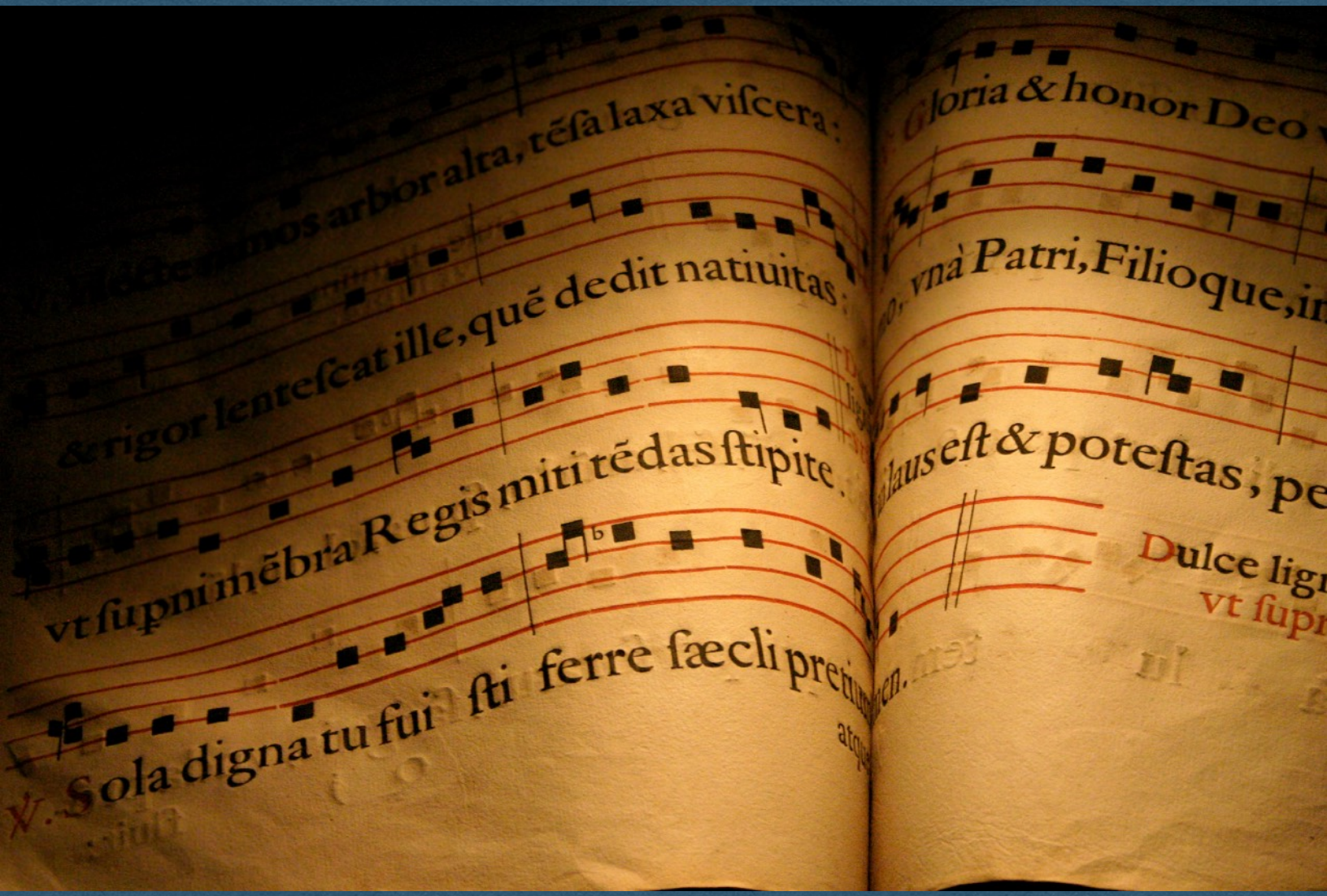Popular and Traditional Hymns Arranged for Solo Guitar



Classical Guitar Shed
play beautifully

Enjoy 39 popular hymns, set for solo classical guitar.

This collection includes notation, chords, TABs, and lyrics.

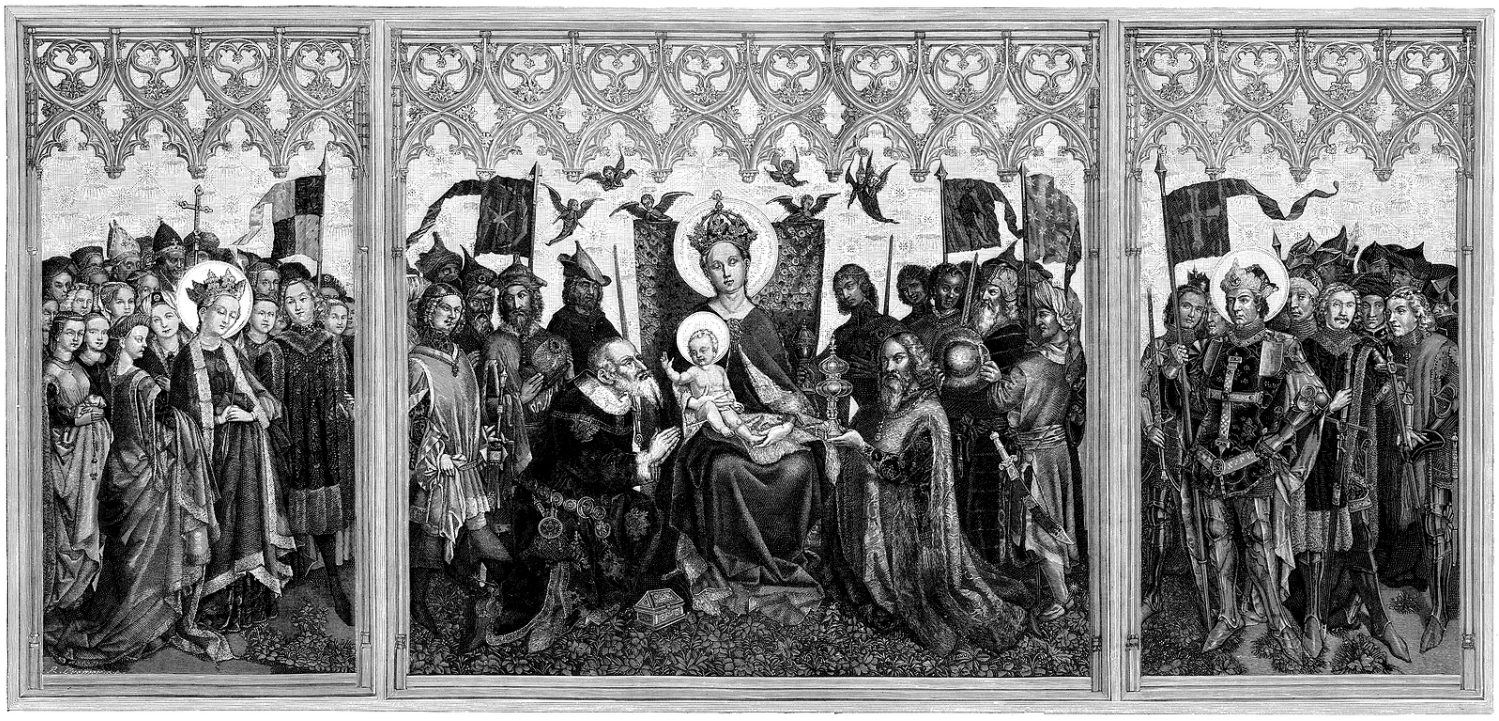
For a version of this book with notation only, go to
https://ClassicalGuitarShed.com/hymn-book-notation/

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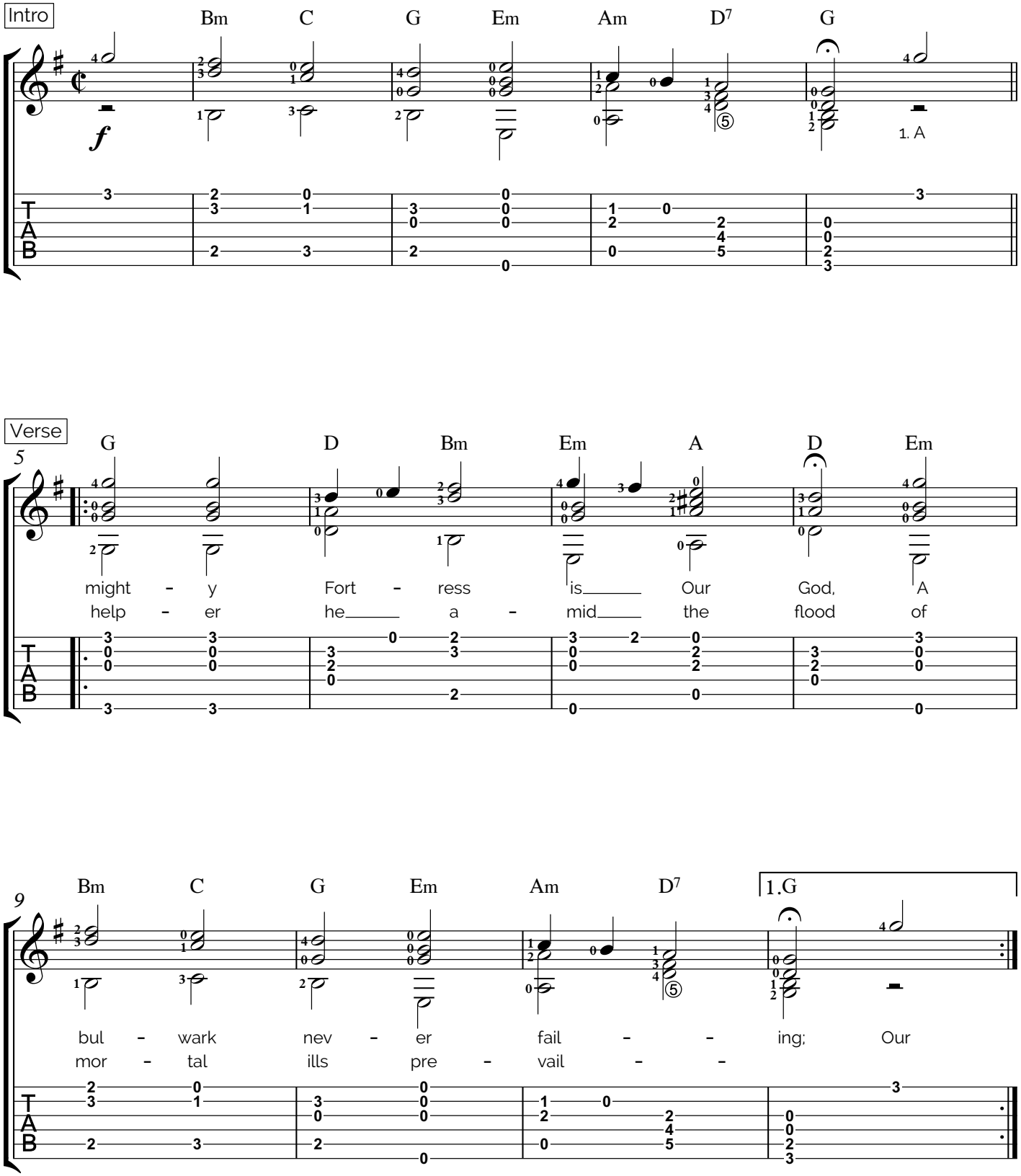


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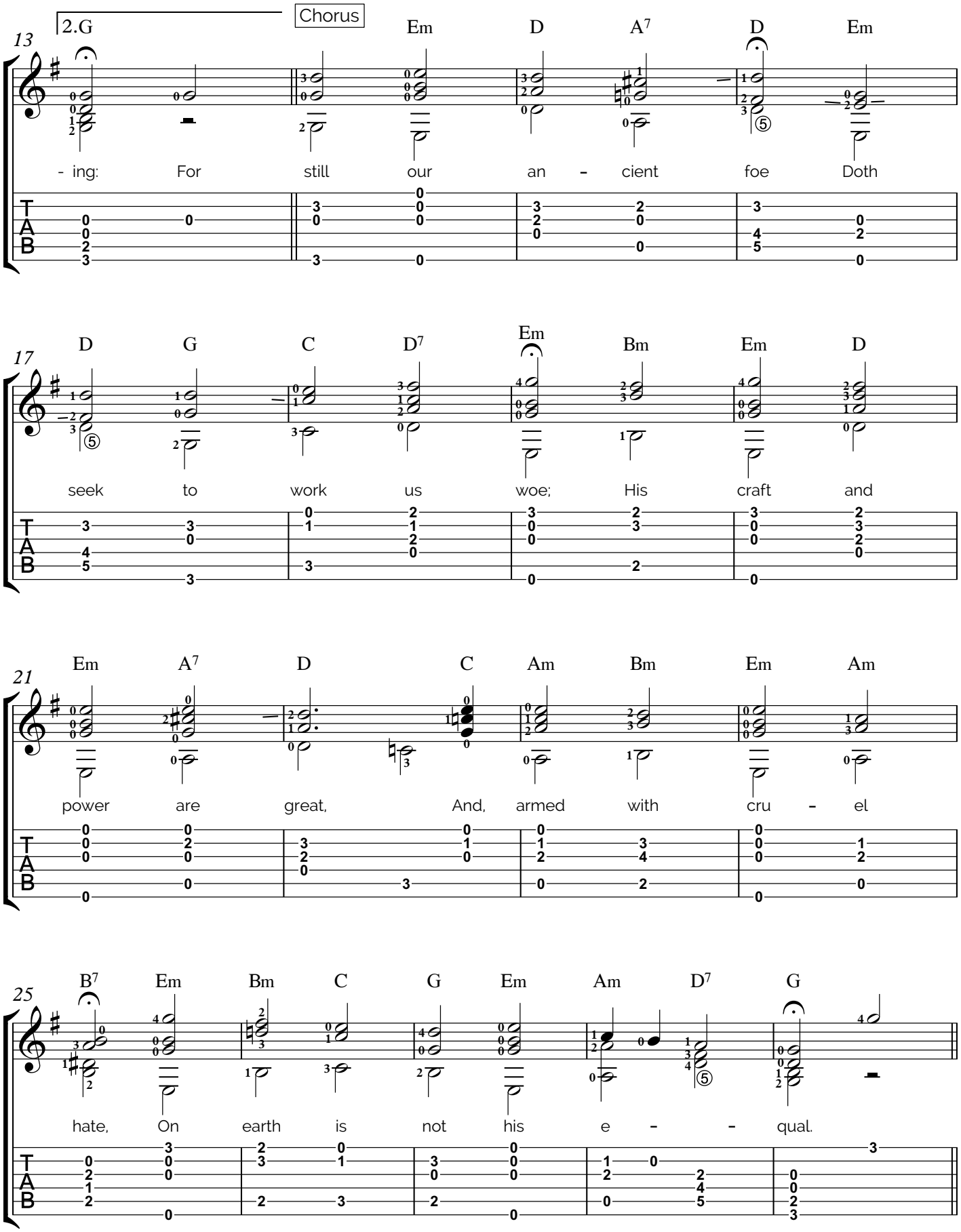
A Mighty Fortress is Our God

Maestoso (𝅗𝅥 = 80)

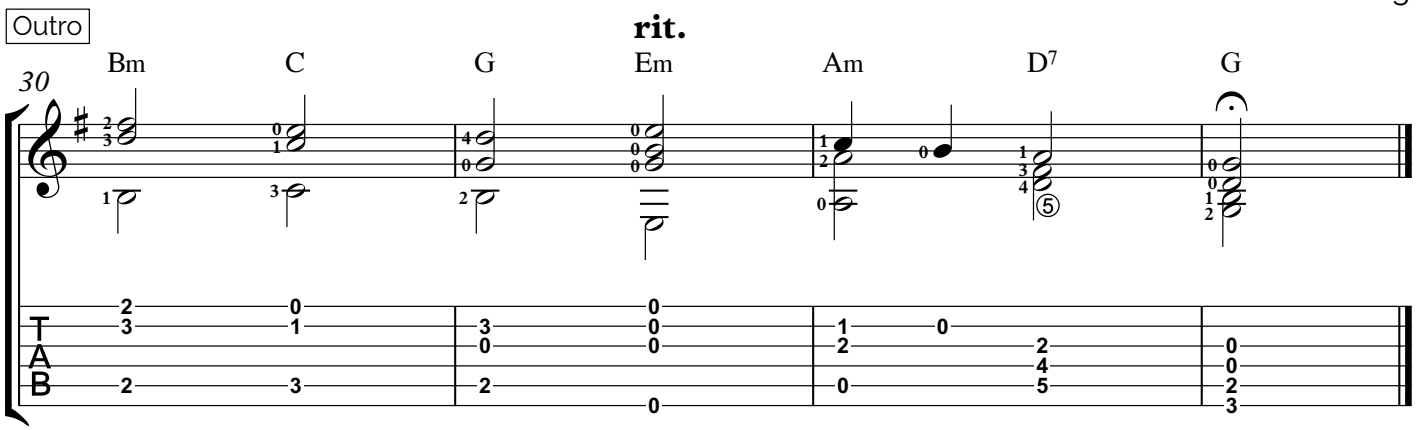
Martin Luther



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2. Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side,
the Man of God's own choosing.

You ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle.

3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has willed
his truth to triumph through us.

The prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure;
one little word shall fell him.

4. That Word above all earthly powers
no thanks to them abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through him who with us sideth.
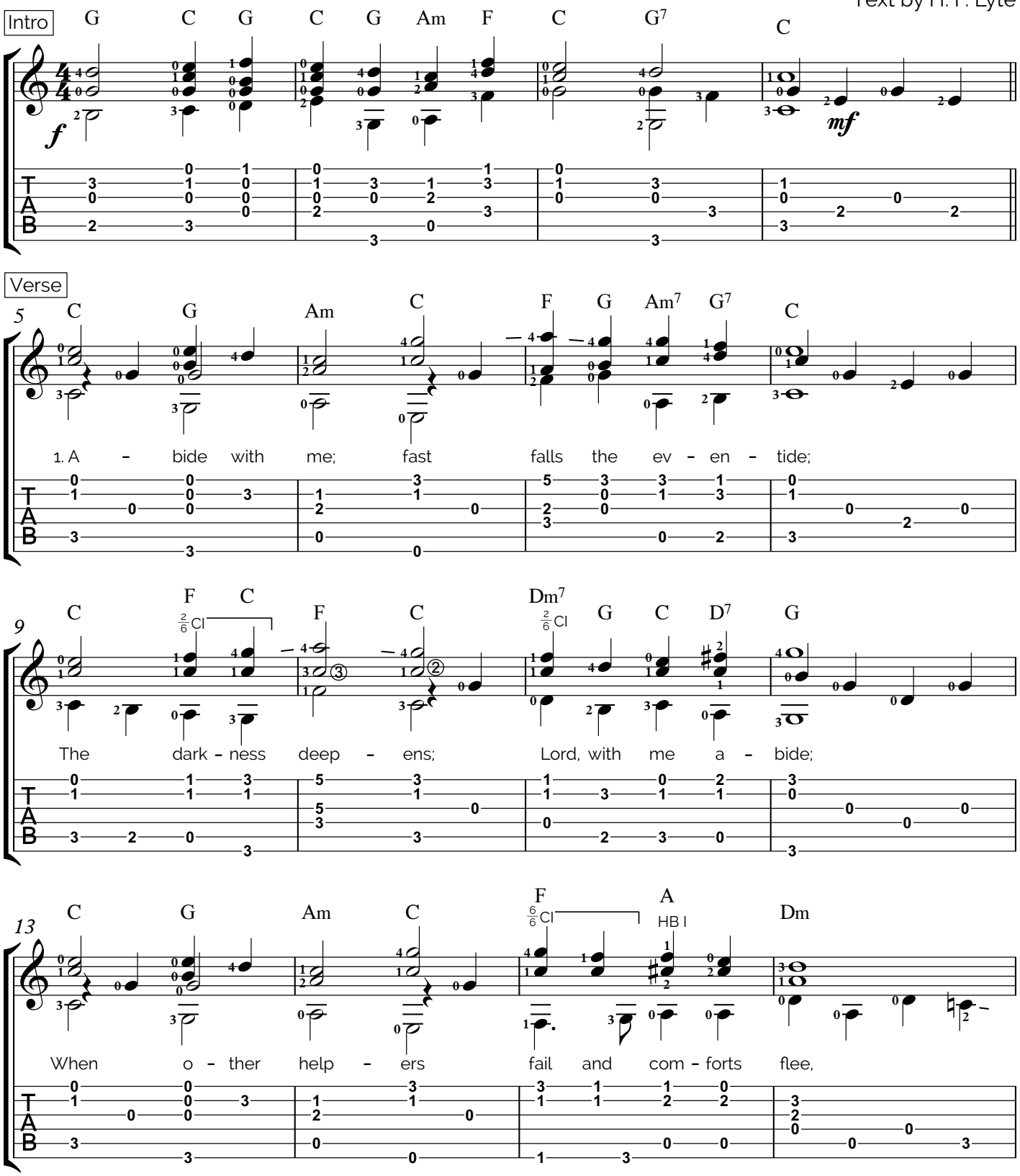
Let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still;
his kingdom is forever!

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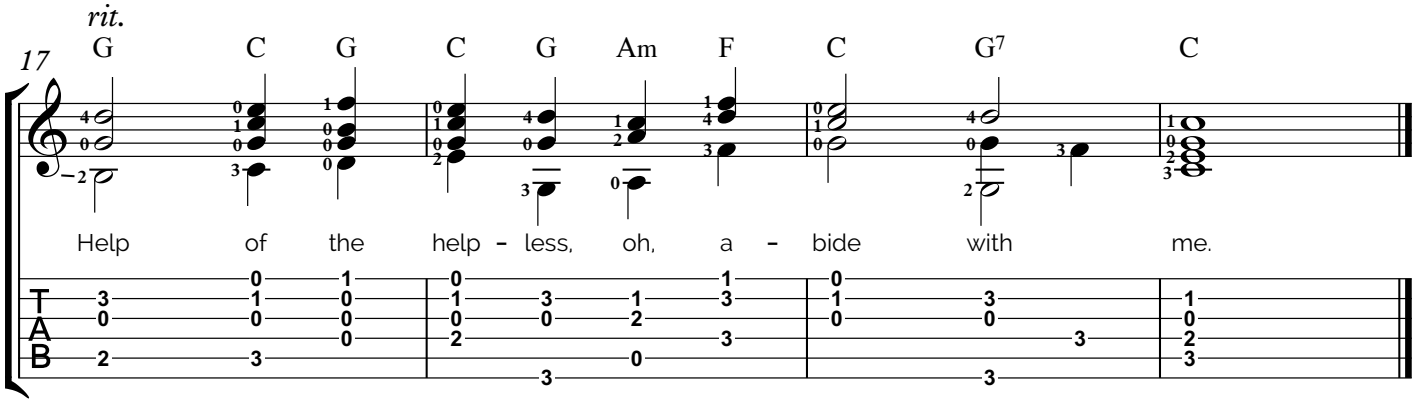
Abide With Me

Music by W. H. Monk
Text by H. F. Lyte

Andante



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2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
   Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
   Change and decay in all around I see—
   O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need Thy presence every passing hour;
   What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
   Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
   Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.
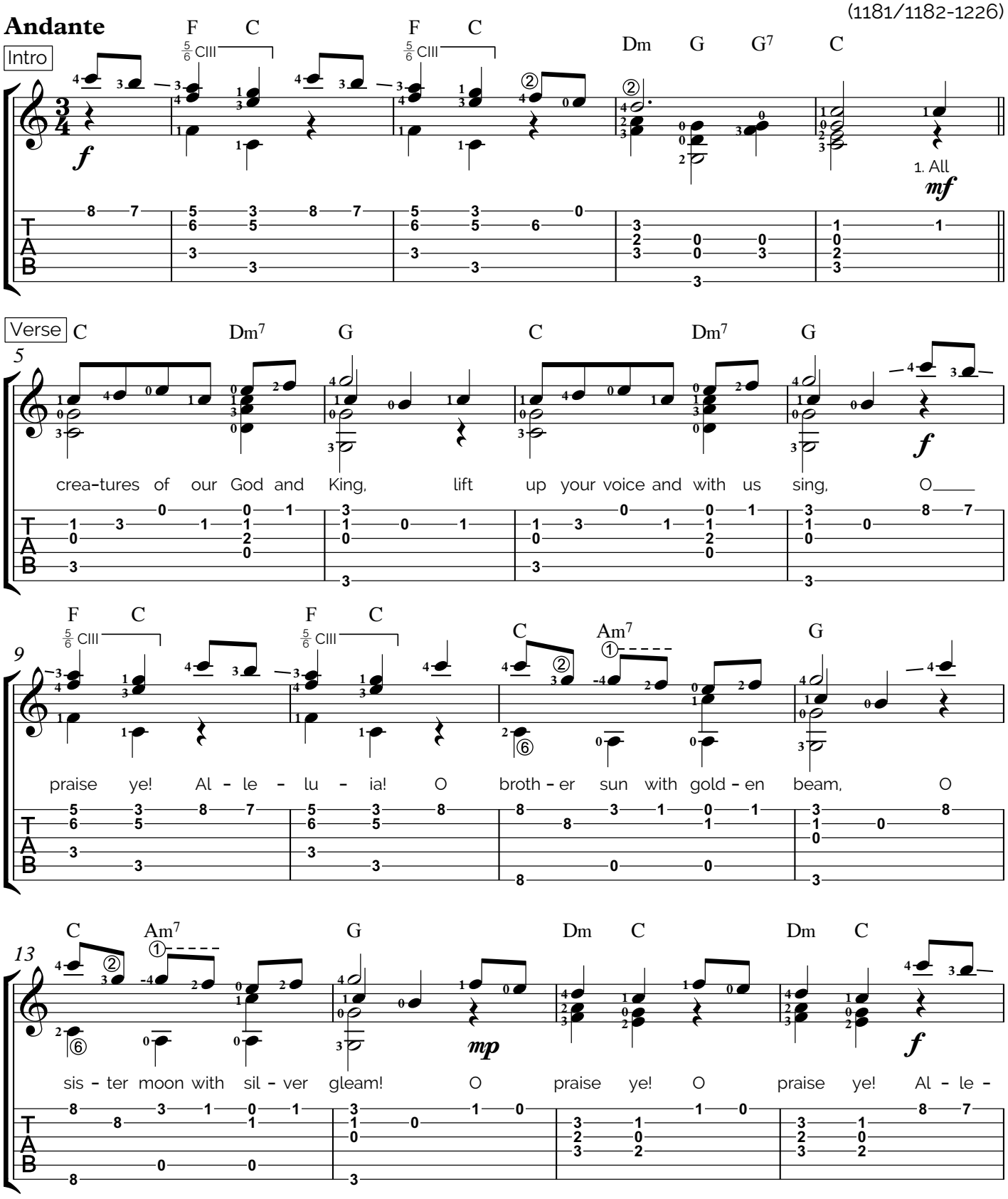
4. I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
   Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
   Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
   I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
   Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
   Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
   In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

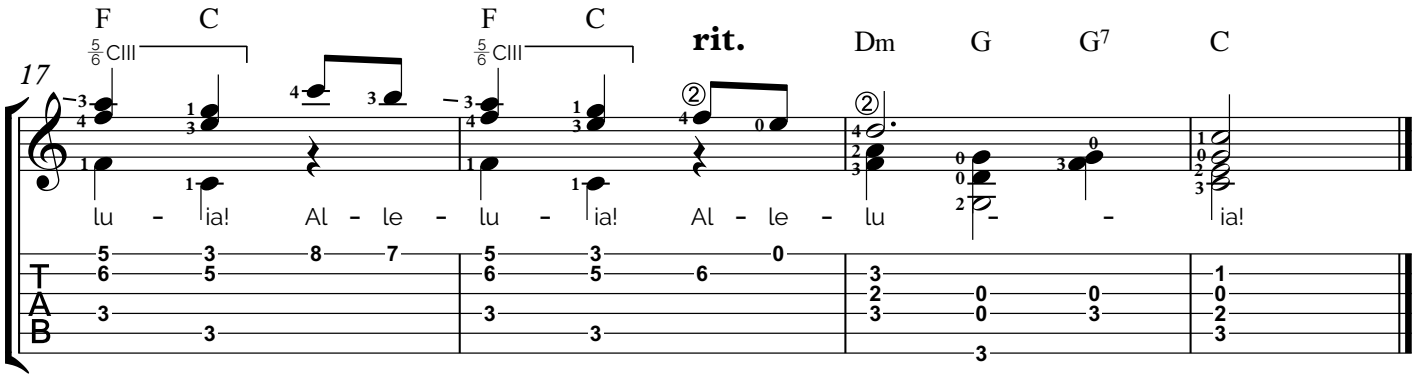
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All Creatures of Our God and King

Francis of Assisi
(1181/1182-1226)



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2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of ev'ning, find a voice,
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3. And all ye men of tender heart,
forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
praise God and on Him cast your care;
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
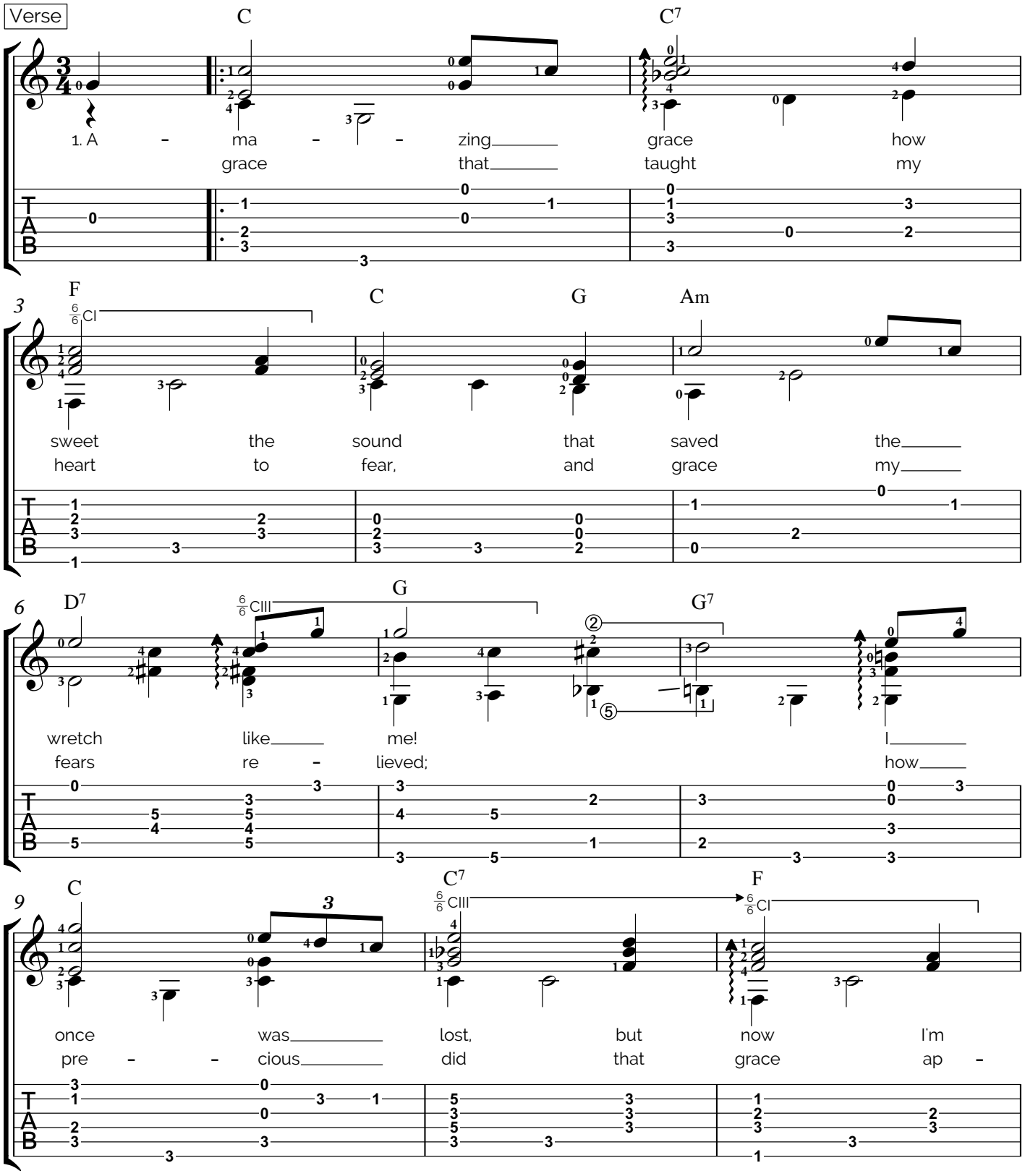
4. Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship Him in humbleness;
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
O praise Him, O praise Him!
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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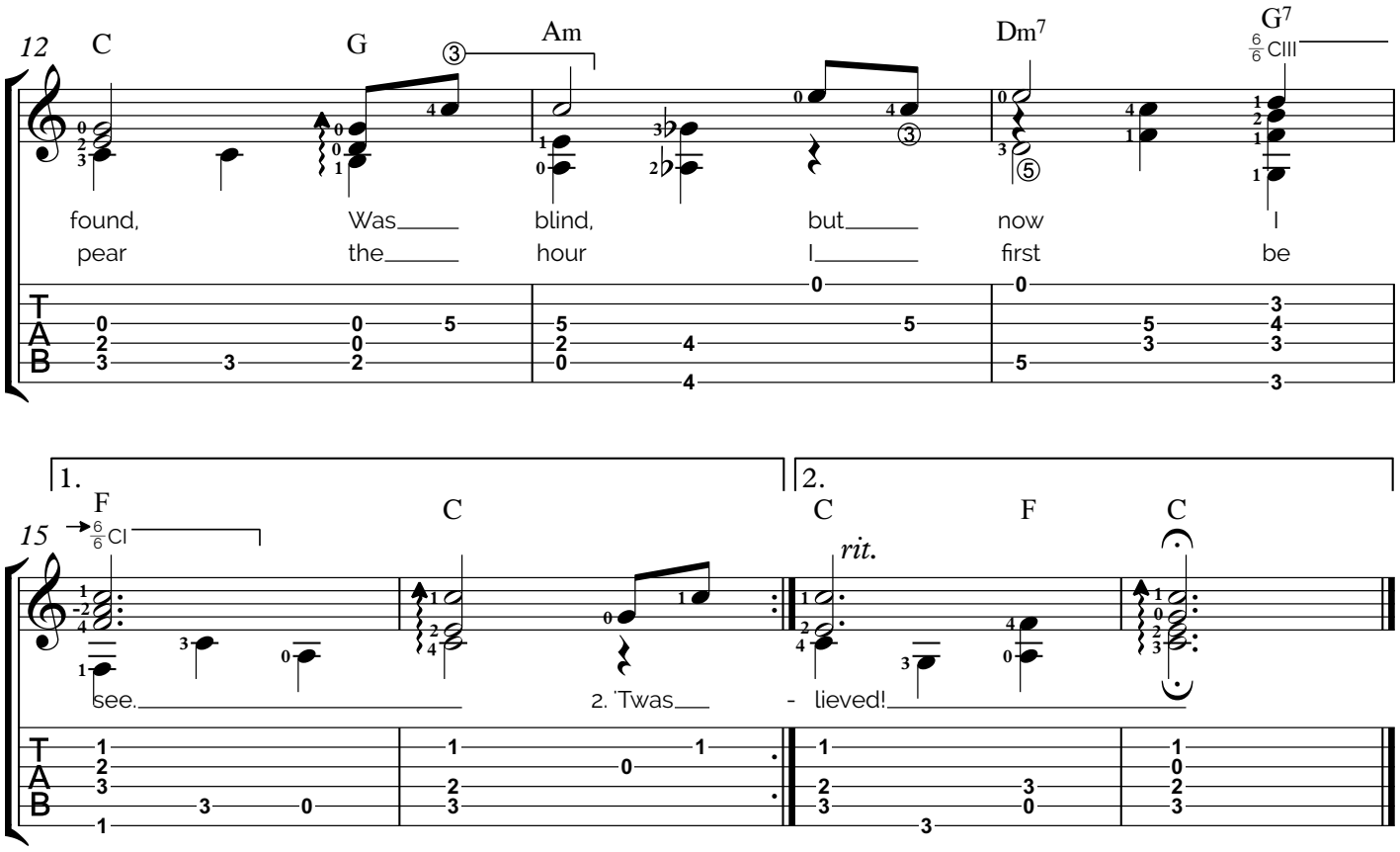
Amazing Grace

Traditional

Adagio



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3. Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4. The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.

6. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.
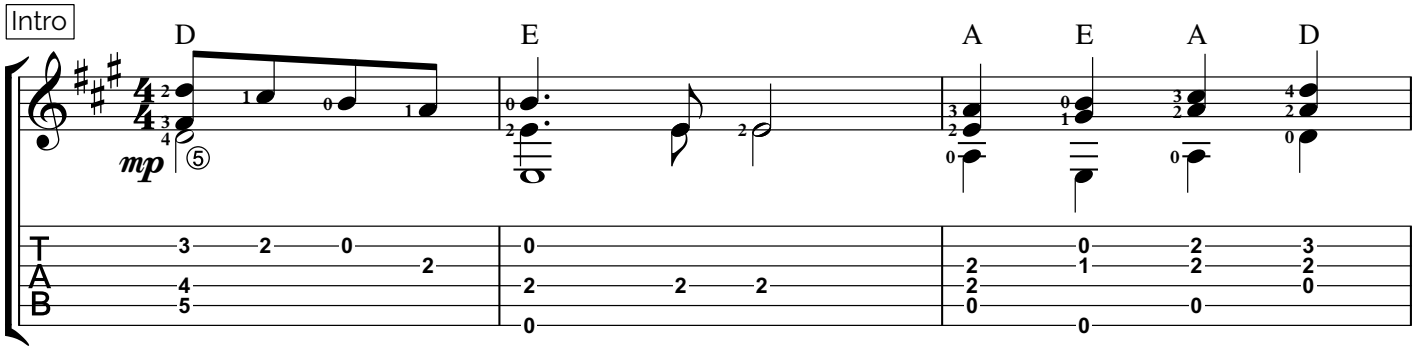
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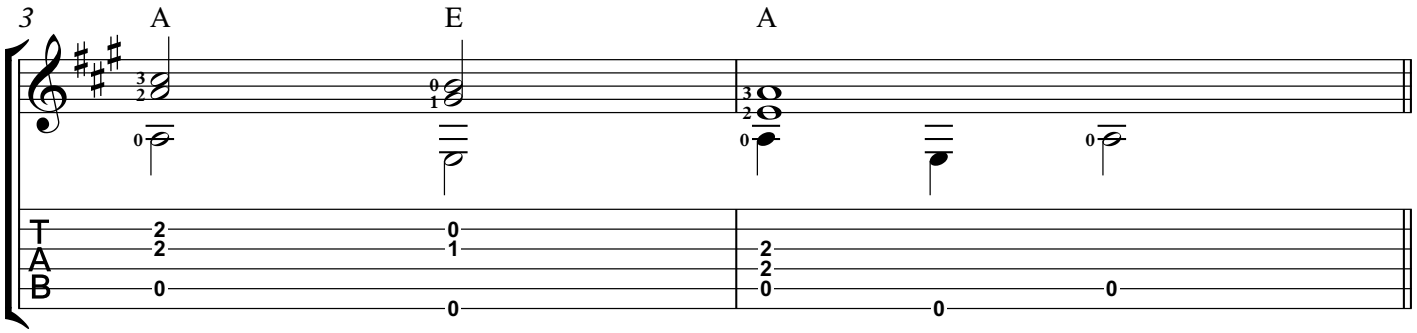
Angels We Have Heard On High

Hymn

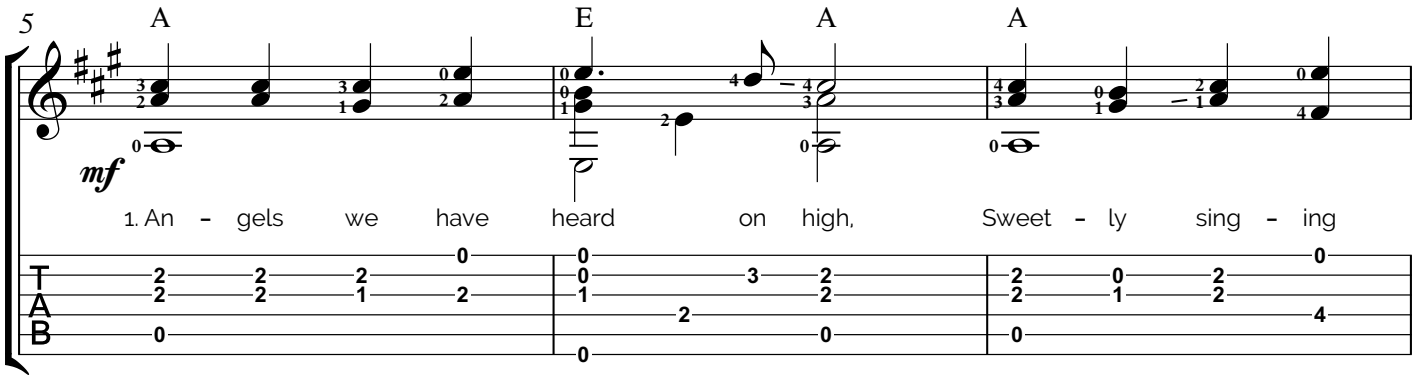
Andante

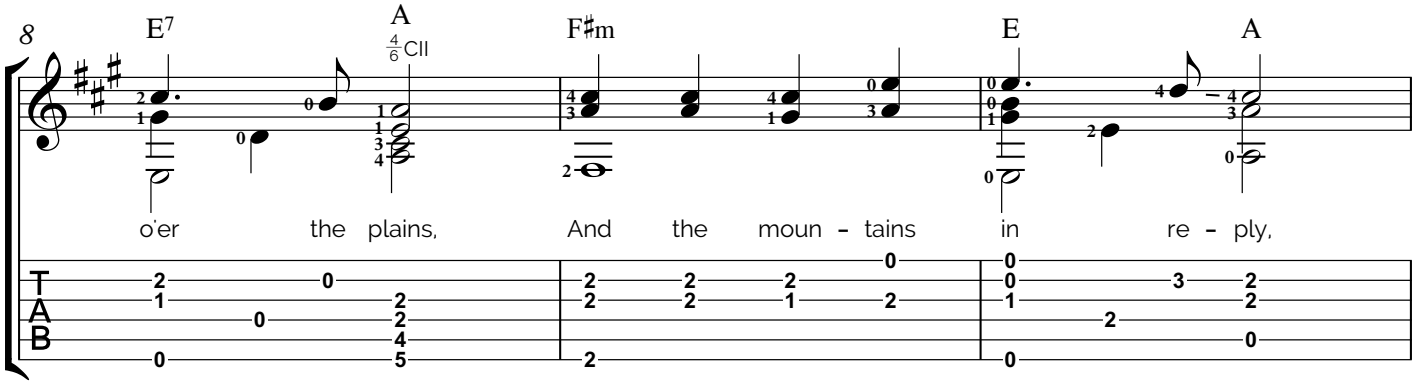
Intro



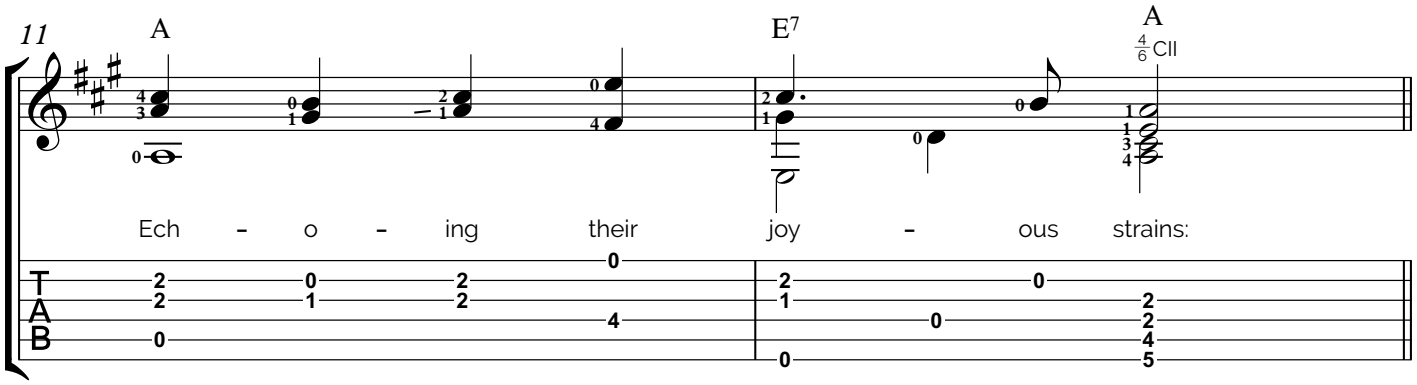


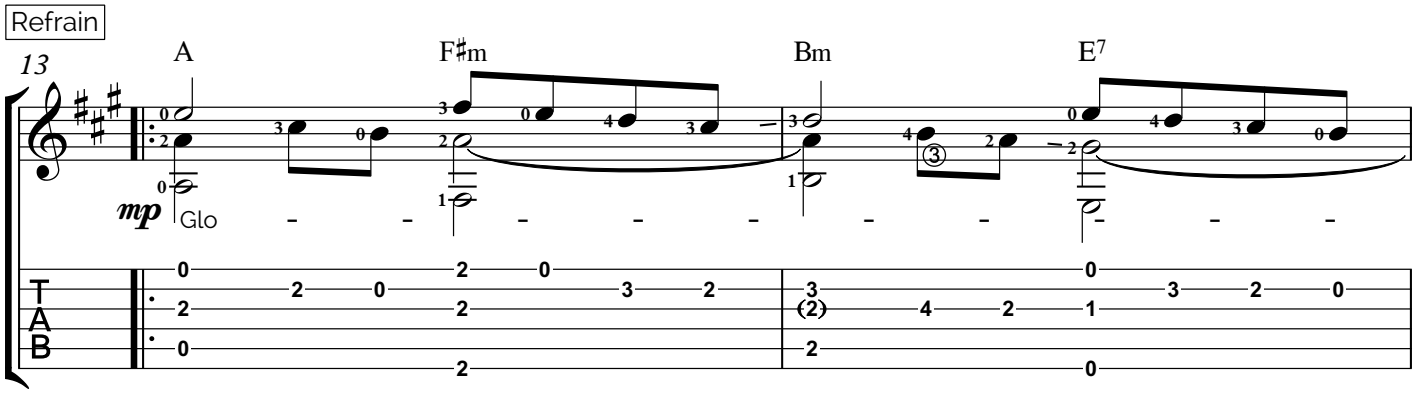
Verse

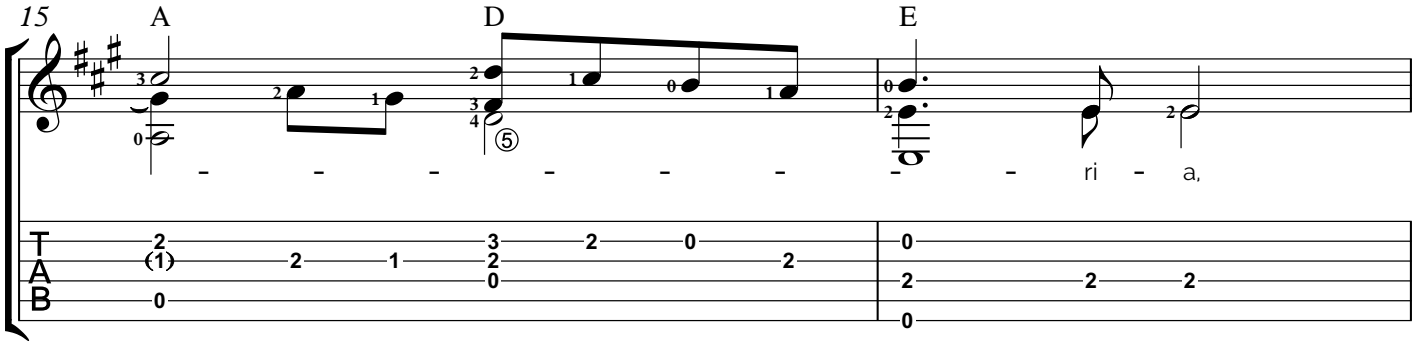


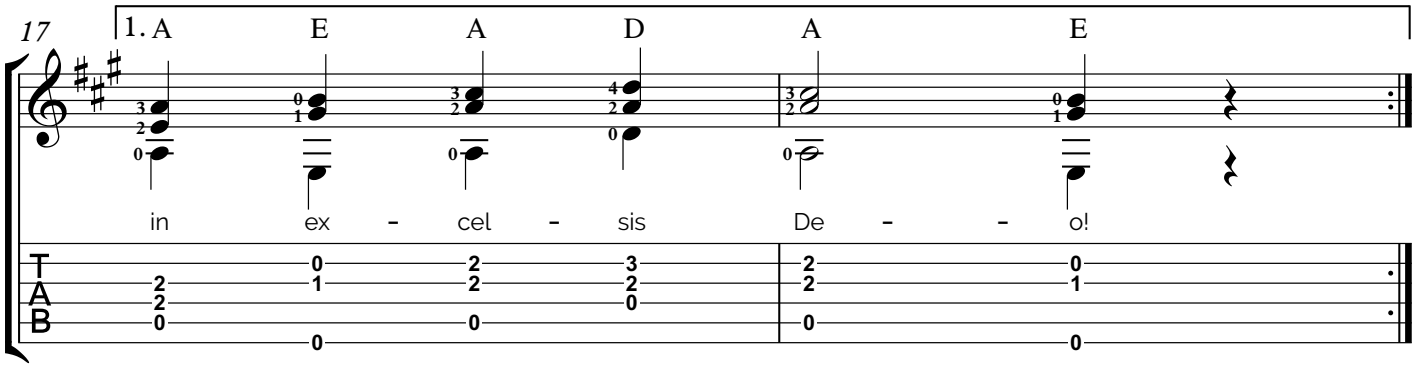


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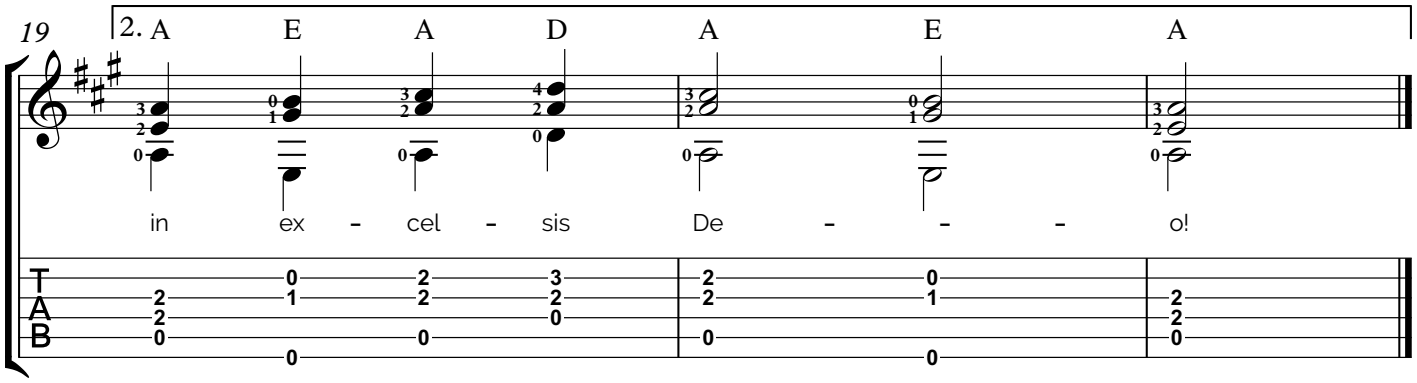








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2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the new-born King.

