JULIAN OF NORWICH

REVELATIONS
of Divine Love

for Soprano and Piano

webber music
200105

Dame Julian of Norwich
REVEALTIONS OF DIVINE LOVE

AND when I was thirty years old and a half, God sent me a bodily sickness, in which I lay three days and three nights; and on the fourth night I took all my rites of Holy Church, and weened not to have lived till day. And after this I languored forth two days and two nights, and on the third night I weened oftentimes to have passed; and so weened they that were with me.

And being in youth as yet, I thought it great sorrow to die; but for nothing that was in earth that me liked to live for, nor for no pain that I had fear of: for I trusted in God of His mercy. But it was to have lived that I might have loved God better, and longer time, that I might have the more knowing and loving of God in bliss of Heaven. For me thought all the time that I had lived here so little and so short in regard of that endless bliss, I thought it was as nothing. Wherefore I thought: Good Lord, may my living no longer be to Thy worship! And I understood by my reason and by my feeling of my pains that I should die; and I assented fully with all the will of my heart to be at God's will.

Thus I dured till day, and by then my body was dead from the middle downwards, as to my feeling. Then was I minded to be set upright, backward leaning, with help, for to have more freedom of my heart to be at God's will, and thinking on God while my life would last.

My Curate was sent for to be at my ending, and by that time when he came I had set my eyes, and might not speak. He set the Cross before my face and said: I have brought thee the Image of thy Master and Saviour: look thereupon and comfort thee therewith.

Me thought I was well as it was, for my eyes were set uprightward unto Heaven, where I trusted to come by the mercy of God; but nevertheless I assented to set my eyes on the face of the Crucifix, if I might; and so I did. For me thought I might longer dure to look even forth than right up.

After this my sight began to fail, and it was all dark about me in the chamber, as if it had been night, save in the Image of the Cross whereon I beheld a common light; and I wist not how. All that was away from the Cross was of horror to me, as if it had been greatly occupied by the fiends.

After this the upper part of my body began to die, so far forth that scarcely I had any feeling; with shortness of breath. And then I weened in sooth to have passed.

And in this moment suddenly all my pain was taken from me, and I was as whole (and specially in the upper part of my body) as ever I was afore.

I marvelled at this sudden change; for methought it was a privy working of God, and not of nature. And yet by the feeling of this ease I trusted never the more to live; nor was the feeling of this ease any full ease unto me: for methought I had liefer have been delivered from this world.

Then came suddenly to my mind that I should desire the second wound of our Lord's gracious gift: that my body might be fulfilled with mind and feeling of His blessed Passion. For I would that His pains were my pains, with compassion and afterward longing to God. But in this I desired never bodily sight nor shewing of God, but compassion such as a kind soul might have with our Lord Jesus, that for love would be a mortal man: and therefore I desired to suffer with Him.

"Lord, blessed mayest Thou be, for it is thus: it is well"

Transcribed by John Funchion

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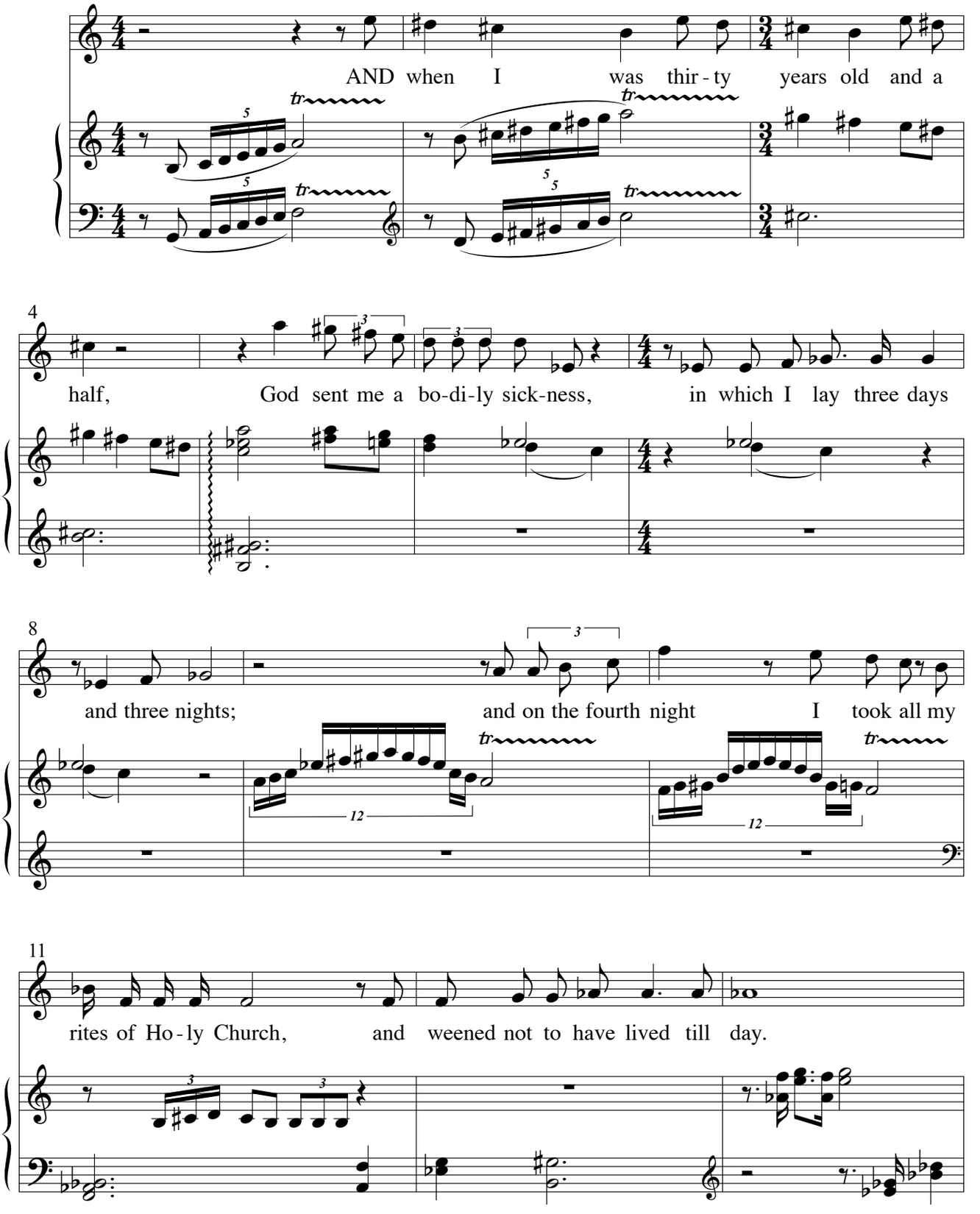
durata circa 9 minutes

