, you
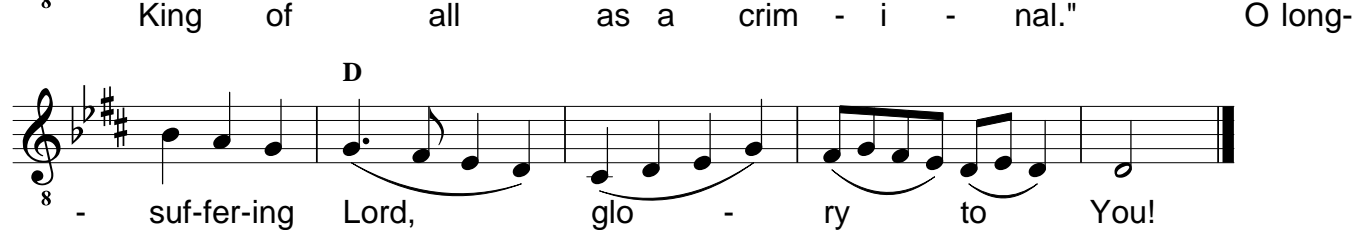
Chromatic　　**A**

kill Me. You hang your Ben - e - fac-tor on

11

the   Cross as a mal - e - fac - tor, the

Law - giv - er as an out - law, the

King of all as a crim - i - nal." O long-

- suf-fer-ing Lord, glo - ry to You!

Both now. **Mode pl. 2.** *Pa=D.*

Chromatic

Both now and ev - er and to the a-

- ges of a - ges. A - men. Awe - some and

par - a - dox - i - cal is the mys - ter - y

that we see un - fold - ing to - day. He who is un-

- touch - a - ble is now ar - rest - ed. He who re - leas - es

Ad - am from the curse is tak - en pris - on-

- er. He who search - es and tries the hearts and

Soft Chromatic

minds is un - just - ly put on tri - al, and

13

He who shut the A - byss is locked up in a pris - on. Be - fore Pi - late now stands He, be - fore whom the hosts of heav - en stand and trem - ble. The Fash-ion-er is struck by the hand of one He fash - ioned. Con - demned to a cross is He who judg - es the liv - ing and the dead. En - closed in a tomb is the De- - stroy - er of Ha - des. O

14

Lord, You en - dure it all sym-pa - thet - ic' - ly, and You

saved us all from the curse. O long-

- suf - fer - ing Lord, glo - ry to

You!

15

Gladsome Light. Mode 2.

Soft Chromatic. A is slightly flat.

Glad - some light of ho - ly glo - ry of the

ho - ly bless - ed heav-en - ly im - mor-tal Fa - ther

O Je - sus Christ ar - riv - ing at the

hour of sun - set and hav-ing seen the eve - ning light we

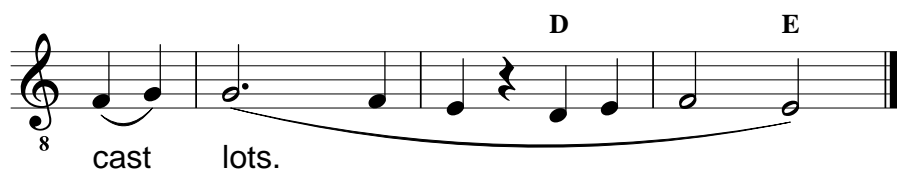praise the Fa - ther Son and Ho - ly

Spir - it God. It is wor - thy for

You to be praised at all times with hap - py voic-

- es O Son of God and Giv-

- er of life and there - fore the world

glo - ri - fies You.

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. *Vu=E.*

They di - vid - ed my gar - ments a - mong them - selves,

and for my cloth - ing they cast lots.

Δι – ε – με – ρι–σαν–το   τα ι–μα–τι – α μου ε–αυ–τοις,   και

ε–πι τον ι – μα–τι–σμον μου   ε – βα–λον   κλη–ρον.

O God, my God, hear me; why have You forsaken me?   They di - vid-

- ed my gar - ments a - mong them - selves,   and for my cloth - ing they

cast lots.