Refrain

4. See Him in a manger laid,
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
sing with us our Savior's birth.
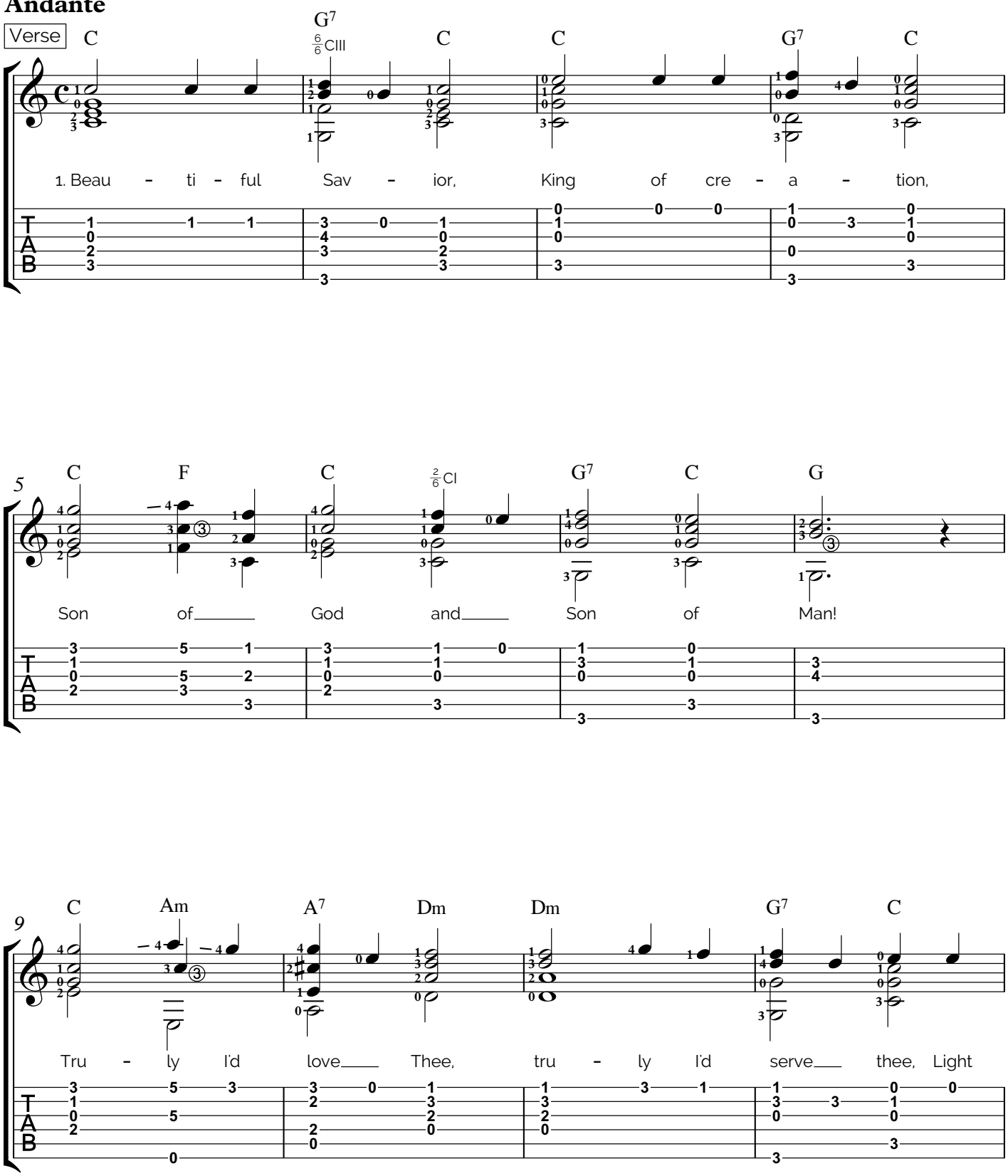
Refrain

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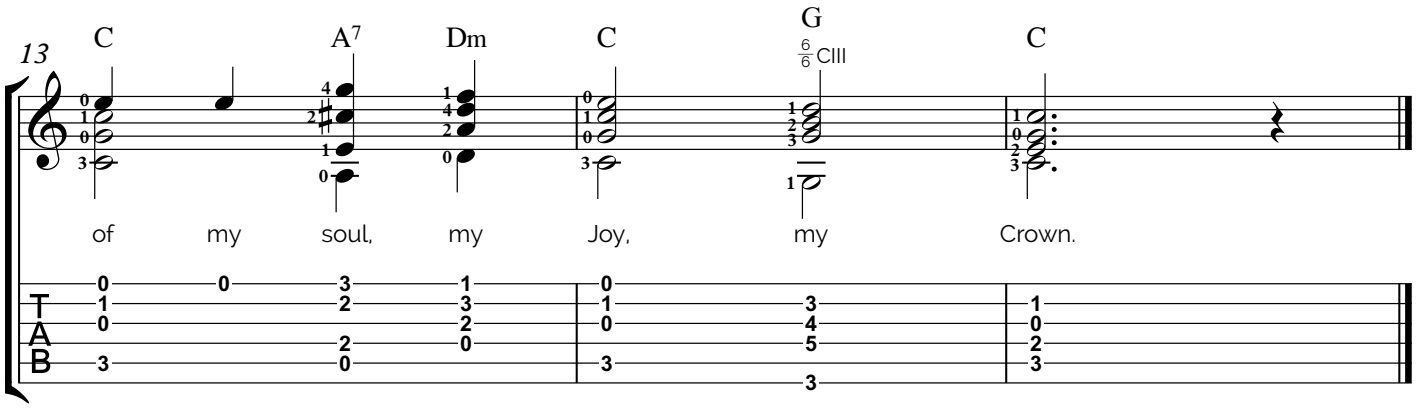
Beautiful Saviour

Traditional

Andante



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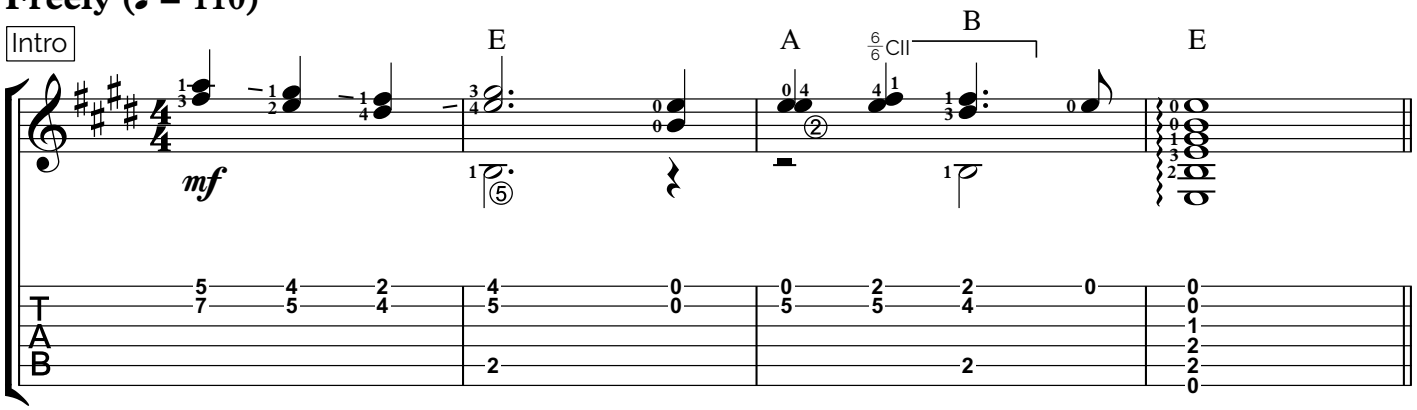
2. Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
   Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
   Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
   He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.
3. Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
   Bright the sparkling stars on high;
   Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
   Than all the angels in the sky.
4. Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
   Son of God and Son of Man!
   Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
   Now and forevermore be Thine!

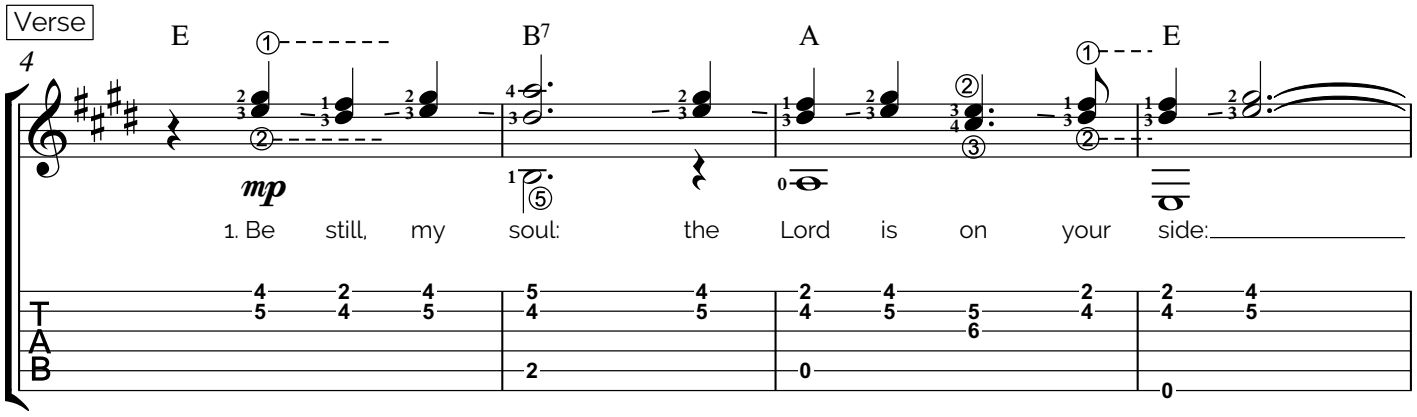
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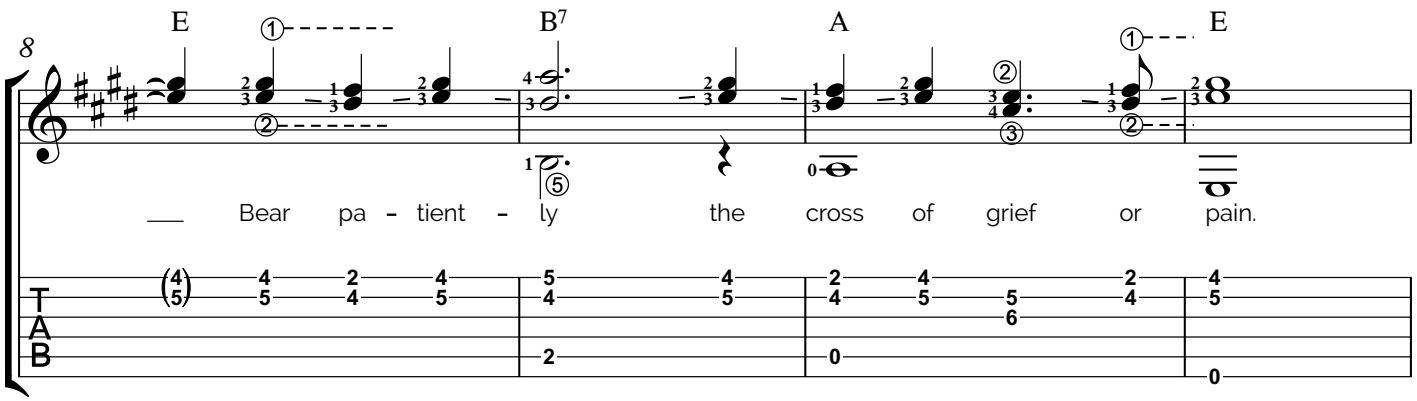
Be Still My Soul

Traditional

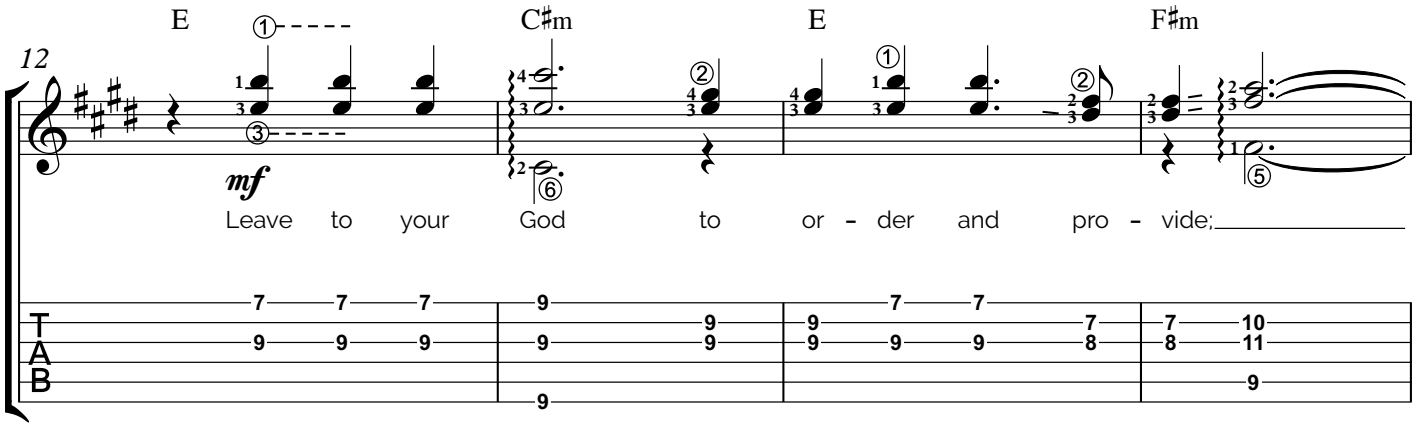
Freely (♩ = 110)

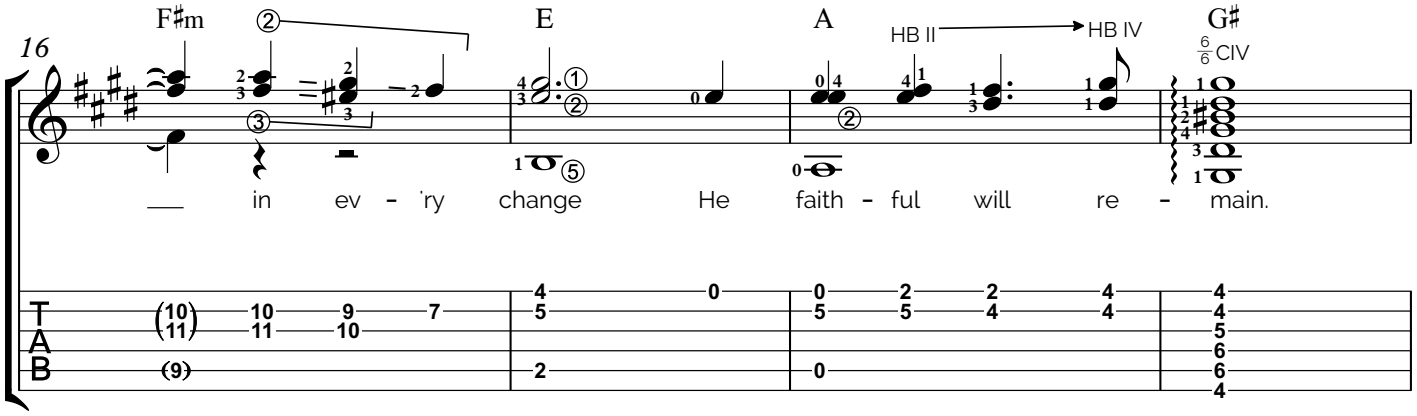


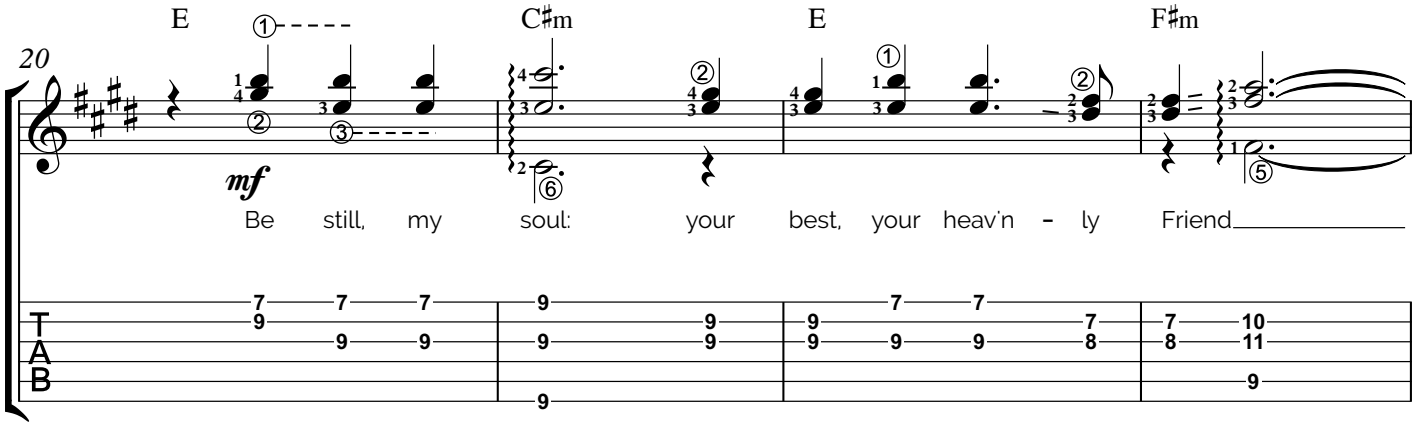




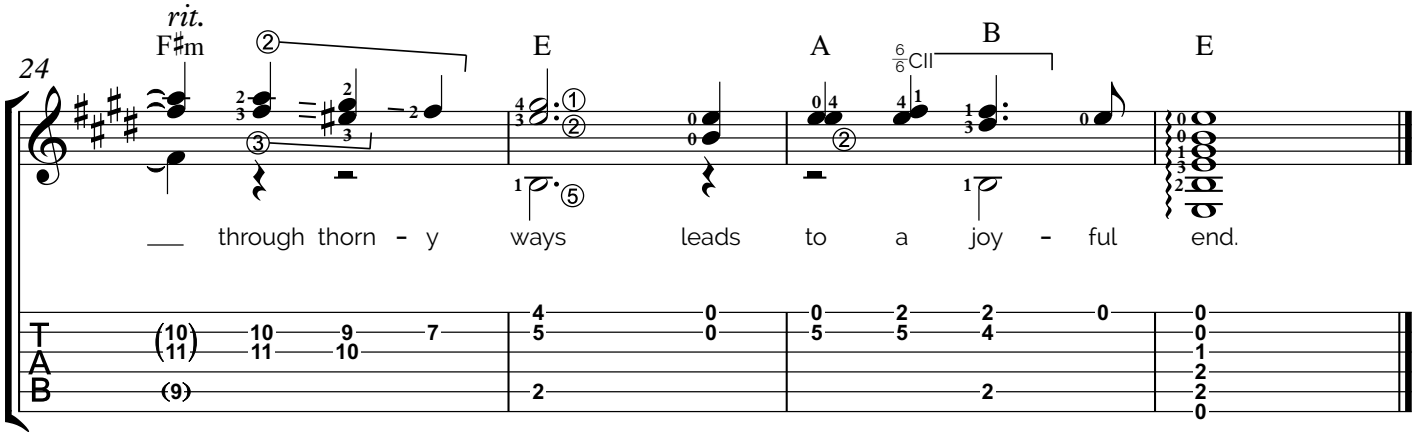
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2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as He has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.

3. Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then shall you better know His love, His heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow and your fears.
Be still, my soul: your Jesus can repay
from His own fullness all He takes away.
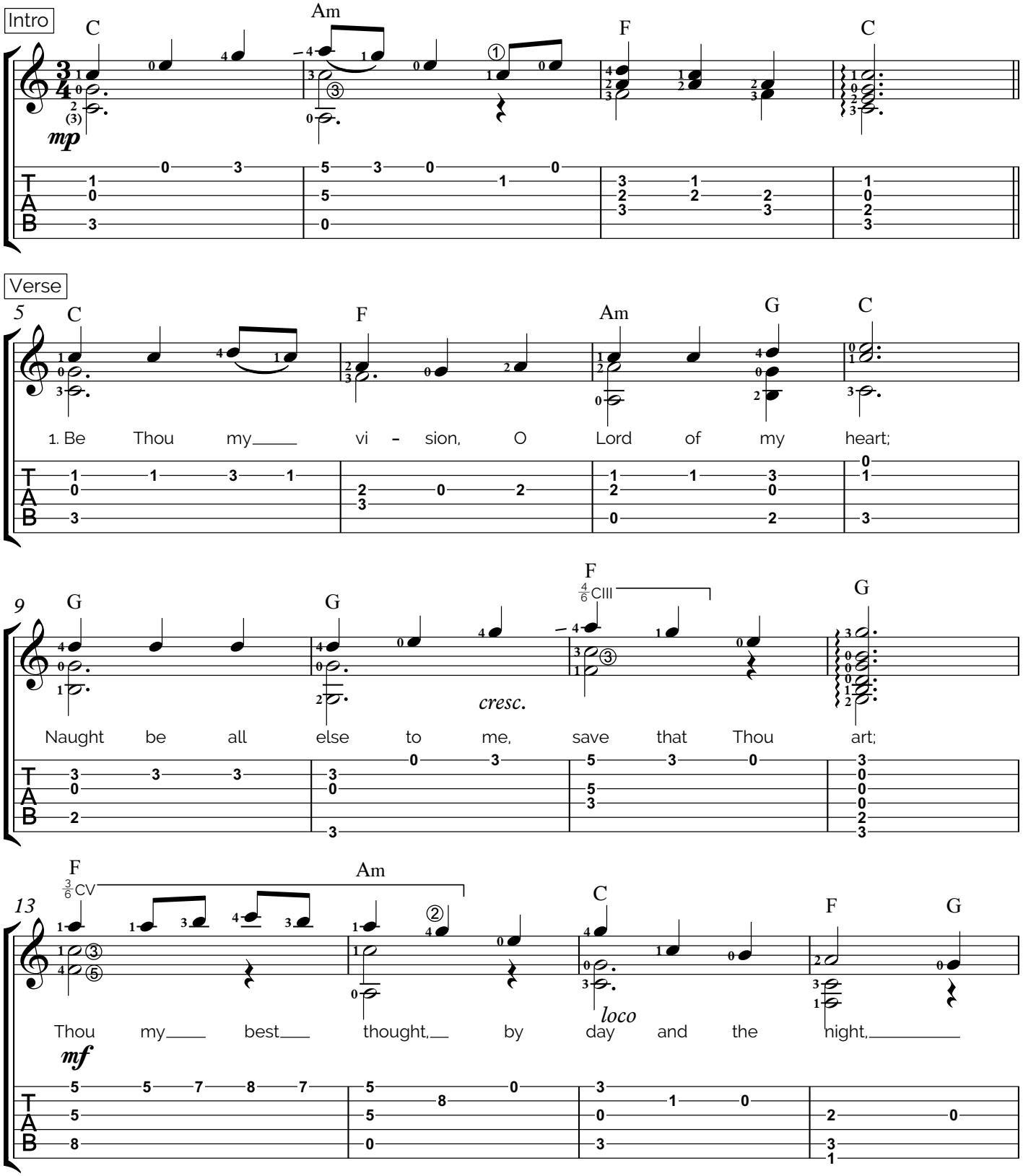
4. Be still, my soul: the hour is hast'ning on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

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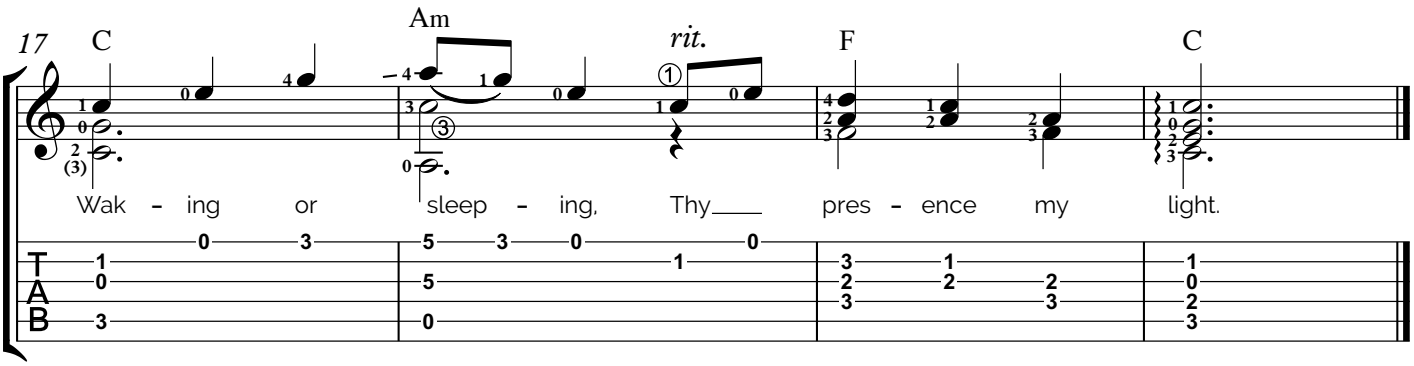
Be Thou My Vision

Hymn

Andante



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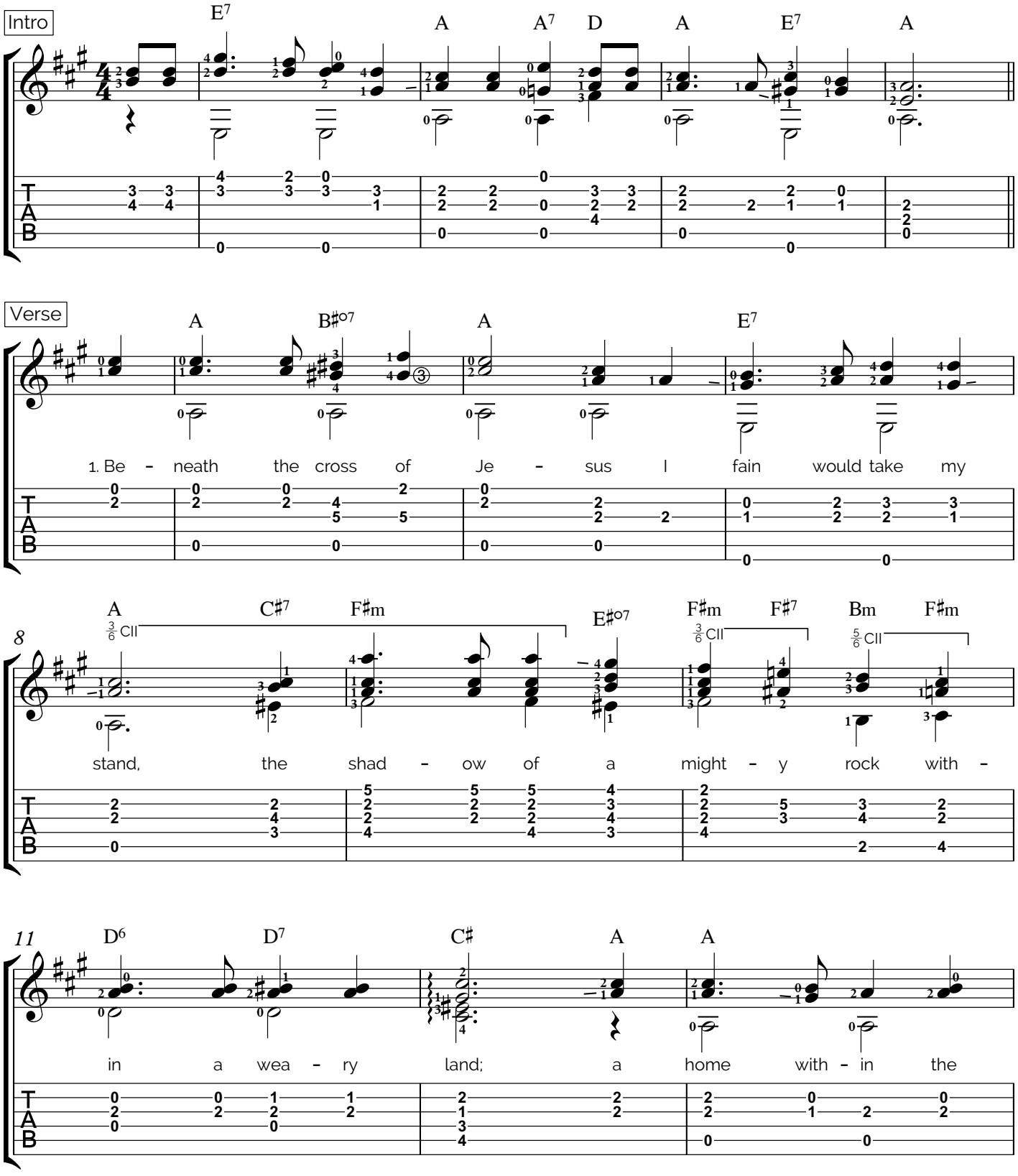


2. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word
   I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
   Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
   Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise
   Thou mine inheritance, now and always
   Thou and Thou only first in my heart
   High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art
4. High King of heaven, my victory won
   May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
   Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
   Still be Thou my vision, O ruler of all

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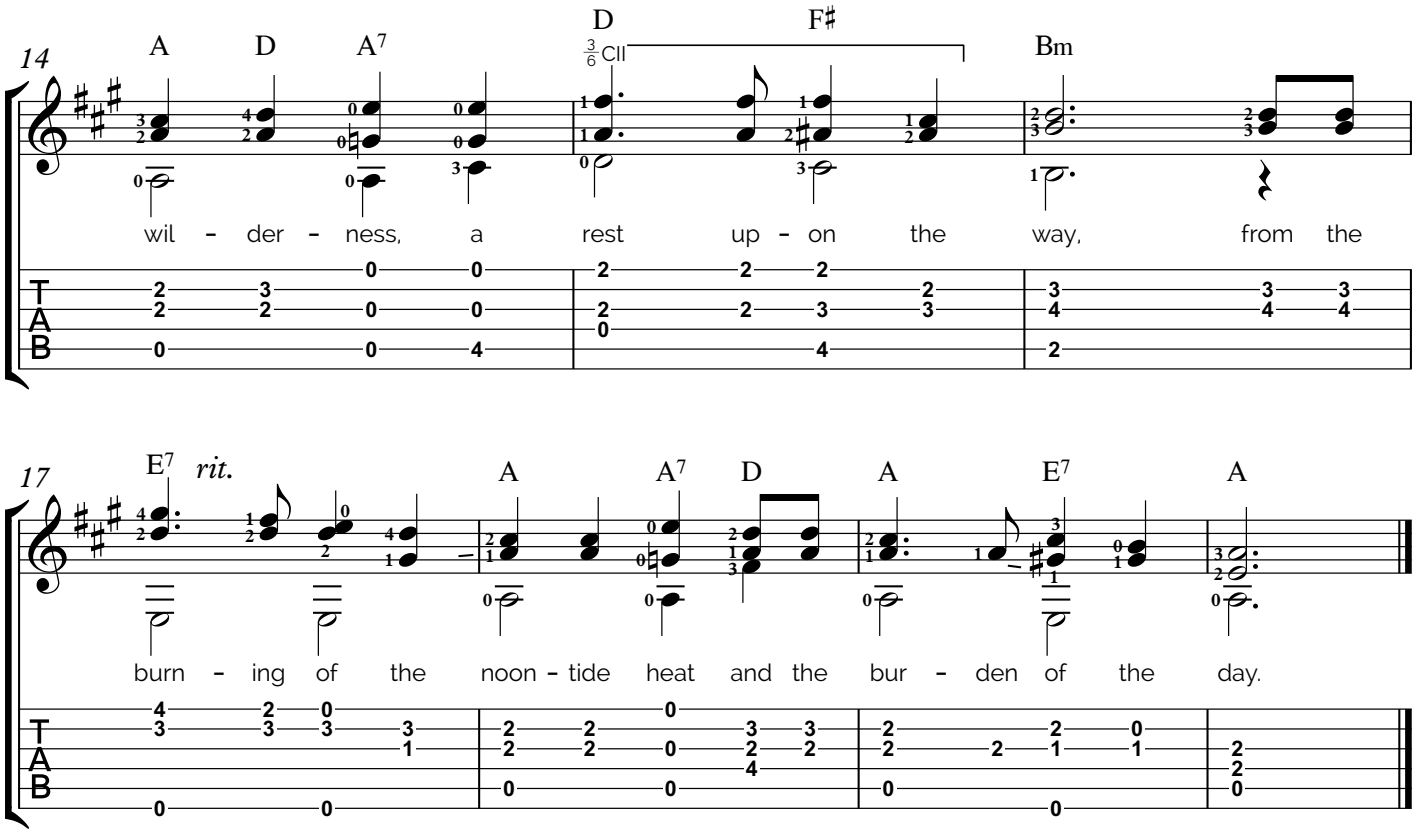
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Traditional

Andante



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2. Upon the cross of Jesus
mine eye at times can see
the very dying form of One
who suffered there for me:
and from my stricken heart with tears
two wonders I confess,
the wonders of redeeming love
and my unworthiness.
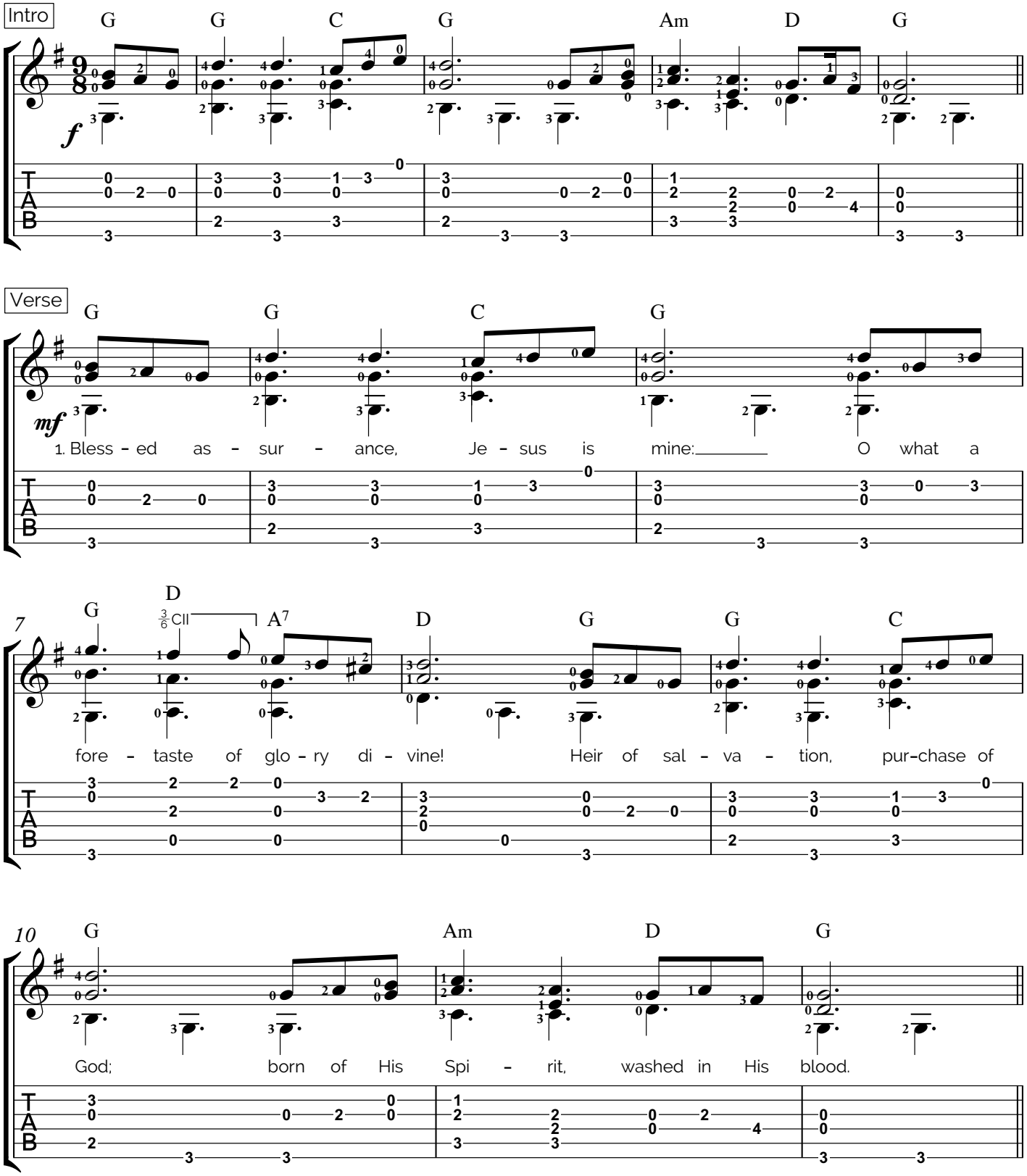
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow
for my abiding place:
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss;
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all the cross.

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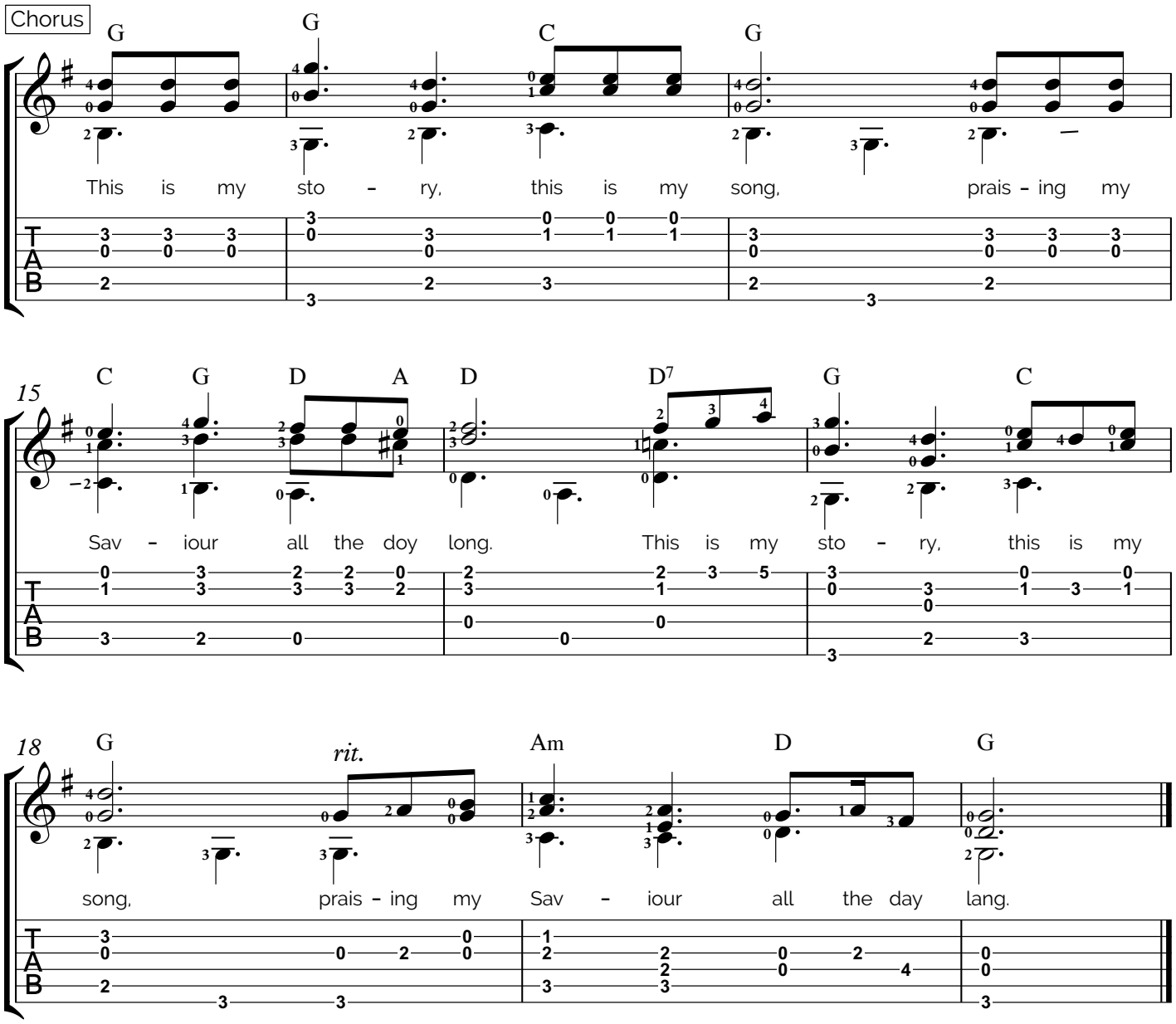
Blessed Assurance

Music by Phoebe Knapp
Text by Fanny Crosby

Gospel (♩. = 40)



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2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Chorus

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.
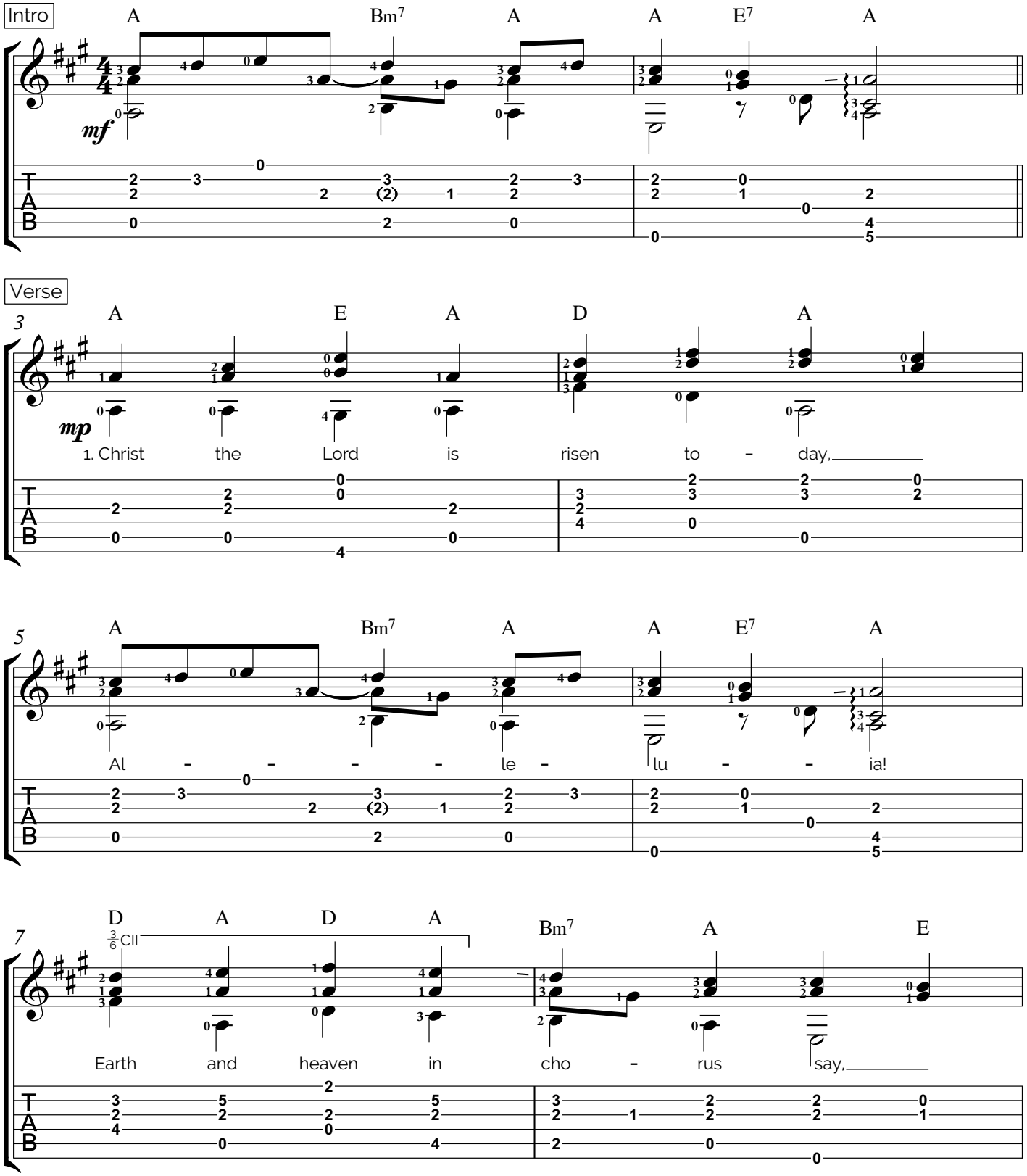
Chorus

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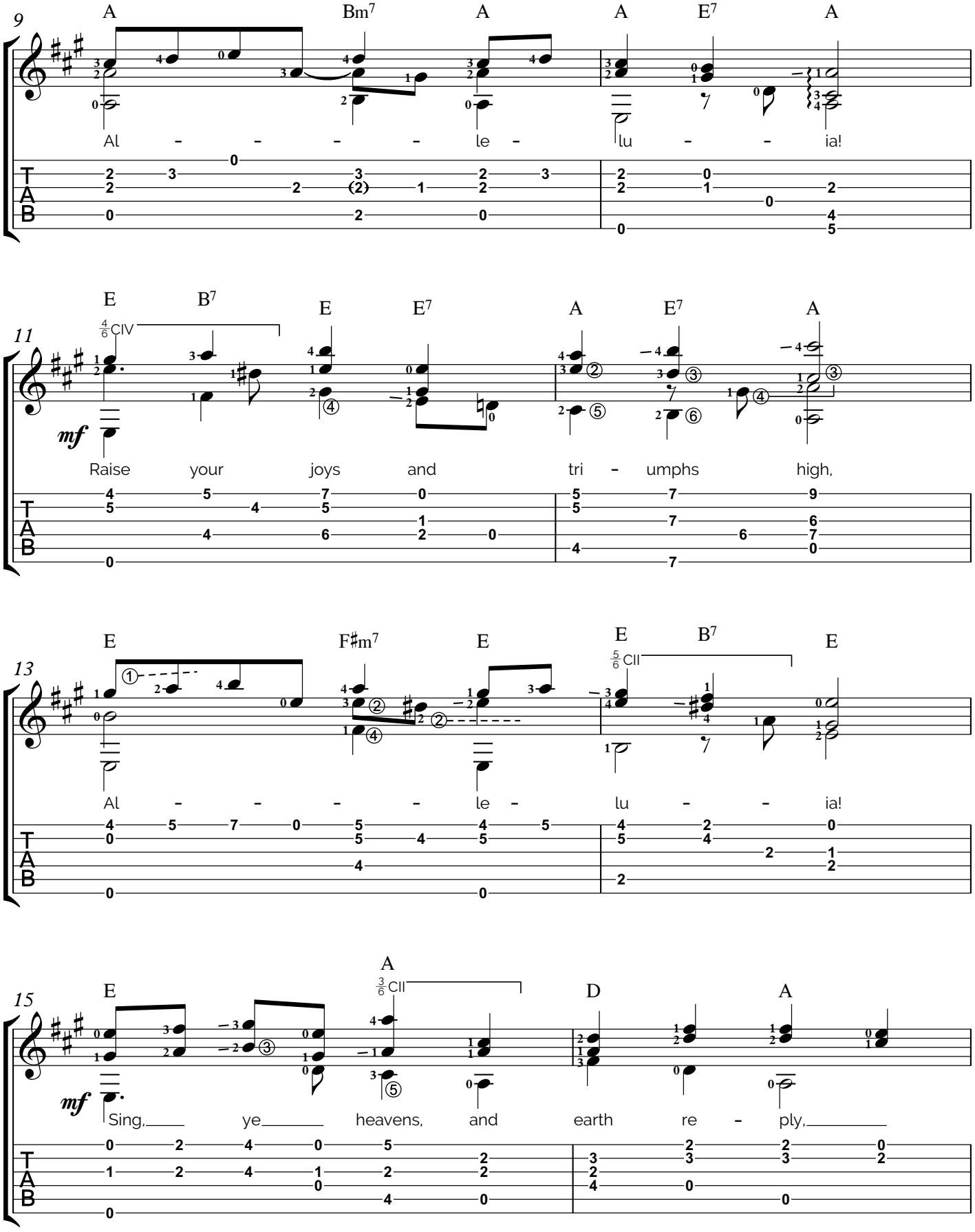
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Traditional

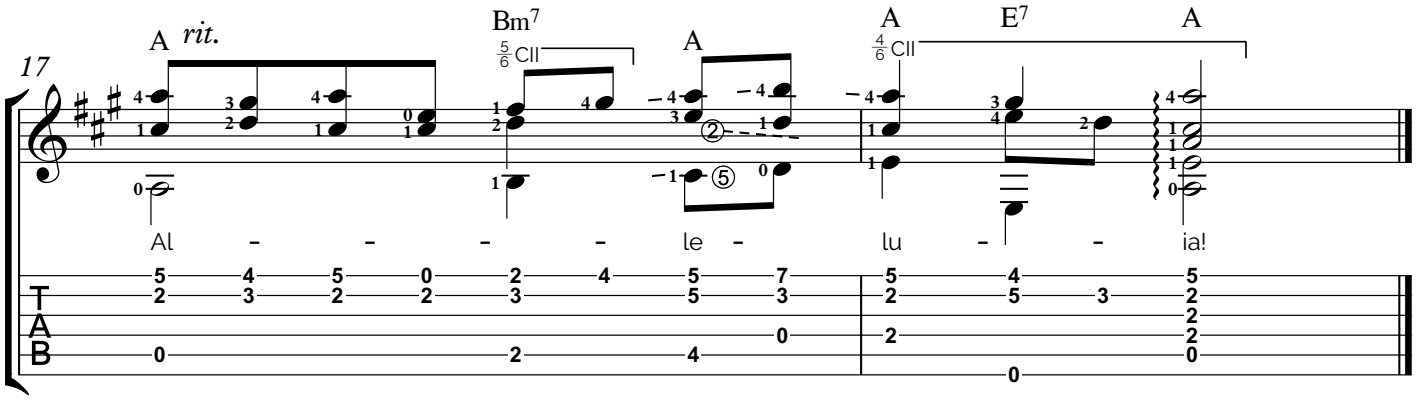
Andante



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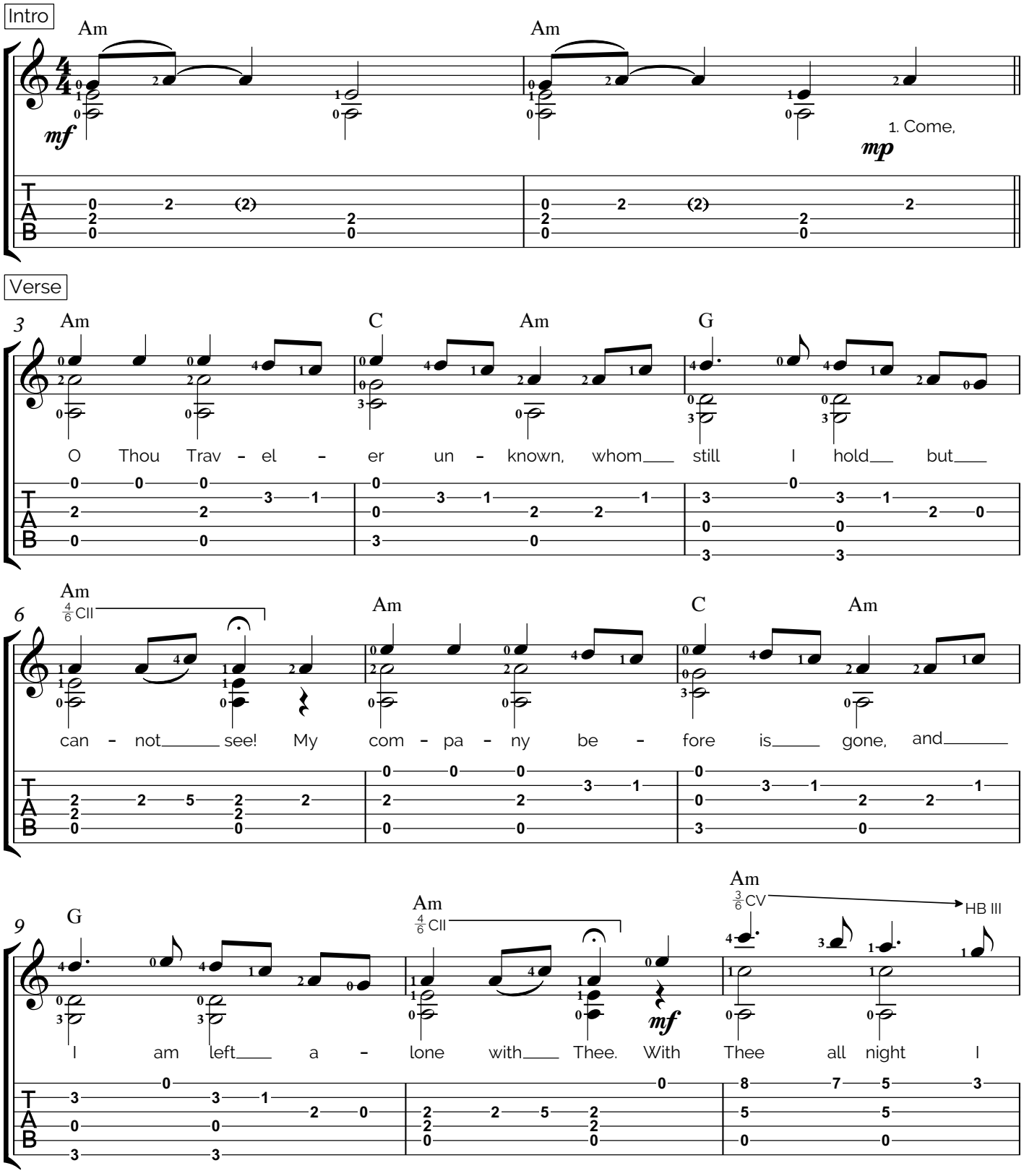


2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
   Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
   Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
   Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!
3. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
   Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
   Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
   Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
   Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
   Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
   Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
   Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!
   Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
   Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!
   Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
   Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!
   Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

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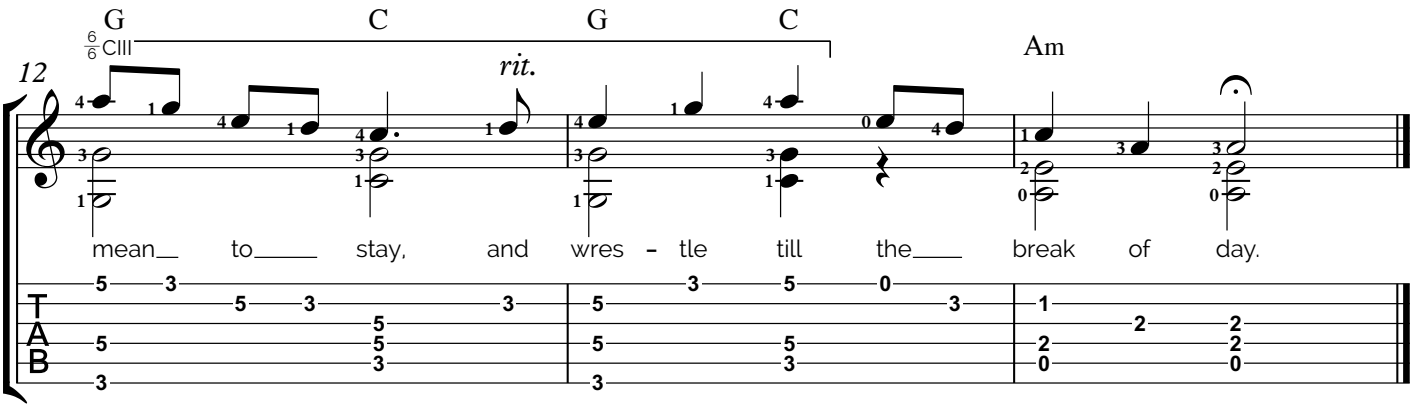
Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown

Traditional

Moderato



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2. Wilt thou not yet to me reveal
thy new, unutterable name?
Tell me, I still beseech thee, tell,
to know it now resolved I am.
Wrestling, I will not let thee go
till I thy name, thy nature know.