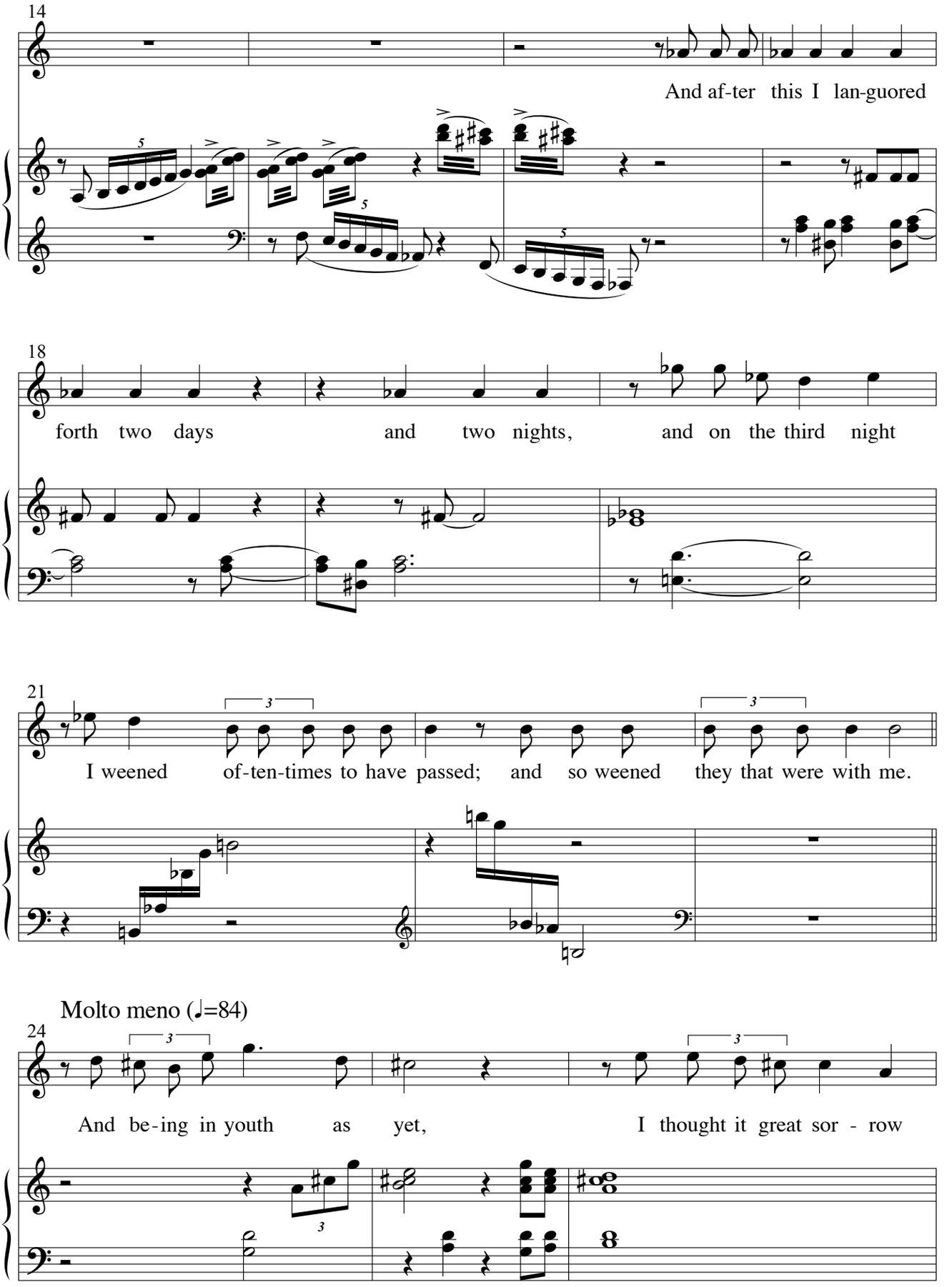
REVELATIONS

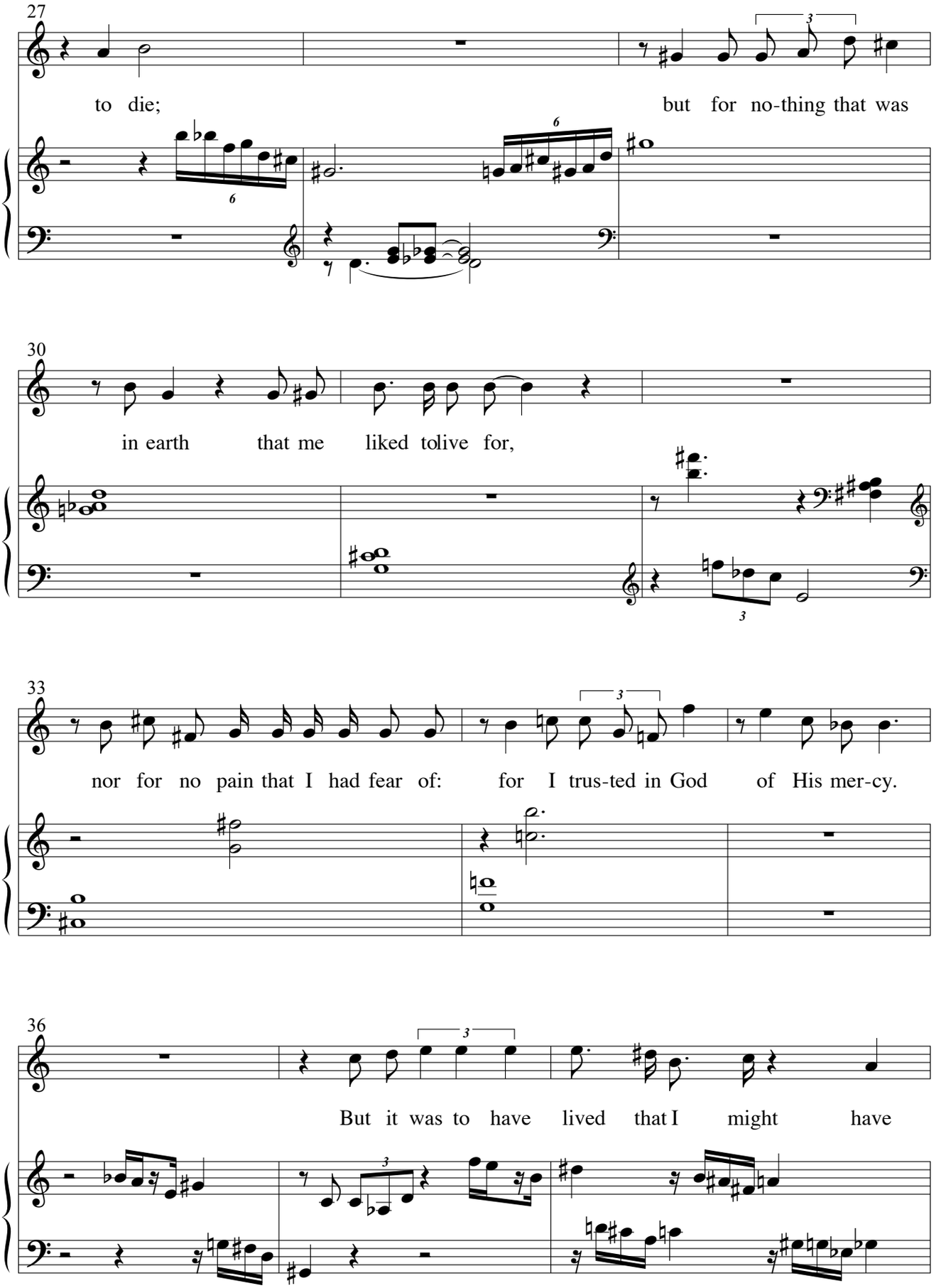
of Julian of Norwich

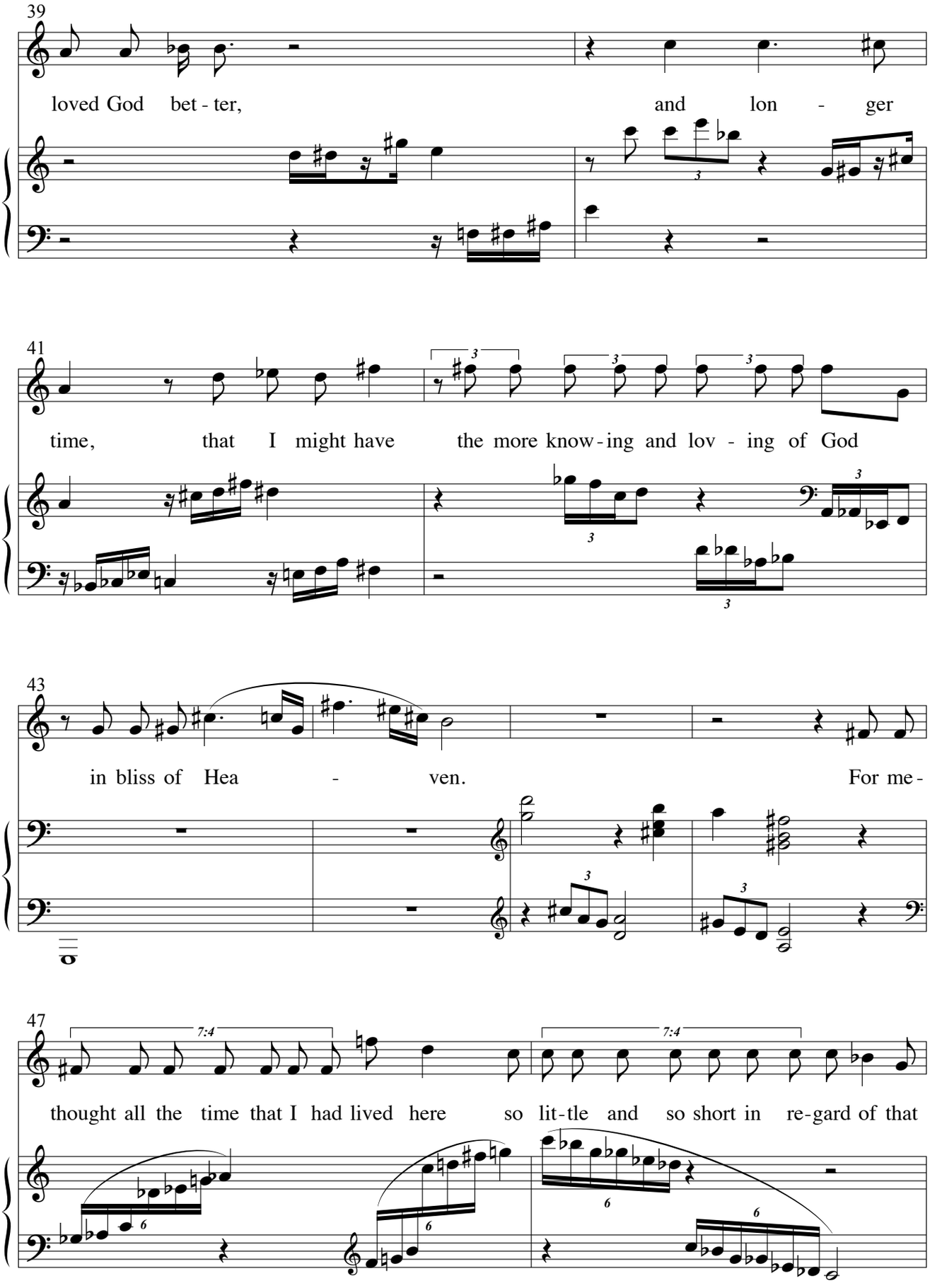
for soprano and piano

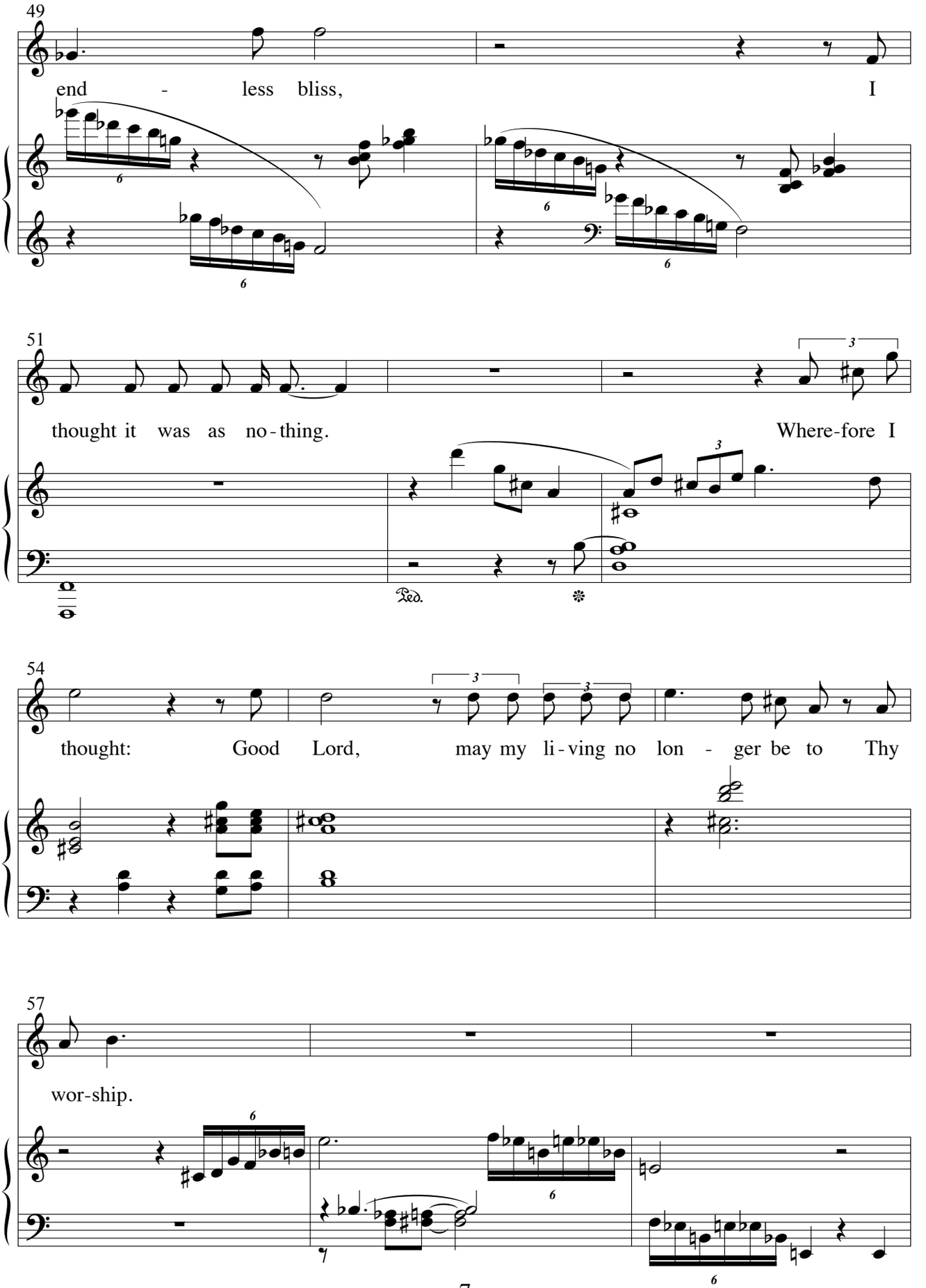
Intensely (♩=120)