17
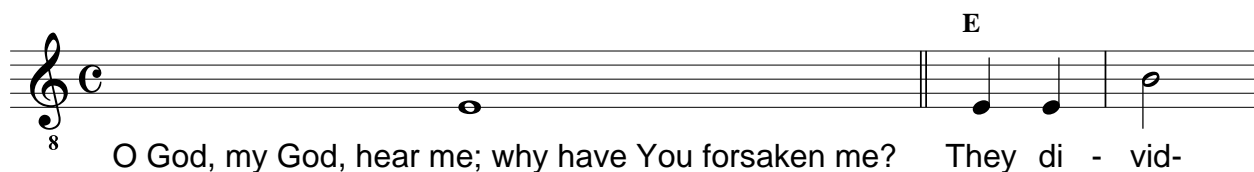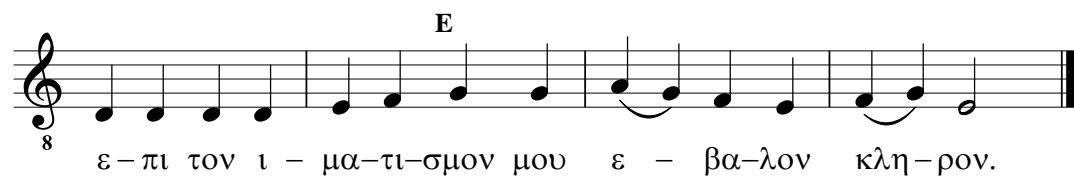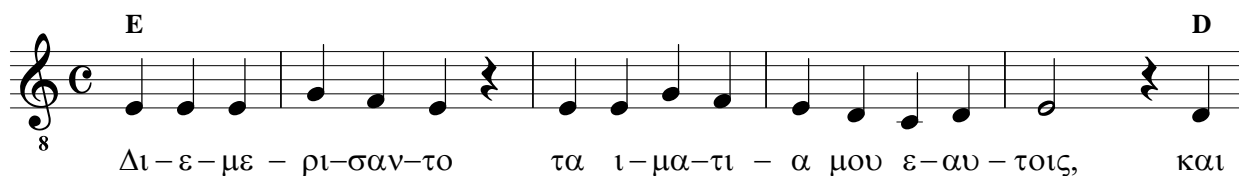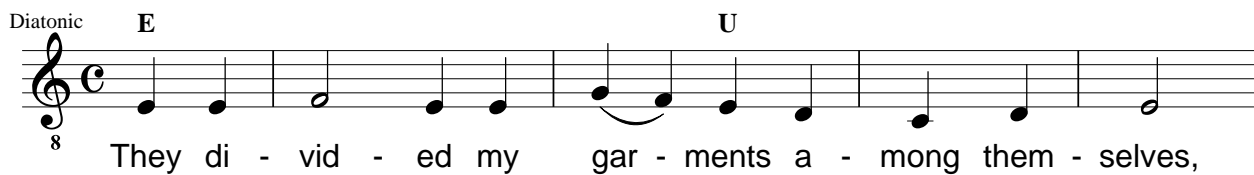
Aposticha. Mode 2. *Di=G.* **Original Melody.**

Soft Chromatic

Jo - seph took You down from the Cross

af - ter You had died, and pre - pared You, O Christ, for bur - i-

- al. Us-ing myrrh, he wrapped you in a shroud, O Life of

all. And con - strained by his ar - dent love, he longed to em-

- brace You, press-ing to Your spot-less bod - y his own heart and

lips. But re - strained by fear and by rev' - rence, joy-ous-ly he

cried to You, "Glo - ry to Your con-de - scen-sion, Lord who love man-

- kind."

Soft Chromatic

G

The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord clothed and

G

gird - ed Him - self with pow - er. When You, the Re-

F **G**

- deem-er of the world, lay in-side a new rock-hewn sep - ul-cher, for the

sake of all, Ha-des, now hu - mil - i - at-ed, cow-ered see - ing

F

You. Then its bars and the pris - on gates were shat - tered and

G

bro - ken; tombs were o-pened, and the bod-ies of the dead a-

F **G**

- rose. Then did first-formed Ad-am, re - joic - ing, grate-ful - ly cry

out to You, "Glo - ry to Your con-de - scen-sion, Lord who love man-

- kind!"

19

Soft Chromatic

G

And He established the world, which shall not be moved.