3. My strength is gone, my nature dies,
I sink beneath thy weighty hand,
faint to revive, and fall to rise.
I fall, and yet by faith I stand;
I stand and will not let thee go
till I thy name, thy nature know.
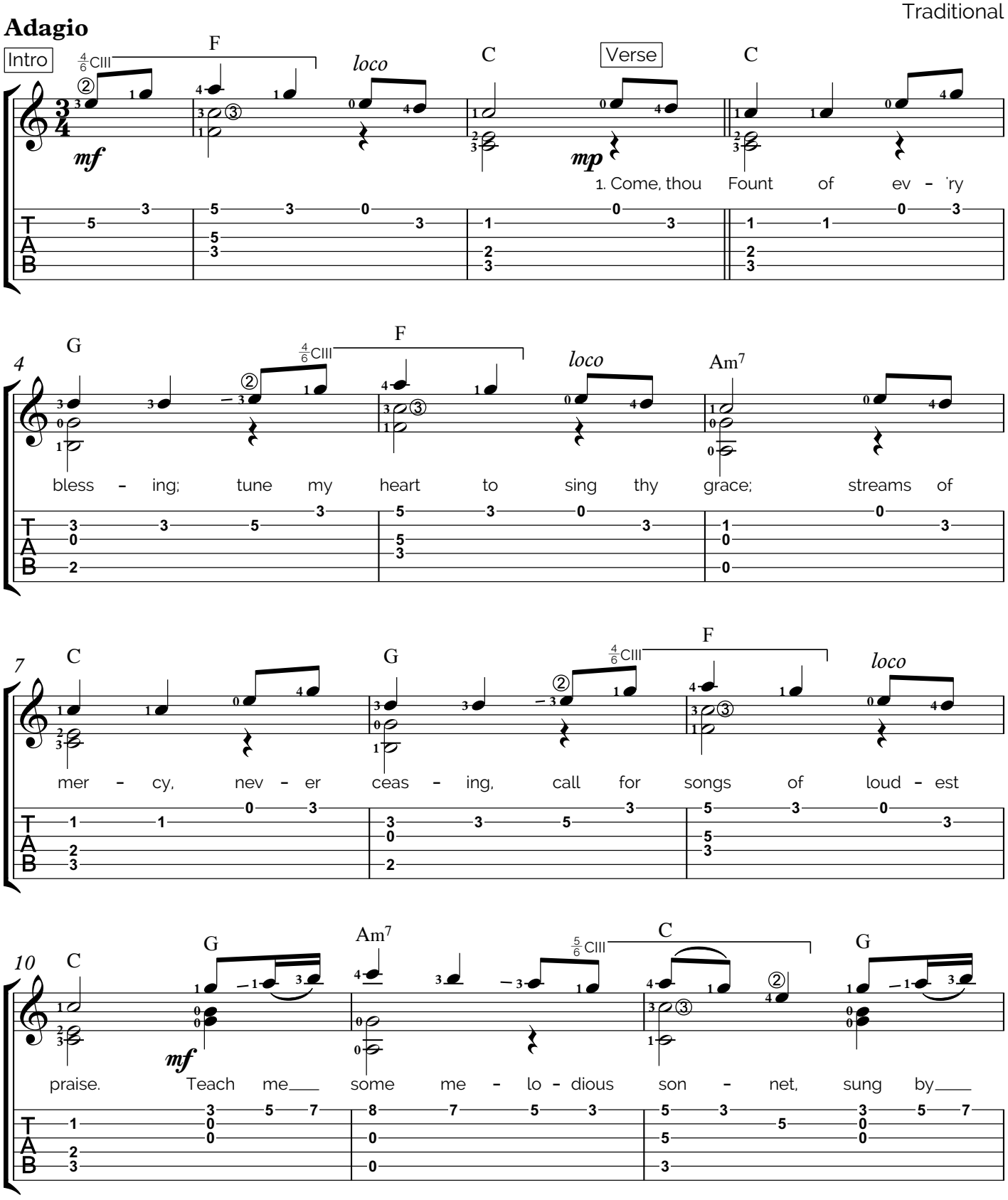
4. Yield to me now—for I am weak,
but confident in self-despair!
Speak to my heart, in blessing speak,
be conquered by my instant prayer.
Speak, or thou never hence shalt move,
and tell me if thy name is Love.

5. 'Tis Love! 'tis Love that wrestled me!
I hear thy whisper in my heart.
The morning breaks, the shadows flee,
pure, universal Love thou art.
To me, to all, thy mercies move—
thy nature and thy name is Love.

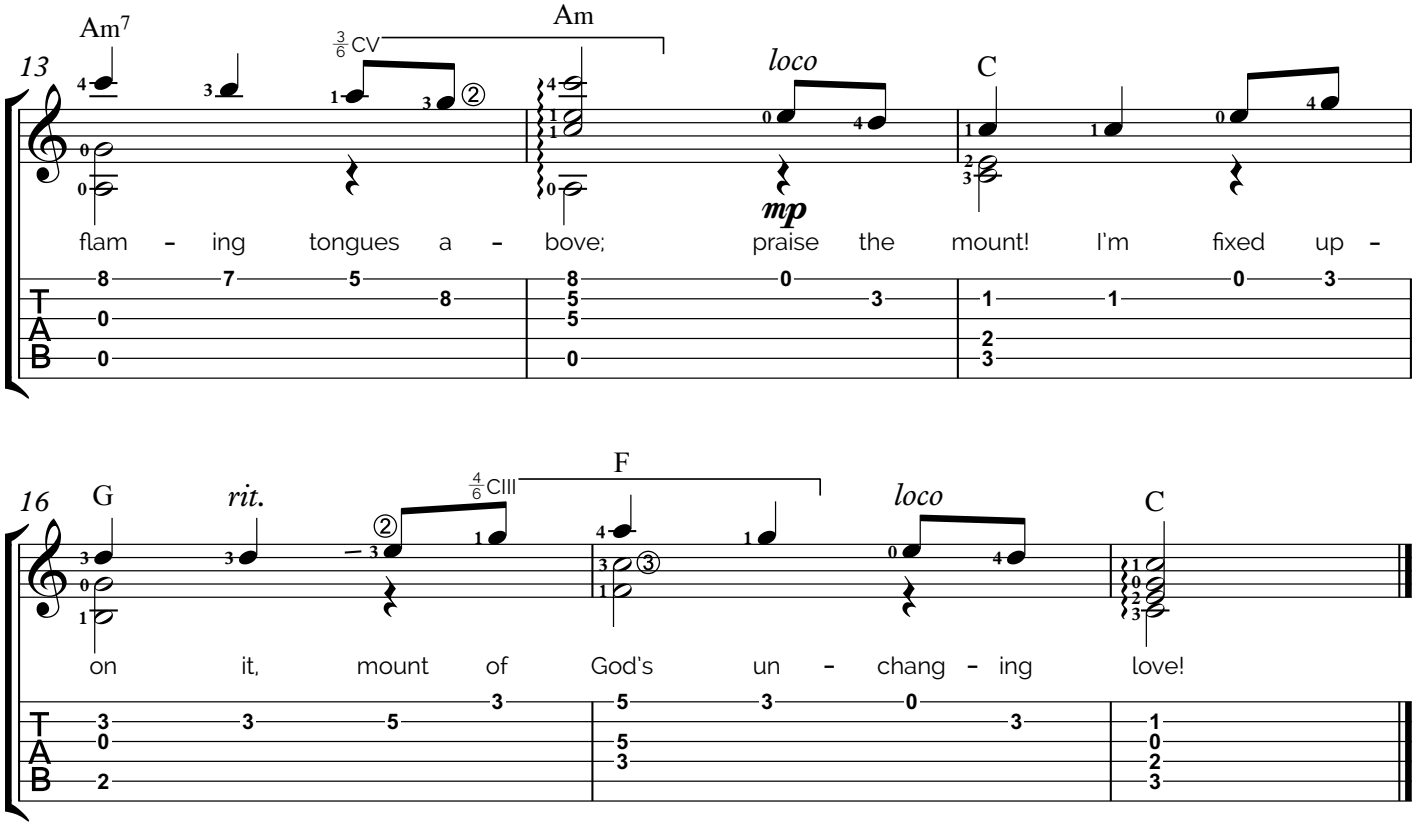
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Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Traditional



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2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

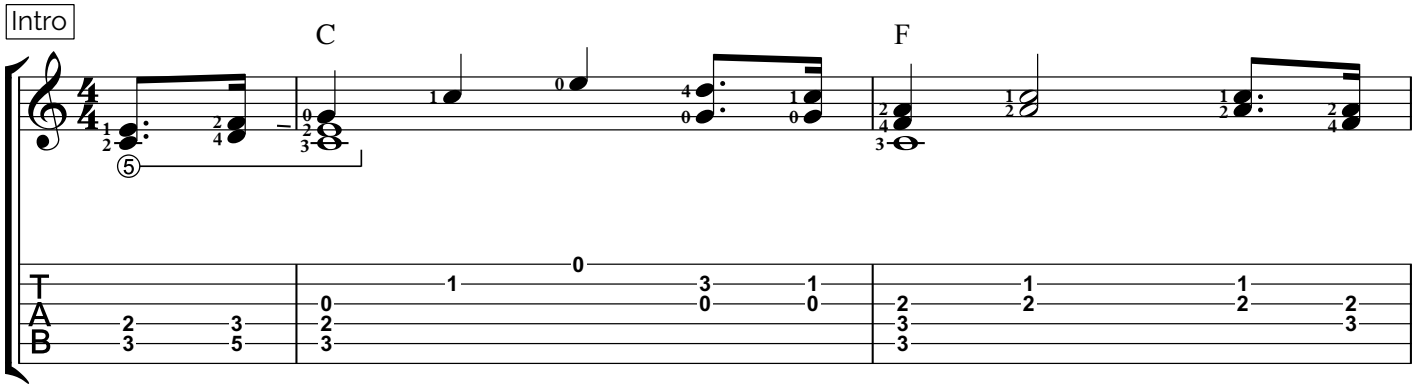
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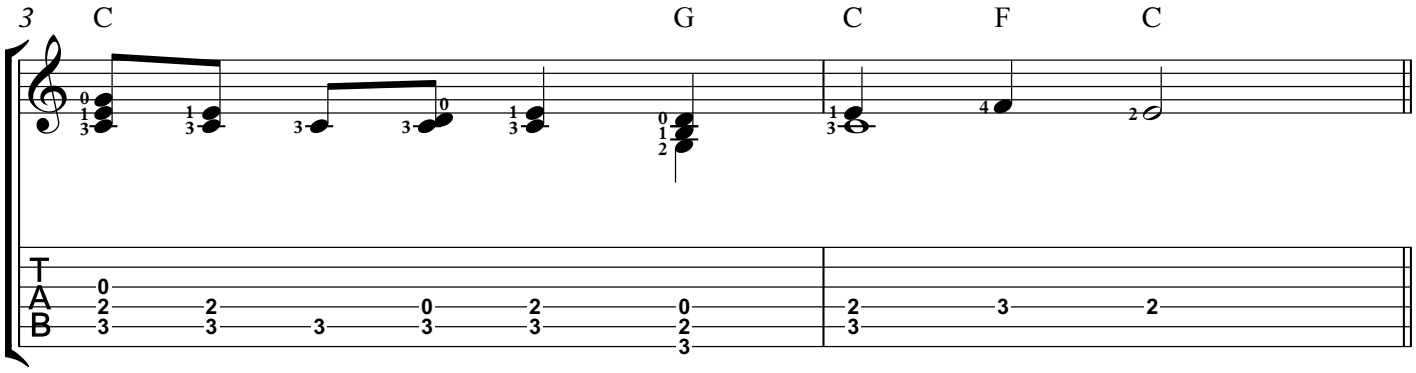
God Be with You till We Meet Again

Traditional

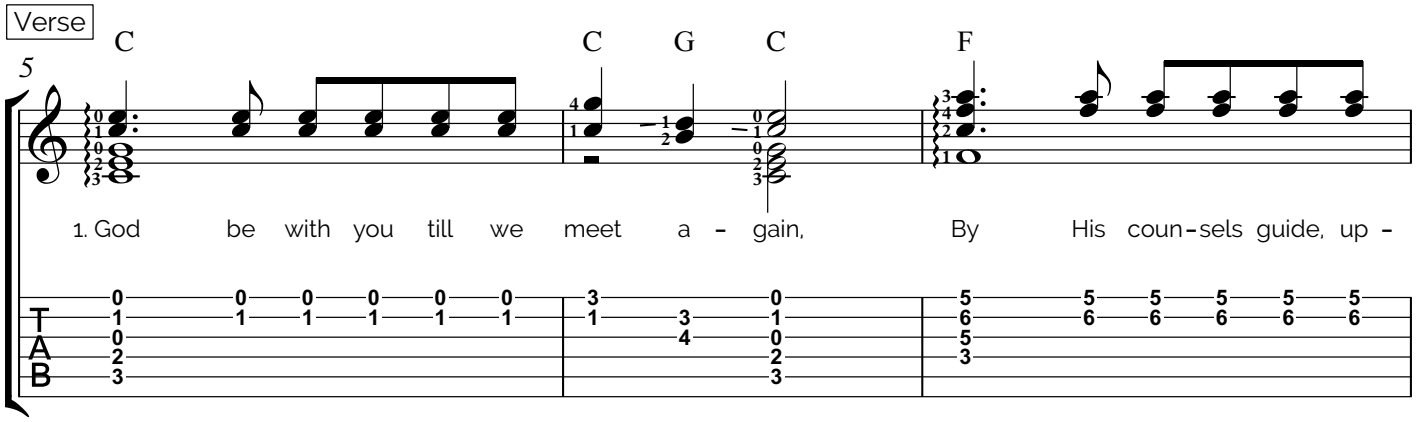
Adagio

Intro

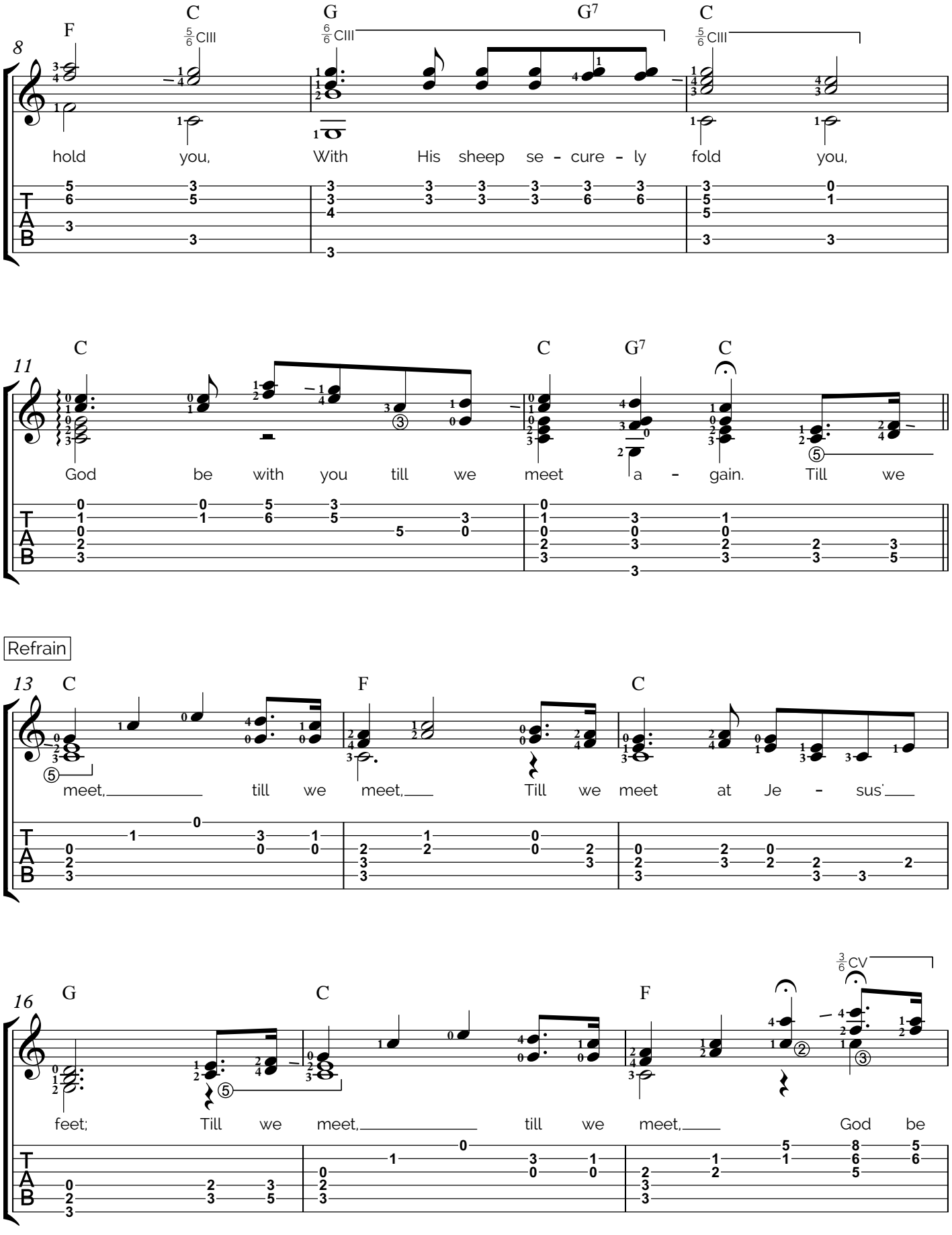




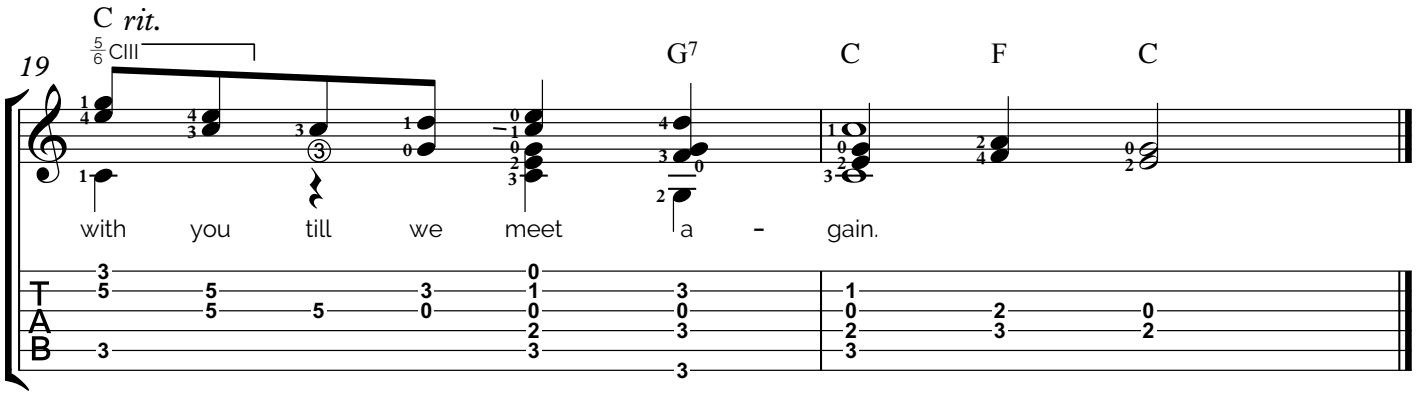
Verse



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2. God be with you till we meet again,
'Neath His wings securely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

3. God be with you till we meet again;
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

4. God be with you till we meet again;
Keep love's banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threat'ning wave before you;
God be with you till we meet again.
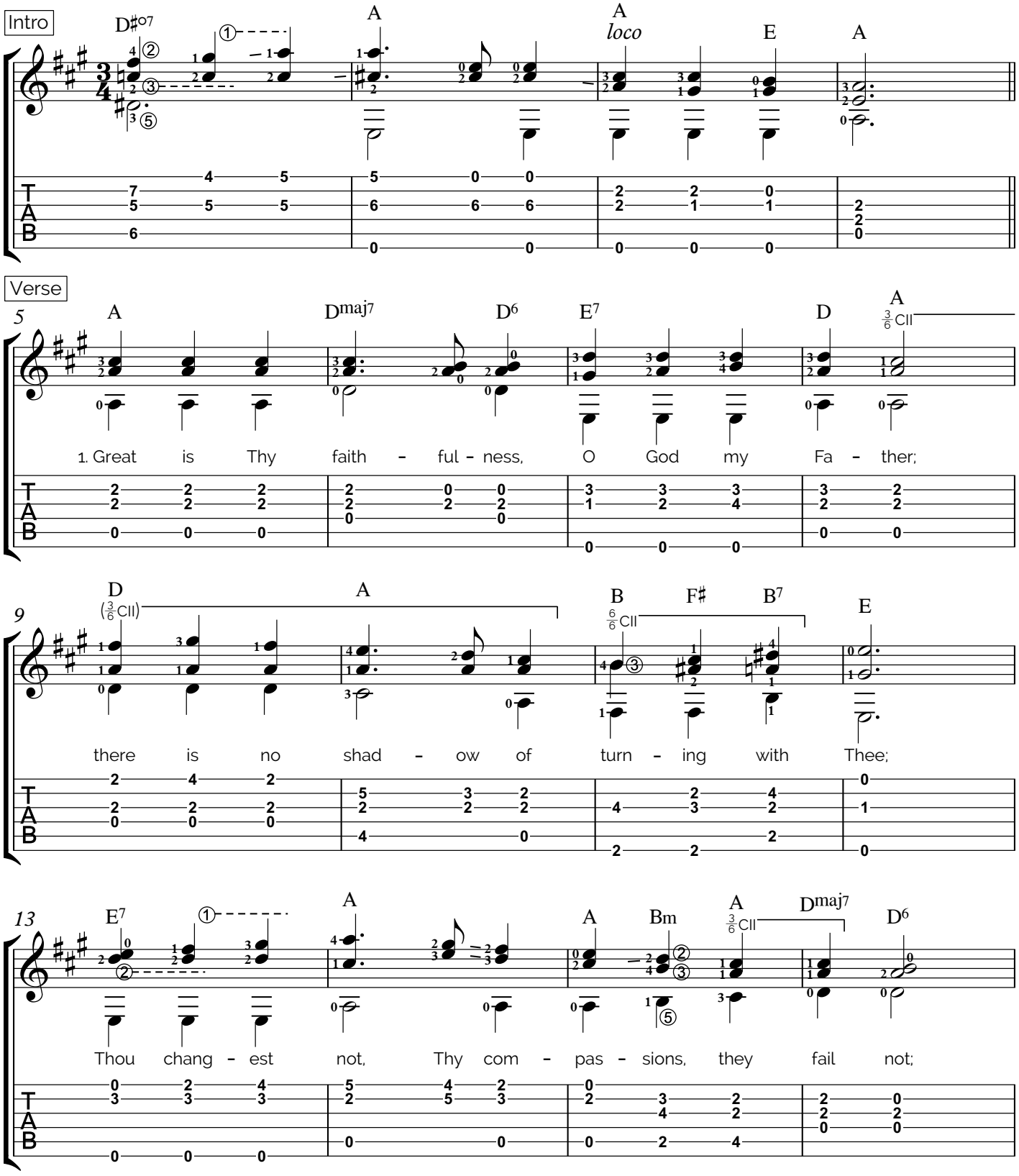
Refrain

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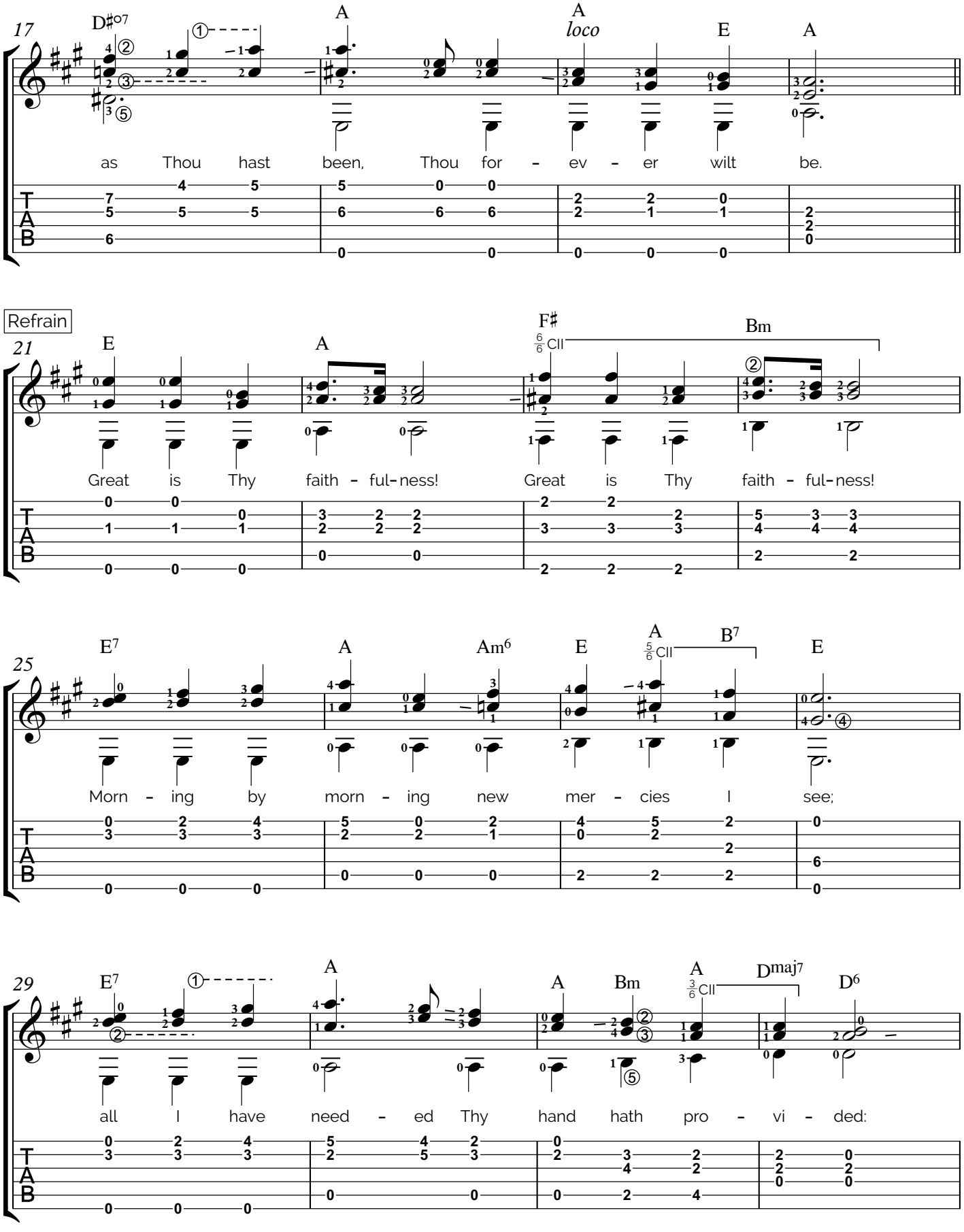
Great is Thy Faithfulness

Traditional

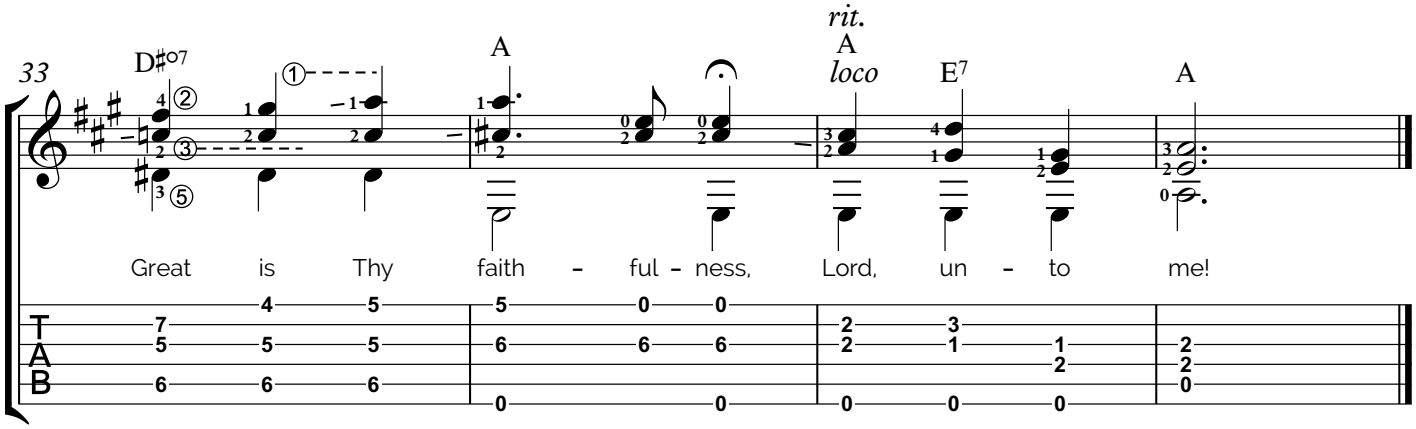
Andante



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2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
   Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
   Join with all nature in manifold witness
   To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

   Refrain
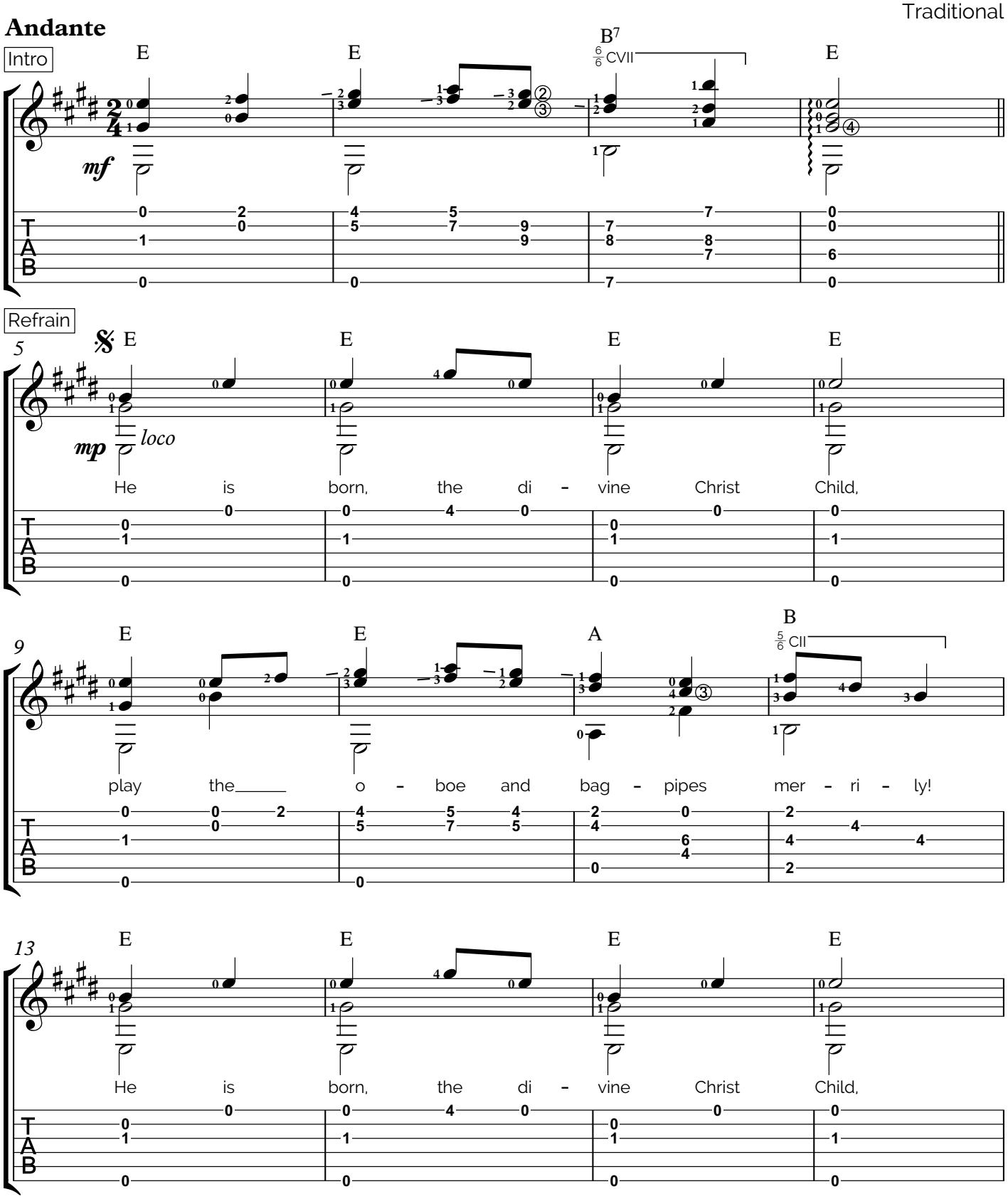
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
   Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
   Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
   Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

   Refrain
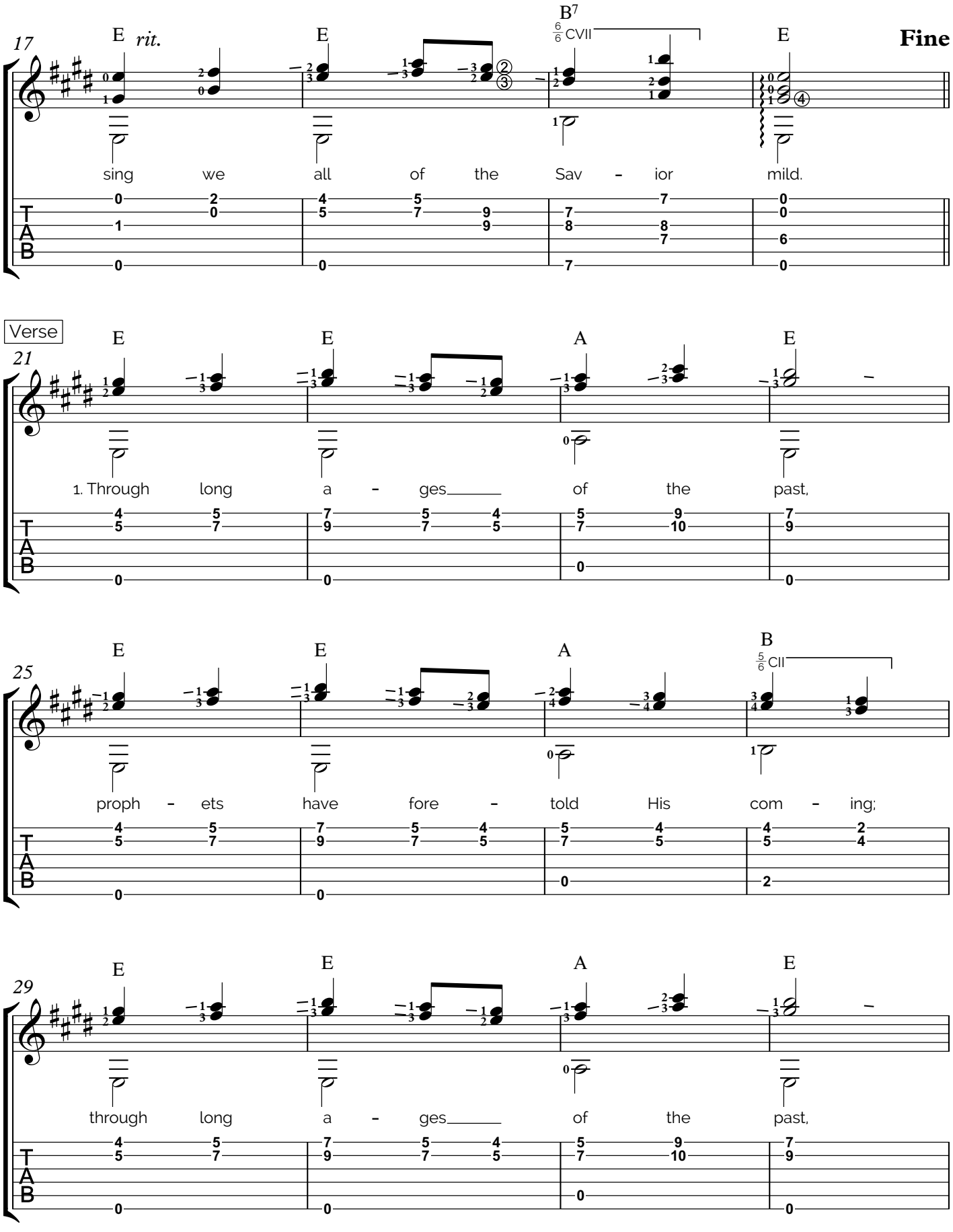
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He is Born, the Divine Christ Child

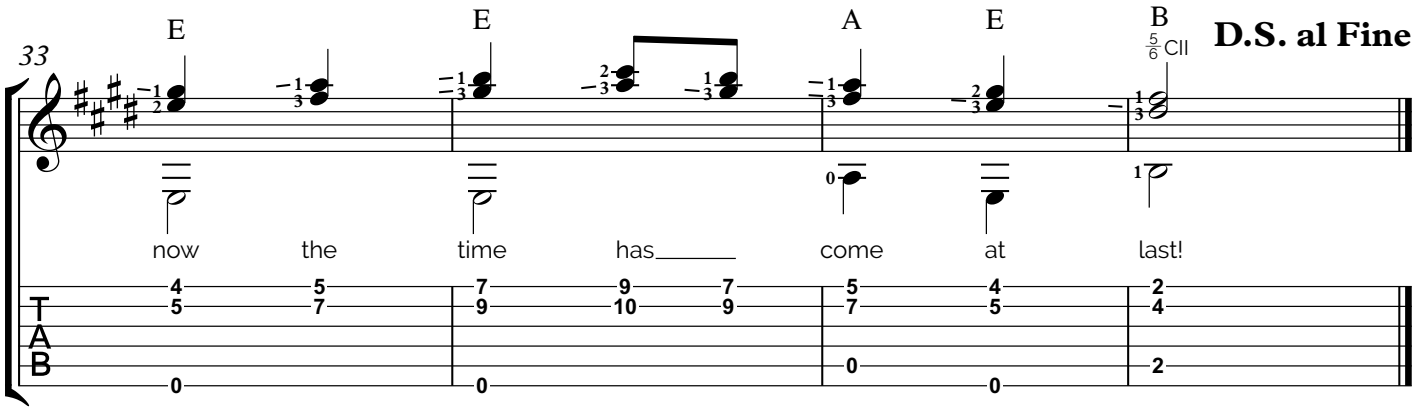
Traditional



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2. O how lovely, O how pure
is this perfect Child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure,
gracious gift to humankind!

Refrain

3. Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a Child among us;
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us Thy heavenly peace.

Refrain

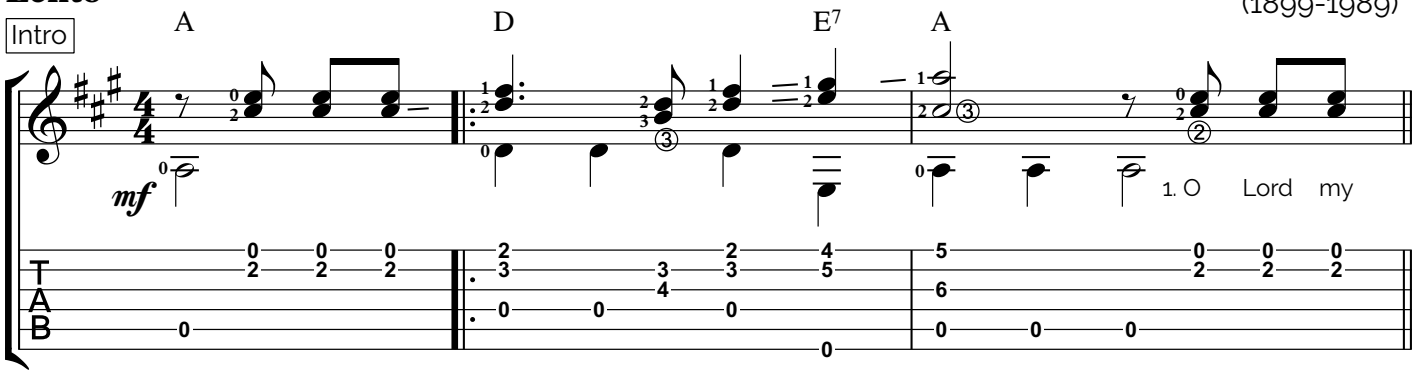
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How Great Thou Art

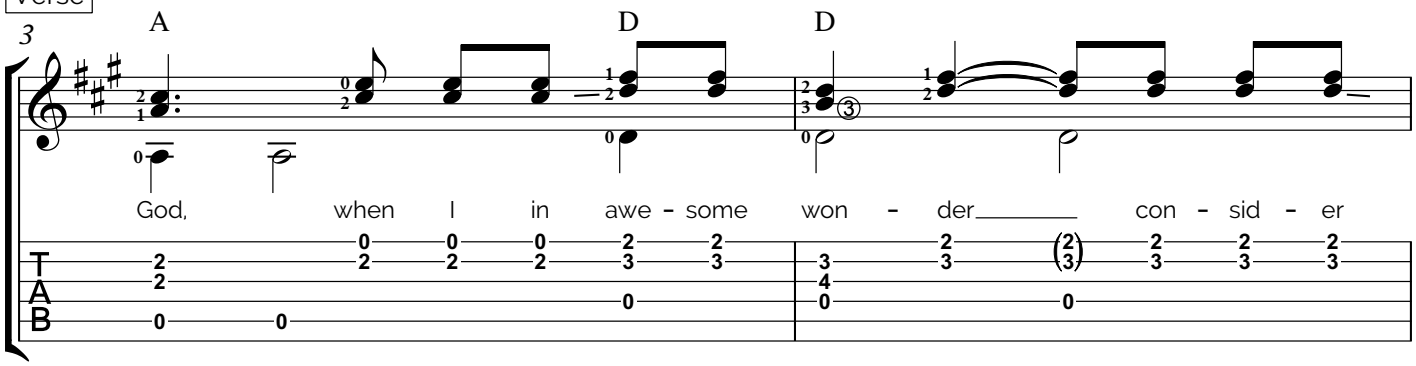
Stuart K. Hine
(1899-1989)