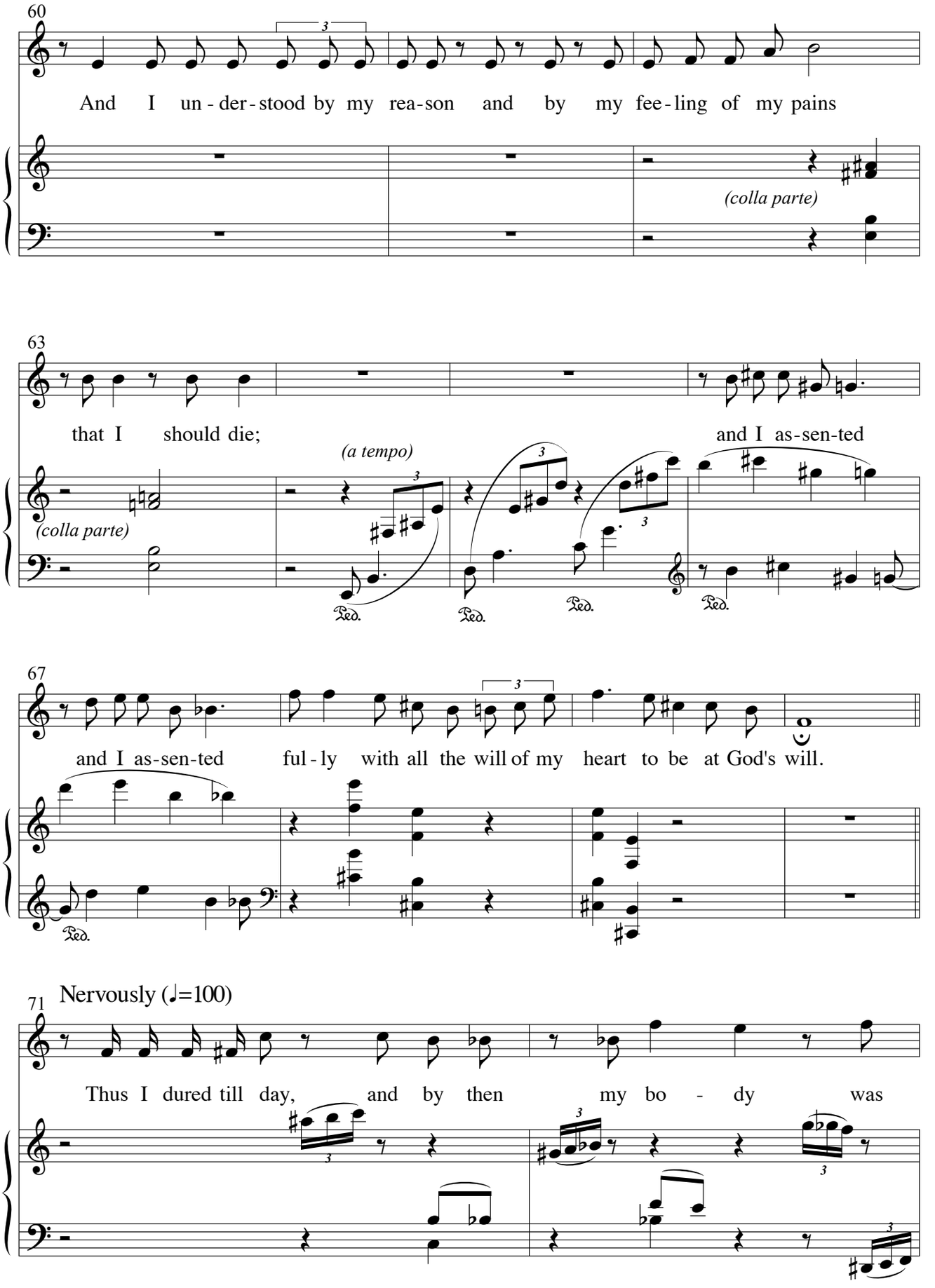


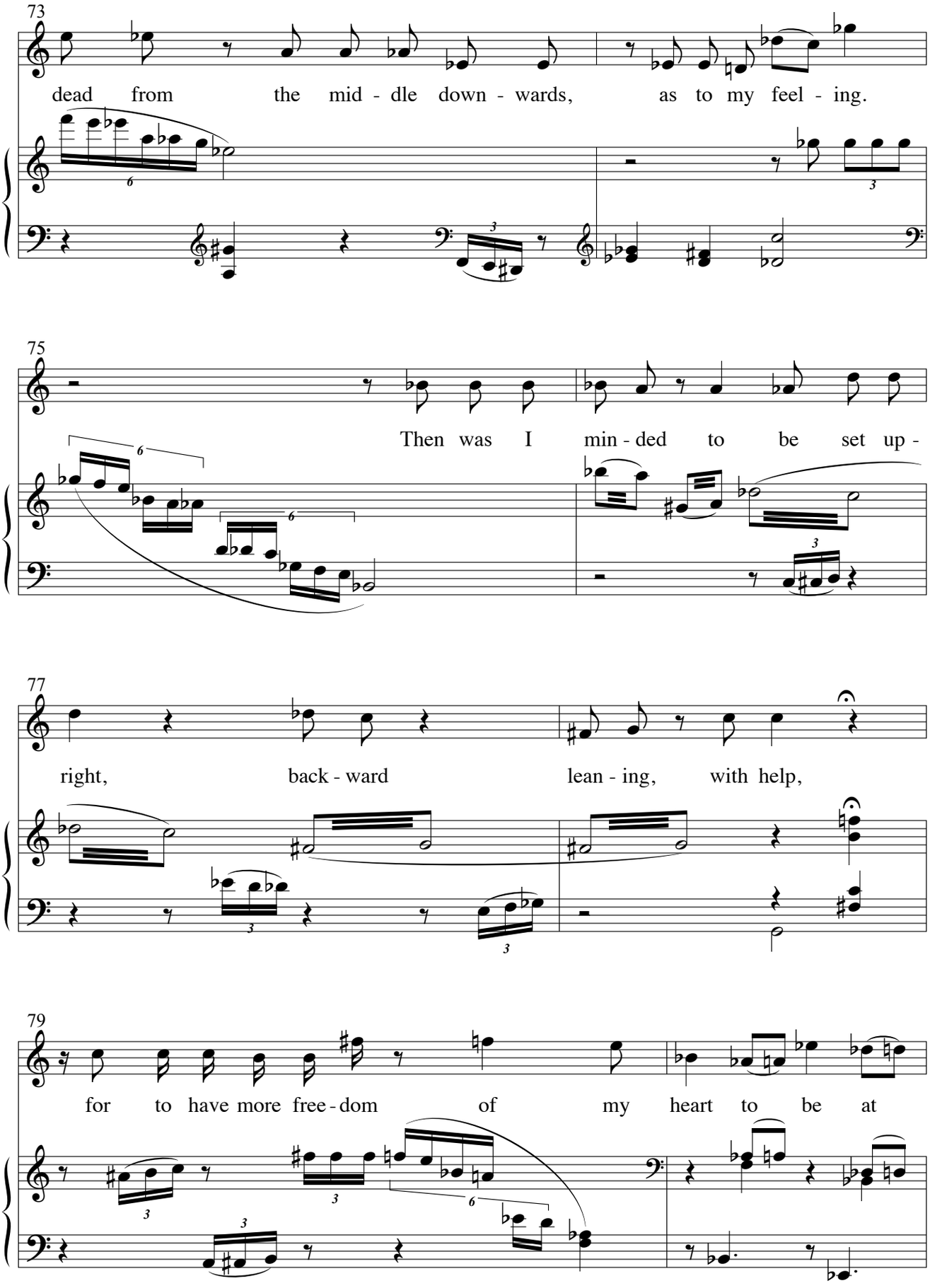

14
And af-ter this I lan-guored
18
forth two days and two nights, and on the third night
21
I weened of-ten-times to have passed; and so weened they that were with me.
Molto meno (♩=84)
24
And be-ing in youth as yet, I thought it great sor - row

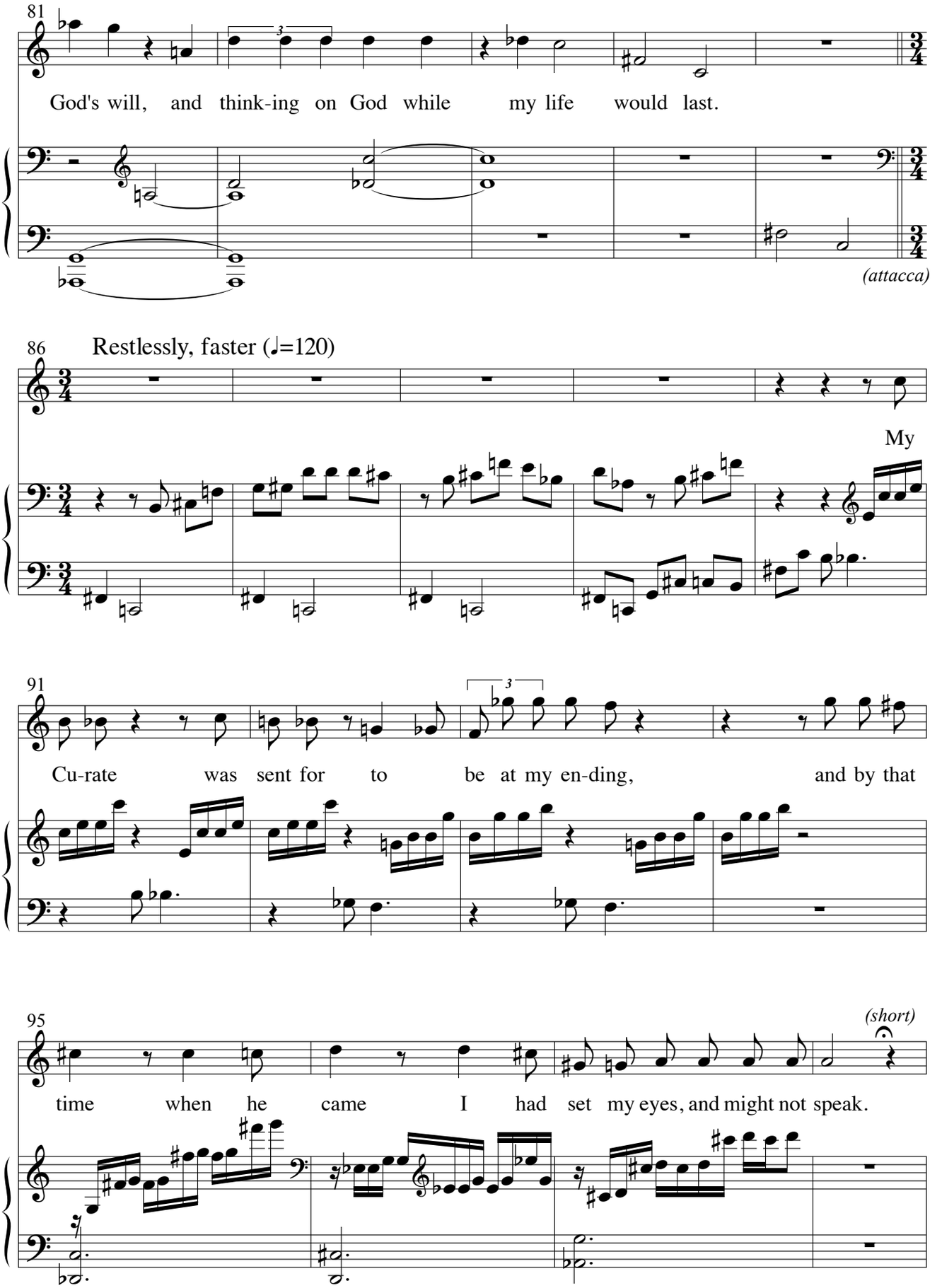

27
to die;
but for no-thing that was
30
in earth
that me