G **F**

When You had been phys-i-cally en-closed in the tomb of

G

Your own vo-li-tion, re-main-ing un-de-fined in the na-ture

of Your God-head and un-cir-cum-scribed, then You closed down the

F **G**

pris-on-house of death, and You emp-tied all the roy-al treas-ur-ies of

F **G**

Ha-des, O my Christ. Thus did You be-stow on this

Sab-bath the di-vine bless-ing and glo-ry, and You

hon-ored it with Your own ra-di-ance.

20

Soft Chromatic

Holiness is proper to Your house, O Lord, un-to length of days.

When the hosts of an-gels had be-held You be-ing ma-

-ligned by the law-less as a de-ceiv-er, O Christ, and the tomb-stone

be-ing sealed by the hands that had pierced Your im-mac-u-late

side, O Lord, they shud-dered and mar-veled at Your great and in-de-

-scrib-a-ble long-suf-fer-ing. Yet, for our sal-va-tion re-

-joic-ing, they cried out to You, say-ing, "Glo-ry to Your con-de-

-scen-sion, Lord who love man-kind!"

Glory; both now. **Mode pl. 1.** *Pa=D.*

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther

and the Son and the Ho - ly Spir - it.

Both now and ev - er and to the a - ges of

a - ges. A - men.

You, who cov - er Your - self with

light as with a gar - ment, were tak-en

down from the Cross by Jo - seph, with the help of

Nic - o - de - mus. When he saw You dead,

na - ked, and un - bur - ied, he took up a

mov-ing la - men - ta - tion; and strick-

- en with grief he said, "A-

- las, a - las, O sweet - est

Je - sus! When the sun saw You hang - ing

on the Cross just a lit - tle while a - go, it

wrapped it - self in dark - ness; and

out of fear the earth was quak - ing;

and the cur - tain of the Tem - ple was

torn in two. And now I see You

vol-un-tar - i - ly un-der-go - ing death for

C **D**

me. How am I to bur - y You, my
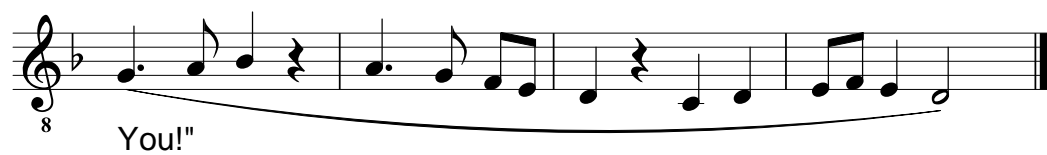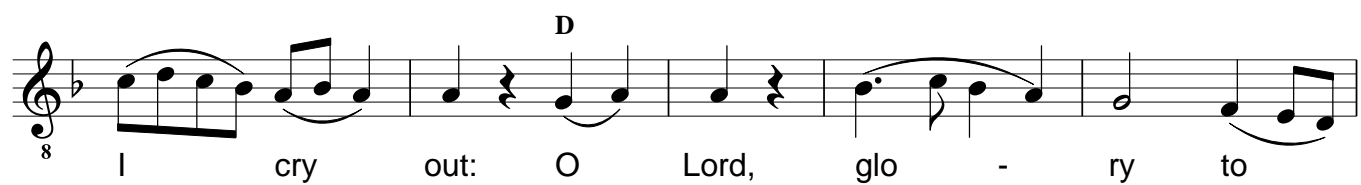
C D

God? Or how can I wrap You in a

shroud? With what hands shall I touch Your im-

A

- mac - u - late bod - y, or what songs should

I be sing - ing at Your de - par - ture, ten - der-

- lov - ing Lord? I mag - ni-

D

- fy Your Pas - sion, and I ex - tol Your

24

bur - i - al   and Your res-ur - rec - tion, as

I   cry   out: O   Lord,   glo - ry   to

You!"

Apolytikia. Mode 2. *Di=G.*

Soft Chromatic **G**

When he took down Your im - mac - u -late Bod-y from the

Cross, the hon-or - a -ble Jo - seph wrapped it in a clean lin-en

shroud with spic - es, and laid it for bur - i - al in a new

tomb.

Soft Chromatic **G**

The An - gel stand - ing at the sep - ul -cher cried out and

said to the oint-ment-bear-ing wo - men, "The oint-ments are ap-

- pro-pri -ate for mor - tal men; but Christ has been shown to be a

F   **G**

stran-ger to de - cay."

26