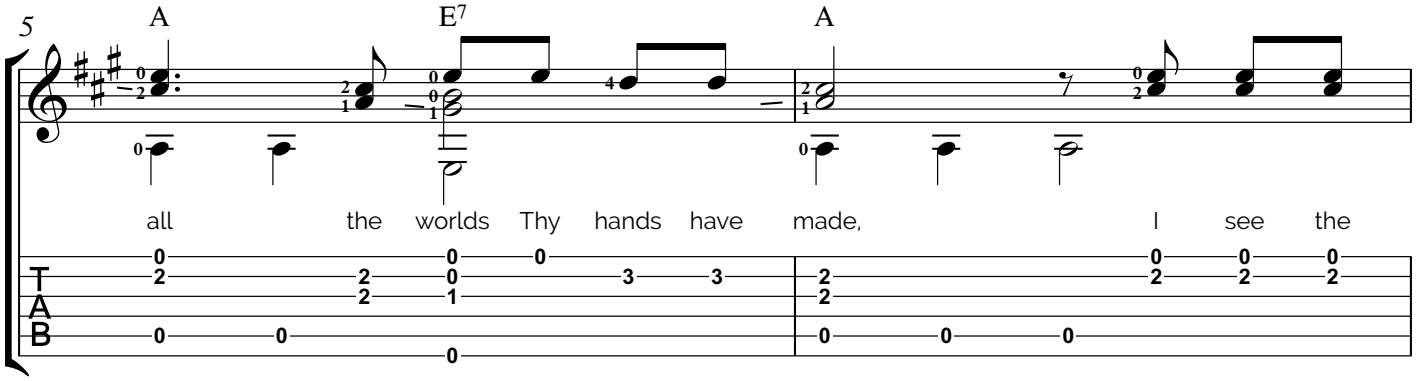
Lento

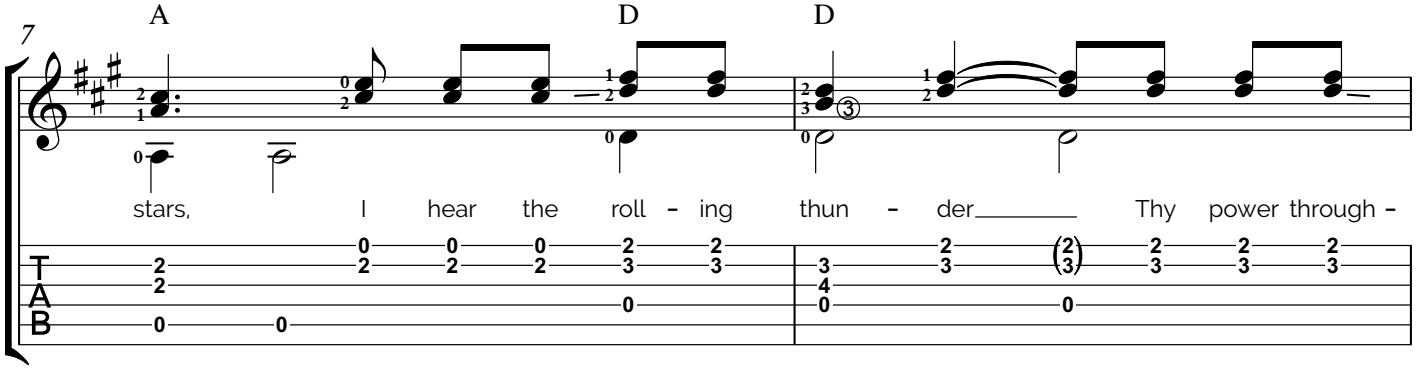
Intro



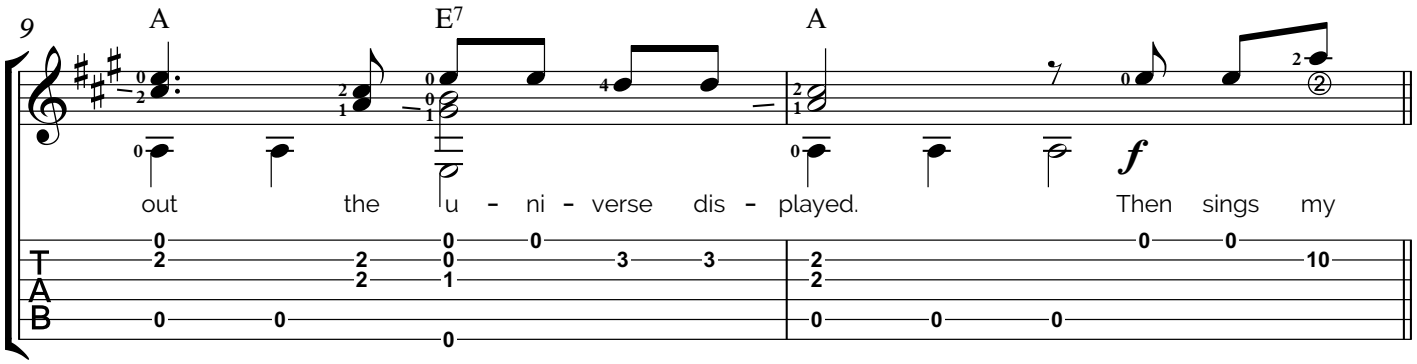
Verse

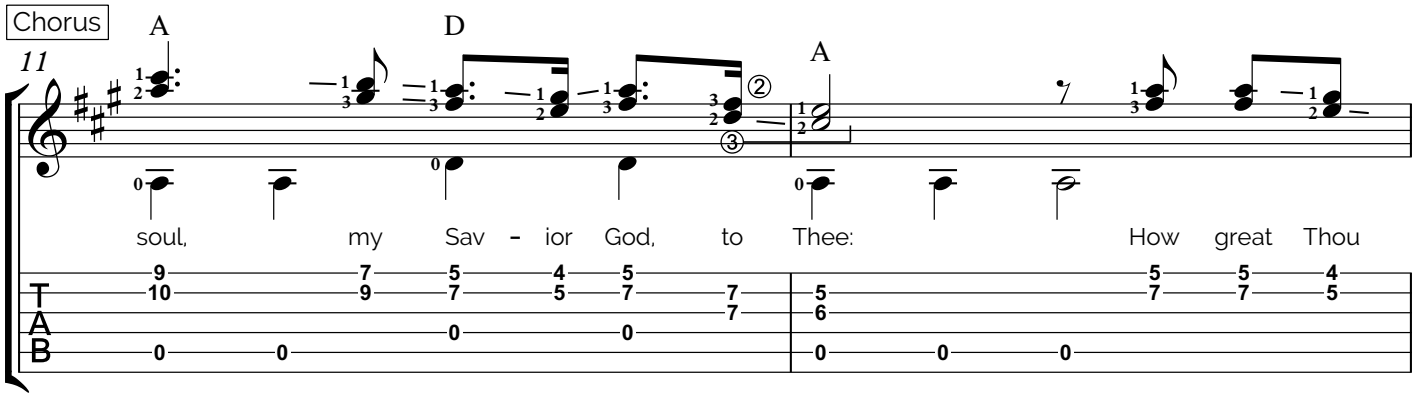


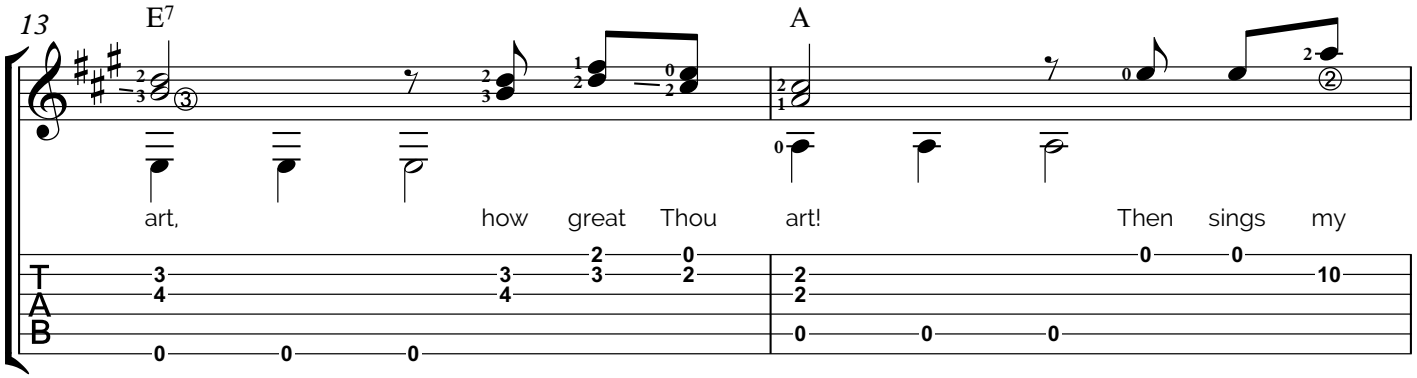


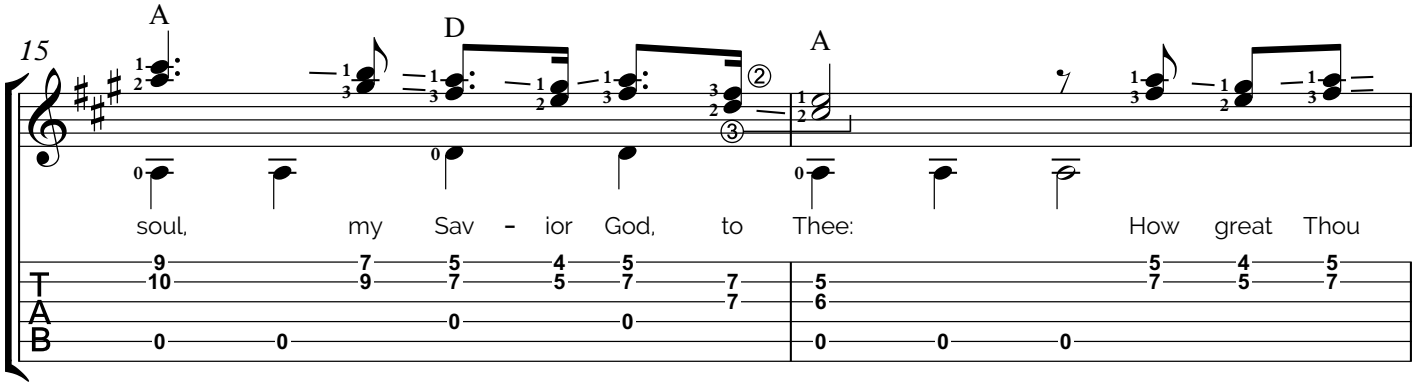


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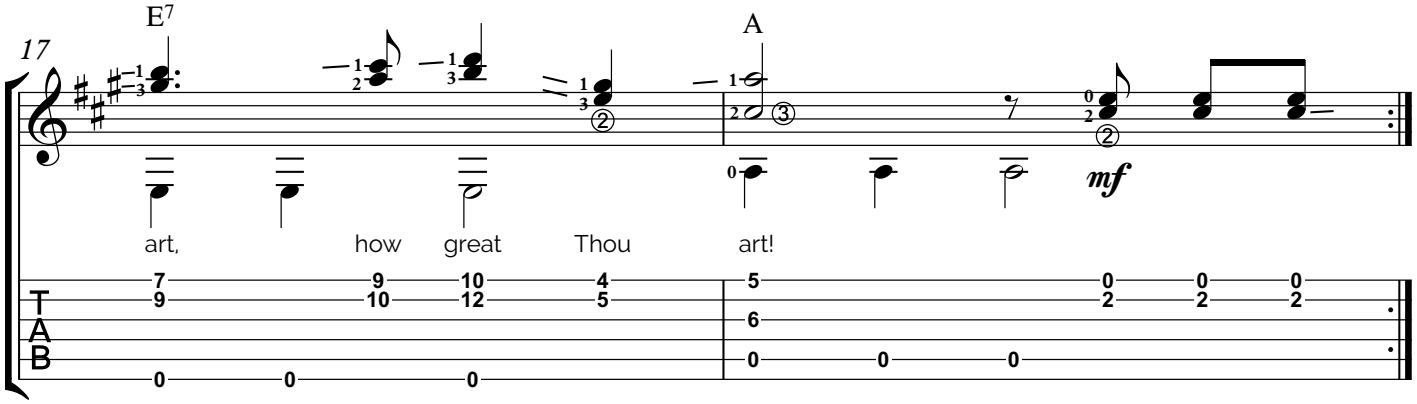


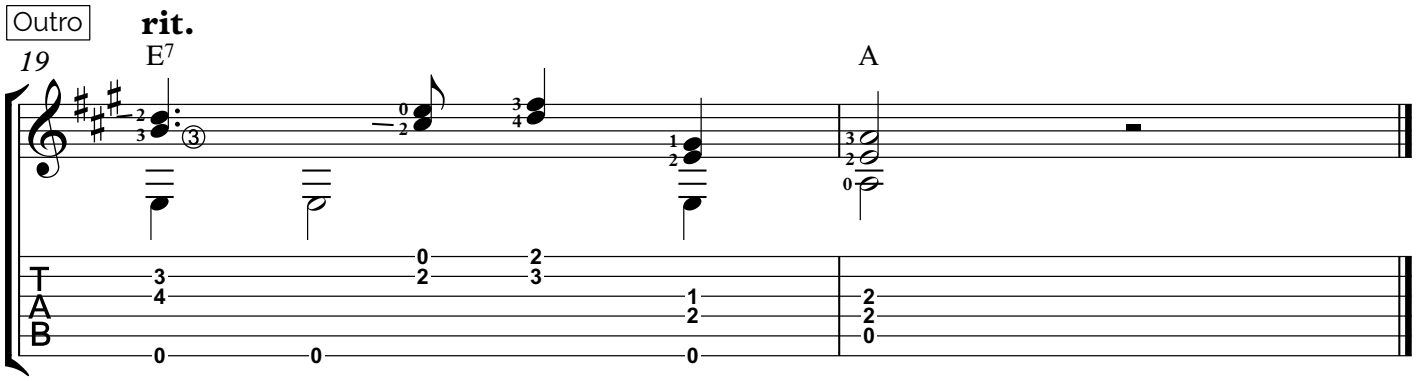






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2. And when I think of God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin
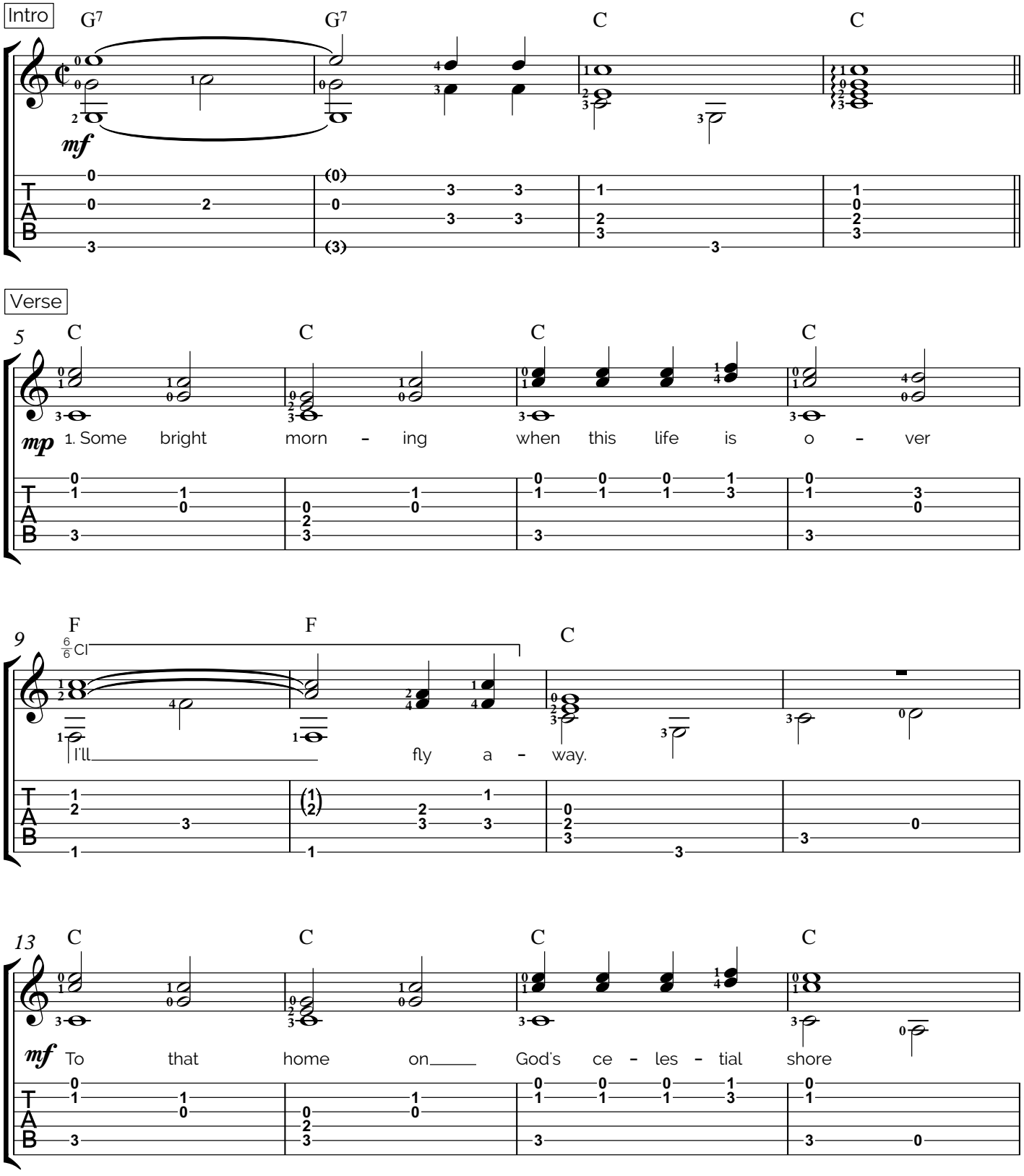
Chorus

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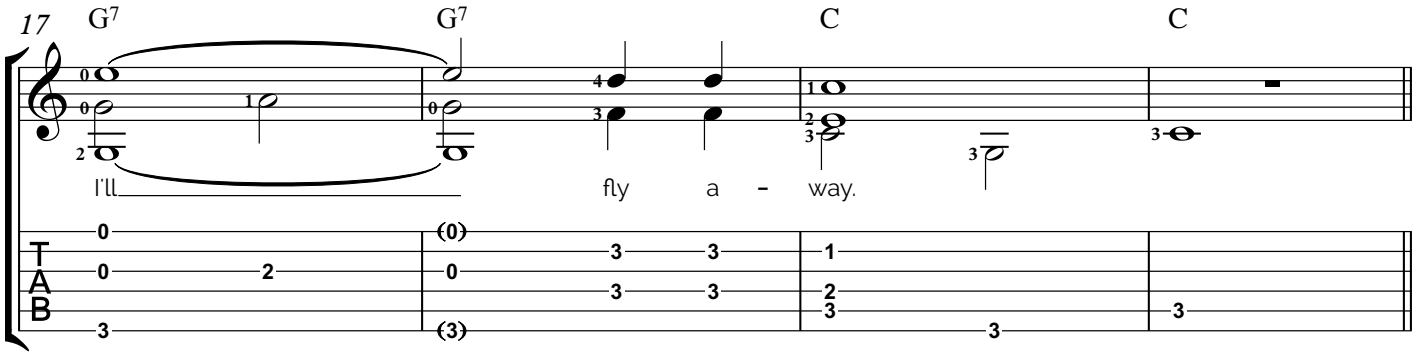
I'll Fly Away

Traditional

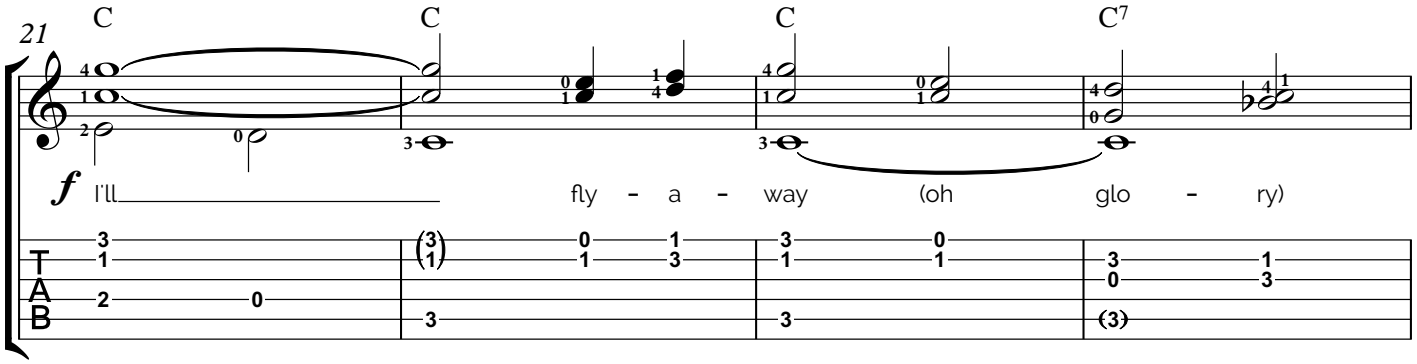
Presto (♩ = 80)

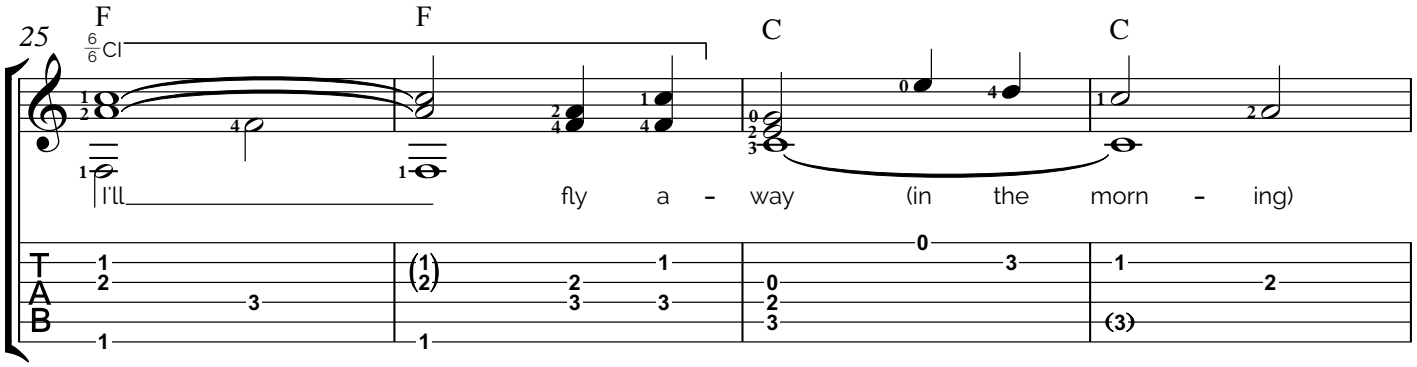


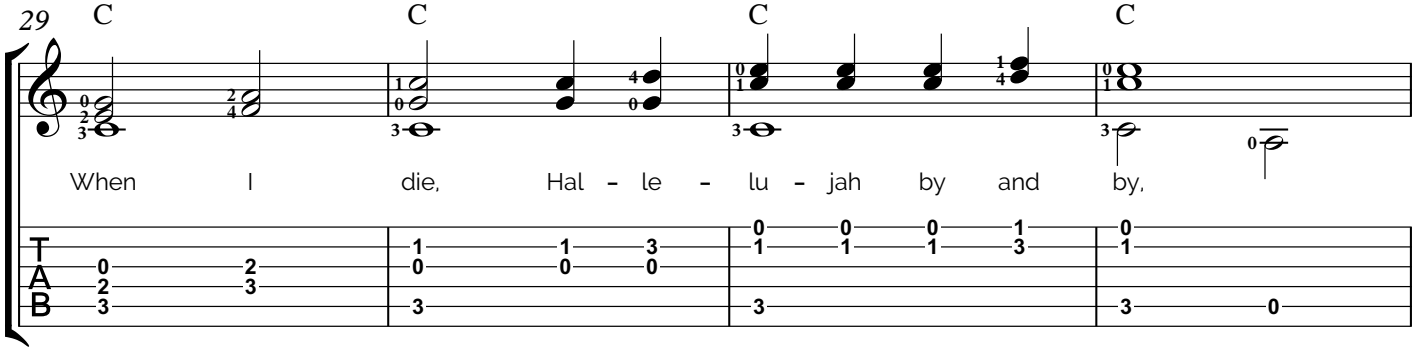
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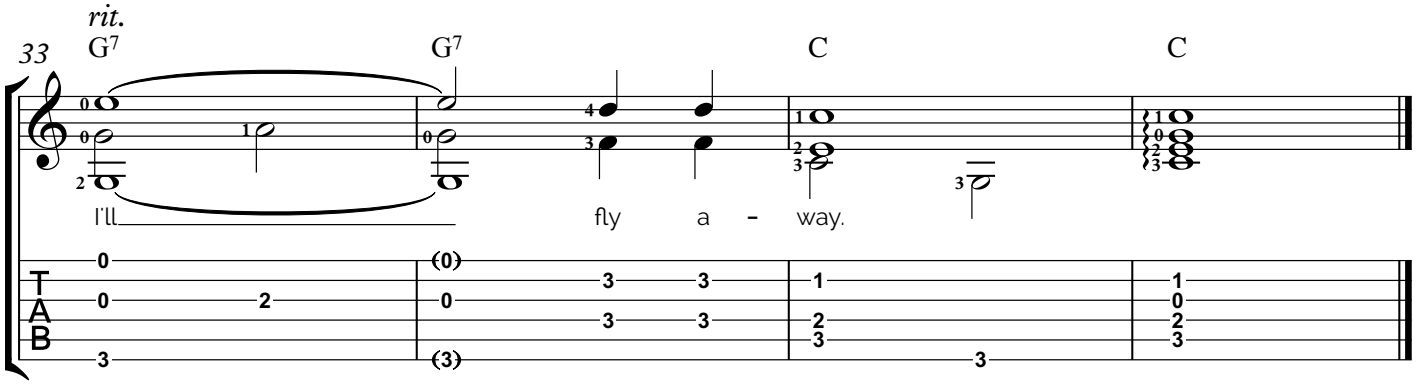
Refrain







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2. When the shadows of this life have gone
   I'll fly away.
   Like a bird from prison bars has flown
   I'll fly away.

   Refrain

3. Oh, how glad and happy when we meet
   I'll fly away.
   No more cold iron shackles on my feet
   I'll fly away.

   Refrain

4. Just a few more weary days and then
   I'll fly away.
   Just a few more weary days and then
   I'll fly away.

   Refrain

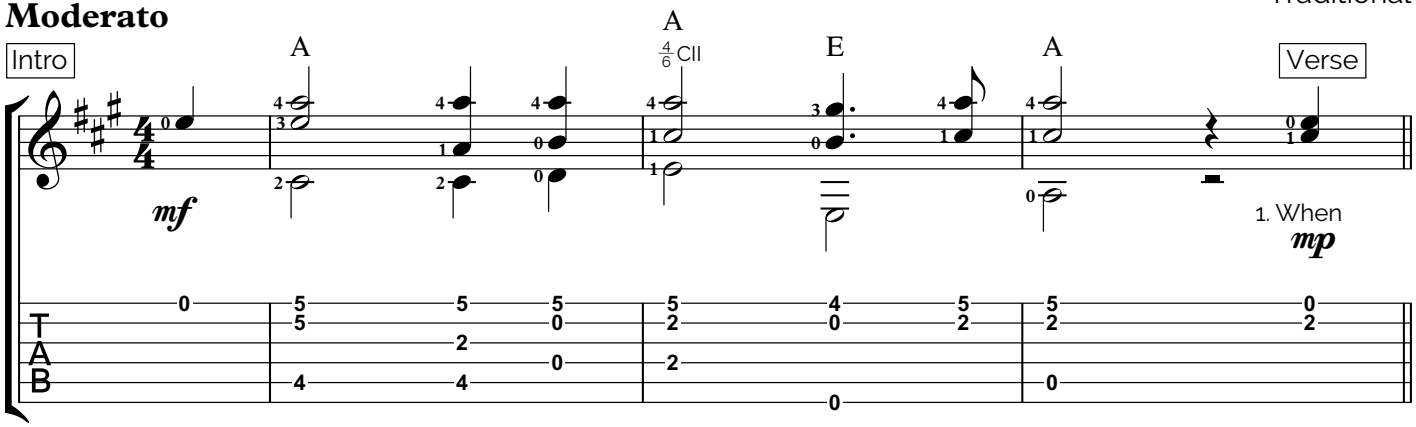
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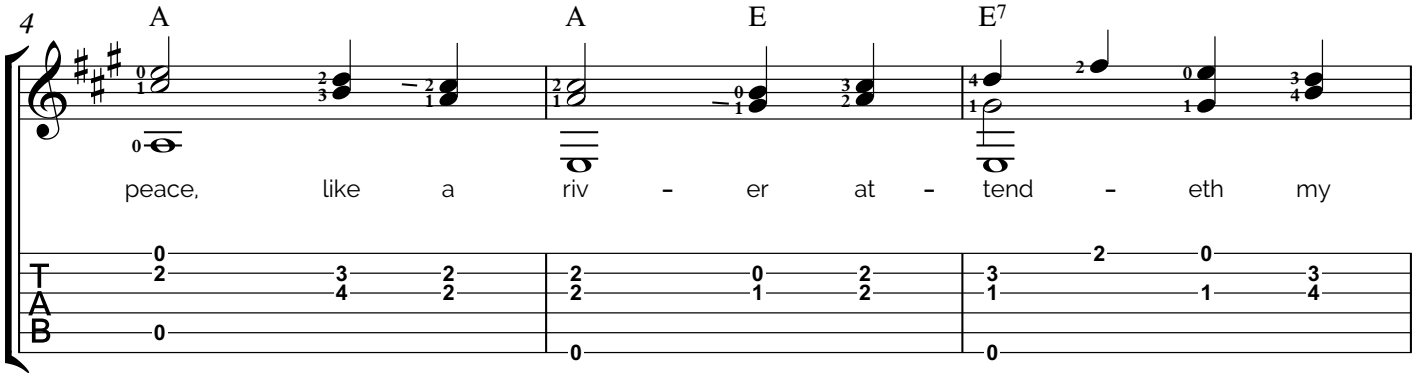
It Is Well with My Soul

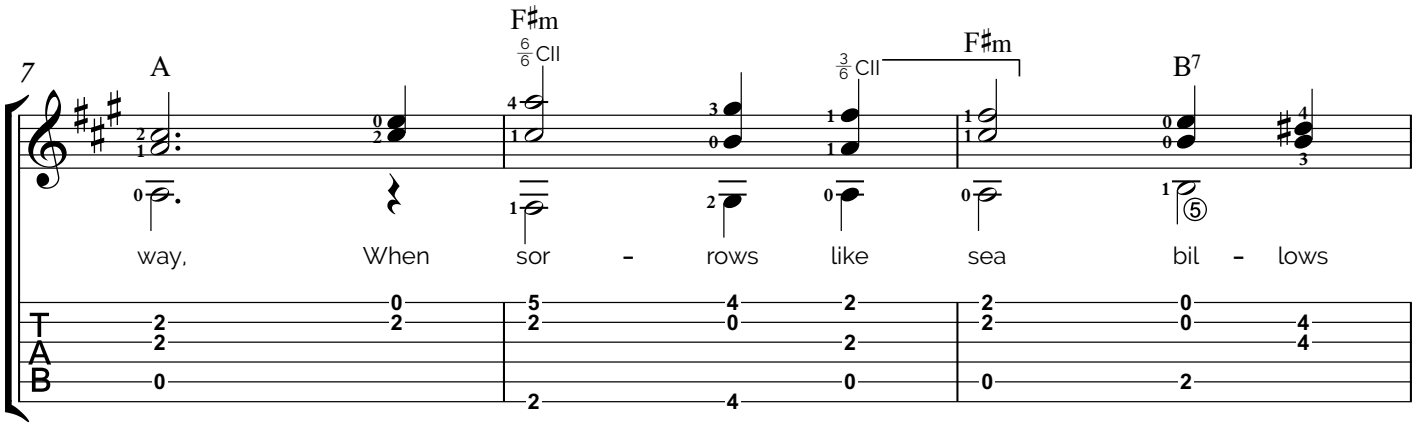
Traditional

Moderato
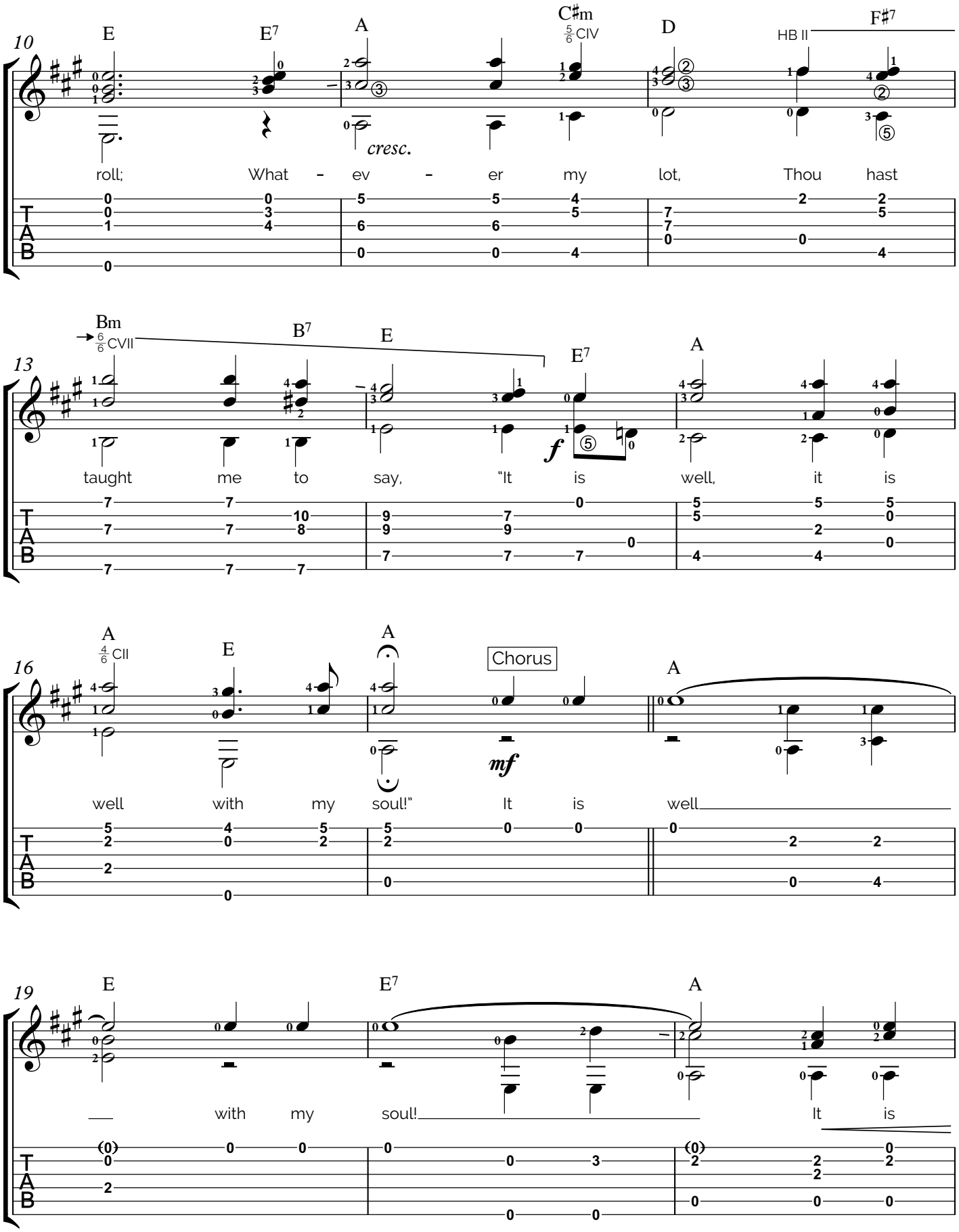
Intro



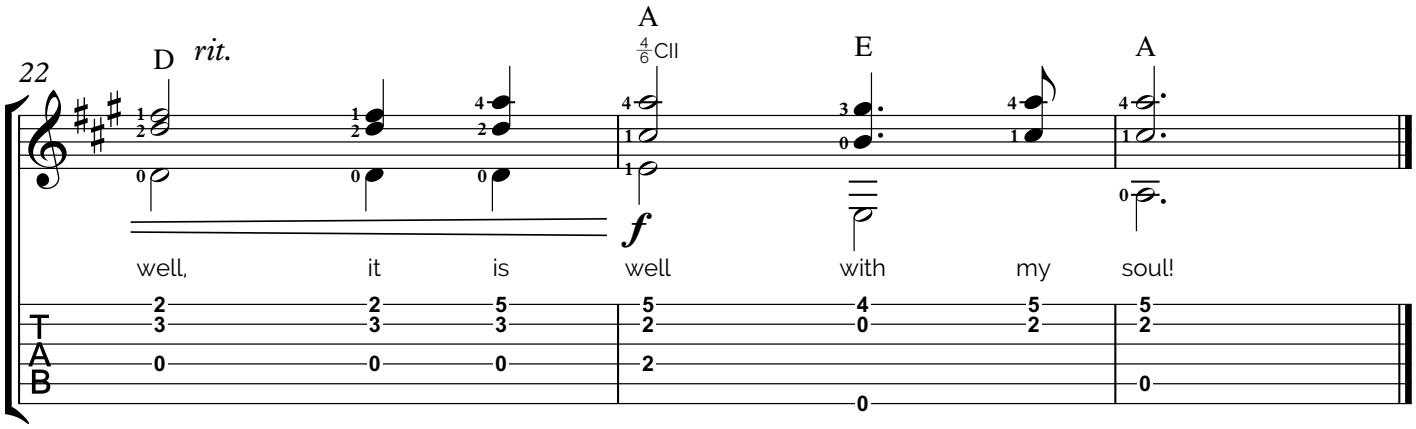




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2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
   Let this blest assurance control,
   That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
   And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

   Chorus

3. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought—
   My sin, not in part, but the whole,
   Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;
   Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

   Chorus

4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;
   If dark hours about me shall roll,
   No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
   Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.
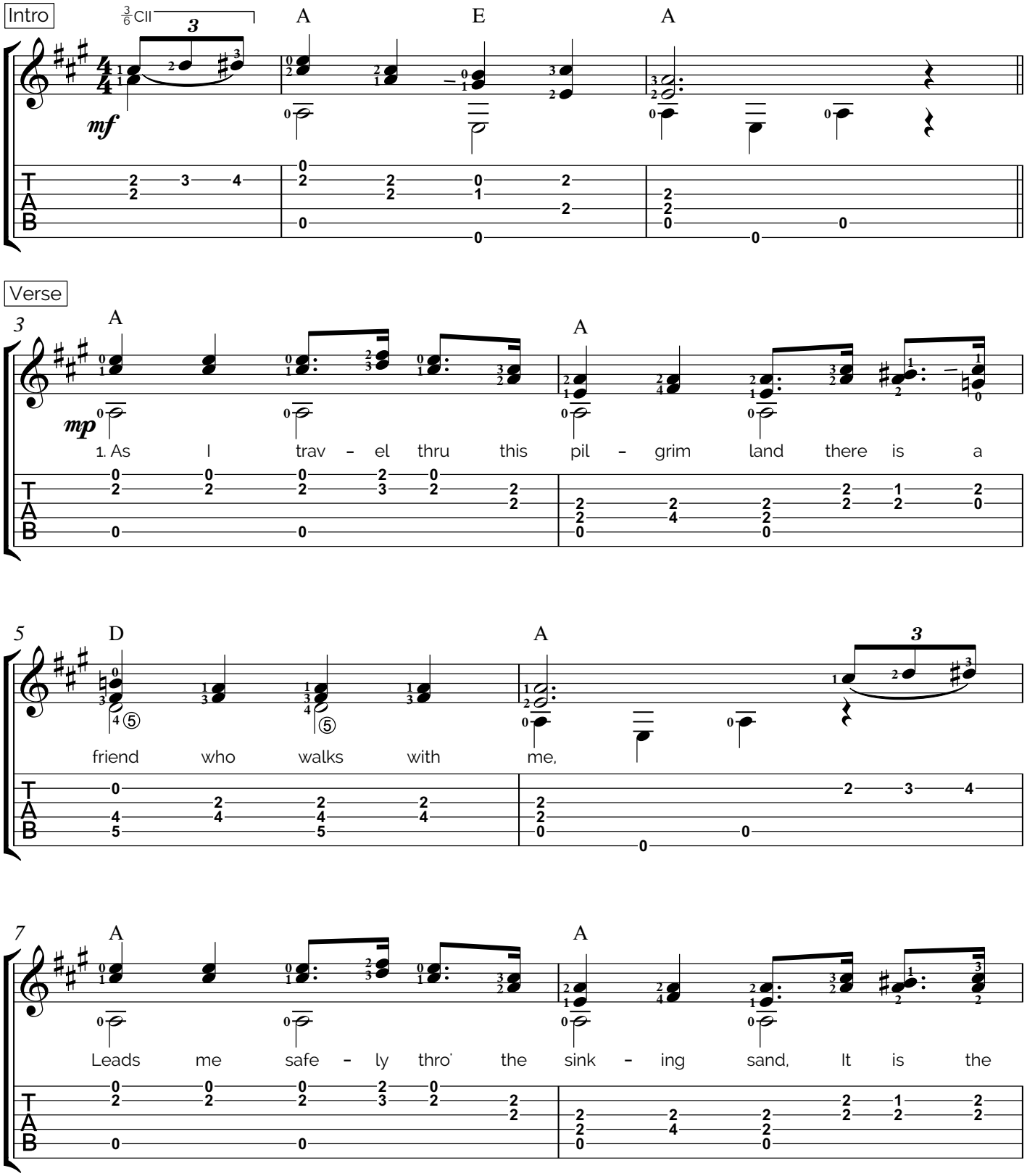
   Chorus

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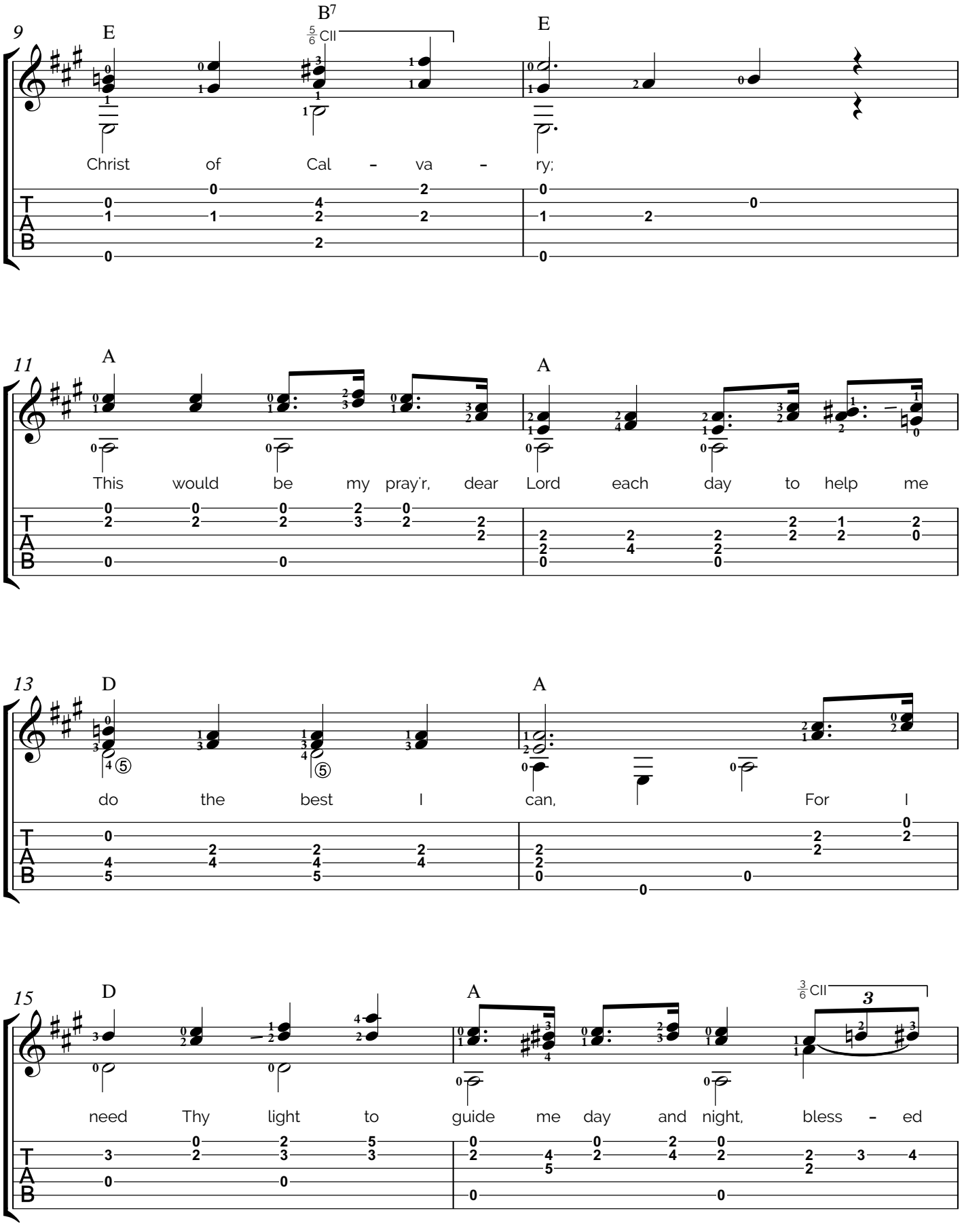
Jesus, Hold My Hand

Traditional

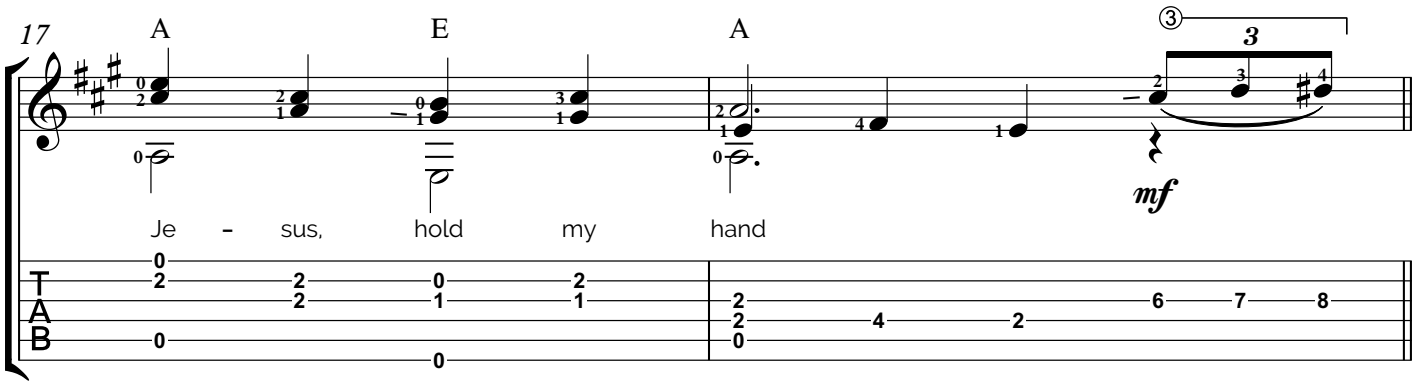
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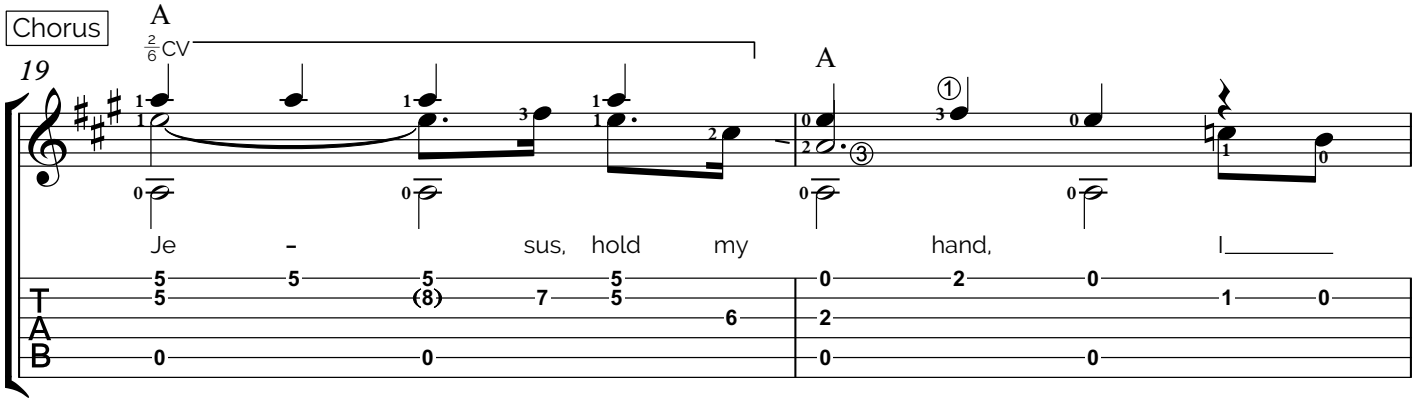


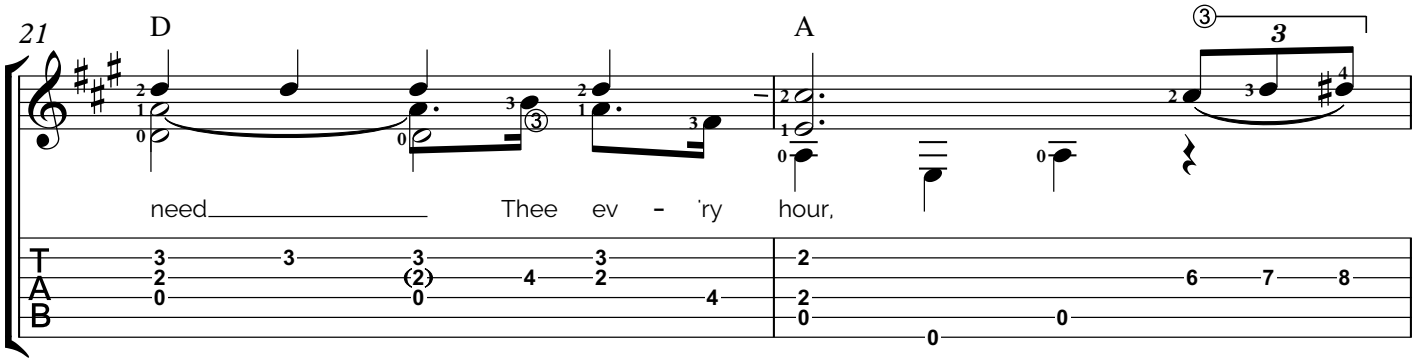
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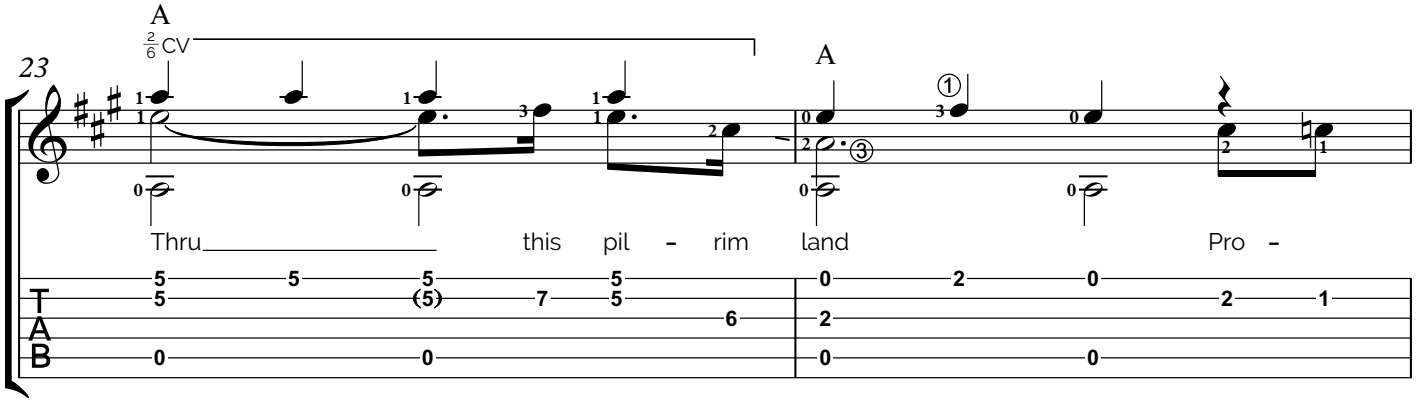


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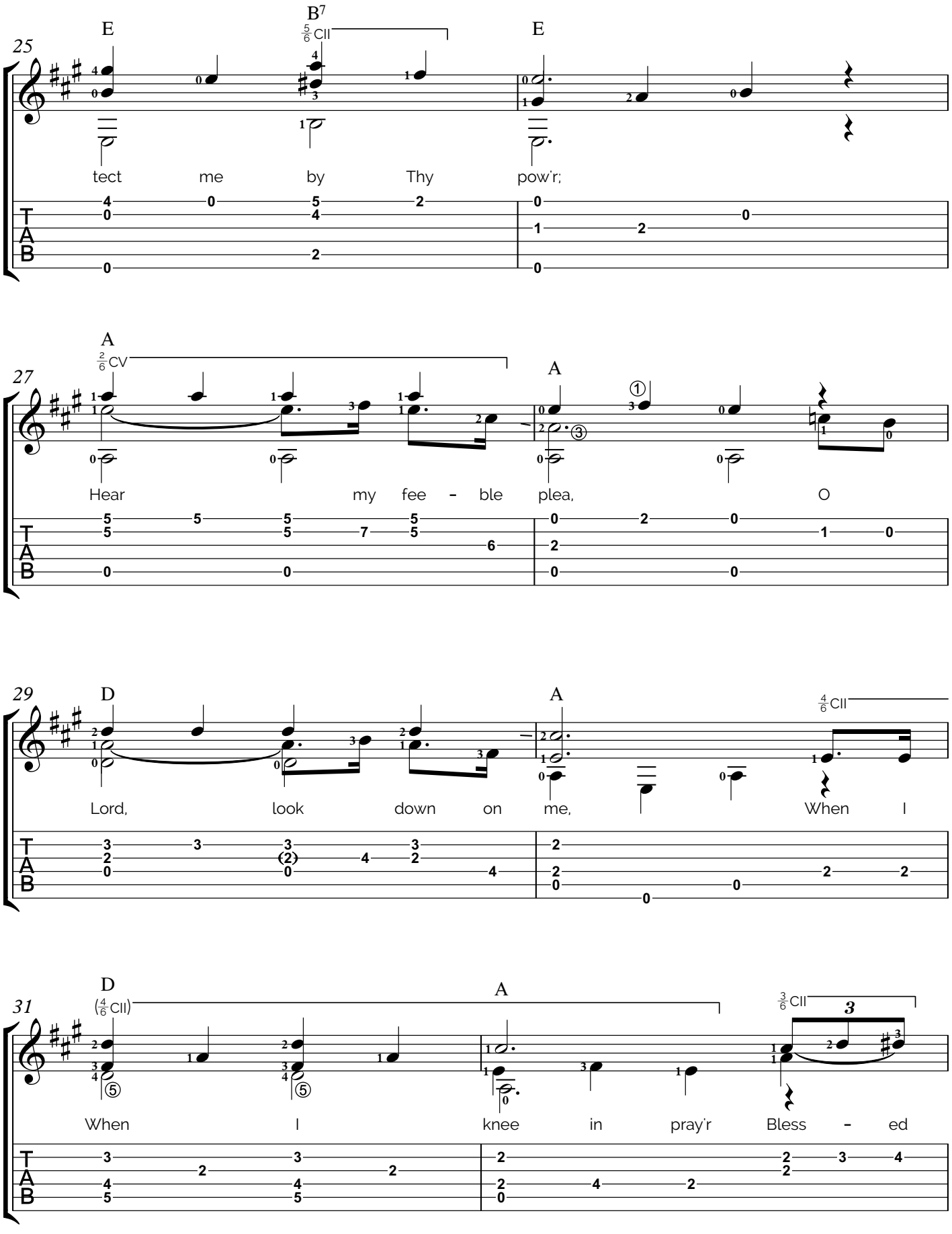




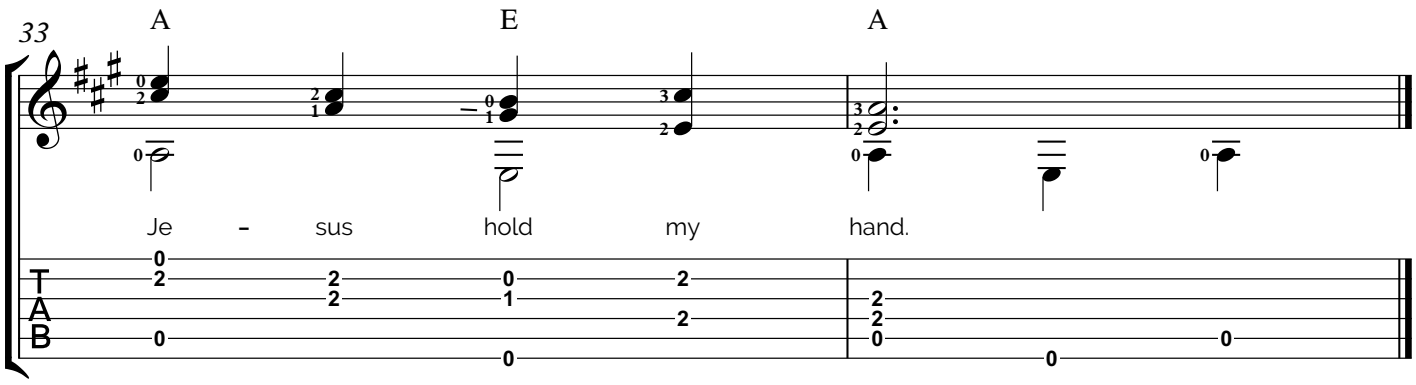




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2. Let me travel in the light divine
That I may see the blessed way
Keep me that I may be wholly Thine
And sing 'Redemption's Song' some day