liked tolive for,
33
nor for no pain that I had fear of:
for I trus-ted in God
of His mer-cy.
36
But it was to have
lived that I
might
have

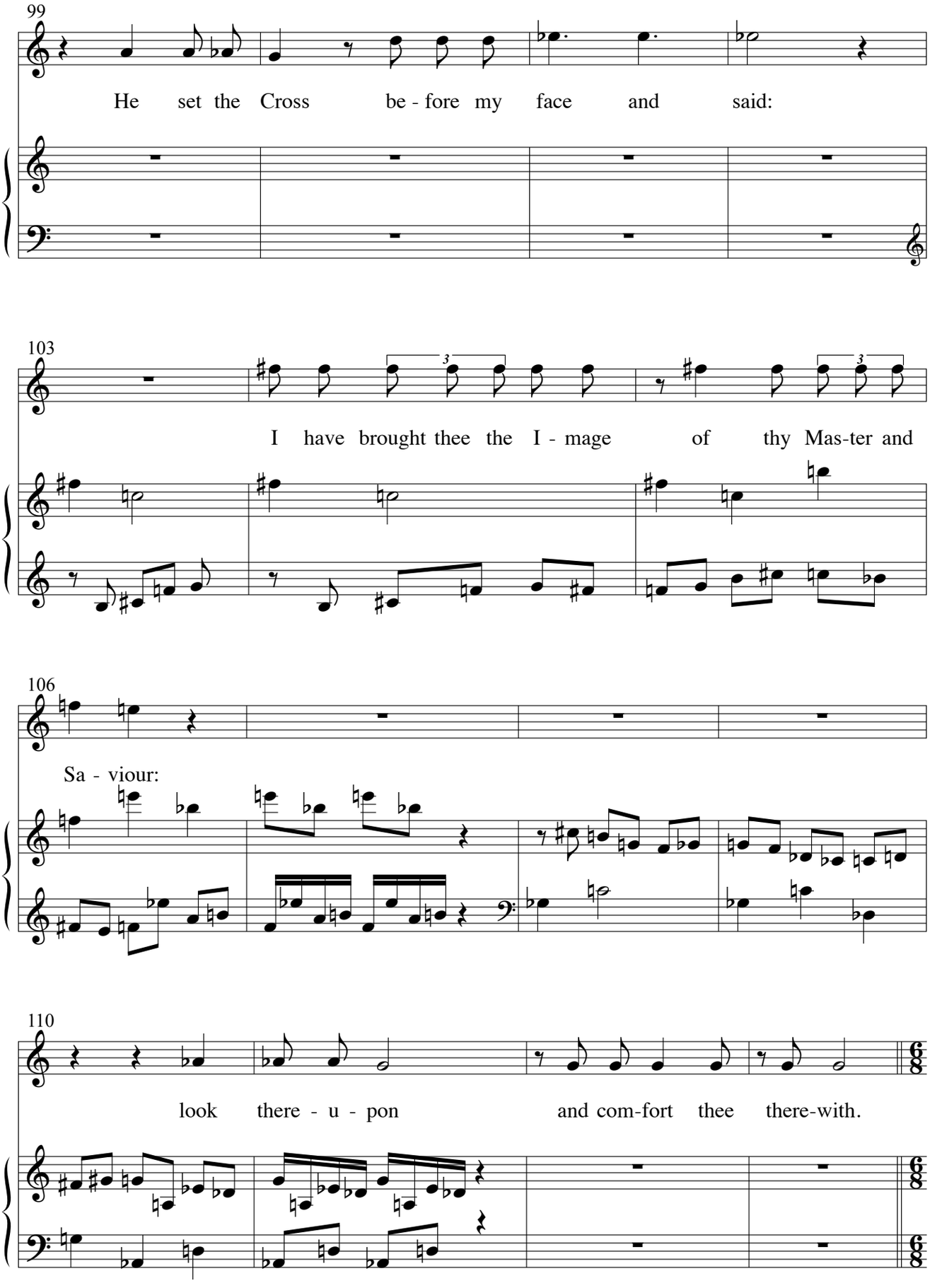

39
loved God bet - ter, and lon - ger
41
time, that I might have the more know - ing and lov - ing of God
43
in bliss of Hea - ven. For me -
47
7:4
7:4
thought all the time that I had lived here so lit - tle and so short in re - gard of that