I will be a soldier brave and true
And ever firmly take a stand
As I onward go and daily meet the foe
Blessed Jesus, hold my hand

Chorus
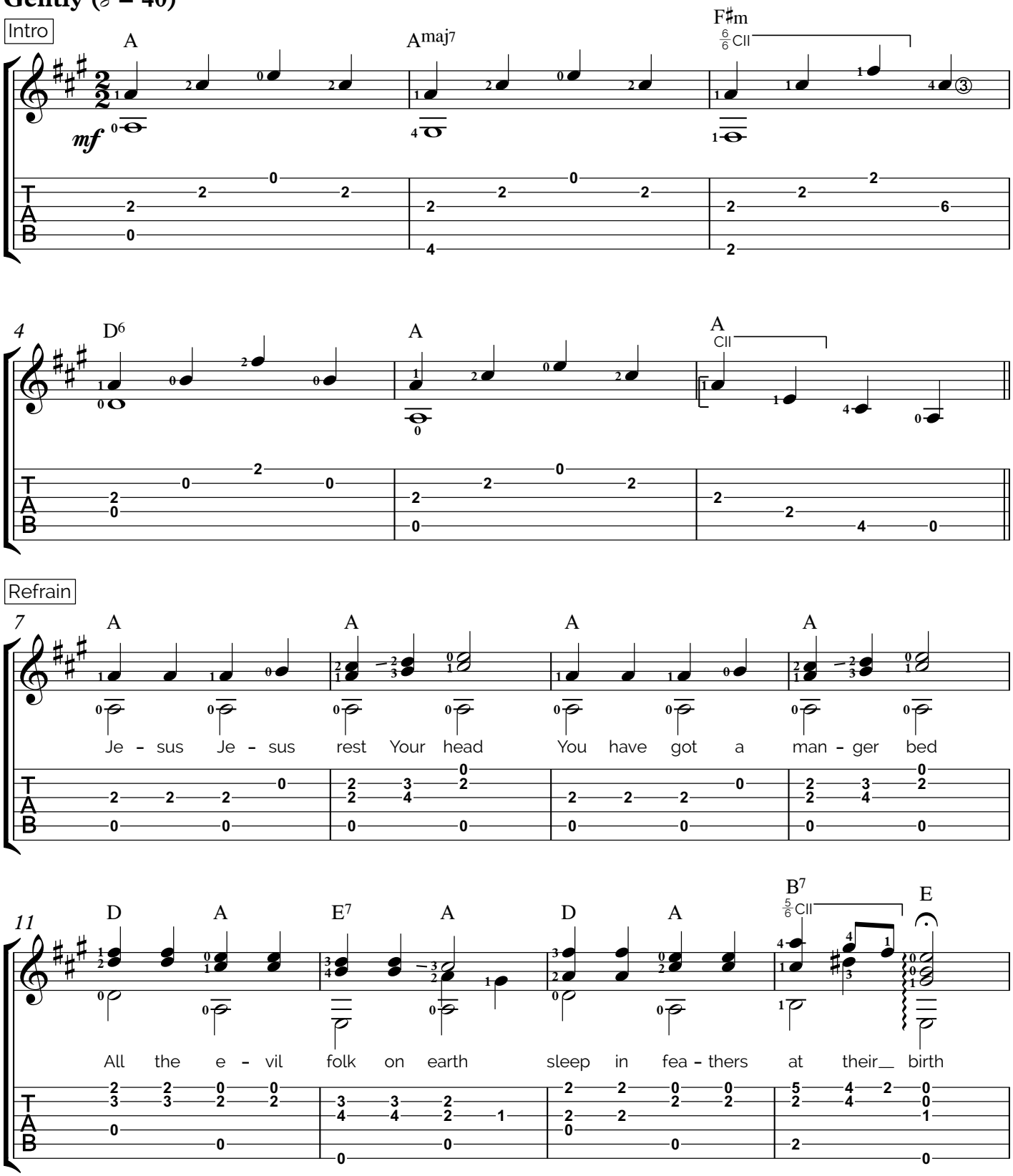
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Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

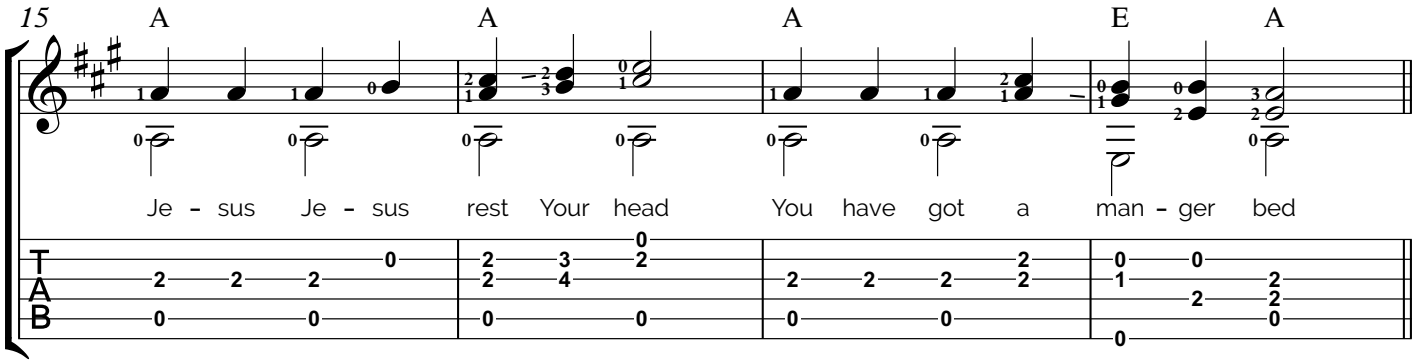
Traditional

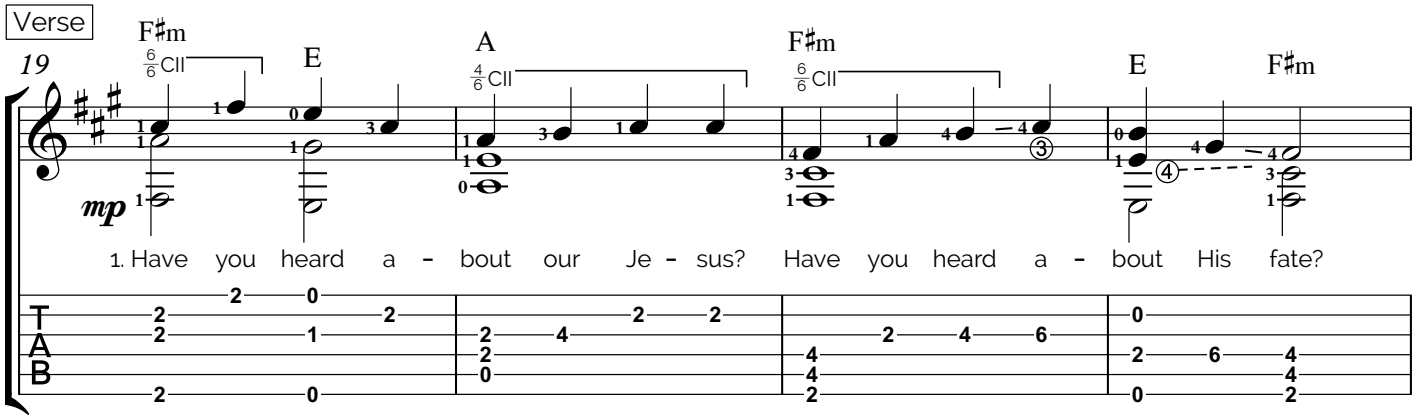
Gently (♩ = 40)

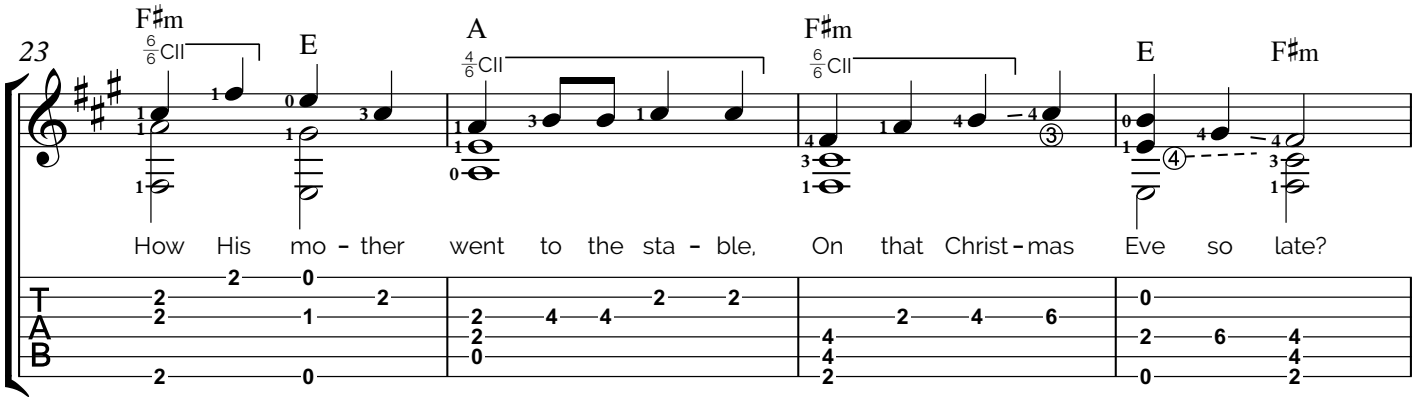
Intro

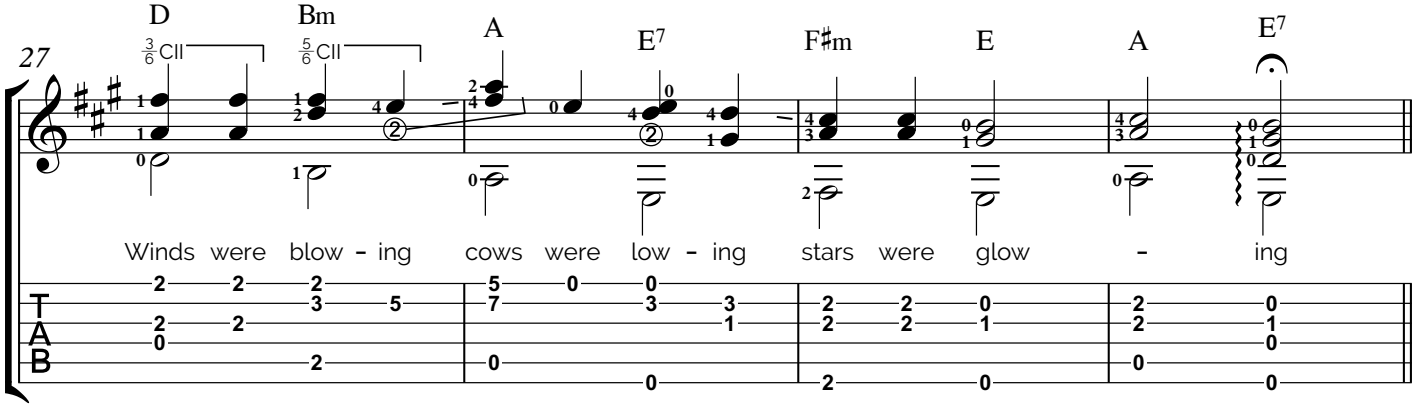


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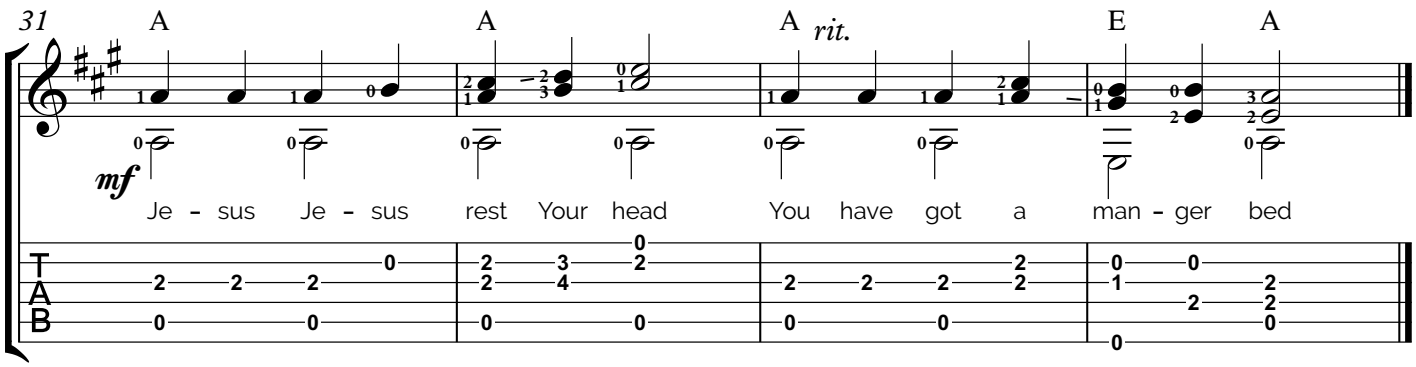








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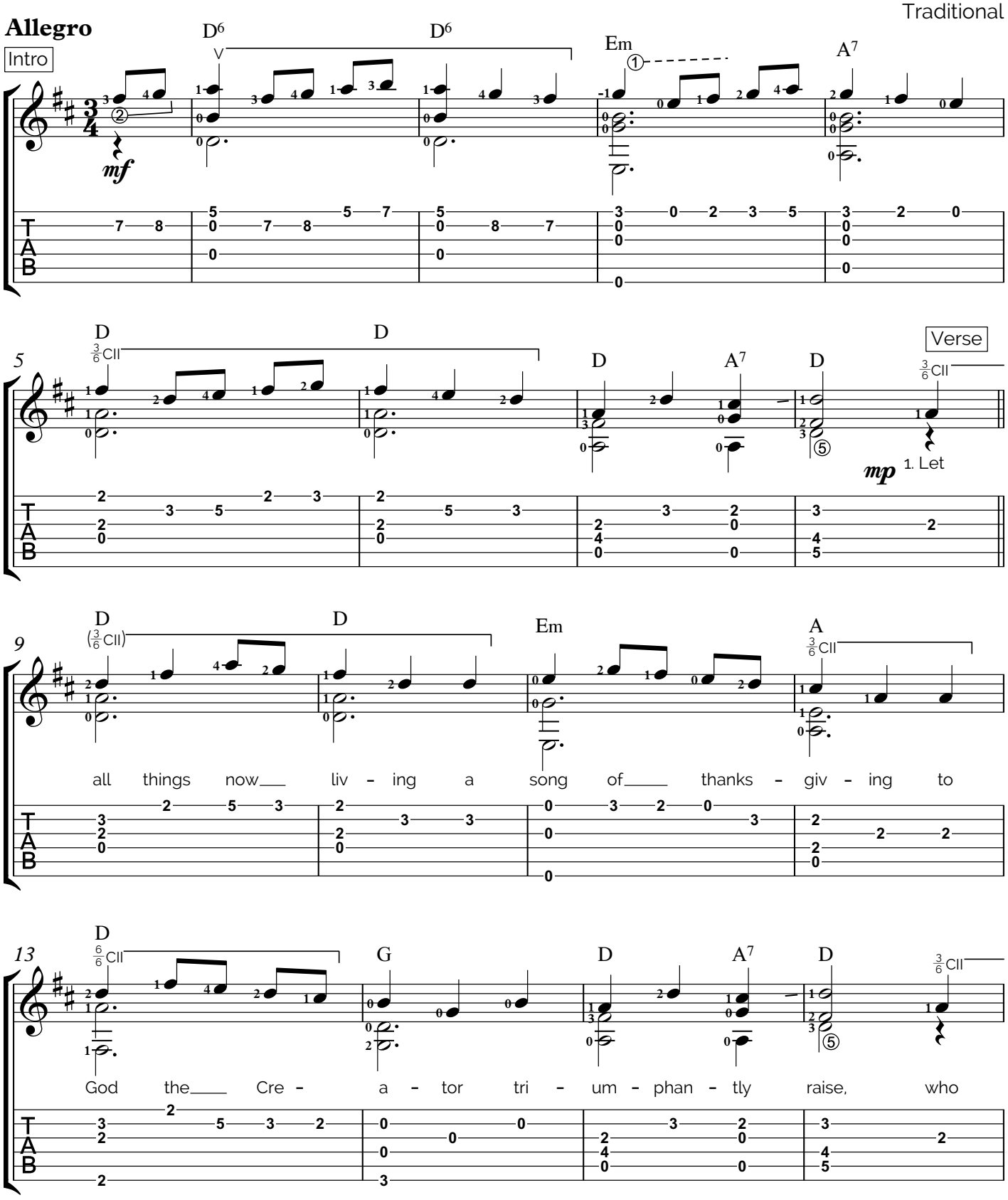


2. To the manger came the Wise Men.
   Bringing from hin and yon,
   For the mother and the father,
   And the blessed little Son.
   Milkmaids left their fields and flocks
   And sat beside the ass and ox
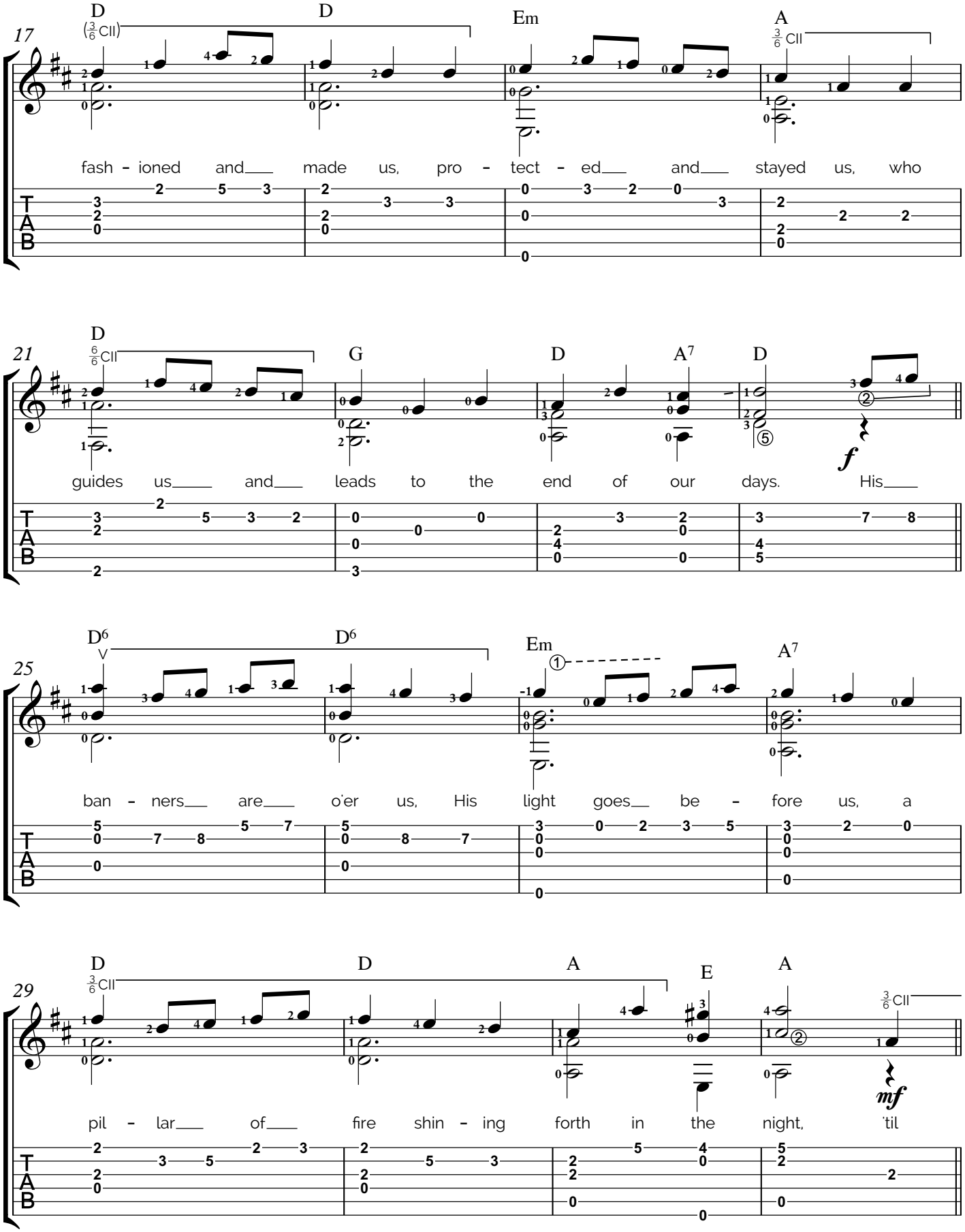
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Let All Things Now Living

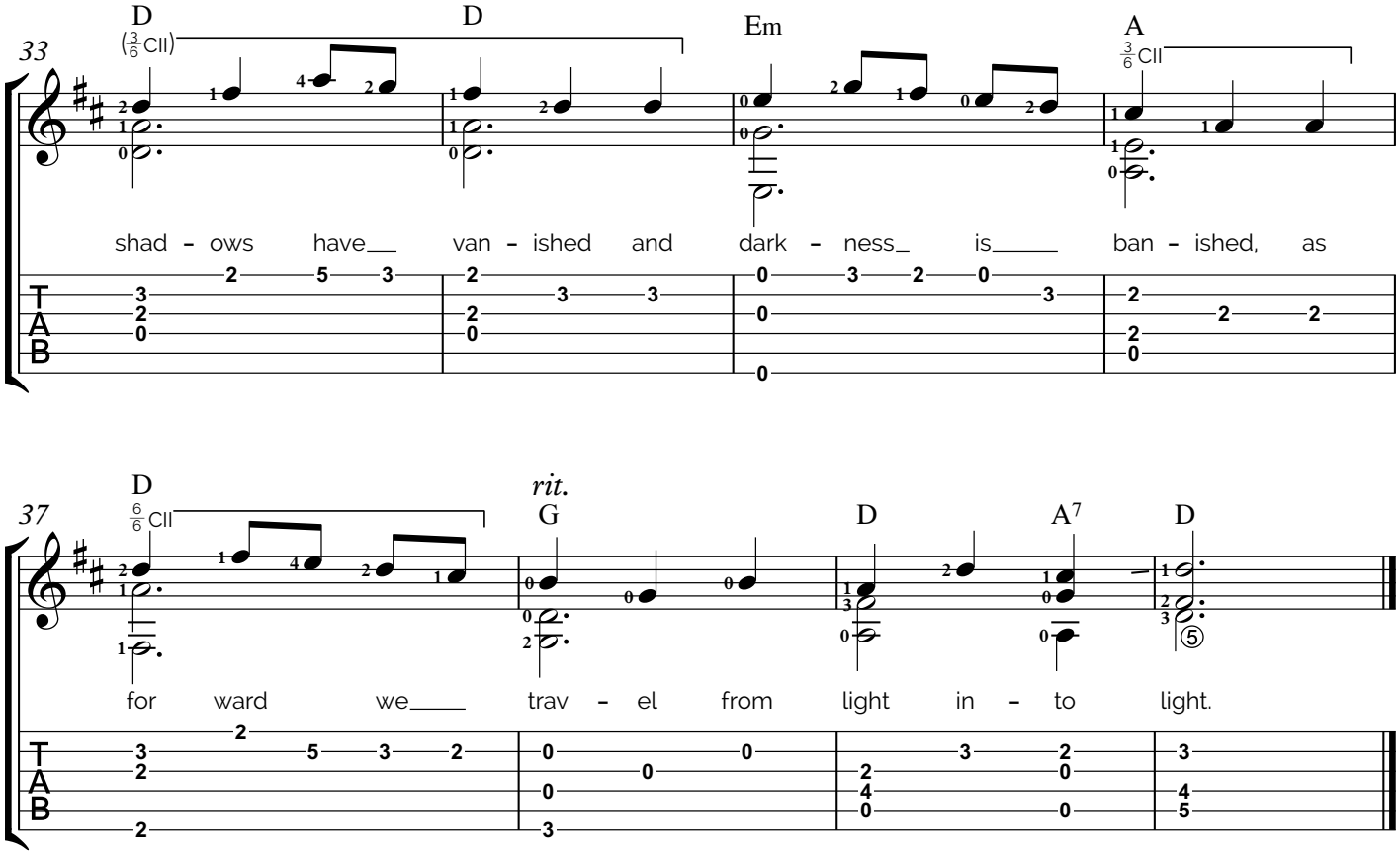
Traditional



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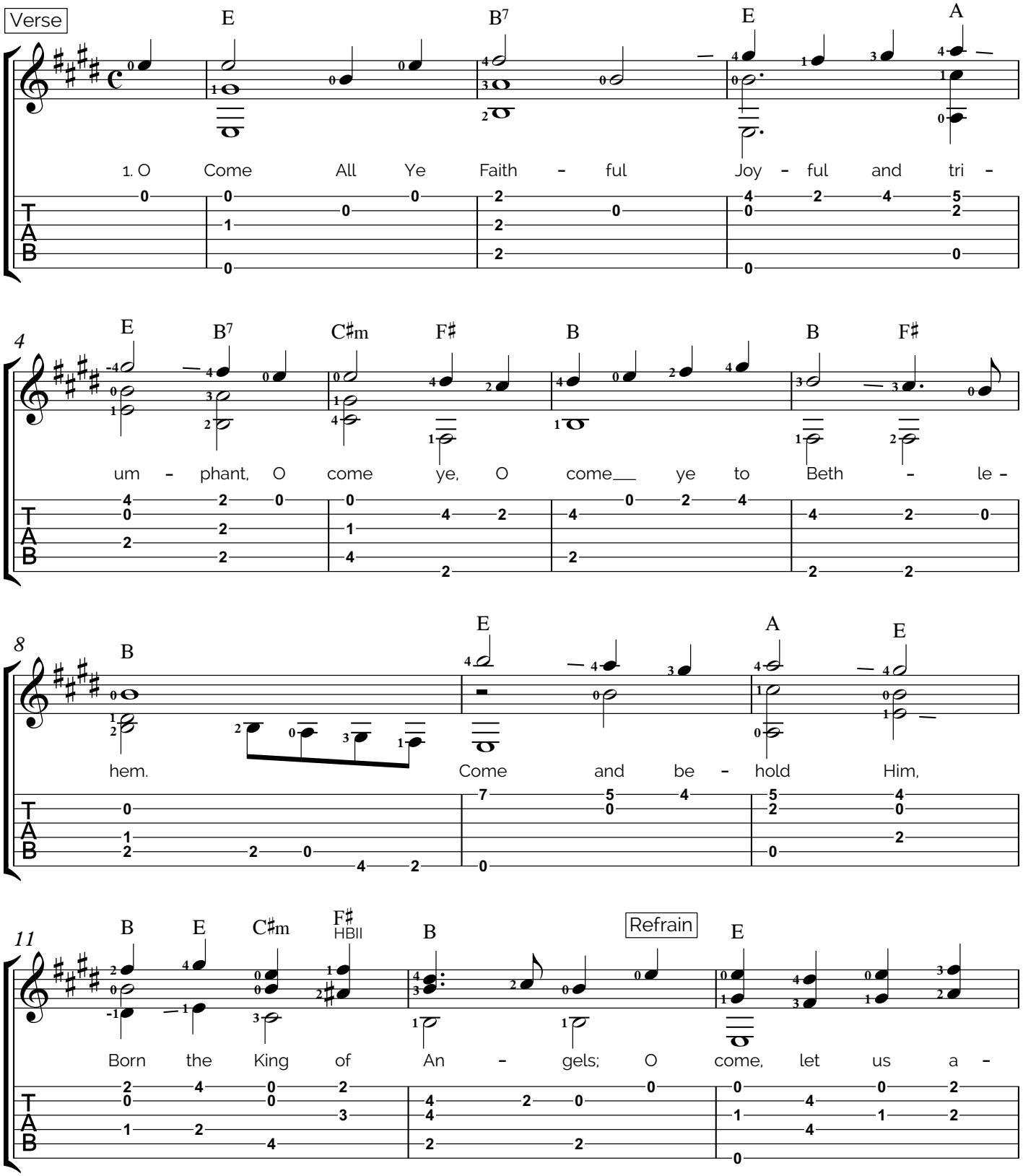


2. His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,
the sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
'til all things now living unite in thanksgiving
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!

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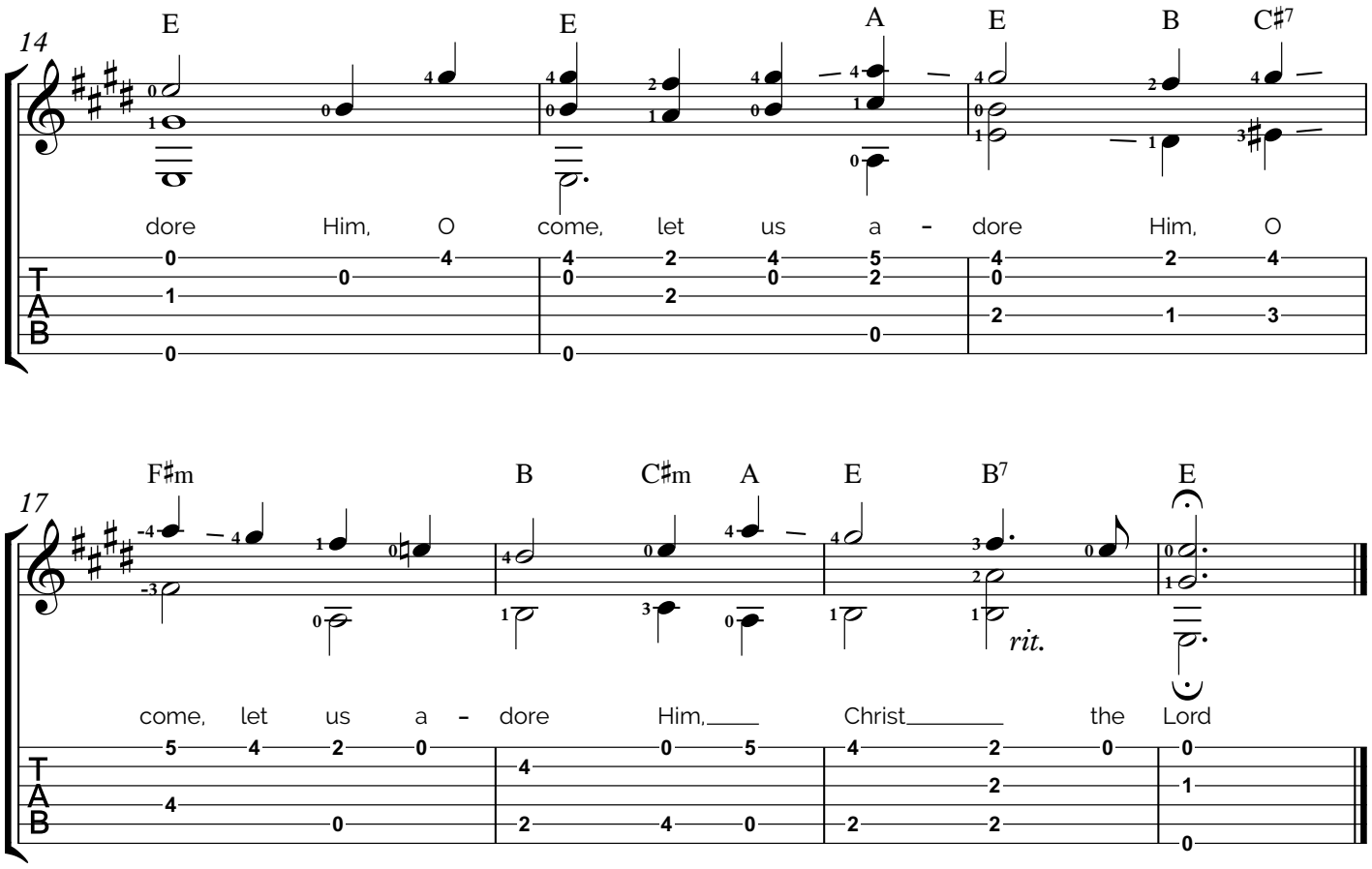
O Come All Ye Faithful

Traditional

Maestoso



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2. O Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
   Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy word.
   Give to our Father glory in the Highest;

   Refrain

3. All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
   O Jesus! For evermore be Thy name adored.
   Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

   Refrain
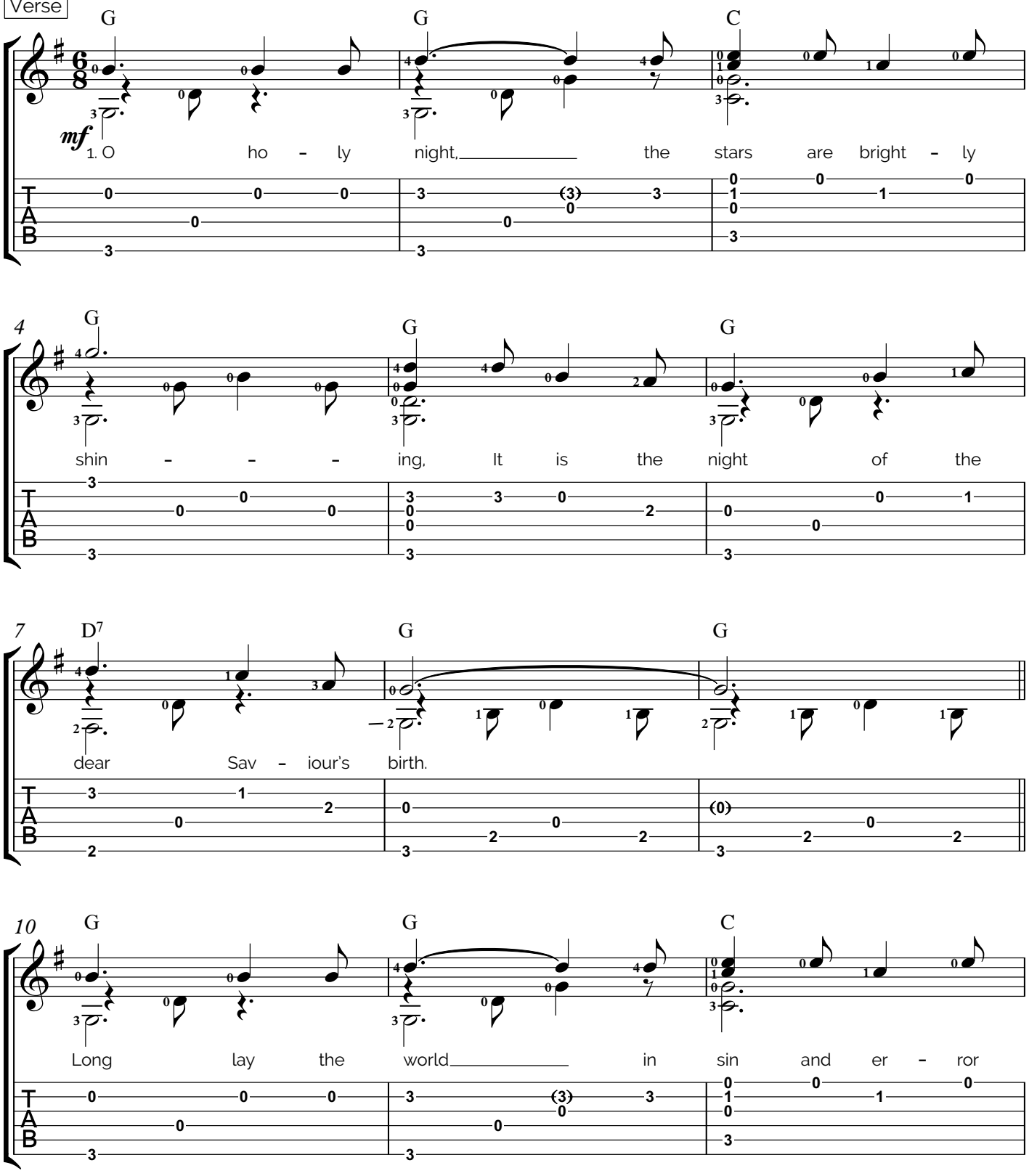
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O Holy Night

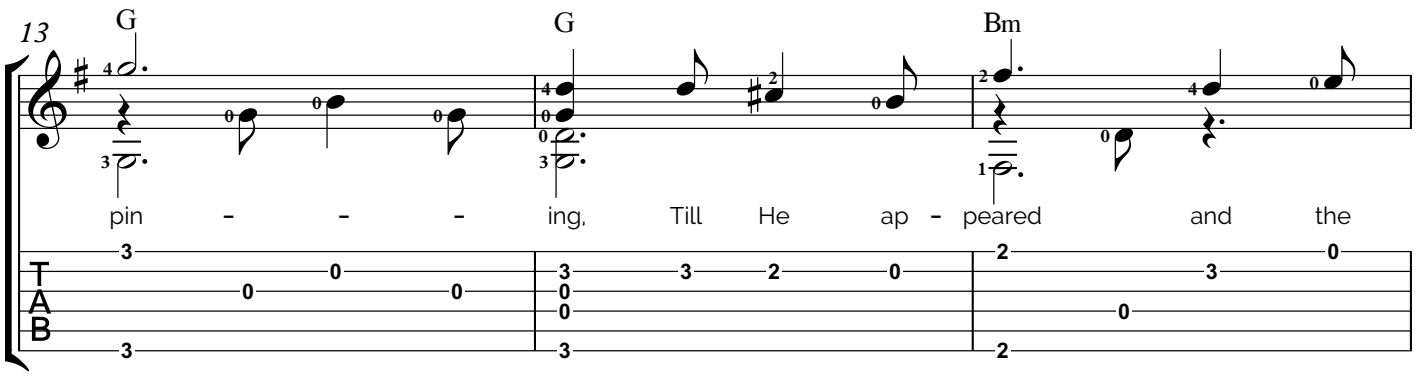
Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)

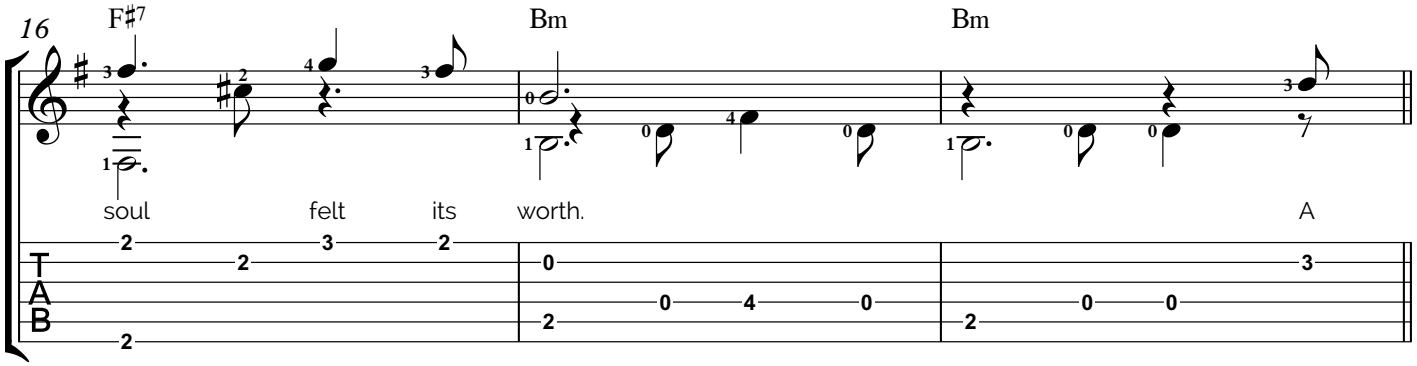
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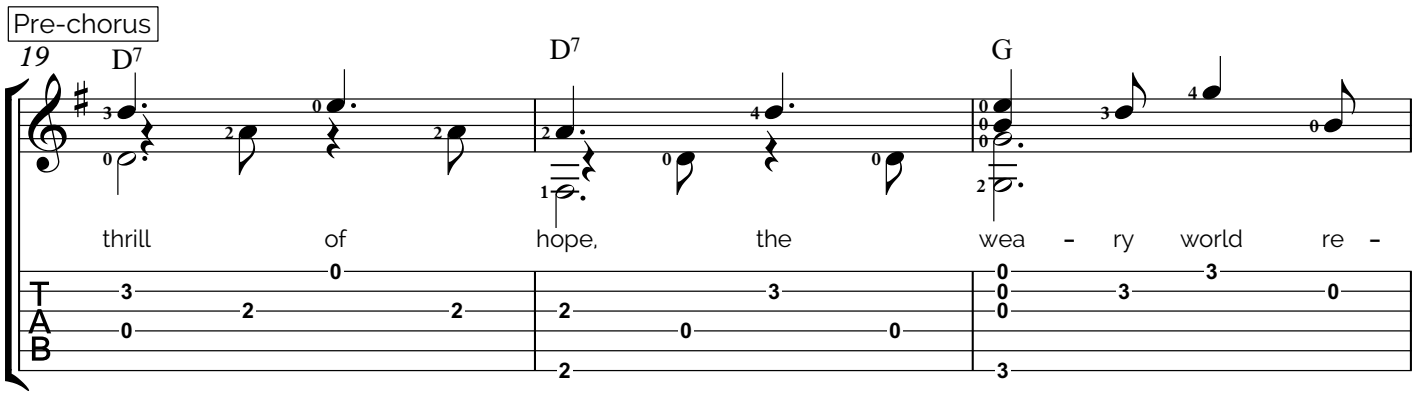
Verse

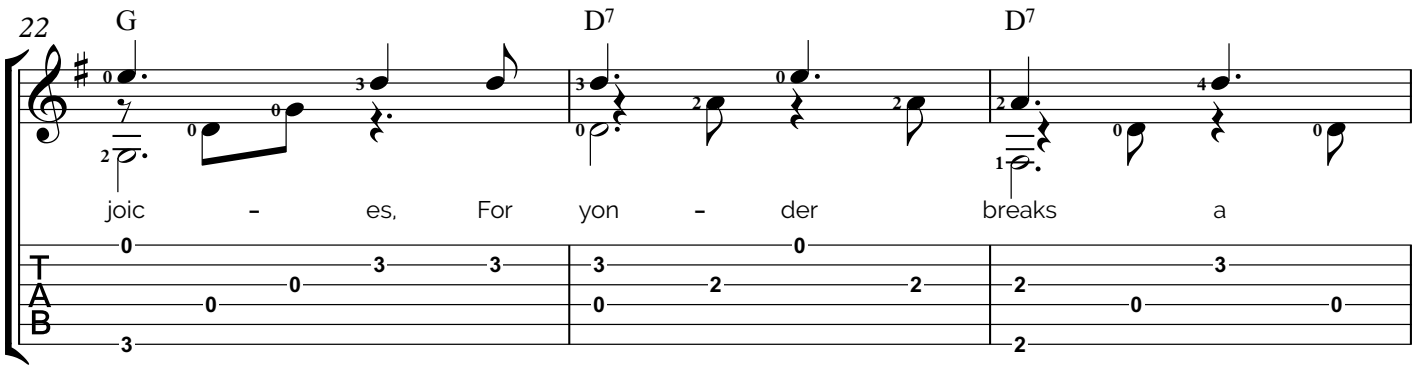


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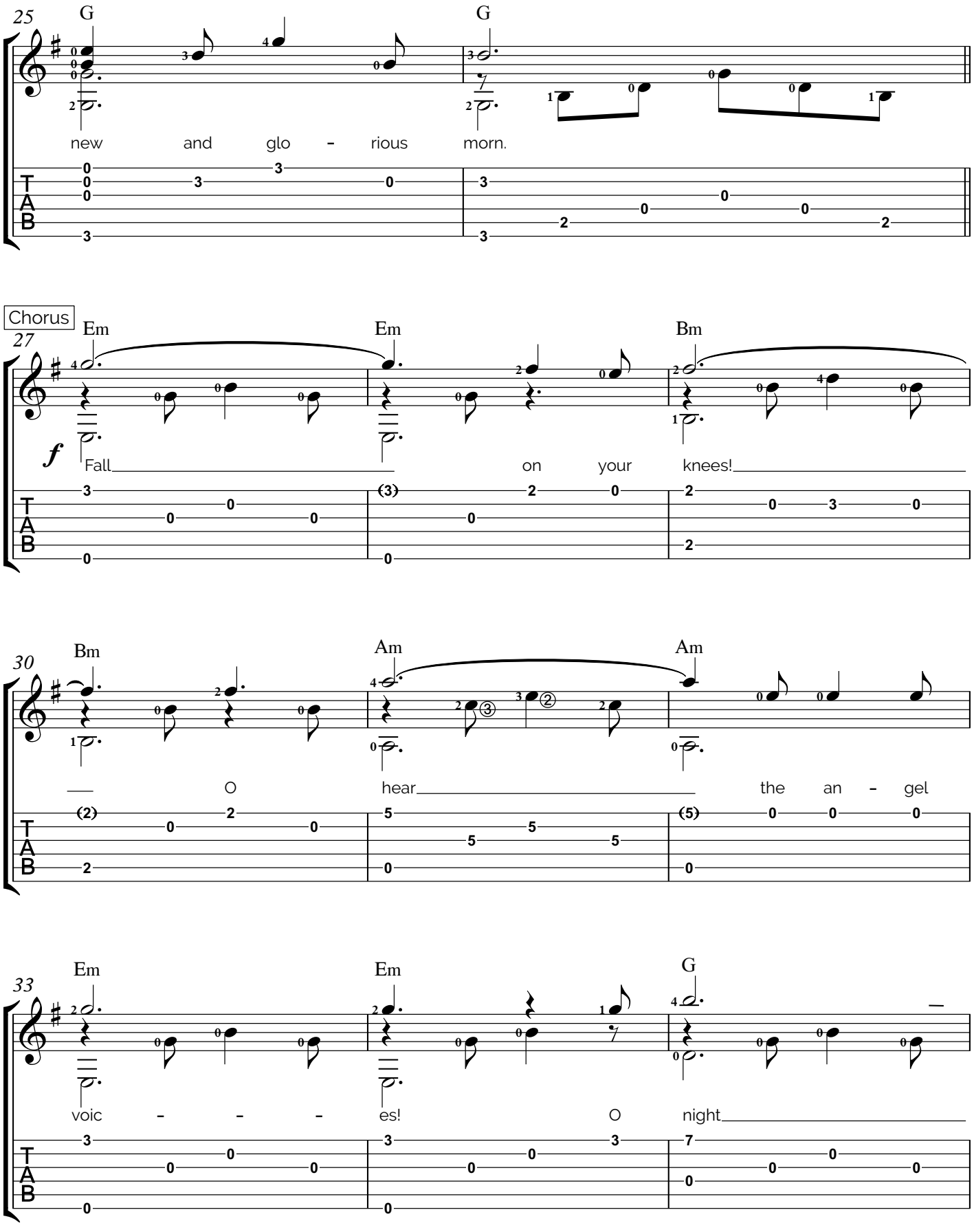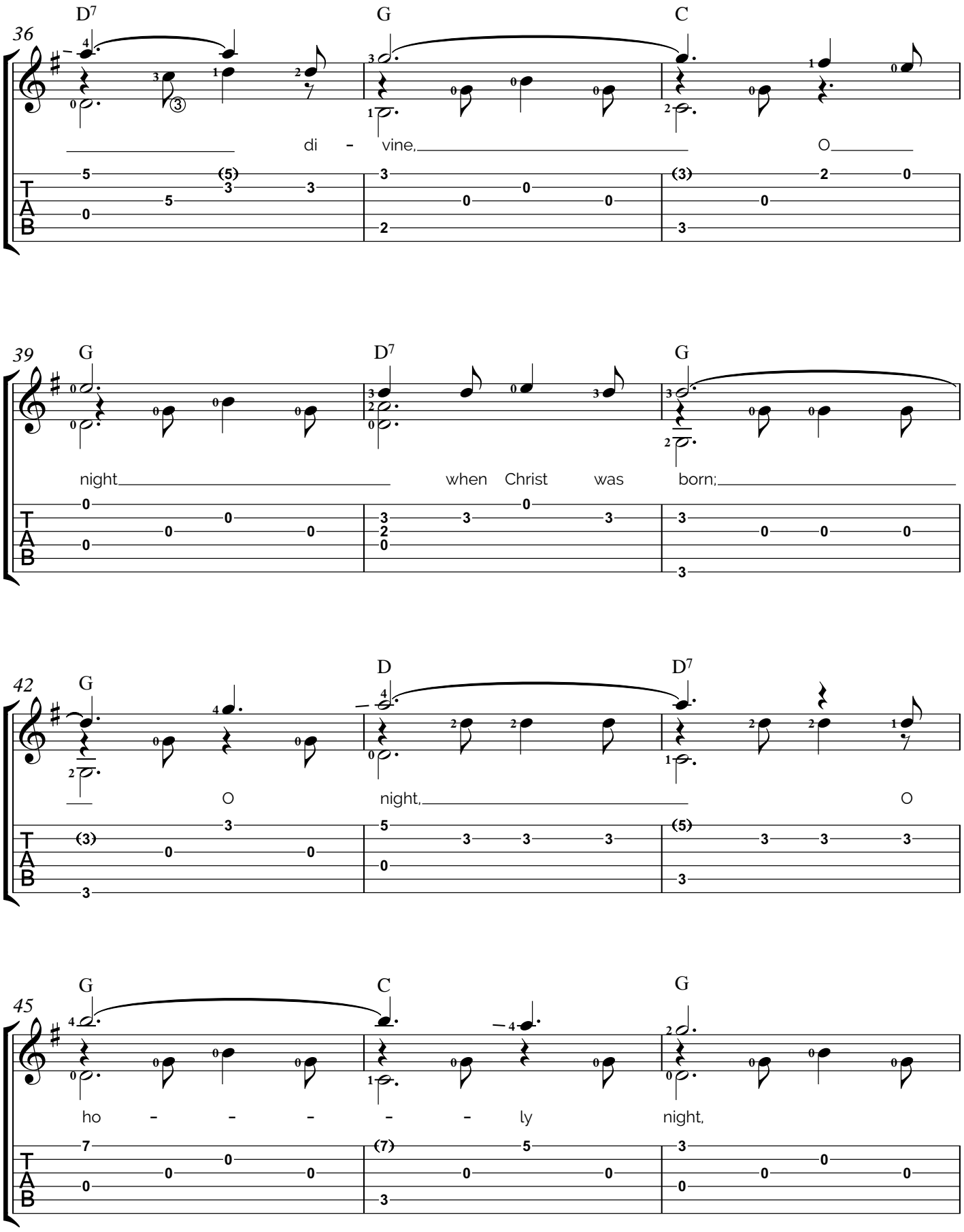








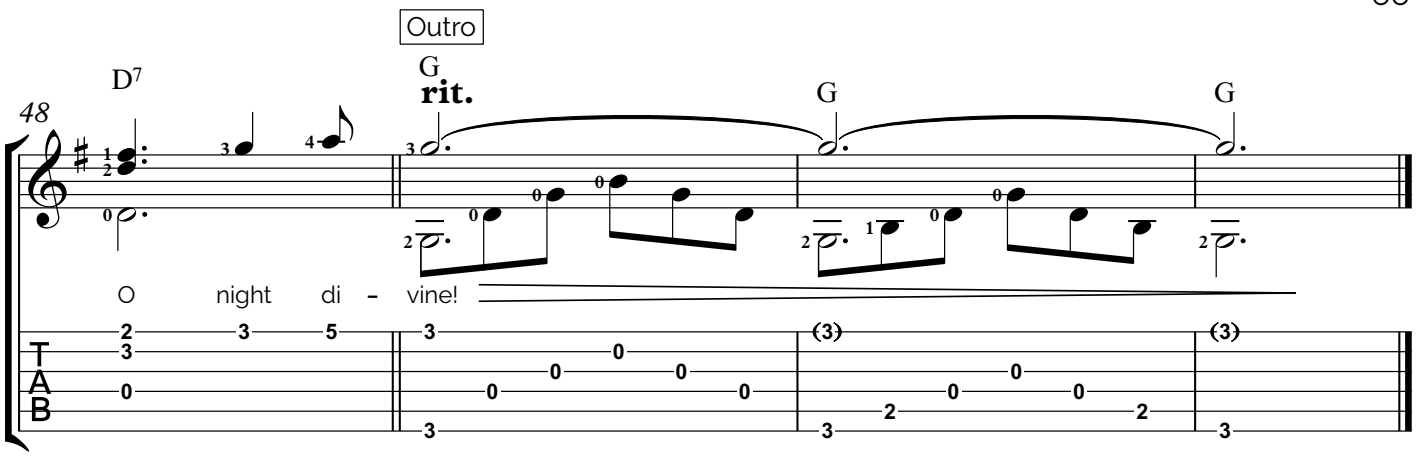
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2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land.