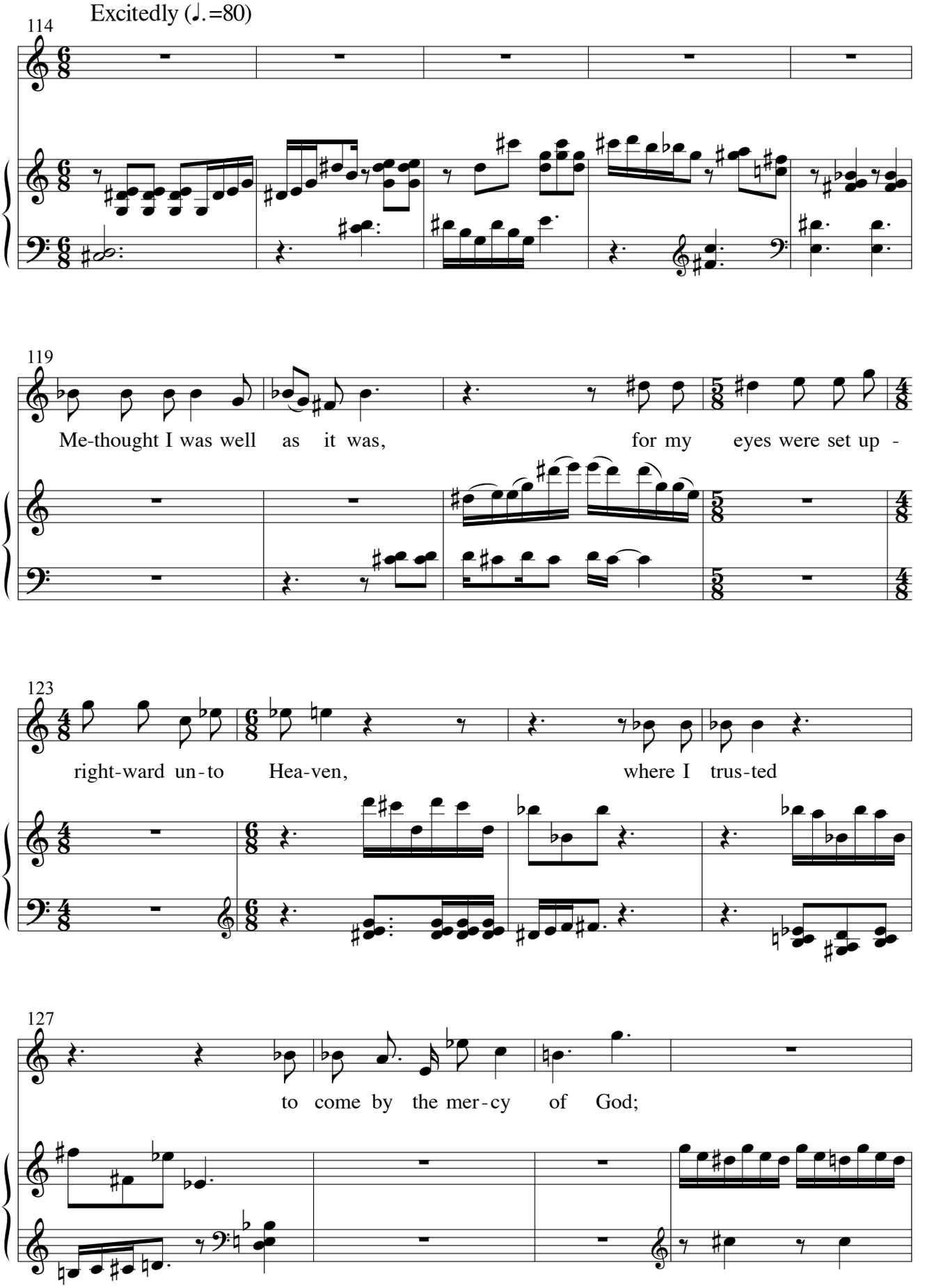

49
end - less bliss, I
51
thought it was as no - thing. Where-fore I
Ped.
54
thought: Good Lord, may my li - ving no lon - ger be to Thy
57
wor-ship.

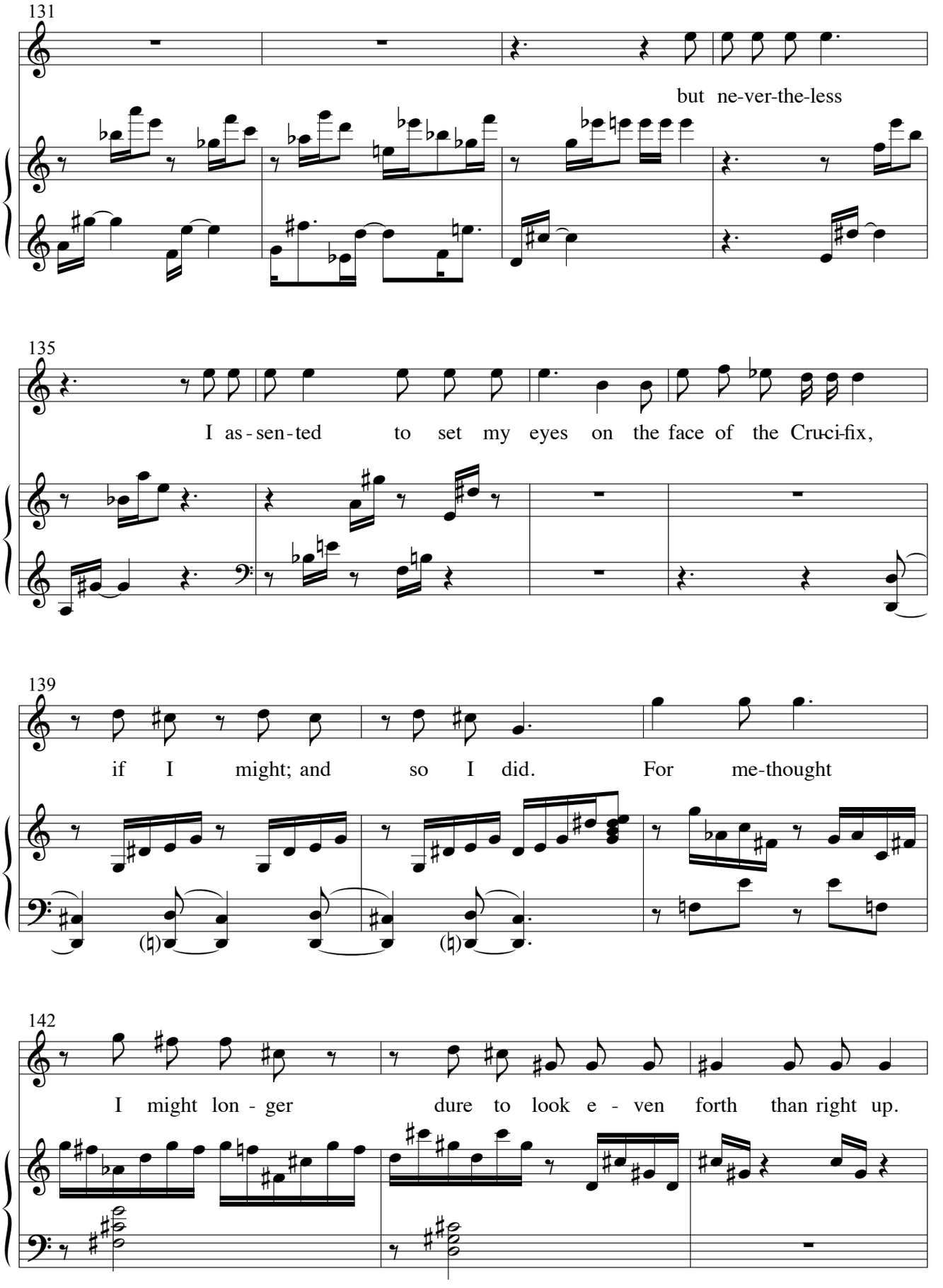

60
And I un - der - stood by my rea - son and by my fee - ling of my pains
(colla parte)
63
that I should die;
and I as - sen - ted
(colla parte)
(a tempo)
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
67
and I as - sen - ted ful - ly with all the will of my heart to be at God's will.
Ped.
71
Nervously (♩=100)
Thus I dured till day, and by then my bo - dy was

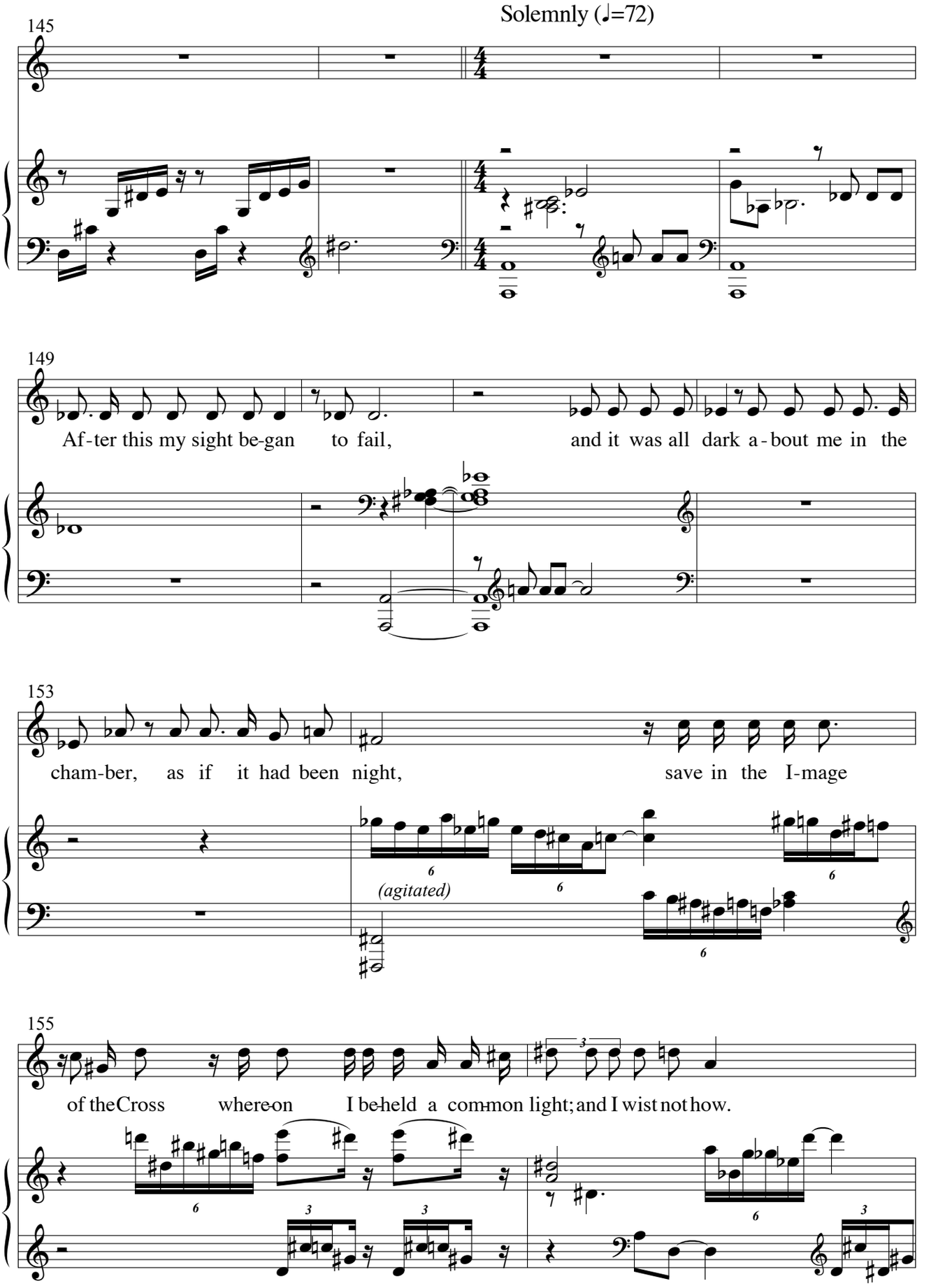

73
dead from the mid - dle down - wards, as to my feel - ing.
75
Then was I min - ded to be set up -
77
right, back - ward lean - ing, with help,
79
for to have more free - dom of my heart to be at

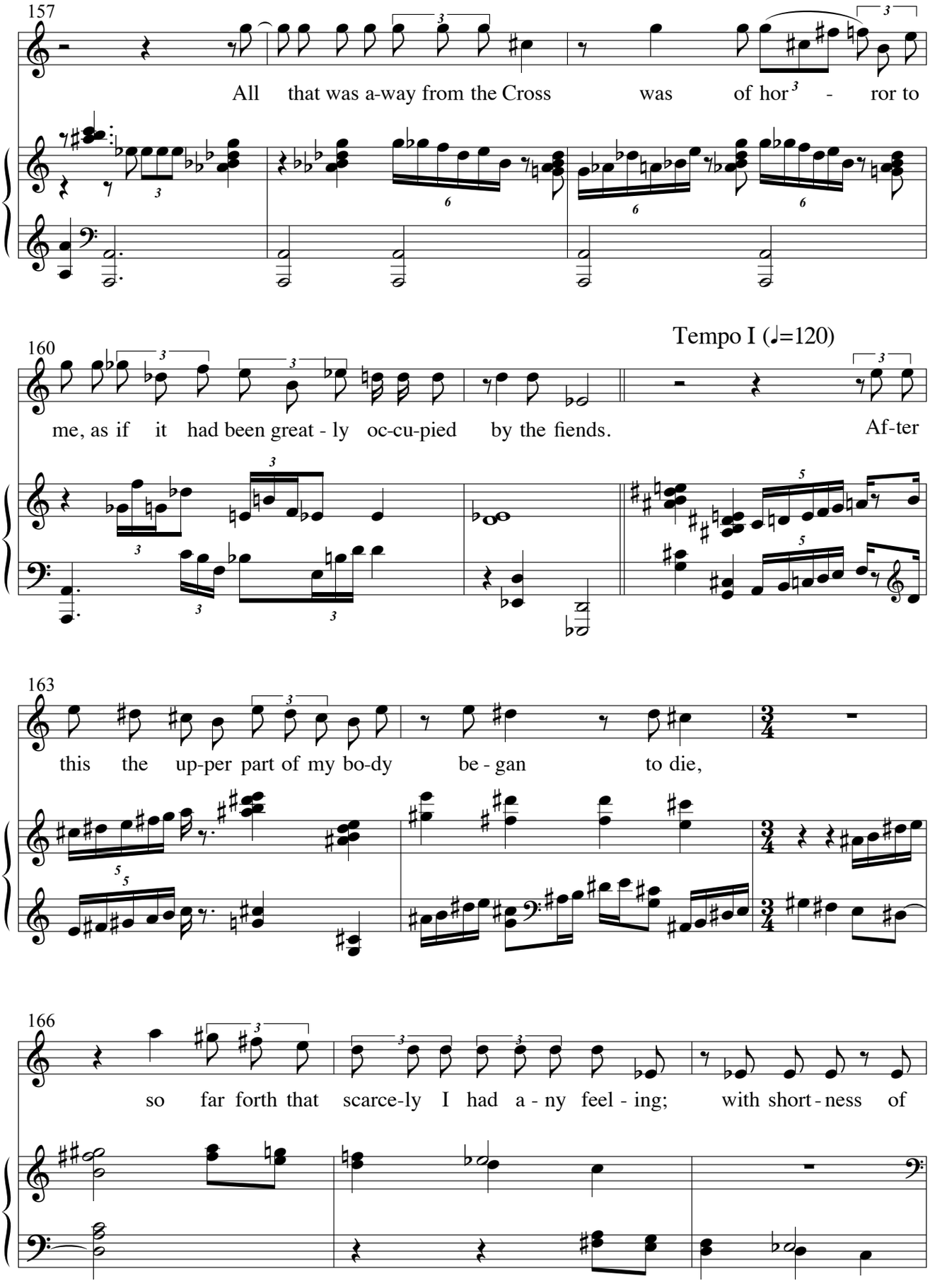

81
God's will, and think-ing on God while my life would last.
(attacca)
86
Restlessly, faster (♩=120)
My
91
Cu-rate was sent for to be at my en-ding, and by that
95
(short)
time when he came I had set my eyes, and might not speak.