The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

3. Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
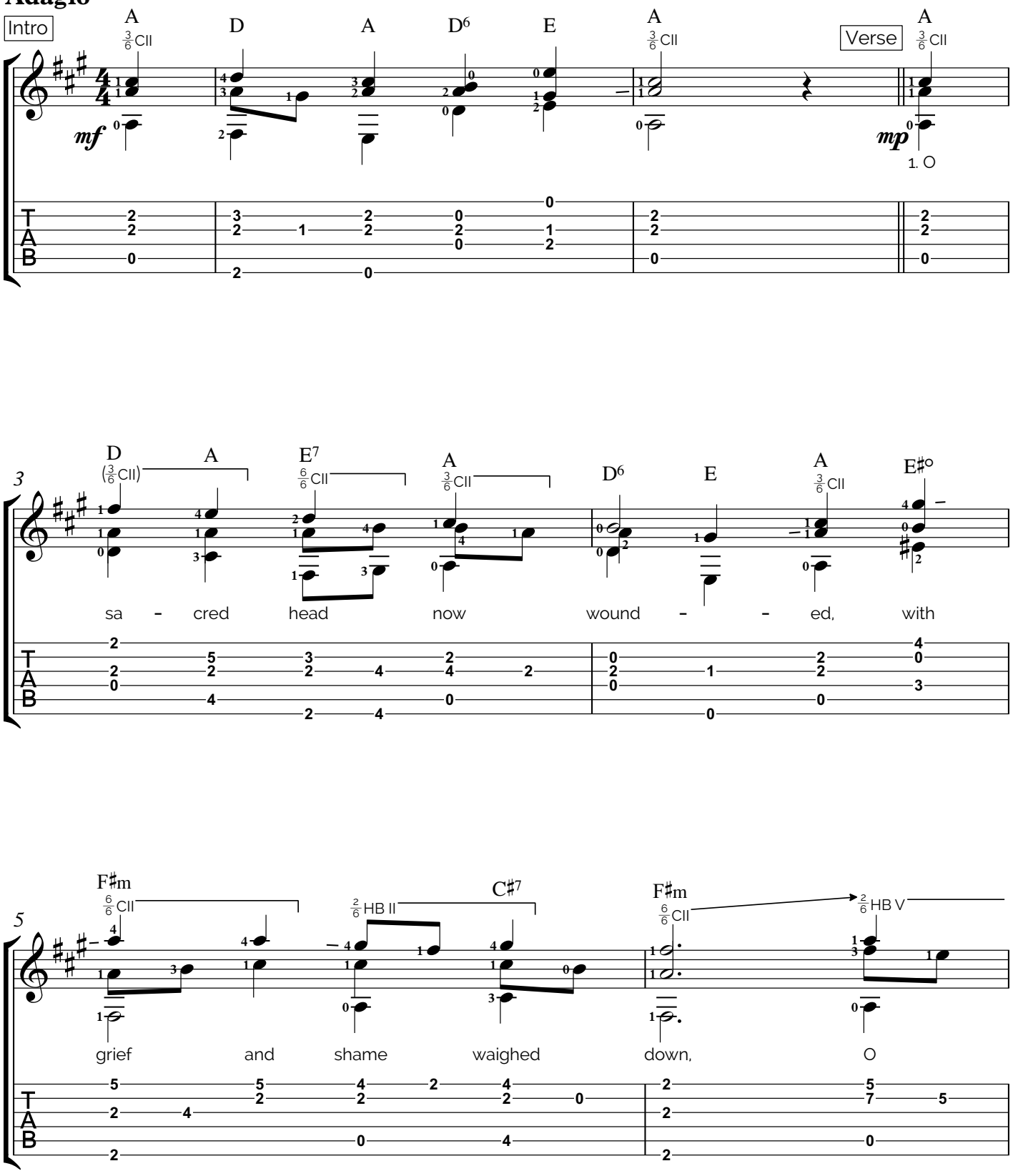
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

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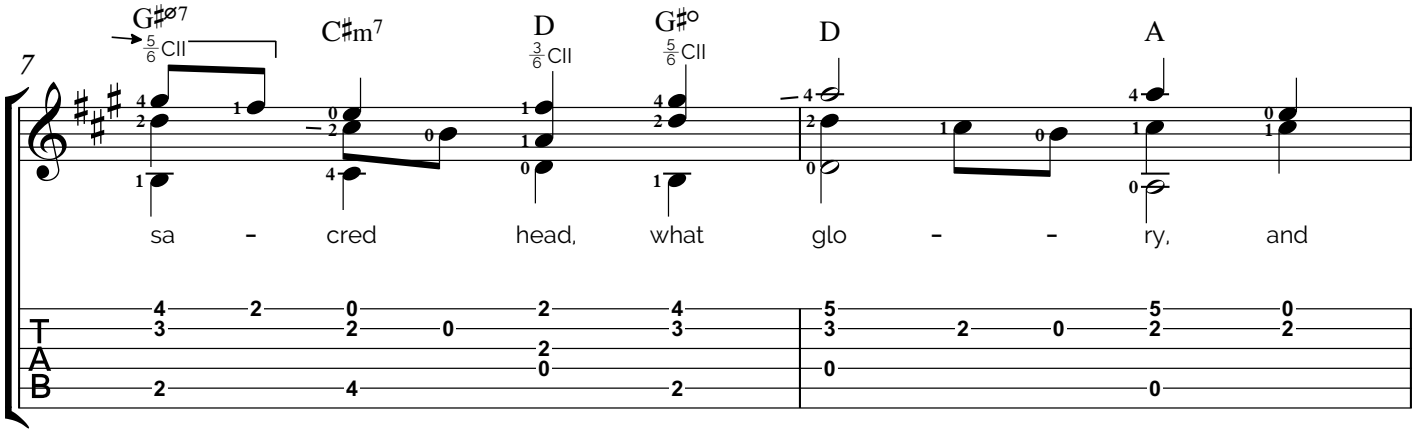
O Sacred Head Now Wounded

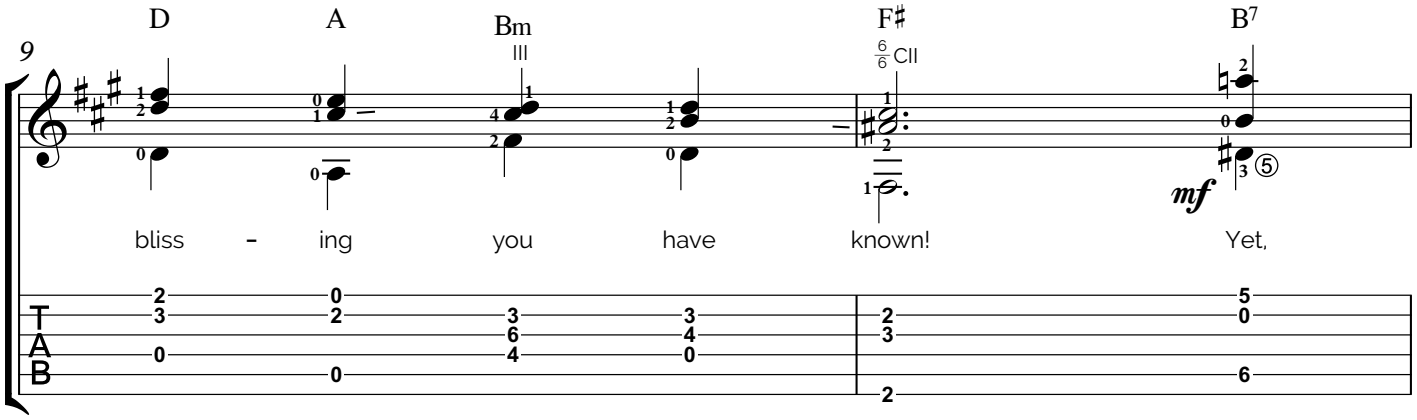
Traditional

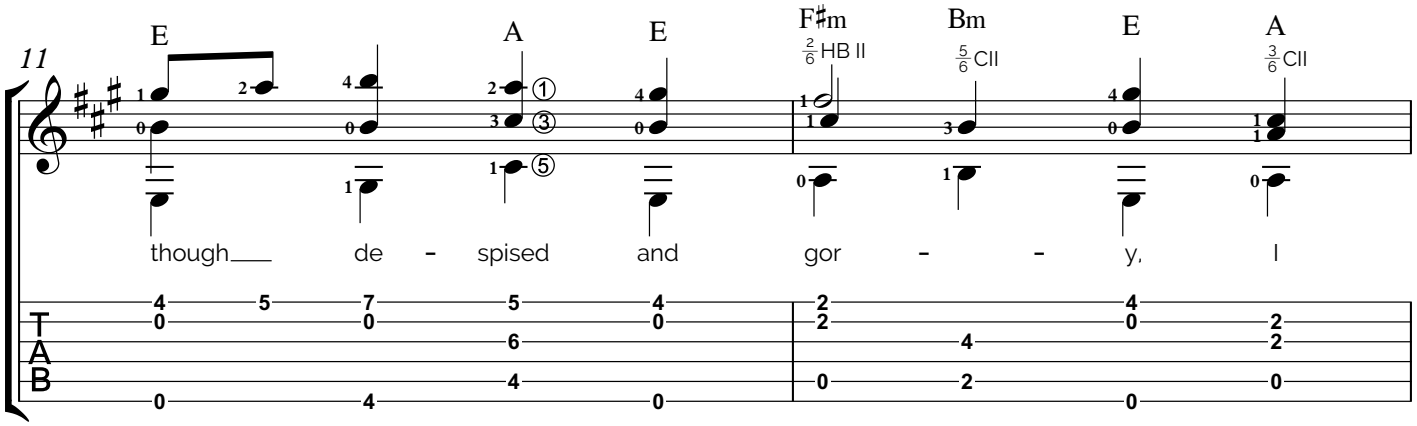
Adagio



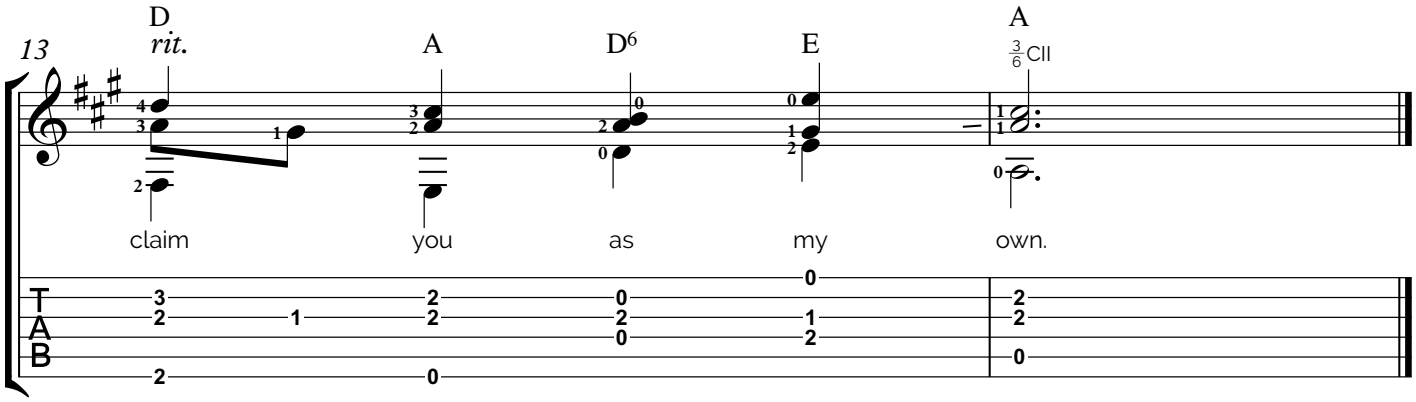
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2. My Lord, what you did suffer
was all for sinners' gain;
mine, mine was the transgression,
but yours the deadly pain.
So here I kneel, my Savior,
for I deserve your place;
look on me with your favor,
and save me by your grace.

3. What language shall I borrow
to thank you, dearest Friend,
for this, your dying sorrow,
your mercy without end?
Lord make me yours forever,
a loyal servant true,
and let me never, never
outlive my love for you.
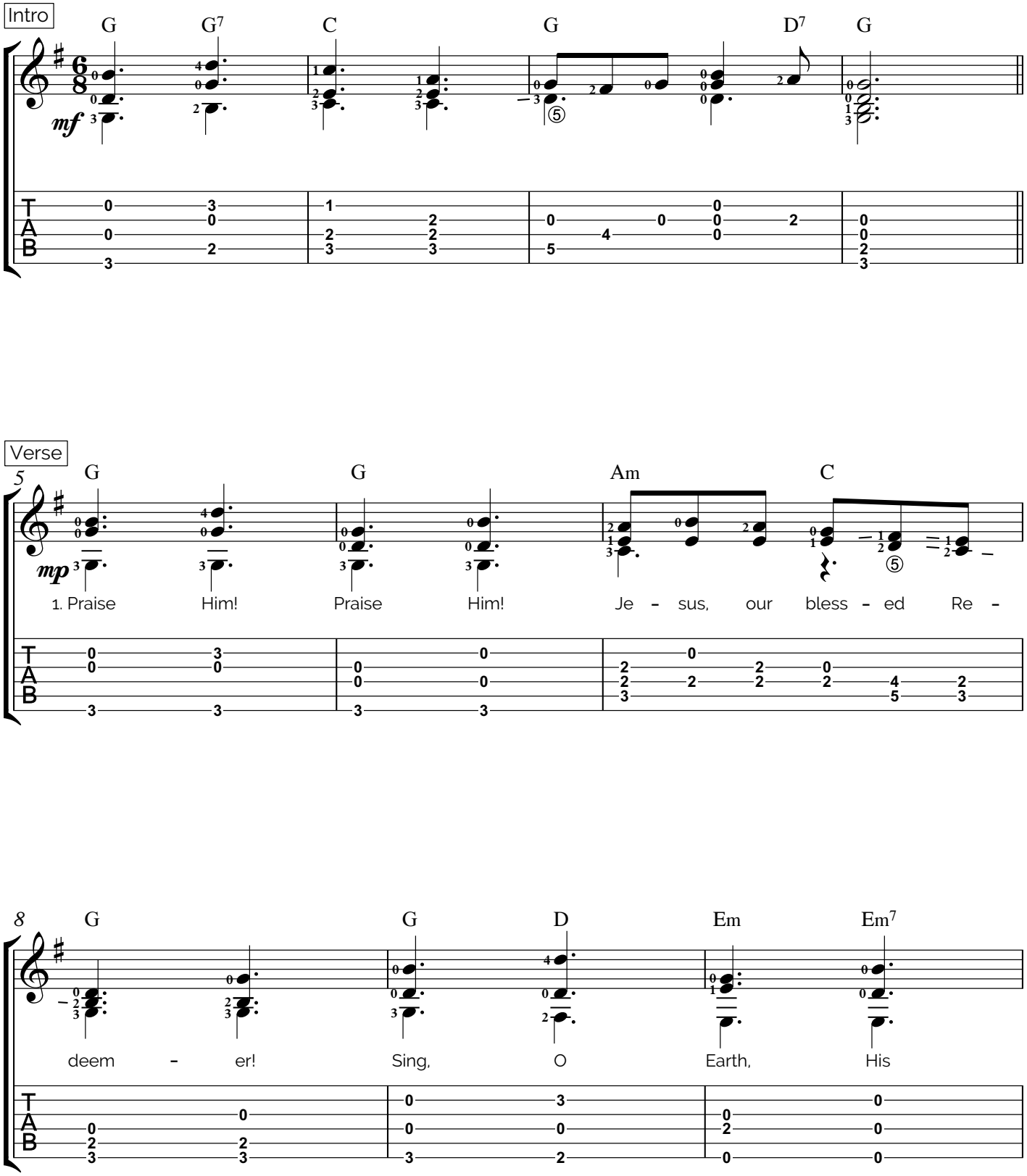
4. My Savior, be you near me
when death is at my door:
Then let your presence cheer me,
forsake me nevermore!
When soul and body languish,
oh, leave me not alone,
but take away mine anguish
by virtue of yours own!

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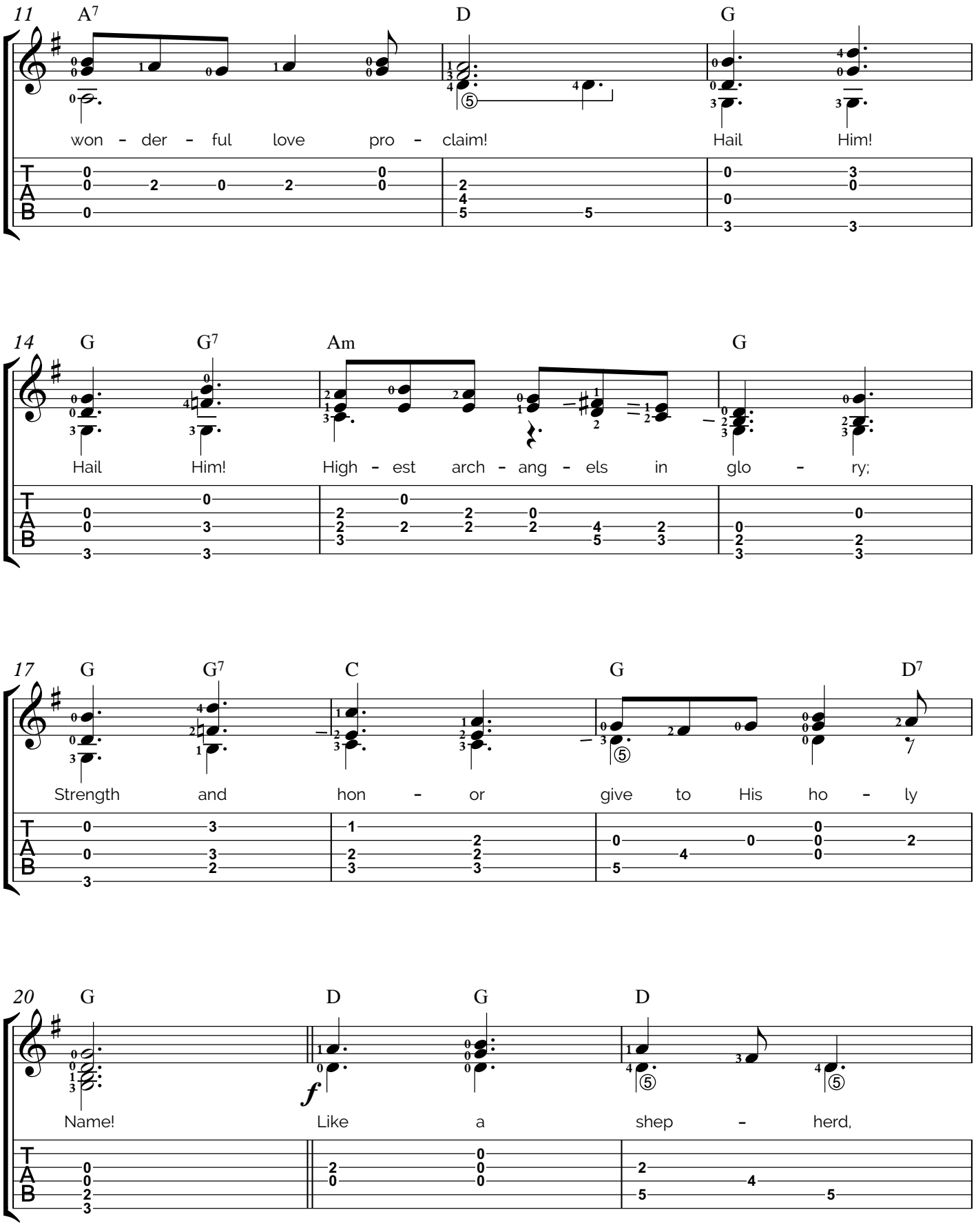
Praise Him! Praise Him!

Traditional

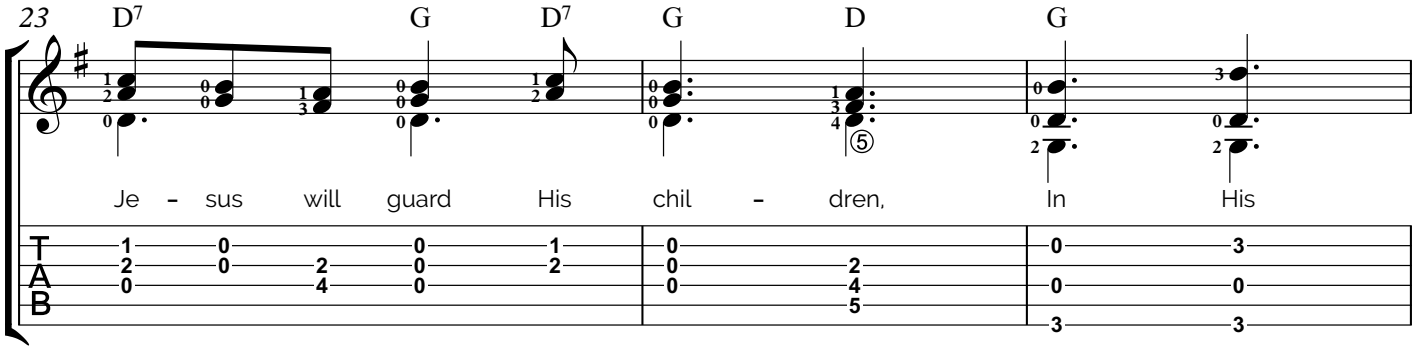
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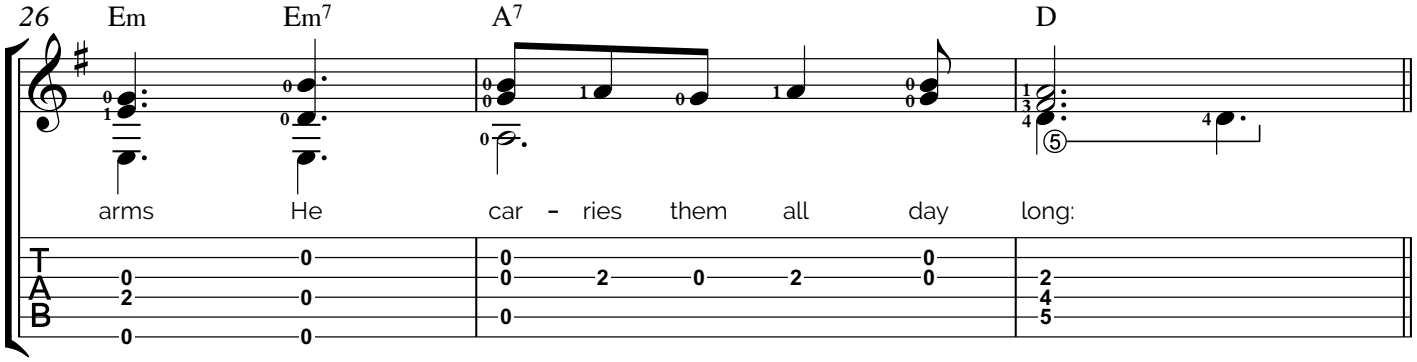


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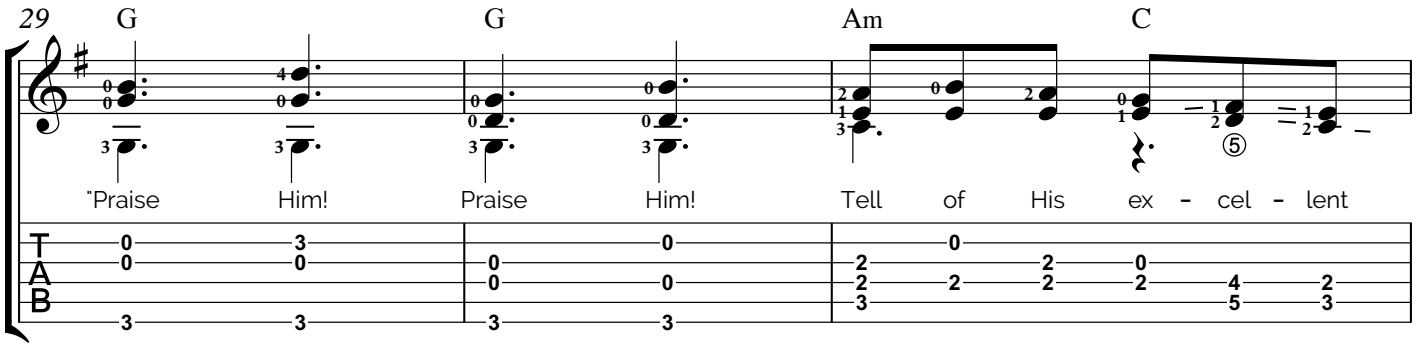


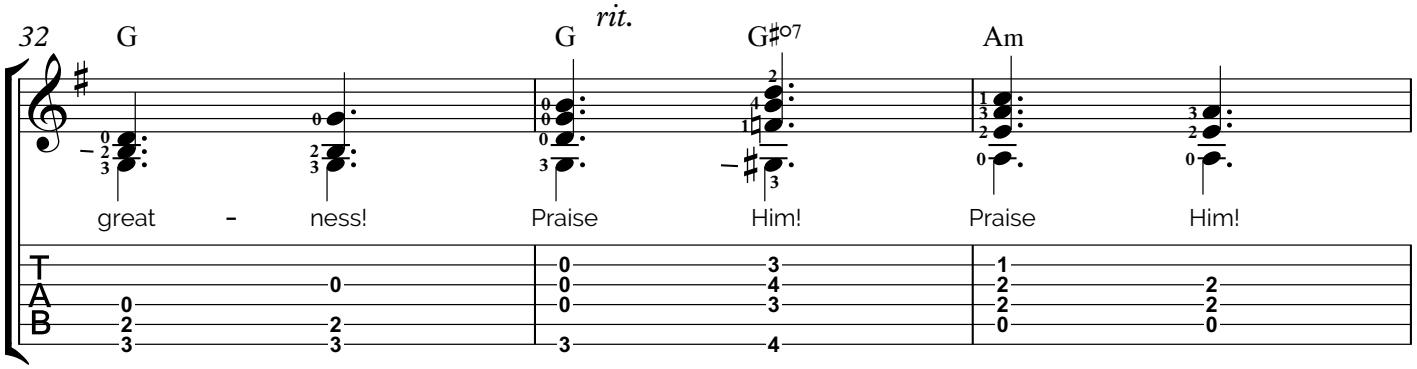
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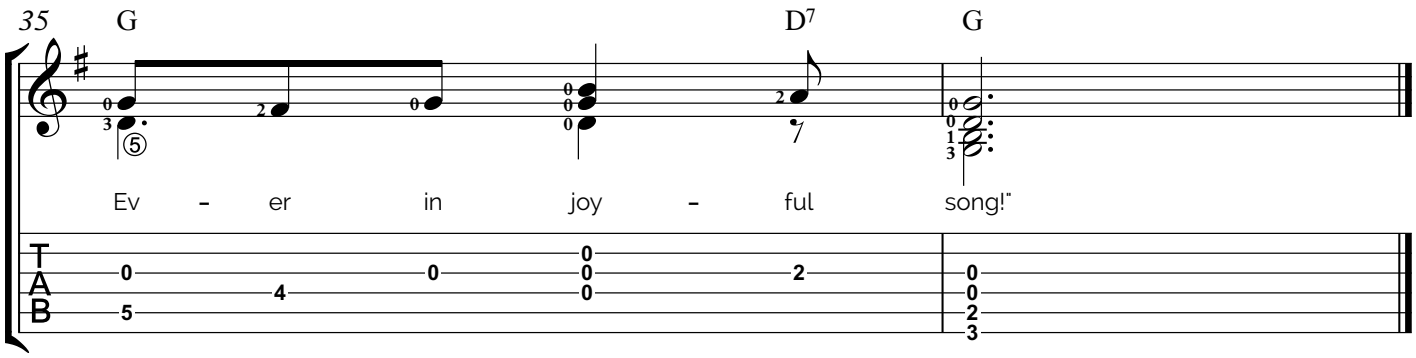


Refrain





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2. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
   For our sins He suffered, and bled, and died.
   He our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
   Hail Him! Hail Him! Jesus the Crucified.
   Sound His praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows,
   Love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong:

   Refrain

3. Praise Him! Praise Him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
   Heav'nly portals loud with hosannas ring!
   Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever,
   Crown Him! Crown Him! Prophet, and Priest, and King!
   Christ is coming, over the world victorious,
   Pow'r and glory unto the Lord belong:
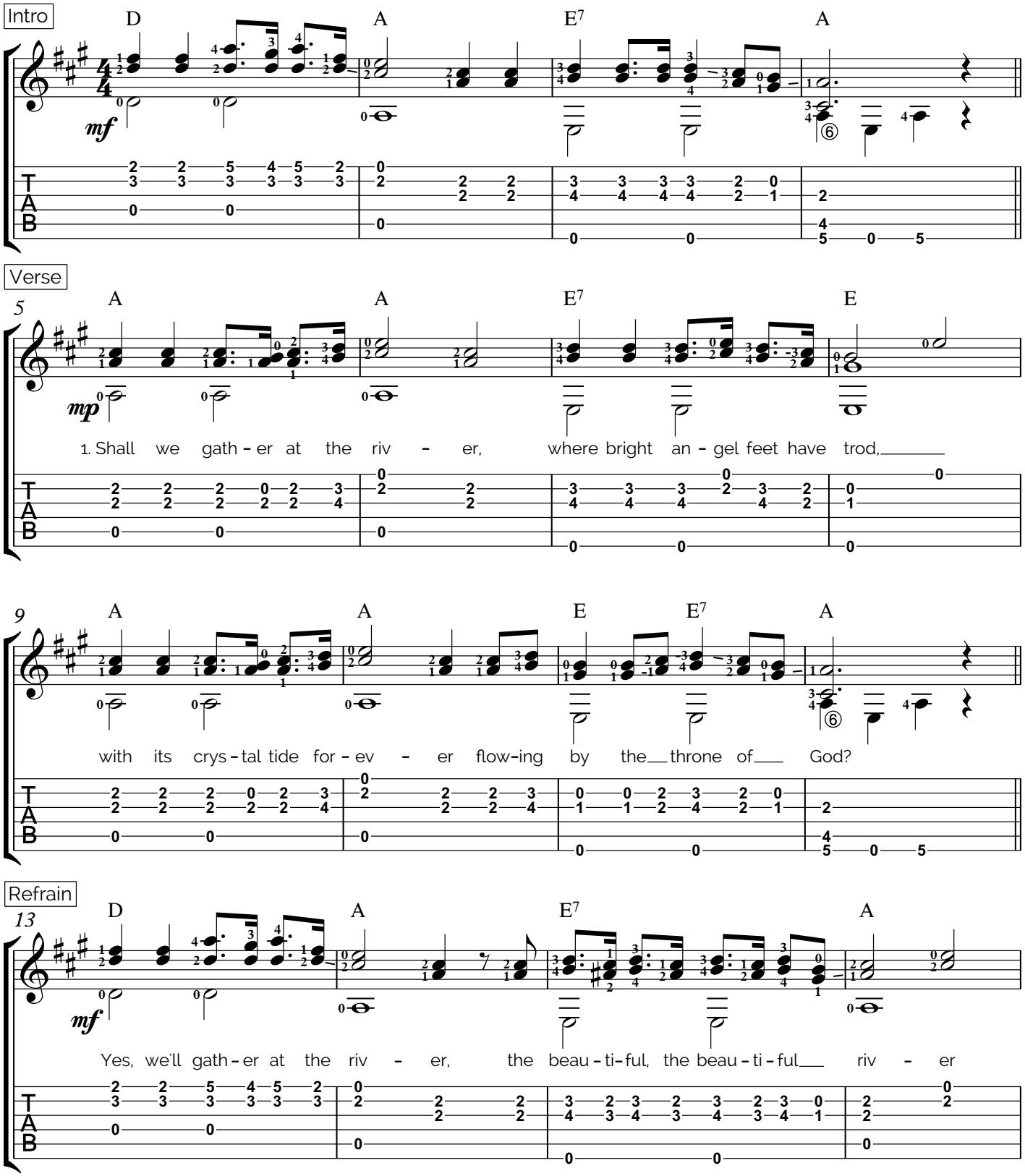
   Refrain

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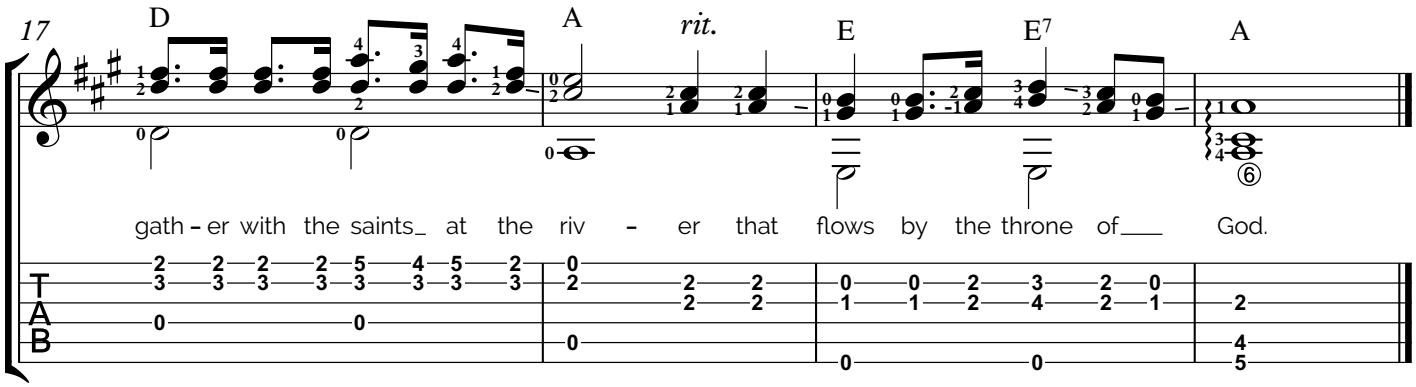
Shall We Gather At the River

Traditional

Andante



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2. On the margin of the river,
   washing up its silver spray,
   we will walk and worship ever,
   all the happy golden day.

   Refrain

3. Ere we reach the shining river,
   lay we ev'ry burden down;
   grace our spirits will deliver,
   and provide a robe and crown.

   Refrain

4. Soon we'll reach the shining river,
   soon our pilgrimage will cease;
   soon our happy hearts will quiver
   with the melody of peace.
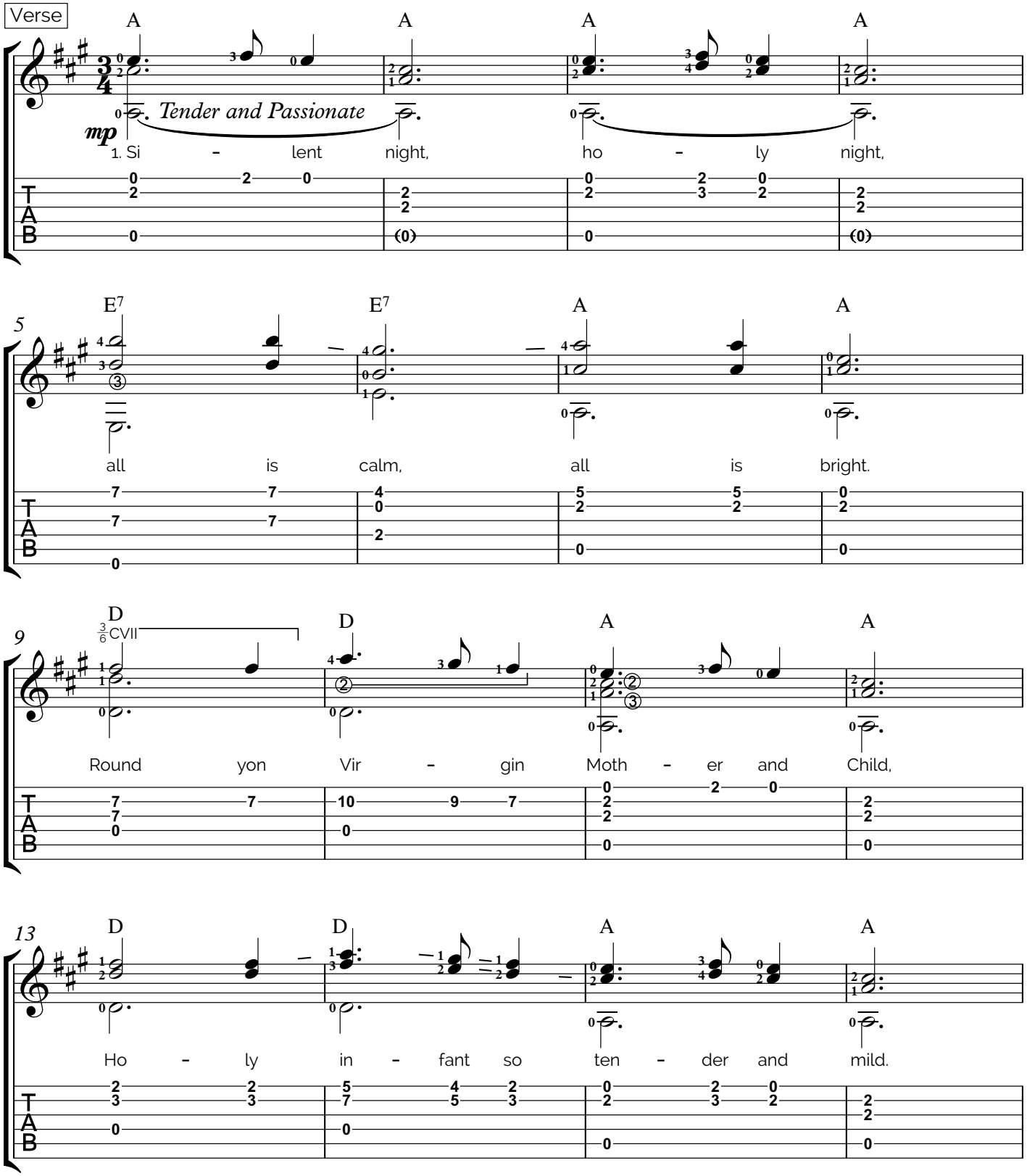
   Refrain

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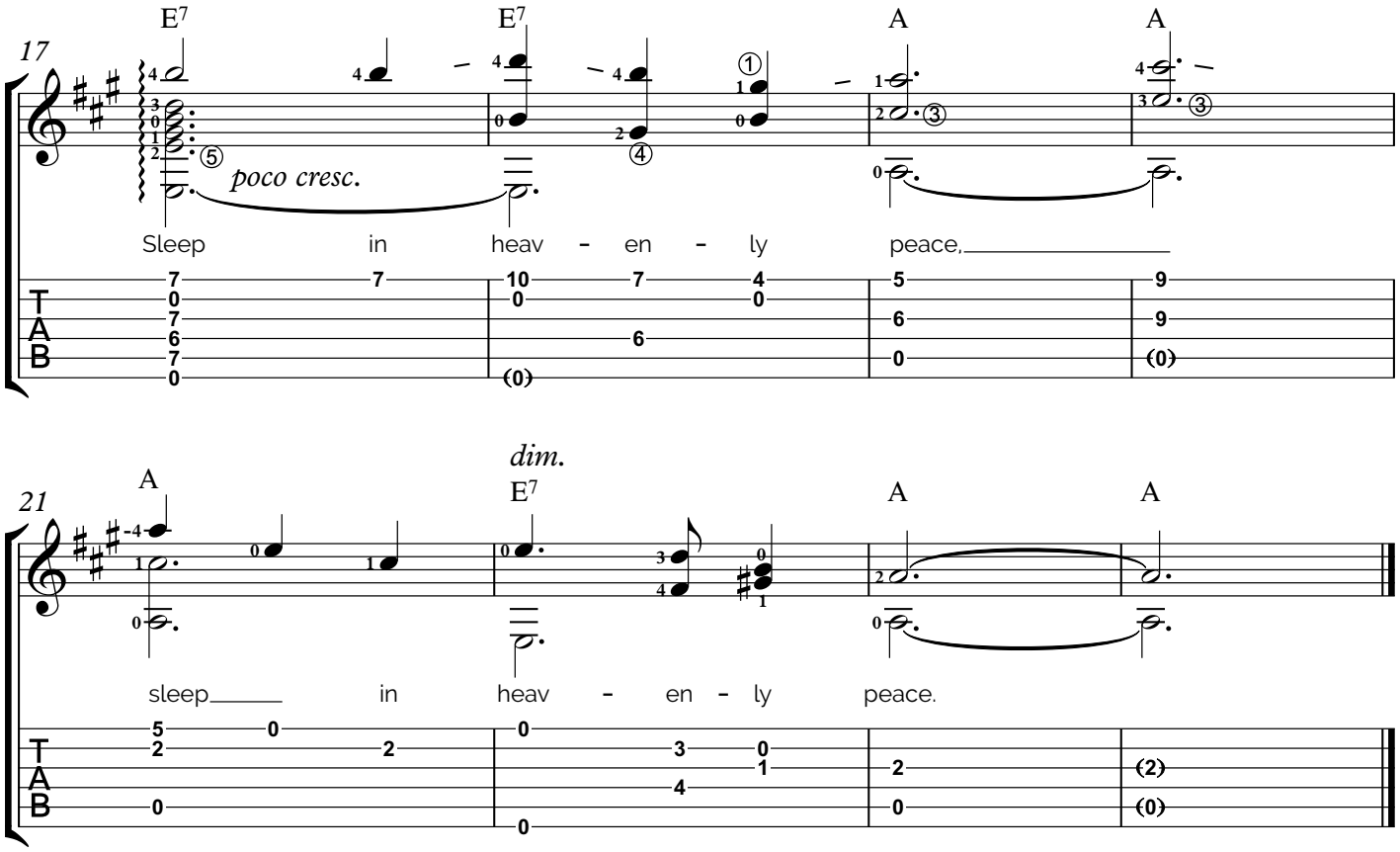
Silent Night

Traditional

Adagio ma non troppo



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2. Silent night, holy night!
   Shepherds quake at the sight.
   Glories stream from heaven afar,
   Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
   Christ, the Saviour is born,
   Christ, the Saviour is born.
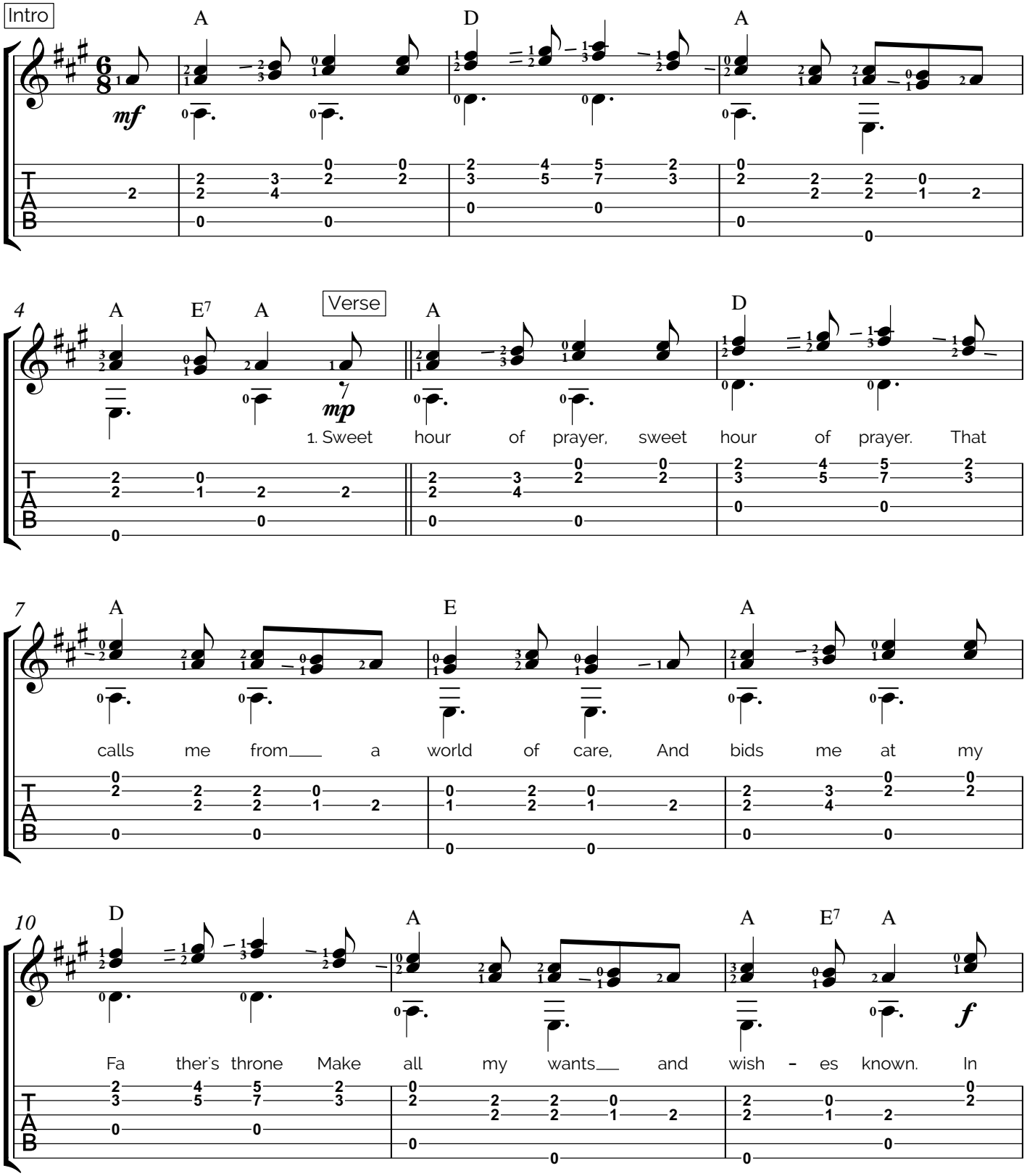
3. Silent night, holy night!
   Son of God, love's pure light,
   radiant beams from Thy holy face
   with the dawn of redeeming grace,
   Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
   Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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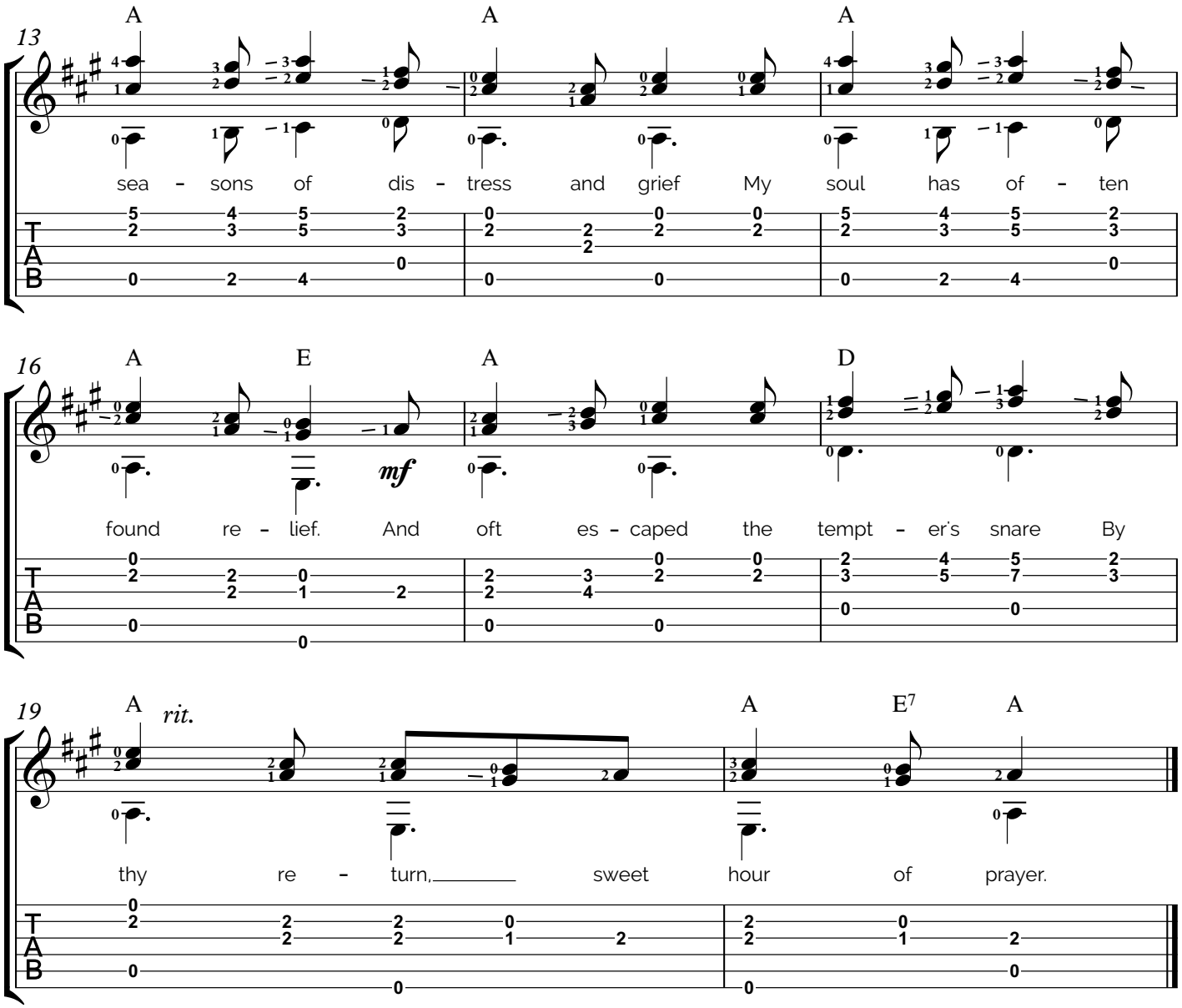
Sweet Hour of Prayer

Traditional

Adagio



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2. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer.
   Thy wings shall my petition bear
   To Him whose truth and faithfulness
   Engage the waiting soul to bless;
   And since He bids me seek His face,
   Believe His word and trust His grace.
   I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
   and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.
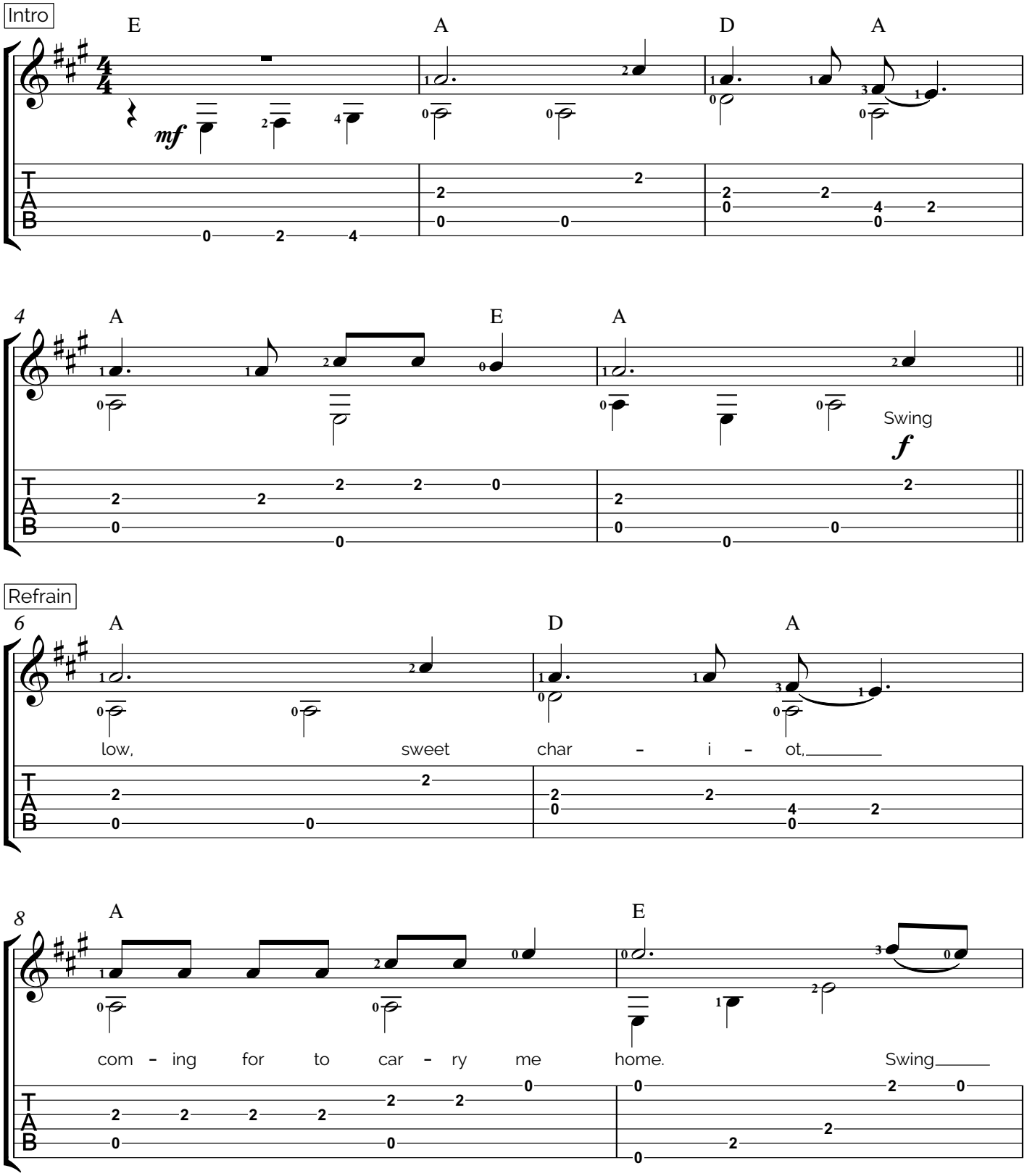
3. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer.
   May I thy consolation share,
   Till from Mount Pisgah's lofty height
   I view my home and take my flight:
   This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
   To seize the everlasting prize.
   And shout, while passing through the air,
   "Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer!"

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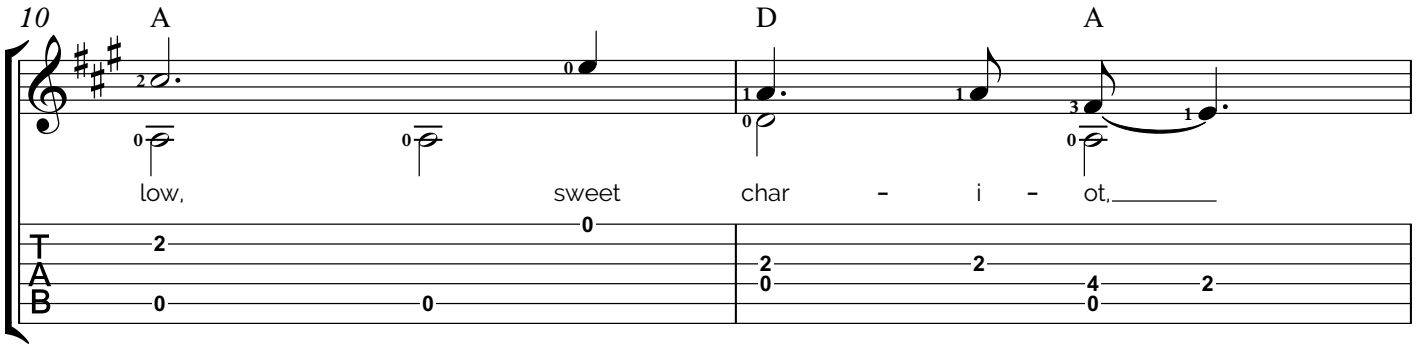
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

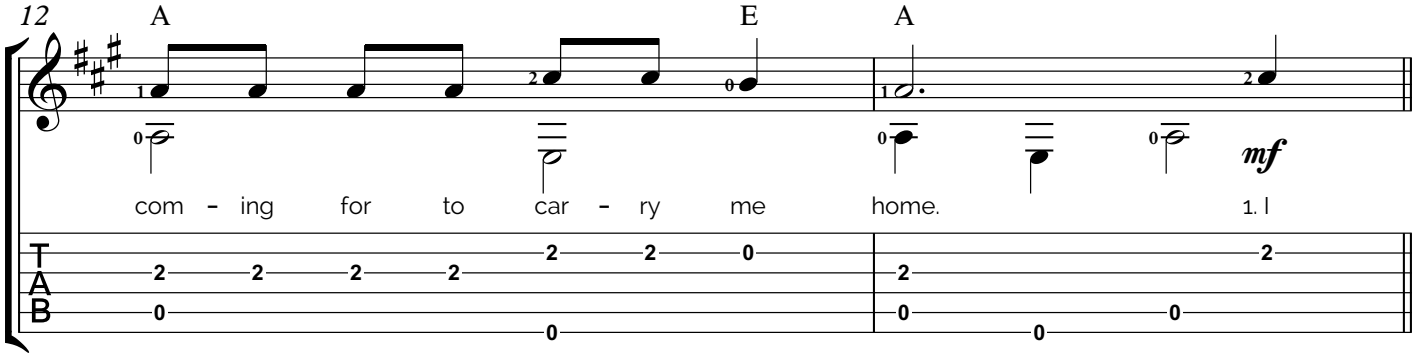
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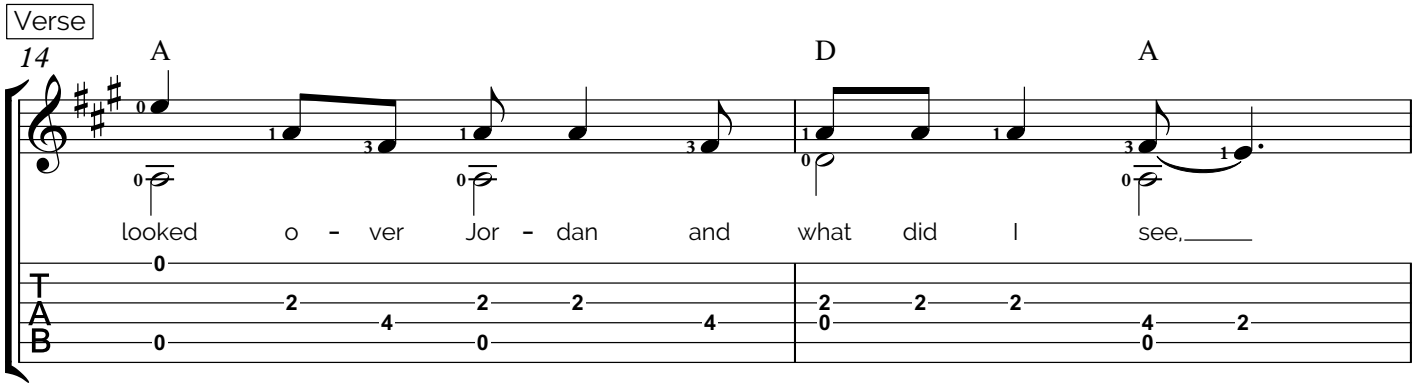
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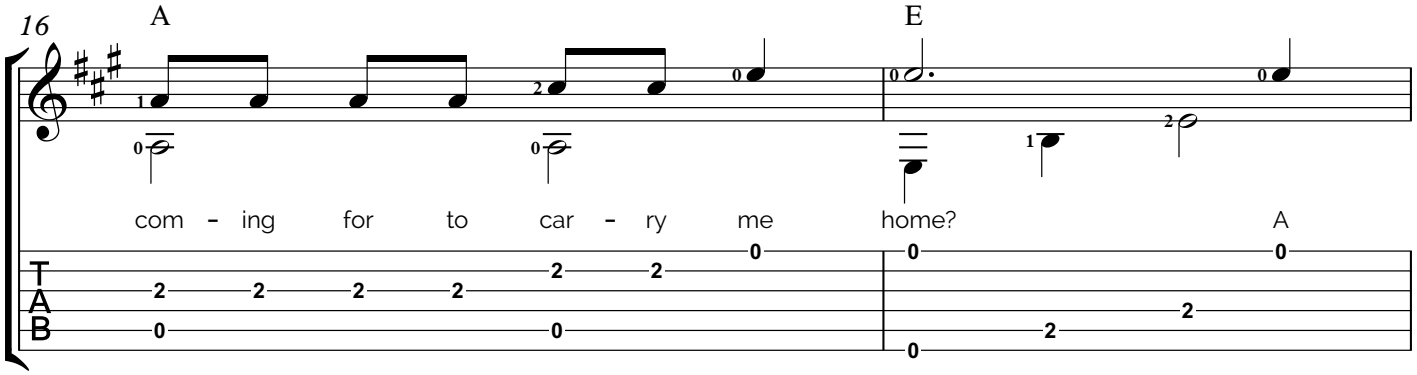


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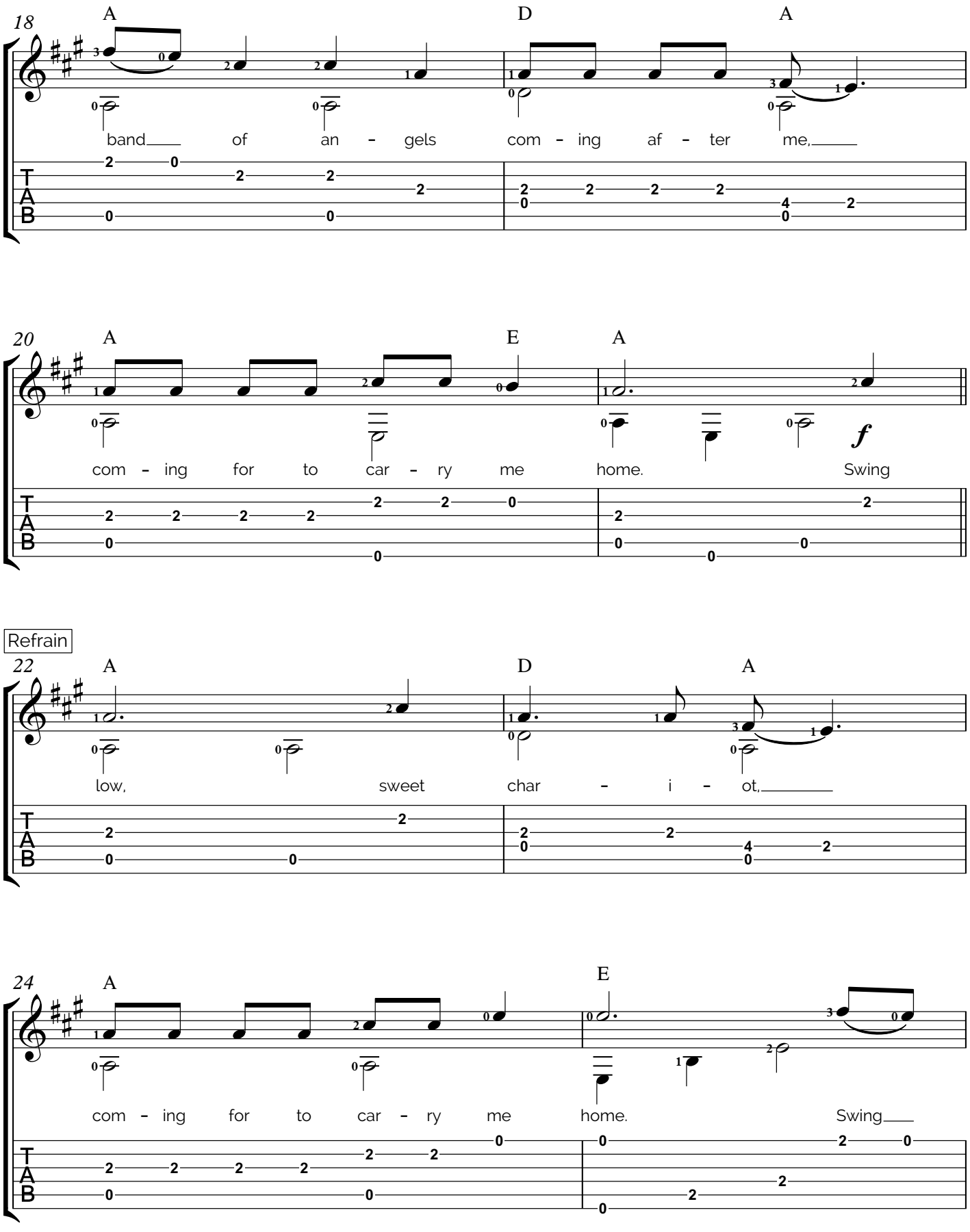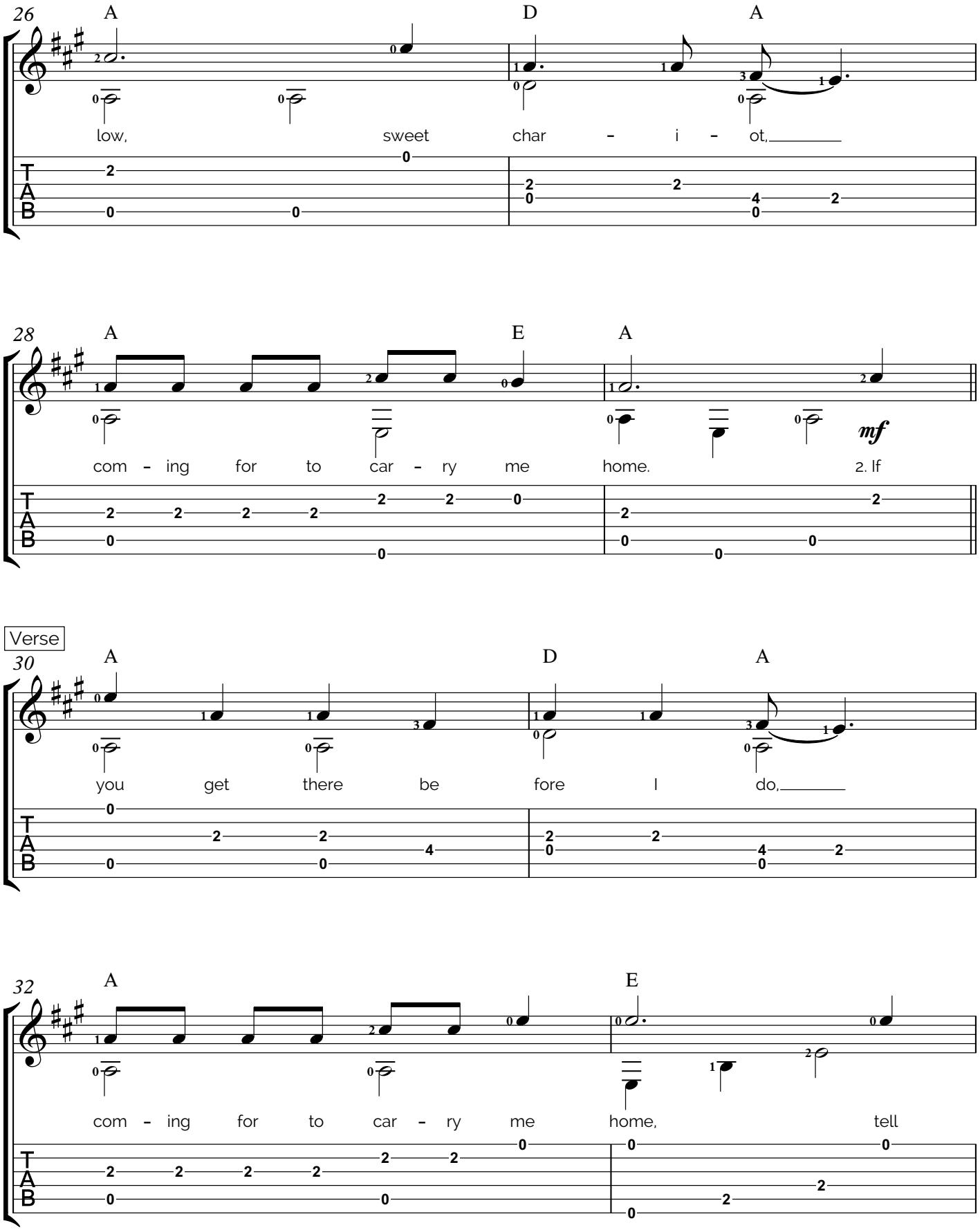








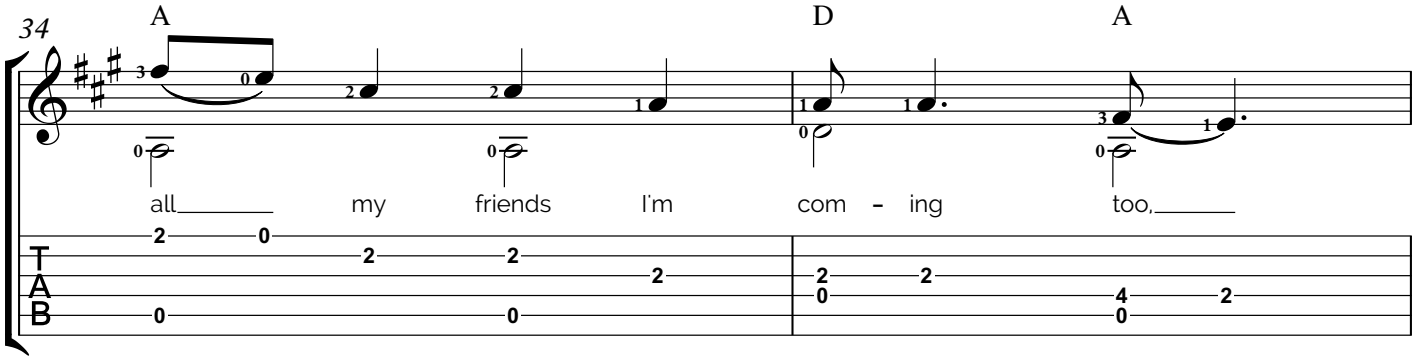
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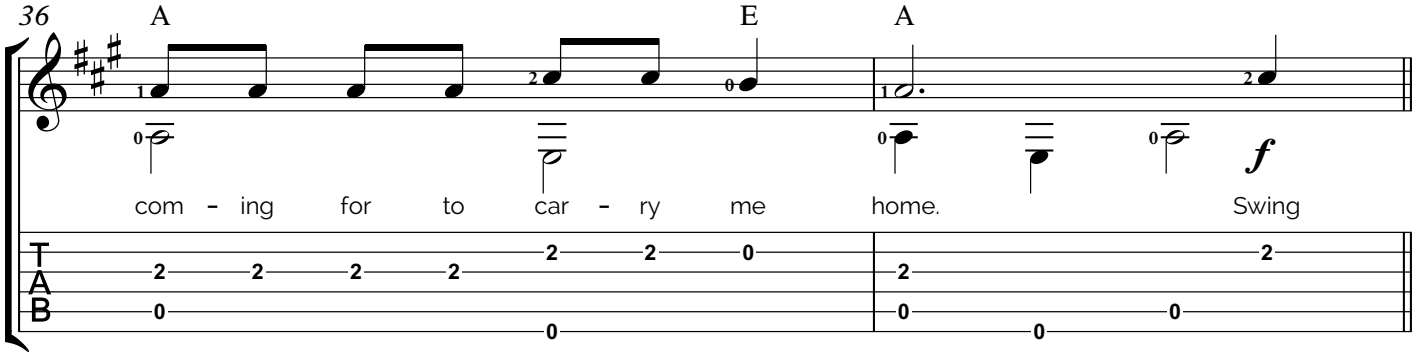


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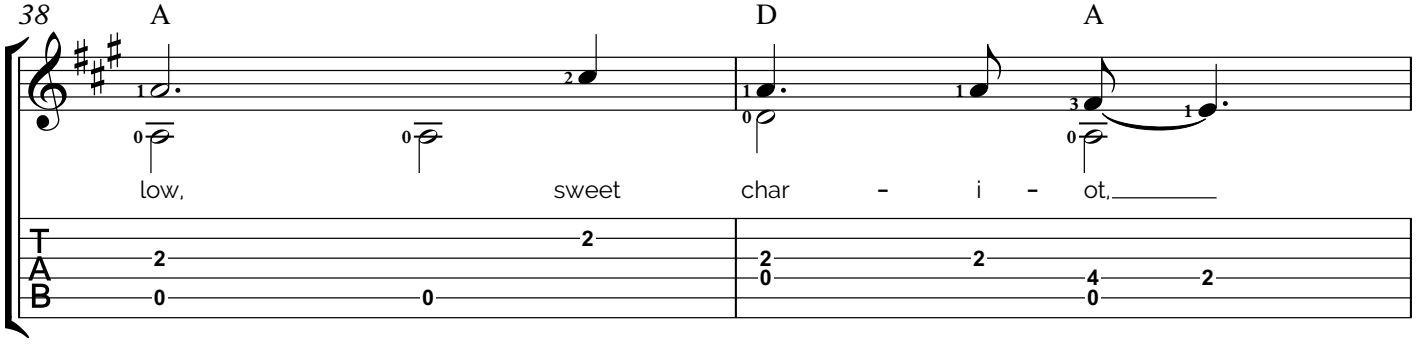


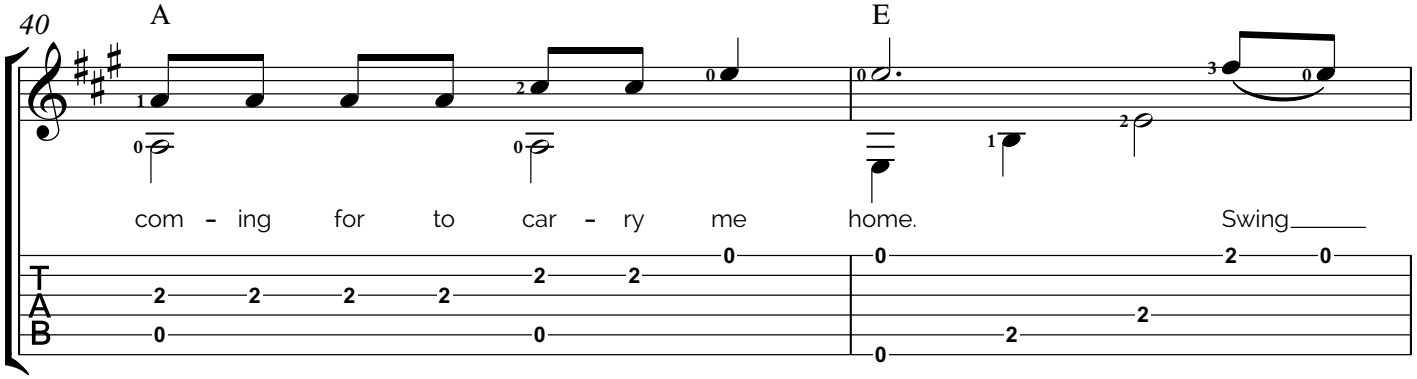
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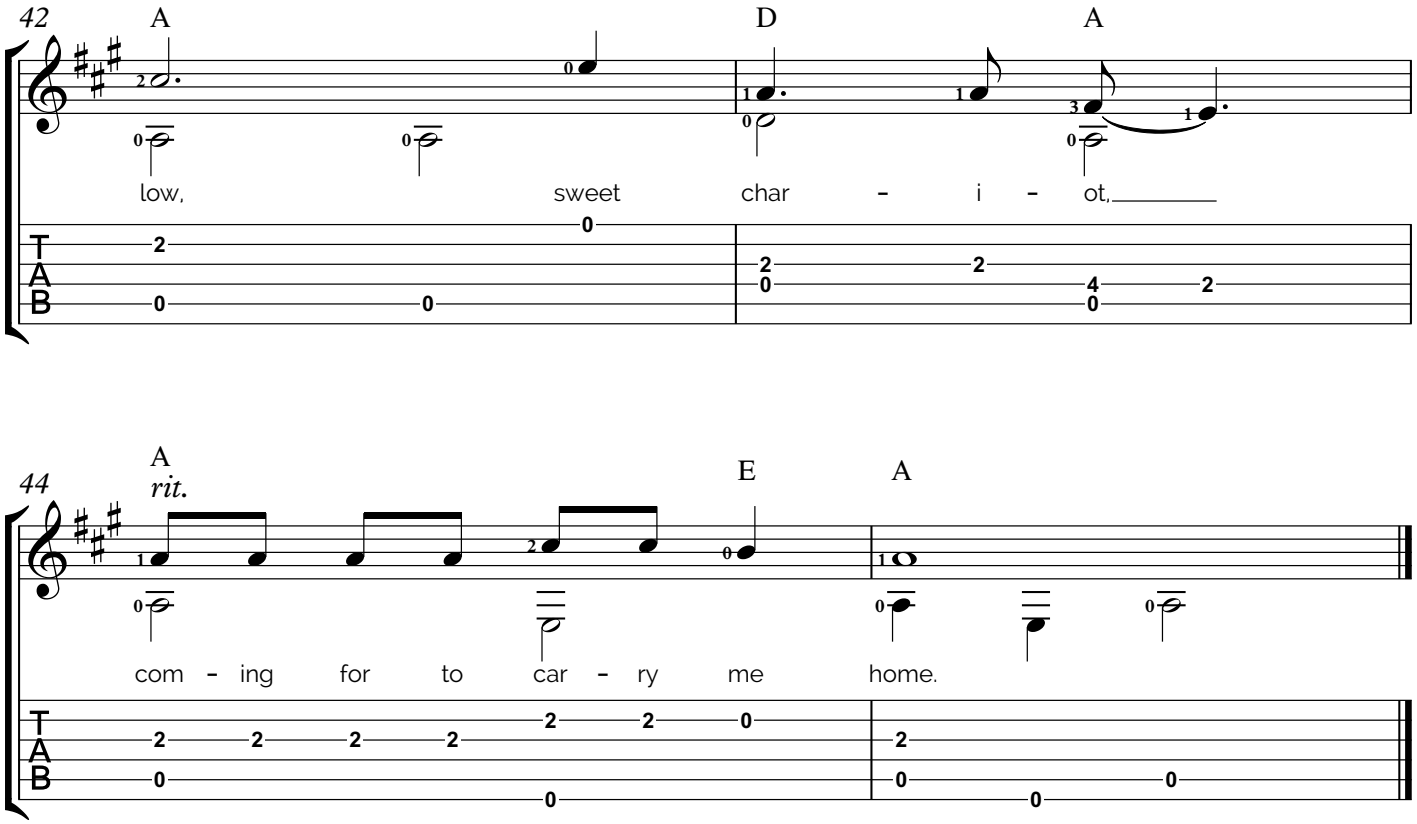




Refrain





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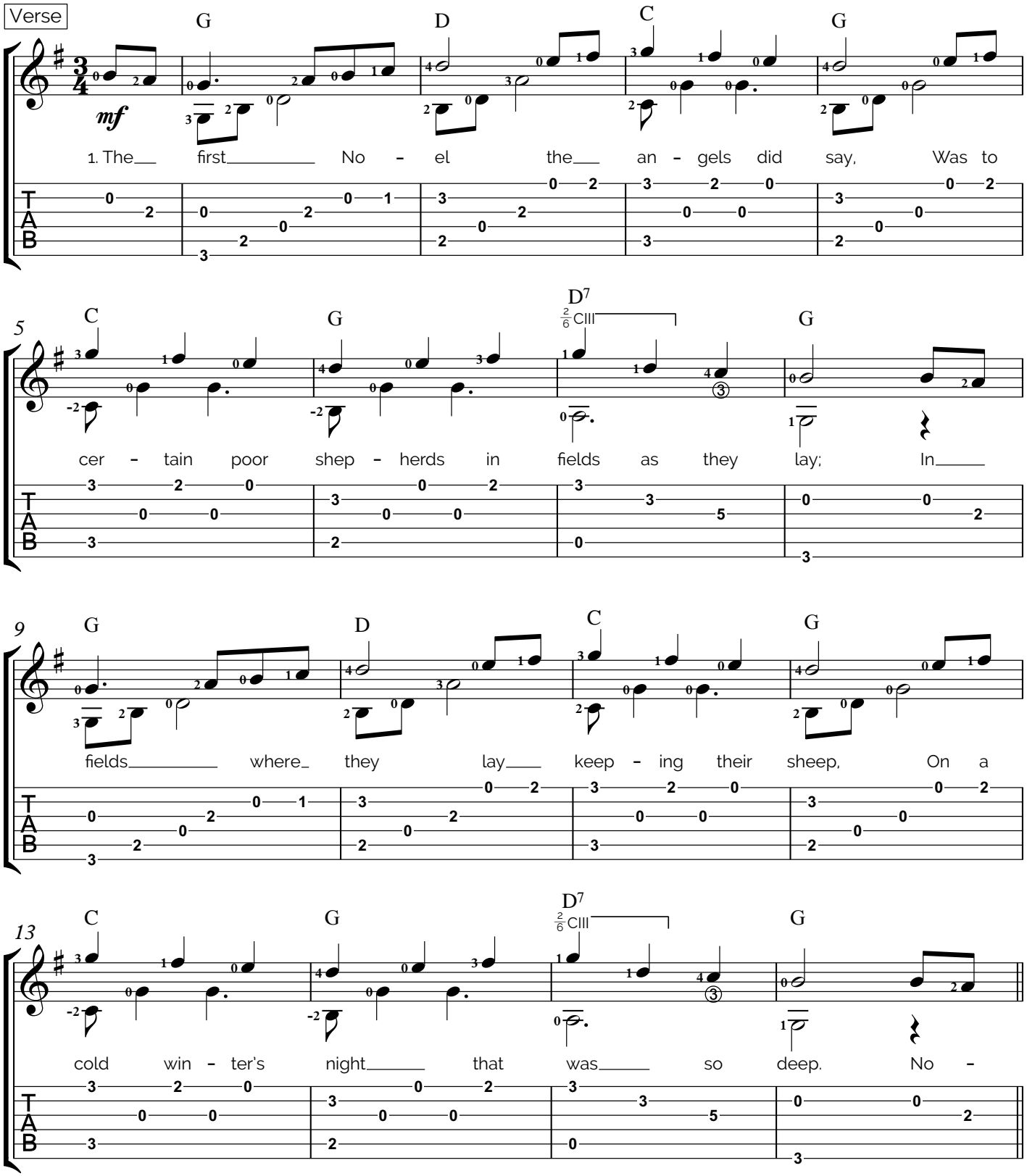


3. I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down,
Coming for to carry me home.
But still my soul feels heavenly bound,
Coming for to carry me home.

Refrain
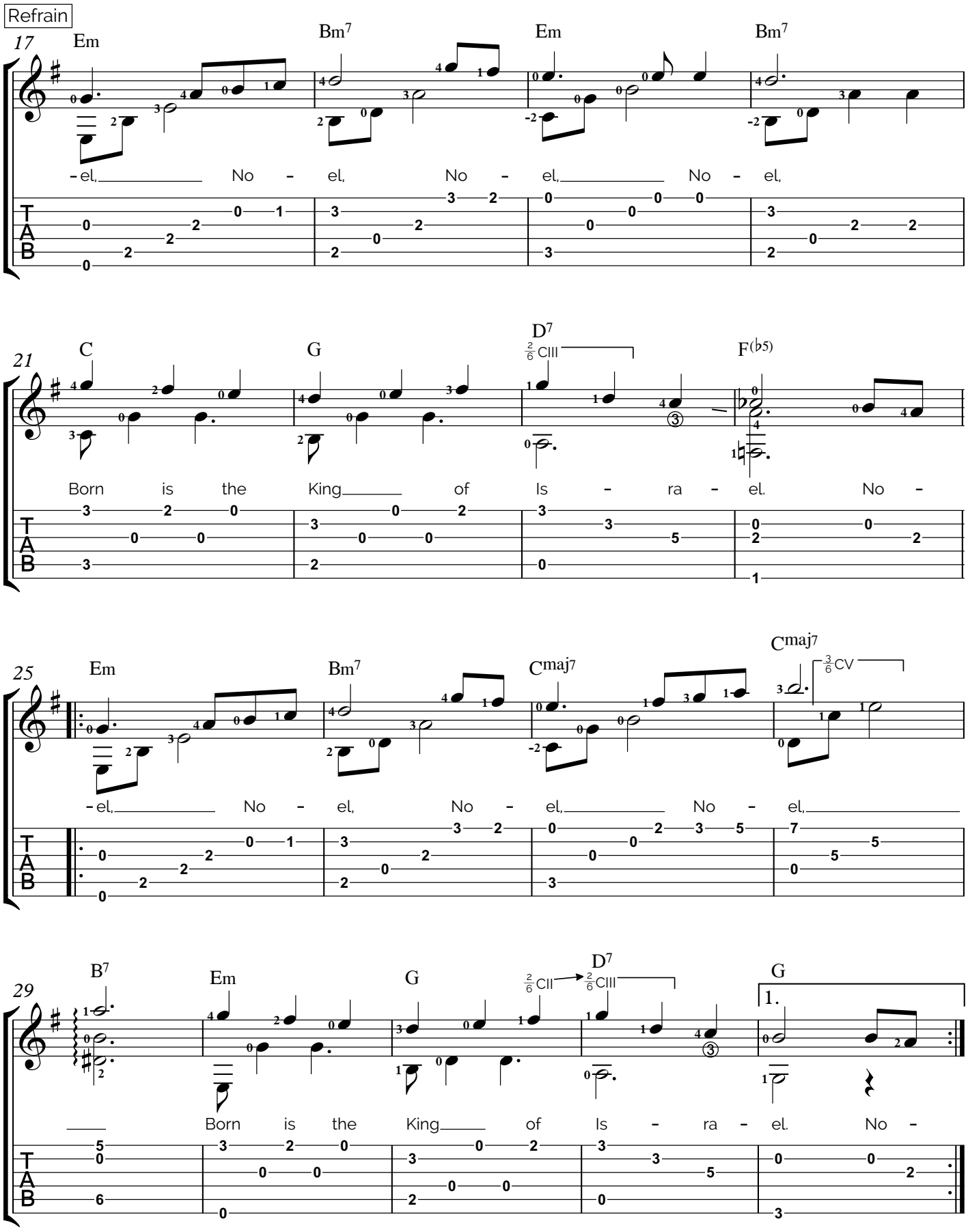
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The First Noel

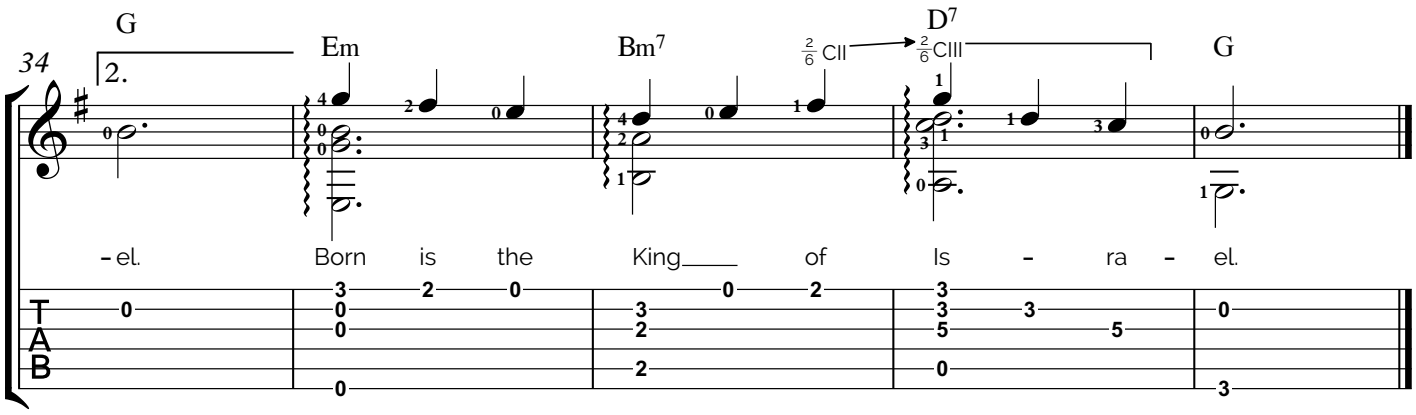
Traditional



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2. They looked up and saw a star,
   Shining in the east, beyond them far;
   And to the earth it gave great light,
   And so it continued both day and night.

   Refrain

3. And by the light of that same star,
   Three Wise Men came from country far;
   To seek for a King was their intent,
   And to follow the star wherever it went.

   Refrain

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,
   O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
   And there it did both stop and stay,
   Right over the place where Jesus lay.

   Refrain

5. Then entered in those Wise Men three,
   Fell reverently upon their knee;
   And offered there in his presence,
   Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

   Refrain

6. Then let us all with one accord,
   Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
   That hath made heaven and earth of naught,
   And with his blood mankind hath bought.
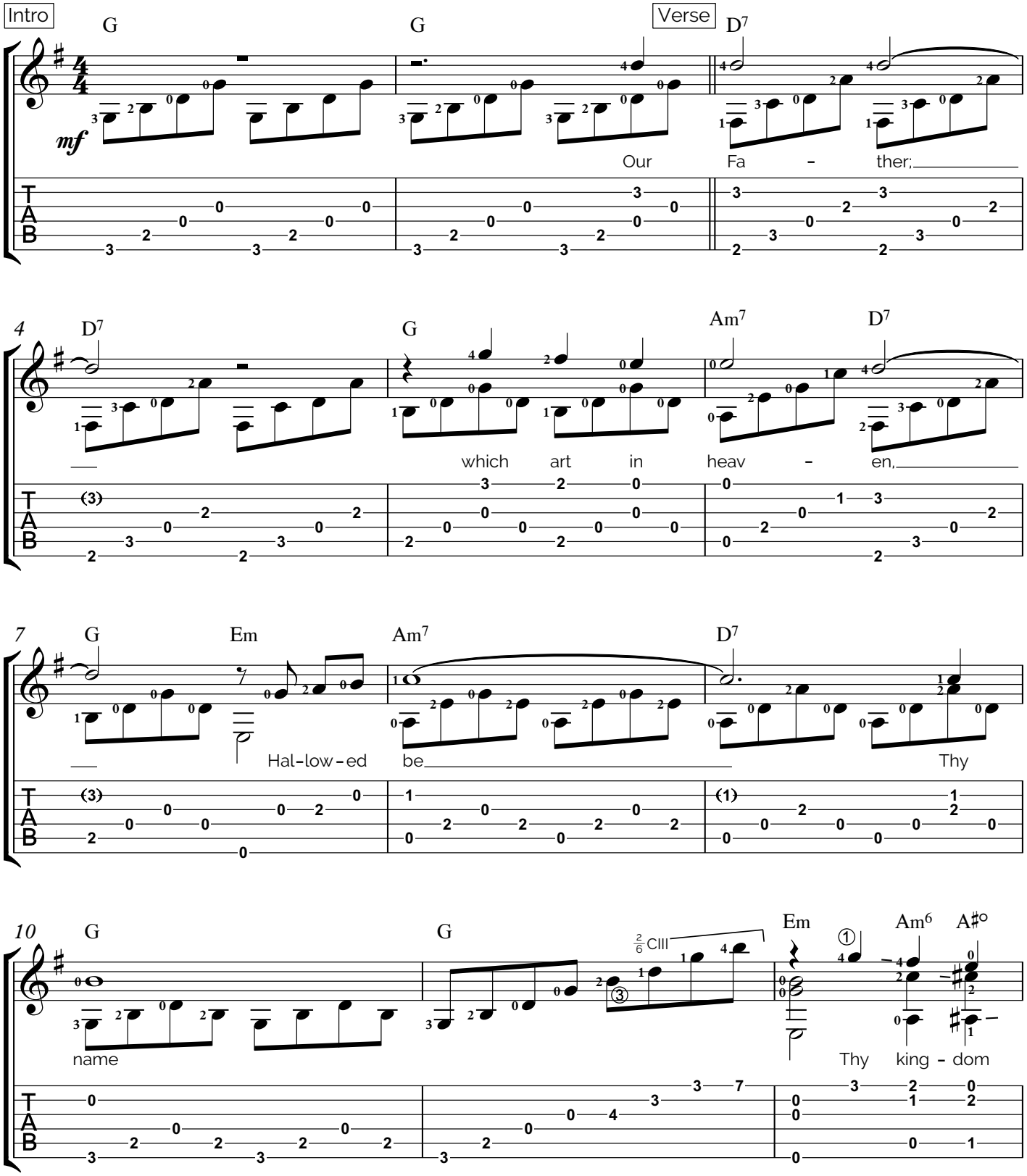
   Refrain

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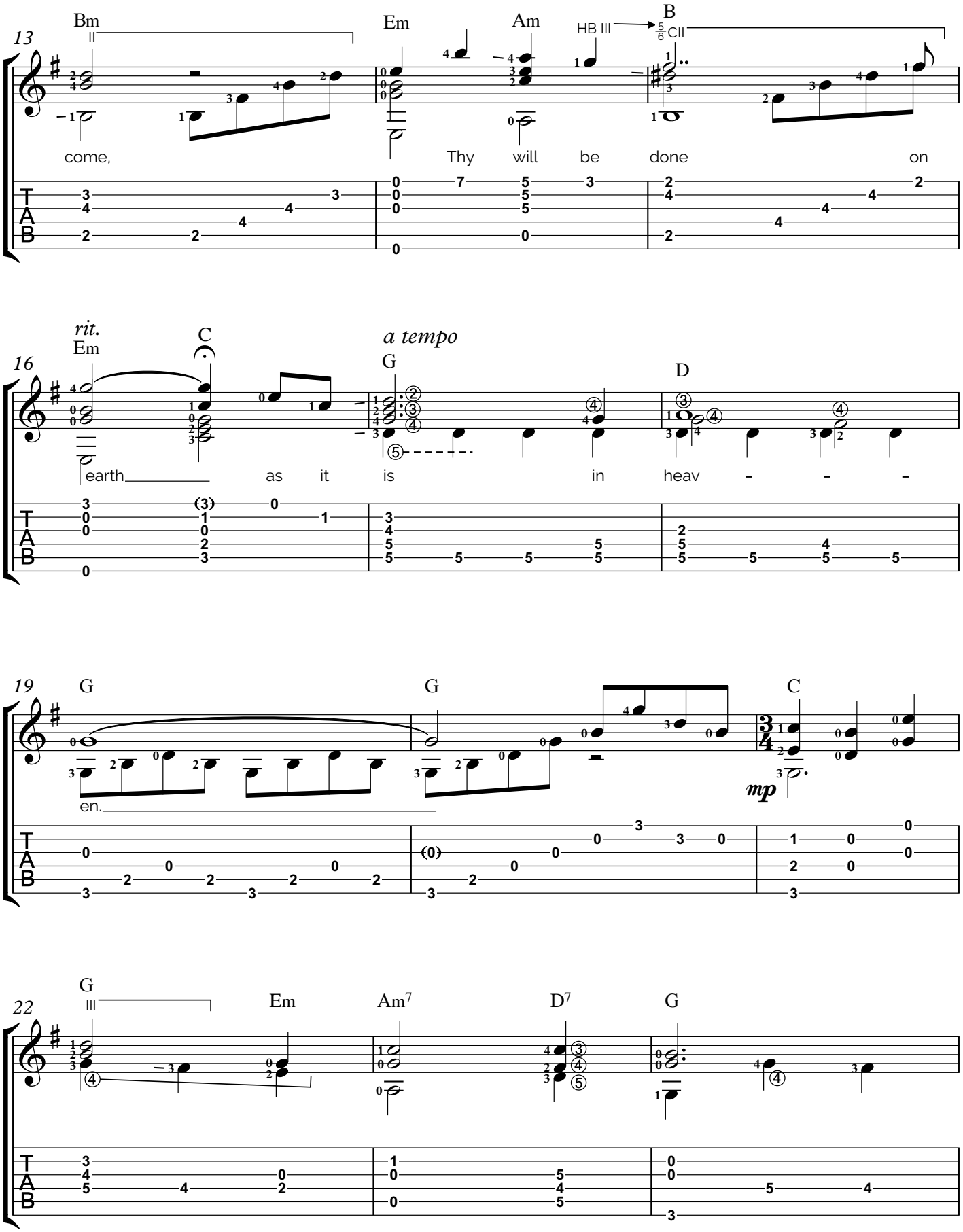
The Lord's Prayer

Traditional
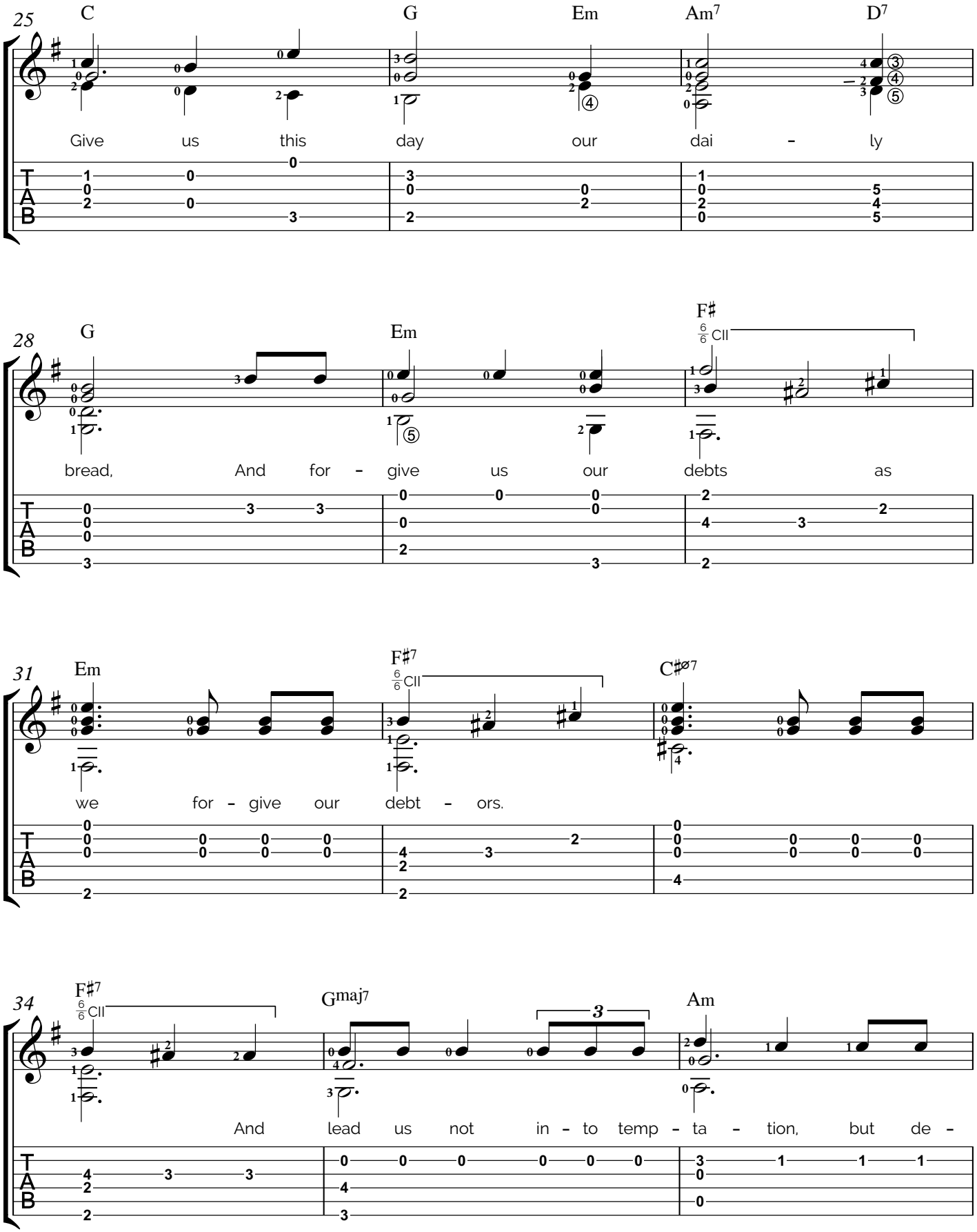
Andante
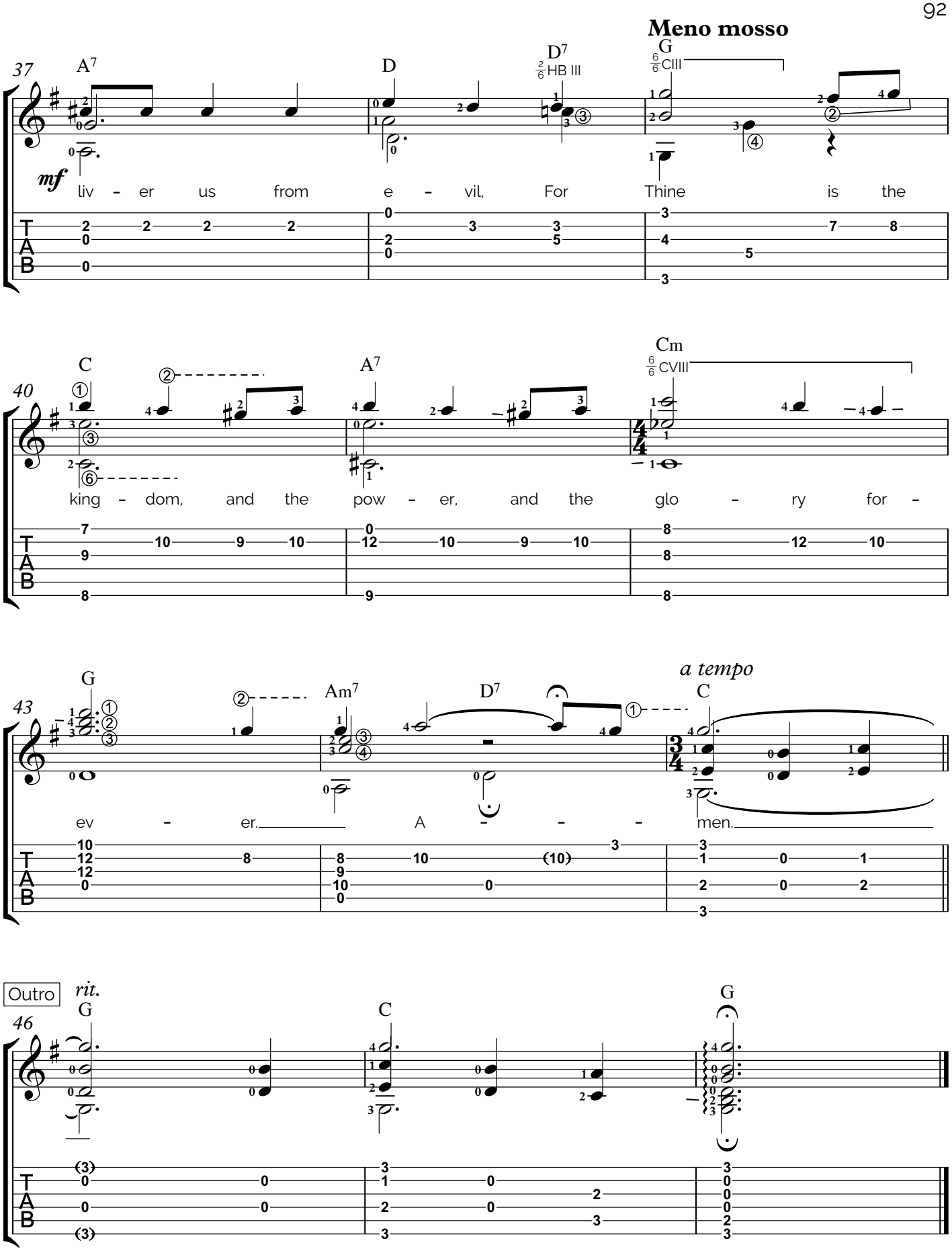