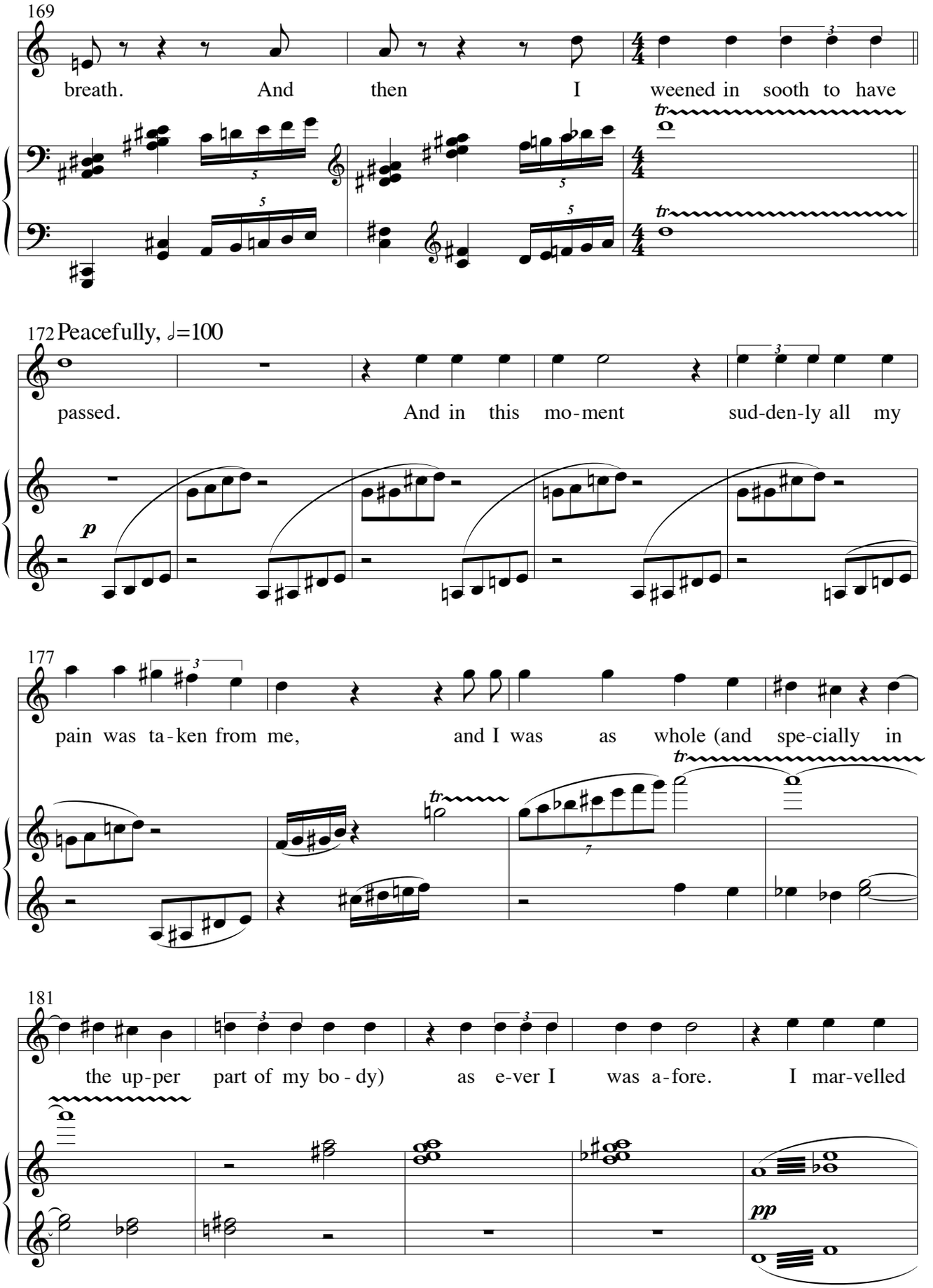

99
He set the Cross be - fore my face and said:
103
I have brought thee the I - mage of thy Mas-ter and
106
Sa - viour:
110
look there - u - pon and com-fort thee there-with.

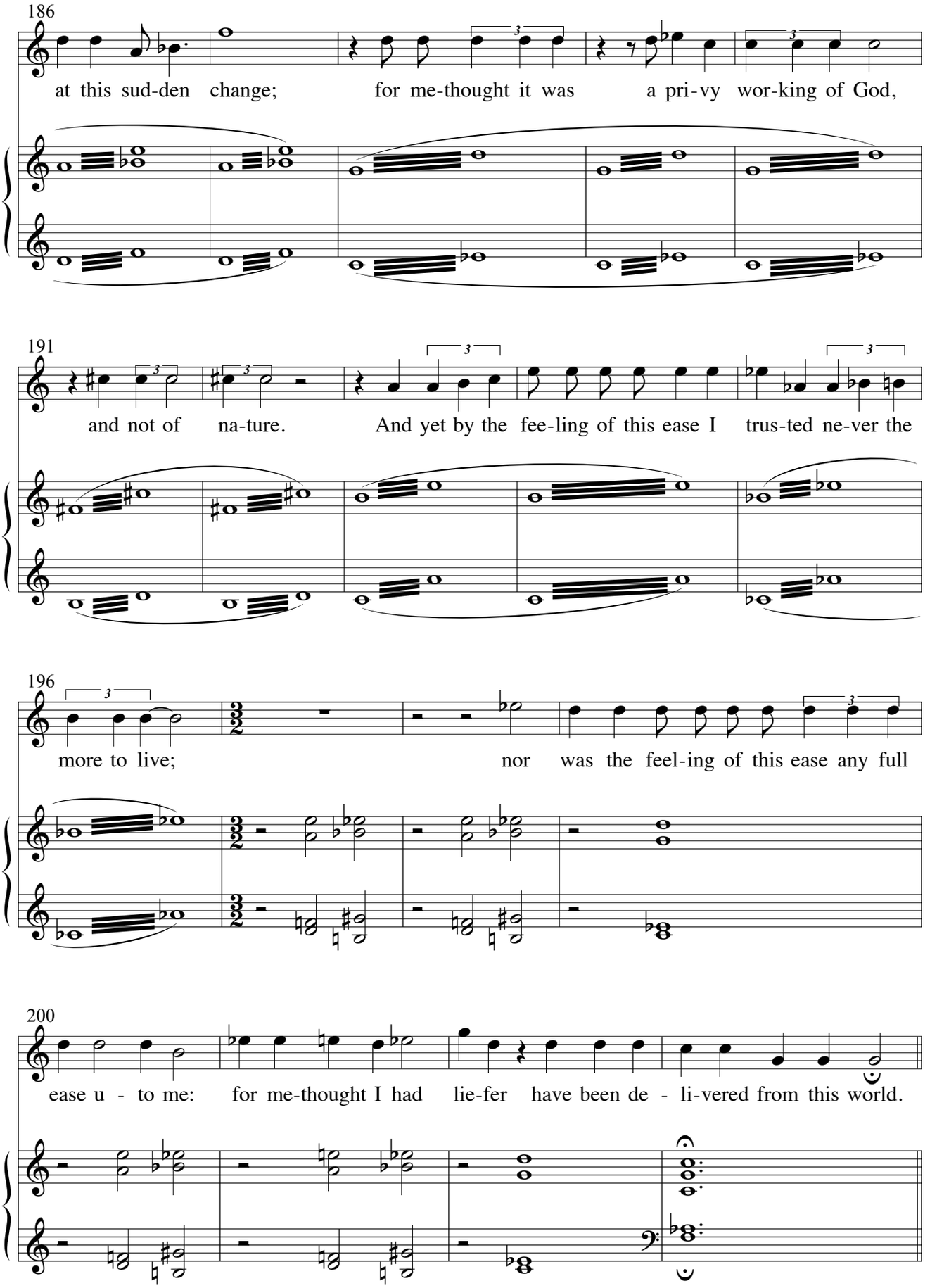

Excitedly (♩.=80)
114
119
Me-thought I was well as it was, for my eyes were set up -
123
right-ward un-to Hea-ven, where I trus-ted
127
to come by the mer-cy of God;

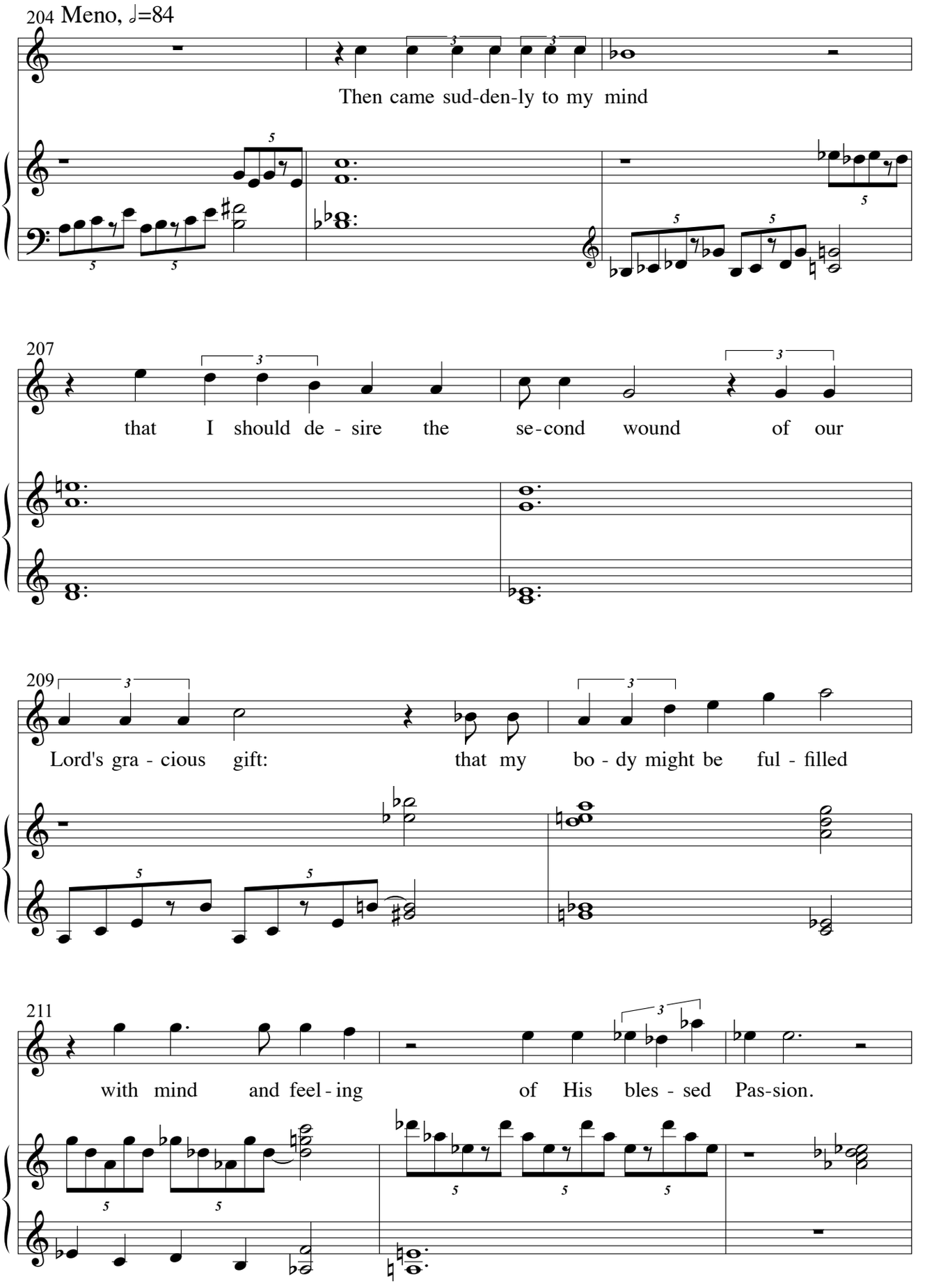

131
but ne-ver-the-less
135
I as-sen-ted to set my eyes on the face of the Cru-ci-fix,
139
if I might; and so I did. For me-thought
142
I might lon-ger dure to look e-ven forth than right up.

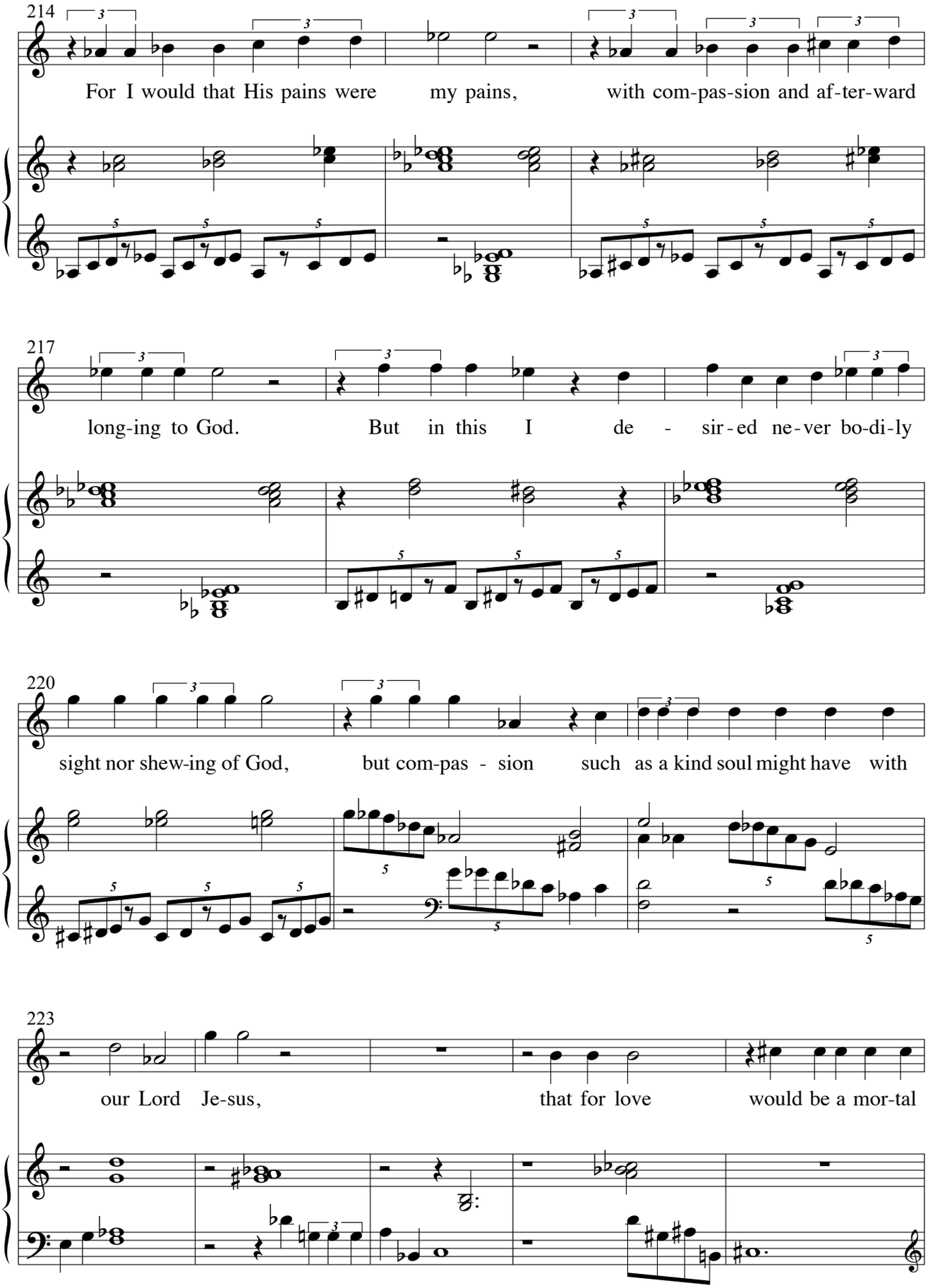

Solemnly (♩=72)
145
149
Af-ter this my sight be-gan to fail, and it was all dark a-bout me in the
153
cham-ber, as if it had been night, save in the I-mage
(agitated)
155
of the Cross where-on I be-held a com-mon light; and I wist not how.

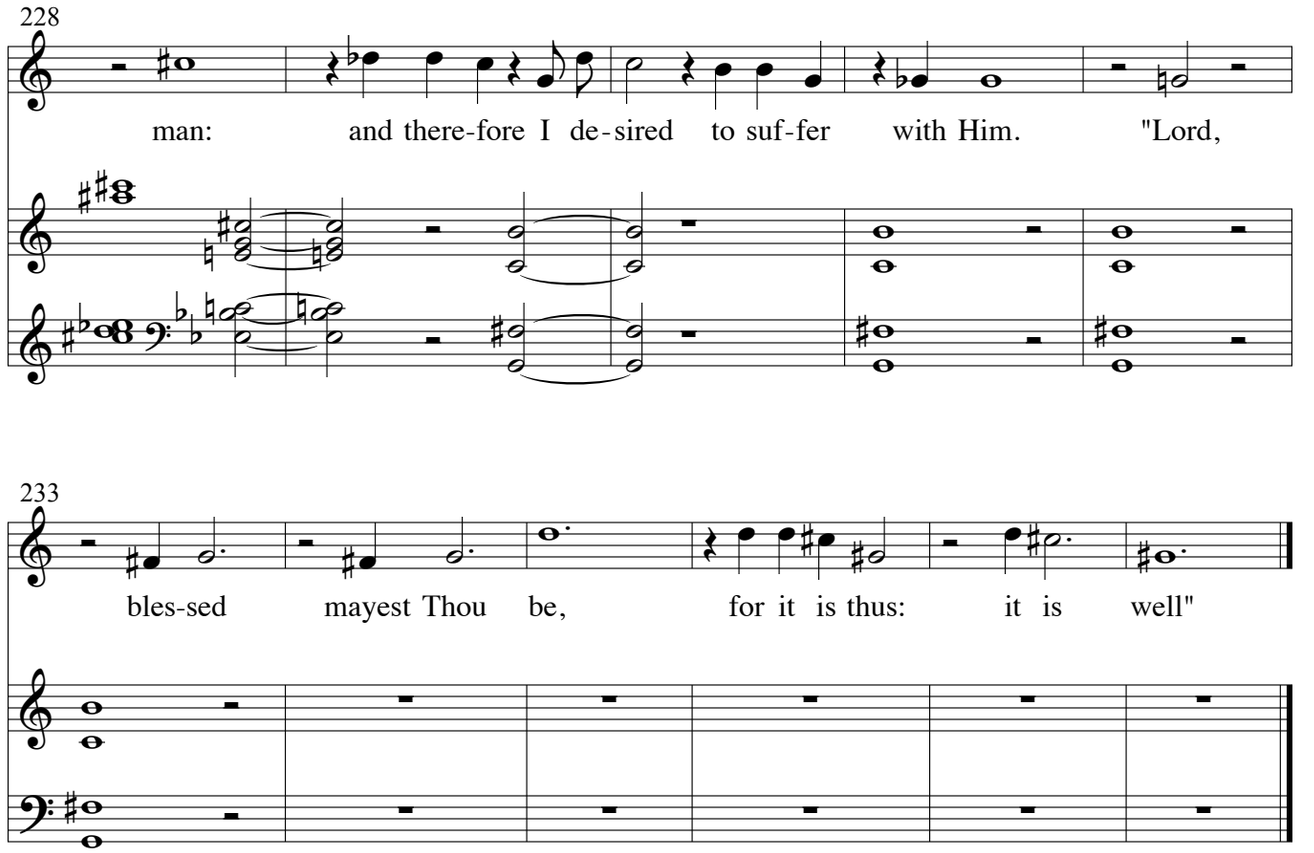

157
All that was a-way from the Cross was of hor - ror to
160
Tempo I (♩=120)
me, as if it had been great - ly oc-cu-pied by the fiends. Af-ter
163
this the up-per part of my bo-dy be - gan to die,
166
so far forth that scarce-ly I had a - ny feel - ing; with short - ness of


169
breath. And then I weened in sooth to have
172 Peacefully, ♩=100
passed. And in this mo-ment sud-den-ly all my
p
177
pain was ta-ken from me, and I was as whole (and spe-cially in
181
the up-per part of my bo-dy) as e-ver I was a-fore. I mar-velled
pp


186
at this sud-den change; for me-thought it was a pri-vy wor-king of God,
191
and not of na-ture. And yet by the fee-ling of this ease I trus-ted ne-ver the
196
more to live; nor was the feel-ing of this ease any full
200
ease u - to me: for me-thought I had lie-fer have been de - li-vered from this world.


204 Meno, ♩=84
Then came sud-den-ly to my mind
207
that I should de - sire the se-cond wound of our
209
Lord's gra - cious gift: that my bo - dy might be ful - filled
211
with mind and feel - ing of His bles - sed Pas-sion.


214
For I would that His pains were my pains, with com-pas-sion and af-ter-ward
217
long-ing to God. But in this I de - sir-ed ne-ver bo-di-ly
220
sight nor shew-ing of God, but com-pas - sion such as a kind soul might have with
223
our Lord Je-sus, that for love would be a mor-tal


228
man: and there-fore I de-sired to suf-fer with Him. "Lord,
233
bles-sed mayest Thou be, for it is thus: it is well"