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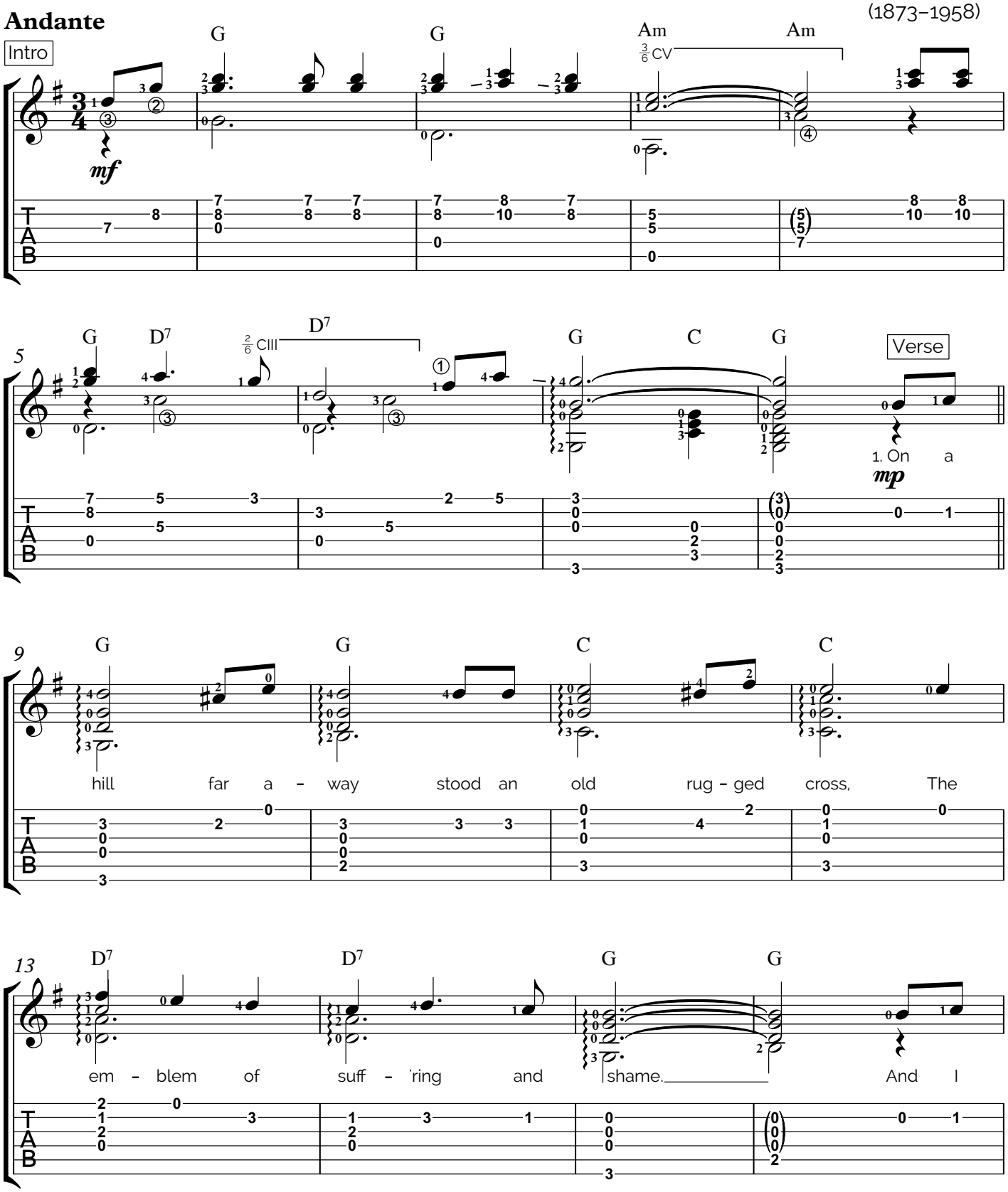


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The Old Rugged Cross
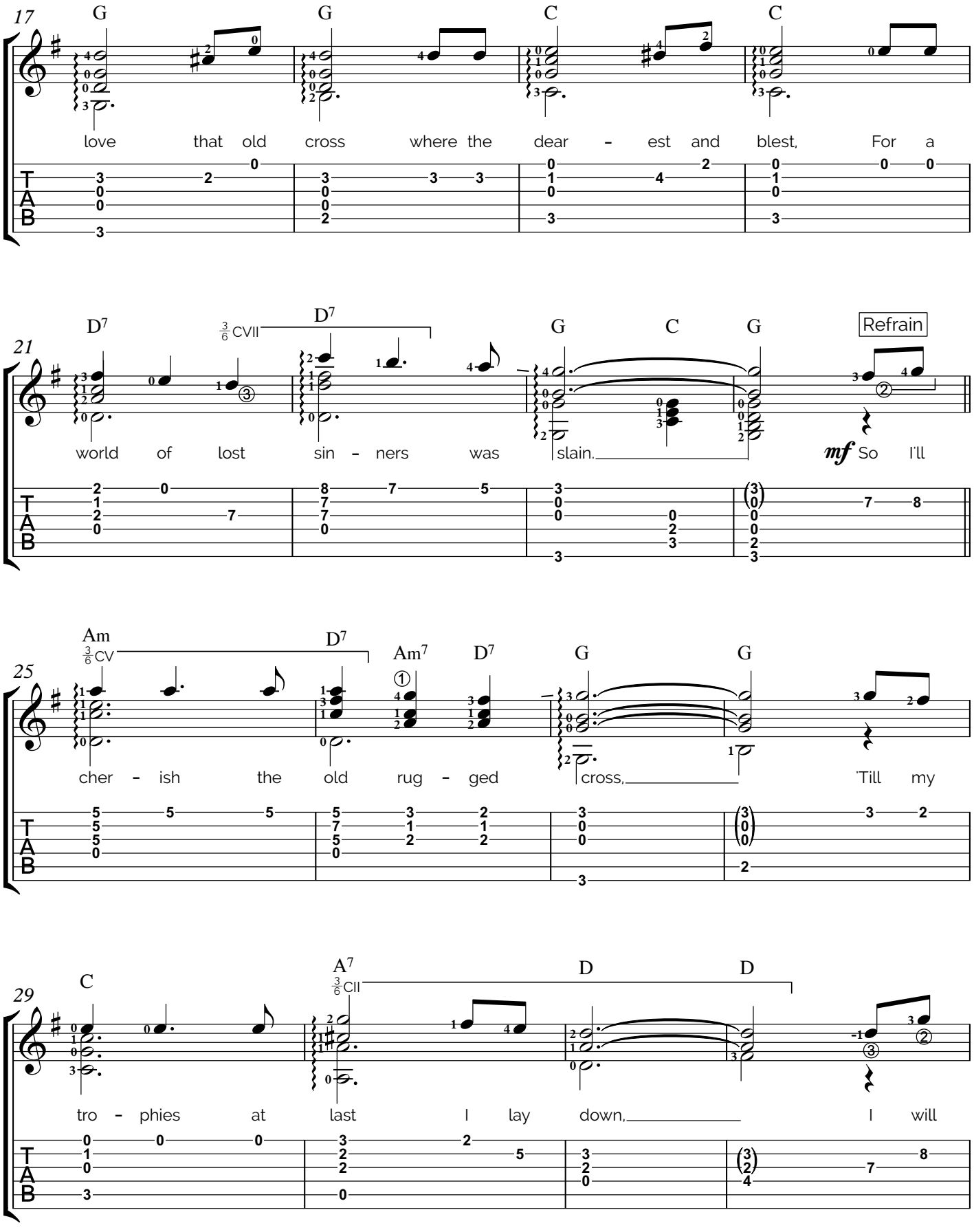
George Bennard
(1873–1958)

Andante

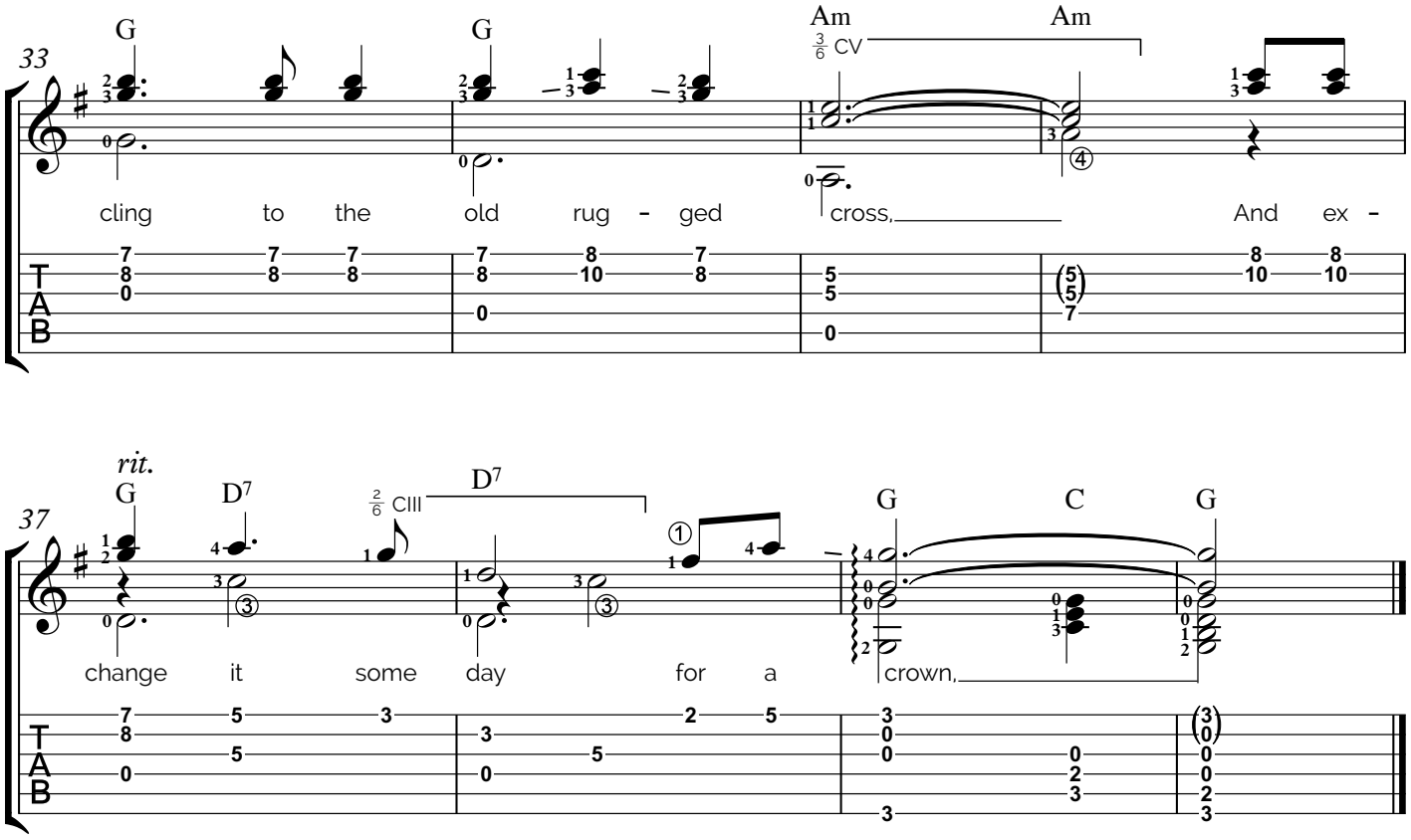
Intro



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2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.

Refrain

3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.

Refrain

4. To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.
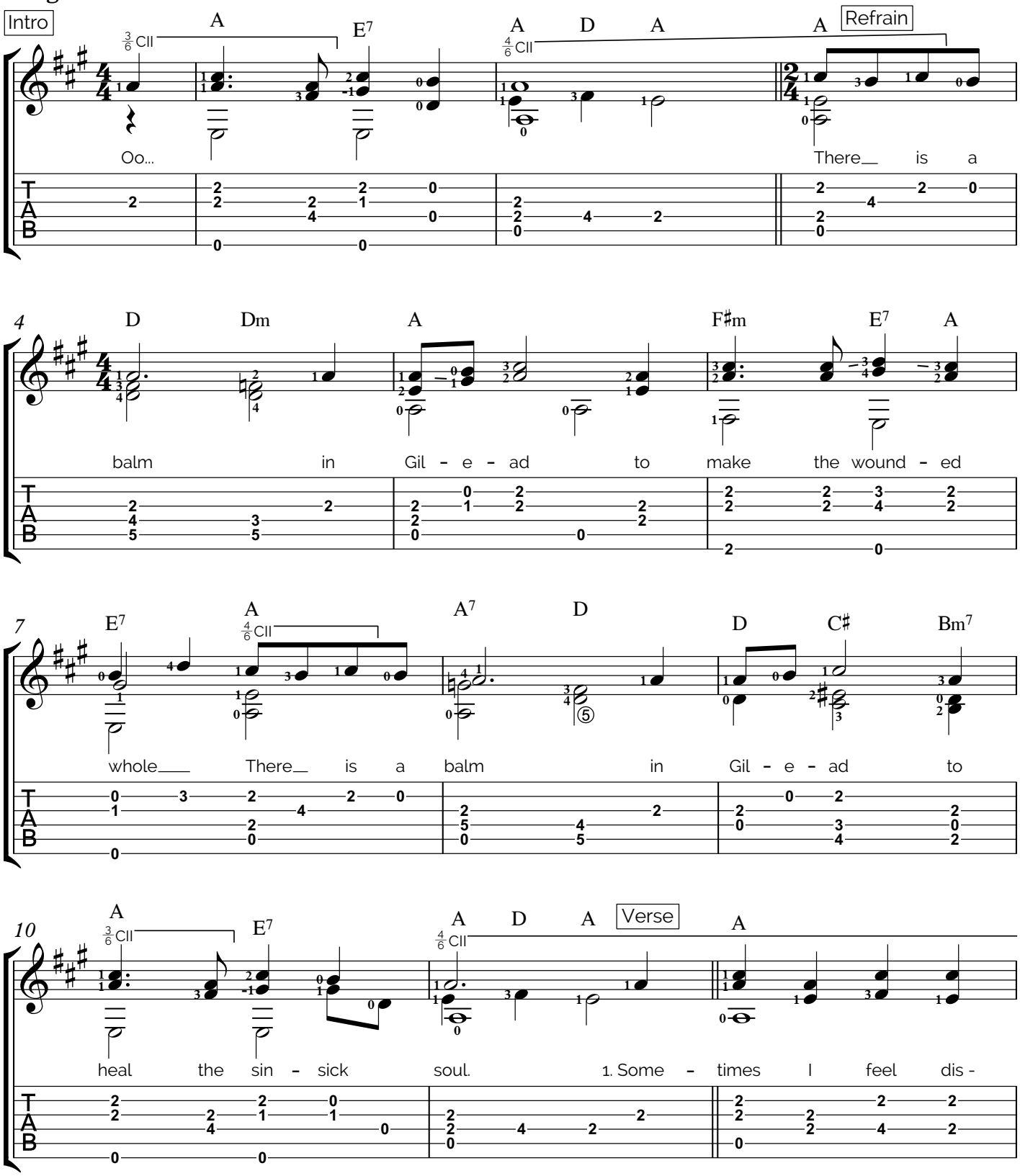
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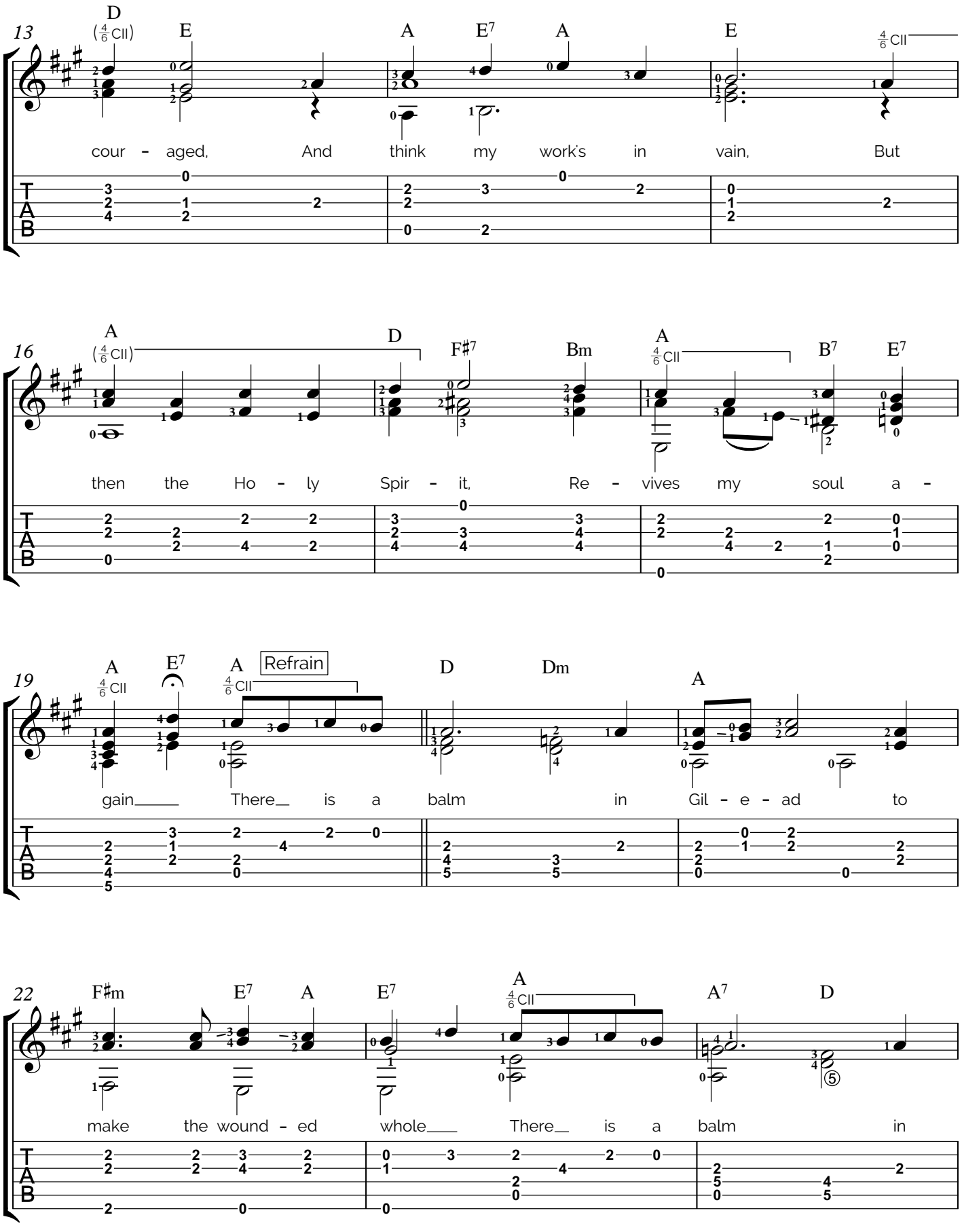
There Is a Balm In Gilead

Traditional

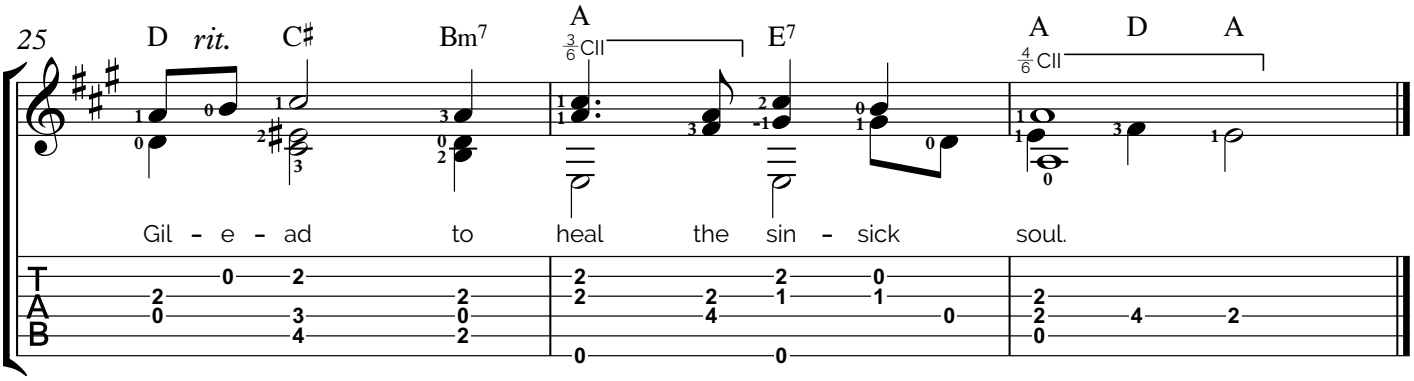
Largo



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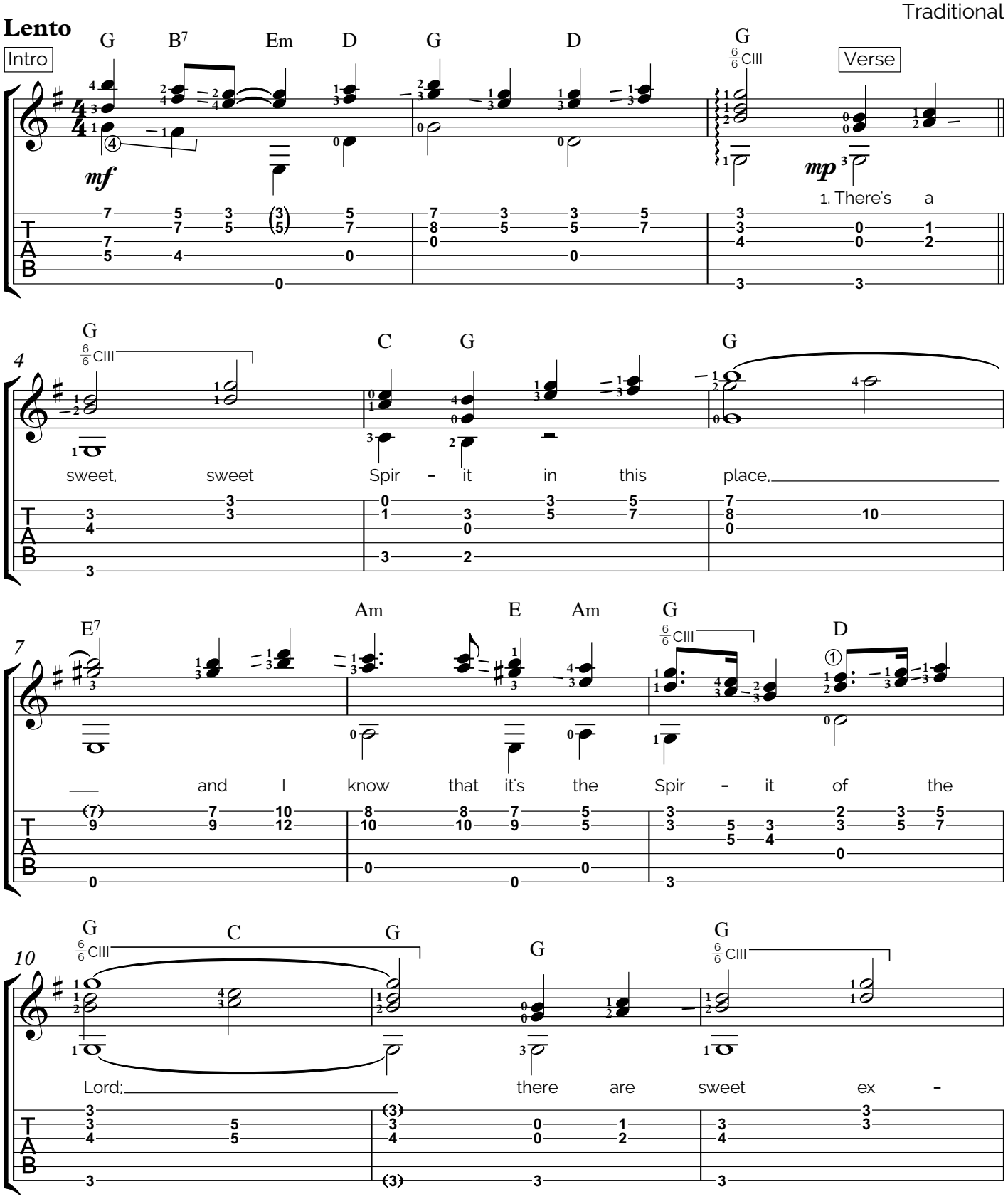


2. If you can pray like Peter,
if you can be like Paul,
Go home and tell your neighbour,
"He died to save us all."

Refrain
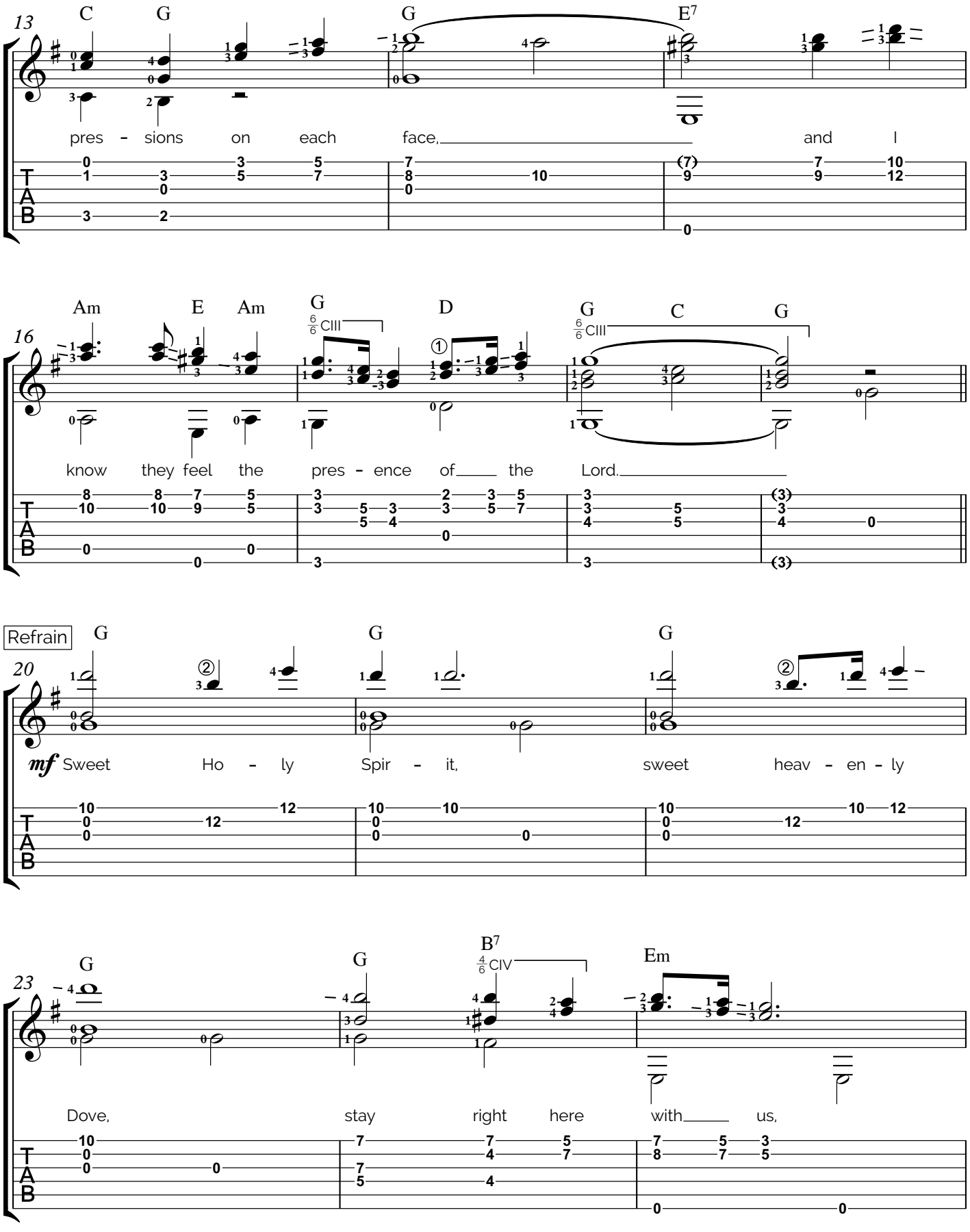
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There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit
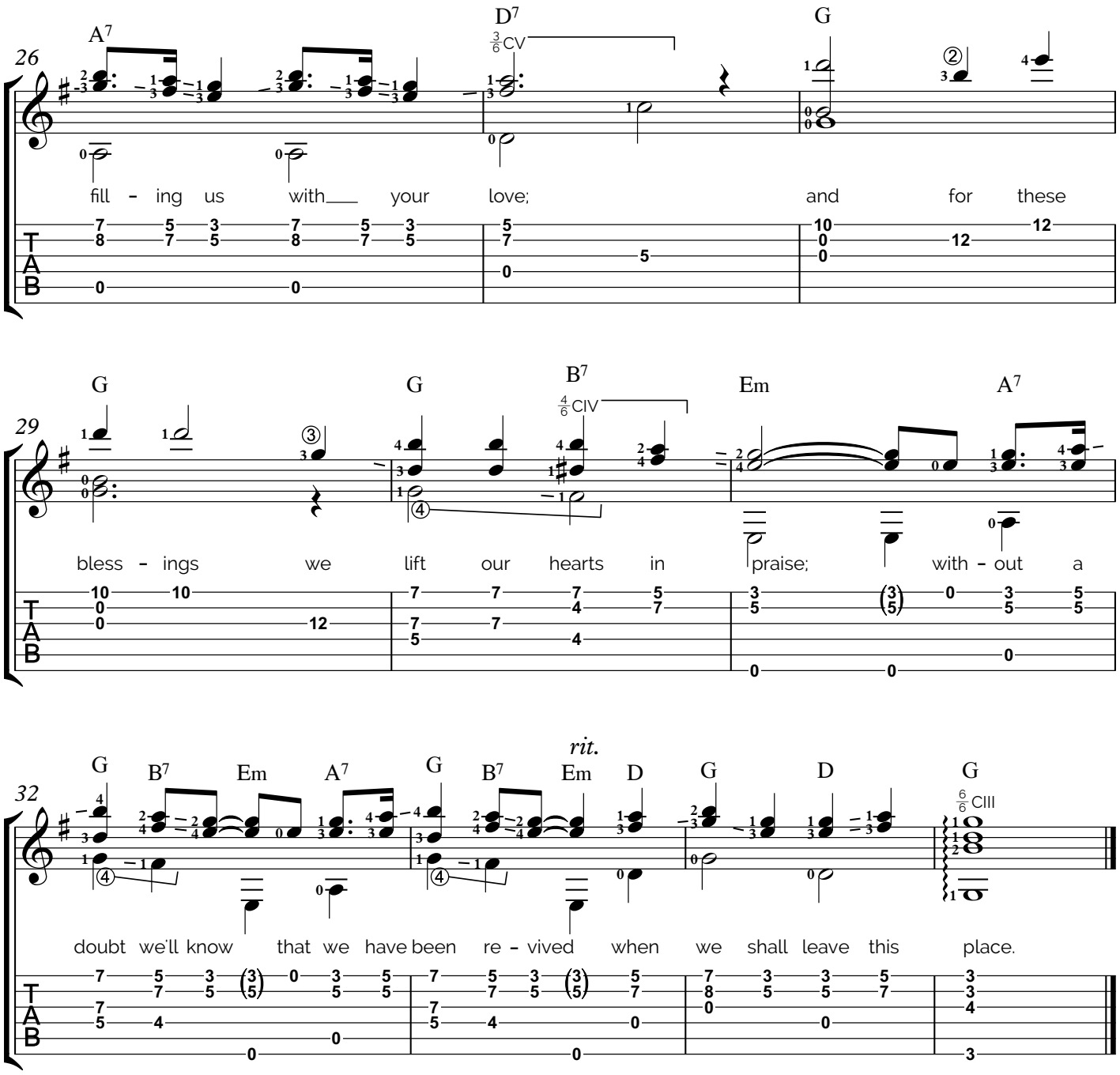
Traditional



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2. There are blessings you cannot receive
till you know him in his fullness and believe;
you're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

Refrain

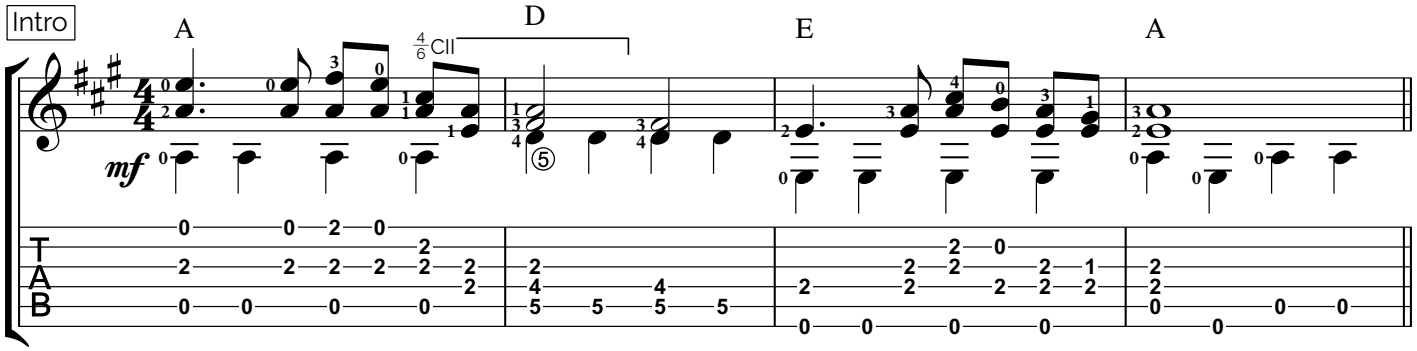
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What a Friend We Have In Jesus

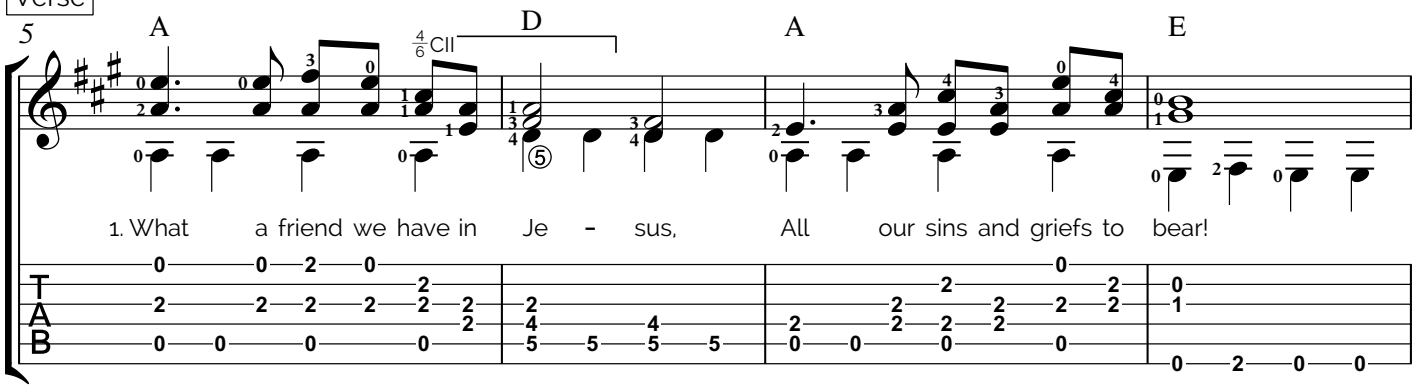
Music by Charles Crozat Converse
Text by Joseph M. Scriven

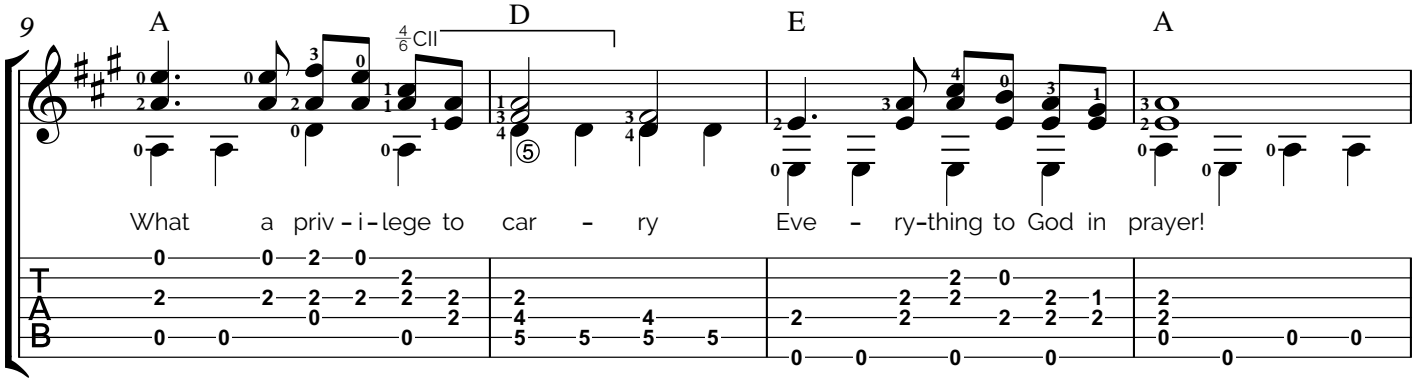
Adagio

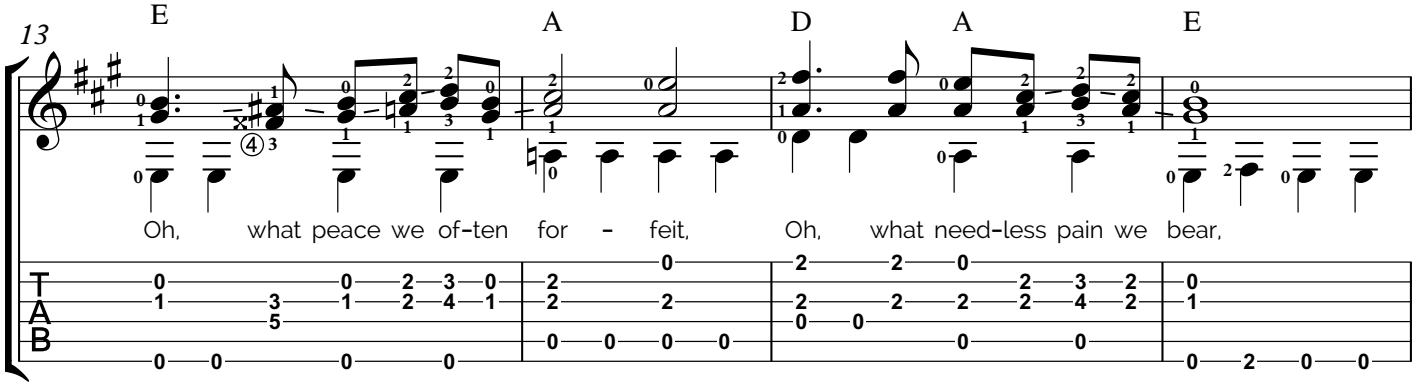
Intro



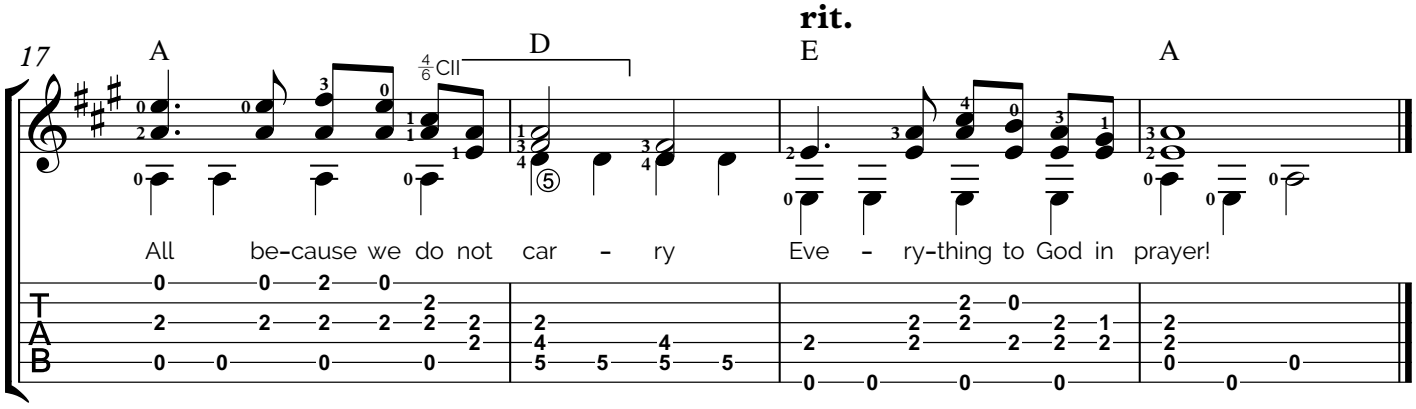
Verse







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2. Have we trials and temptations?
   Is there trouble anywhere?
   We should never be discouraged—
   Take it to the Lord in prayer.
   Can we find a friend so faithful,
   Who will all our sorrows share?
   Jesus knows our every weakness;
   Take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,
   Cumbered with a load of care?
   Precious Savior, still our refuge—
   Take it to the Lord in prayer.
   Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
   Take it to the Lord in prayer!
   In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
   Thou wilt find a solace there.
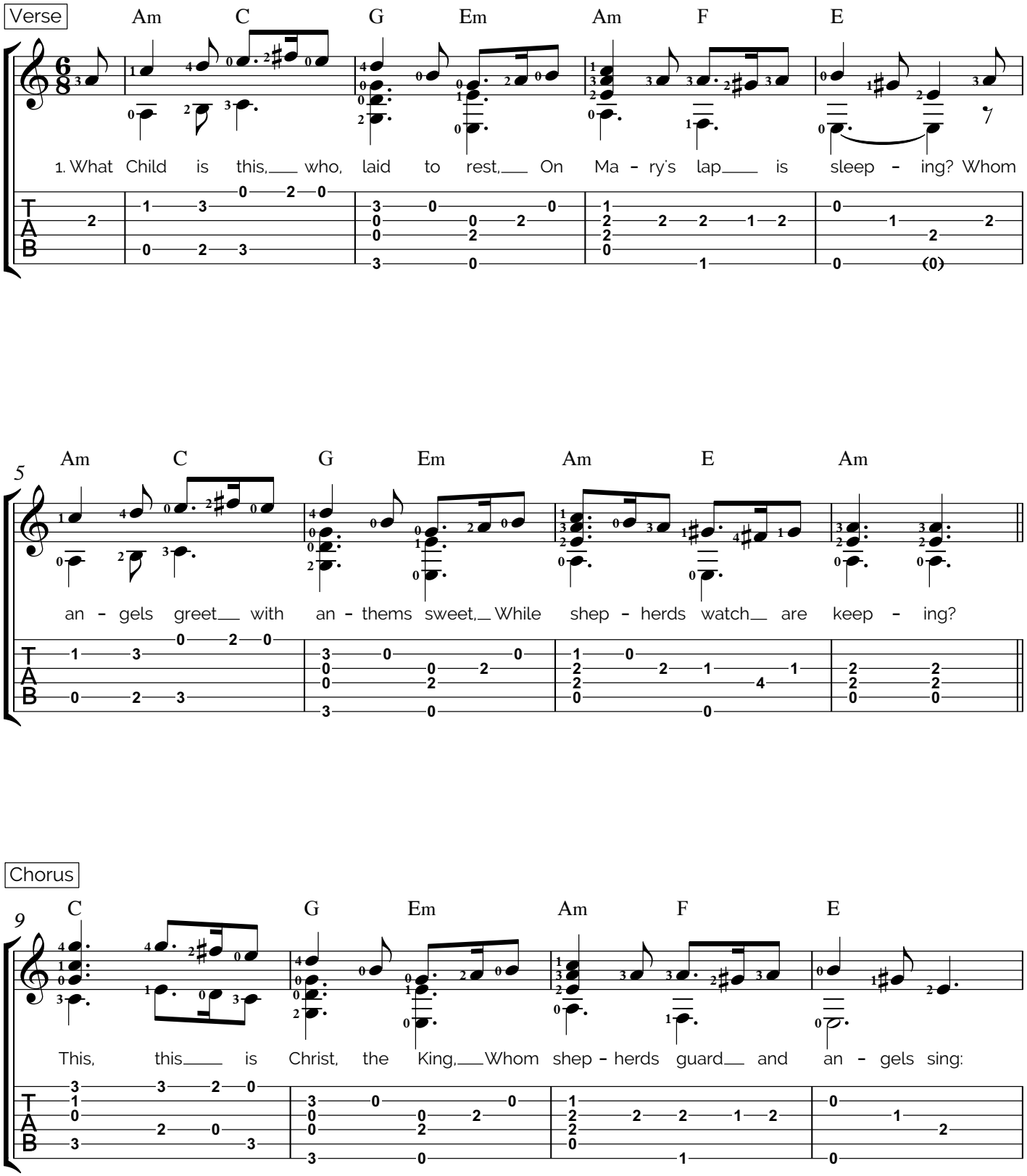
4. Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised
   Thou wilt all our burdens bear;
   May we ever, Lord, be bringing
   All to Thee in earnest prayer.
   Soon in glory bright, unclouded,
   There will be no need for prayer—
   Rapture, praise, and endless worship
   Will be our sweet portion there.

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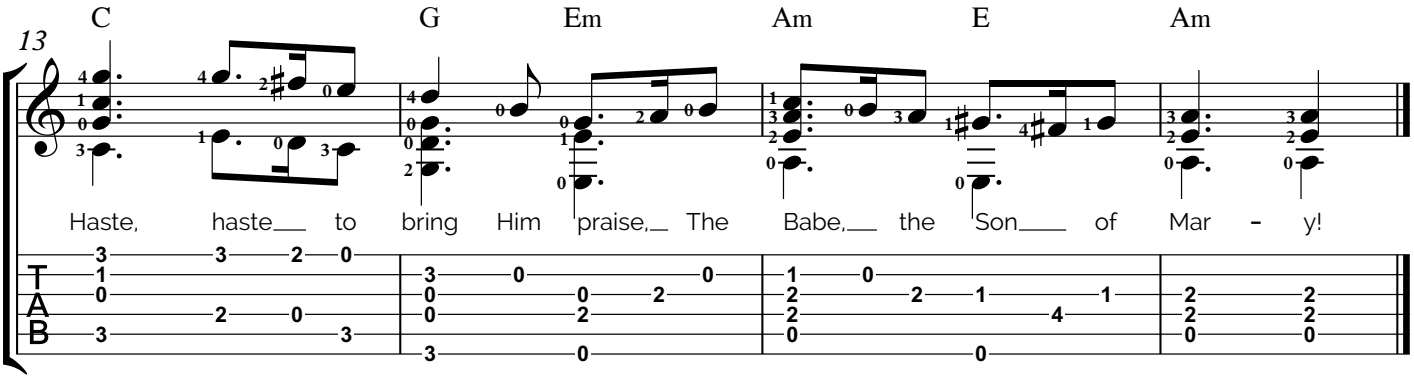
What Child Is This?

Greensleeves

Traditional



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2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
   Where ox and ass are feeding?
   Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
   The silent Word is pleading.

   Chorus

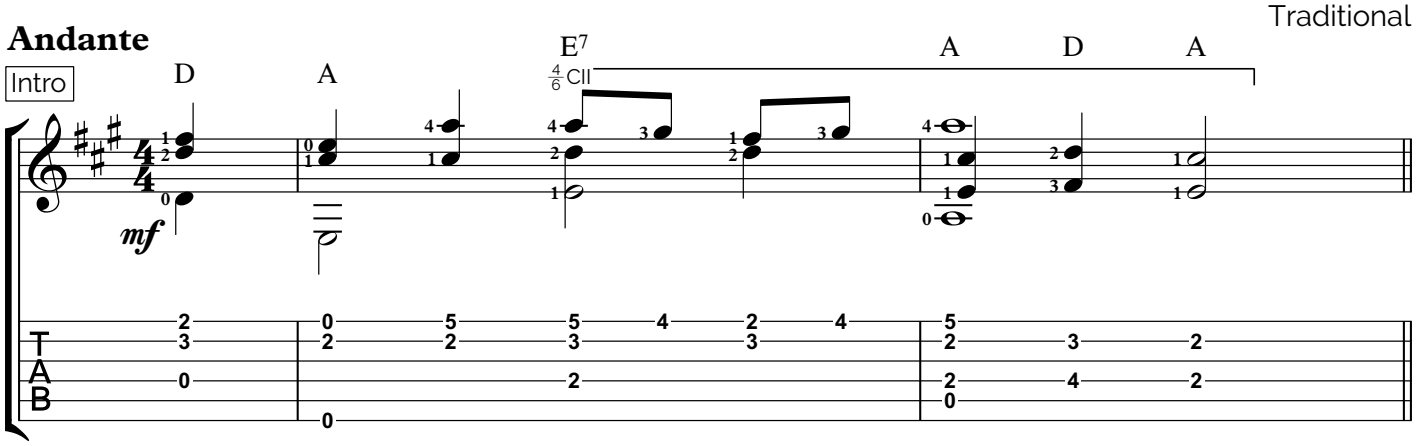
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
   Come, peasant, king to own Him.
   The King of kings salvation brings;
   Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

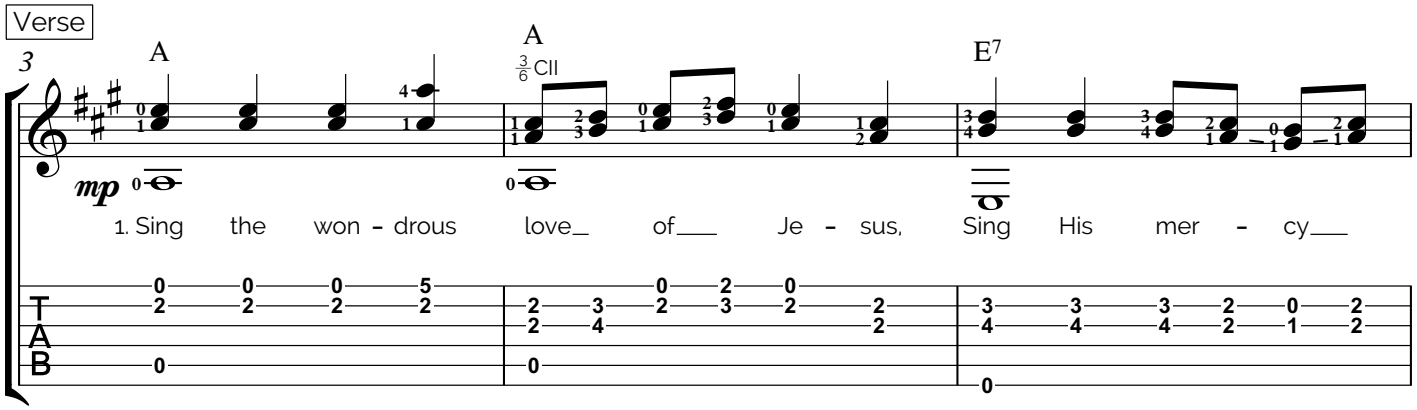
   Chorus

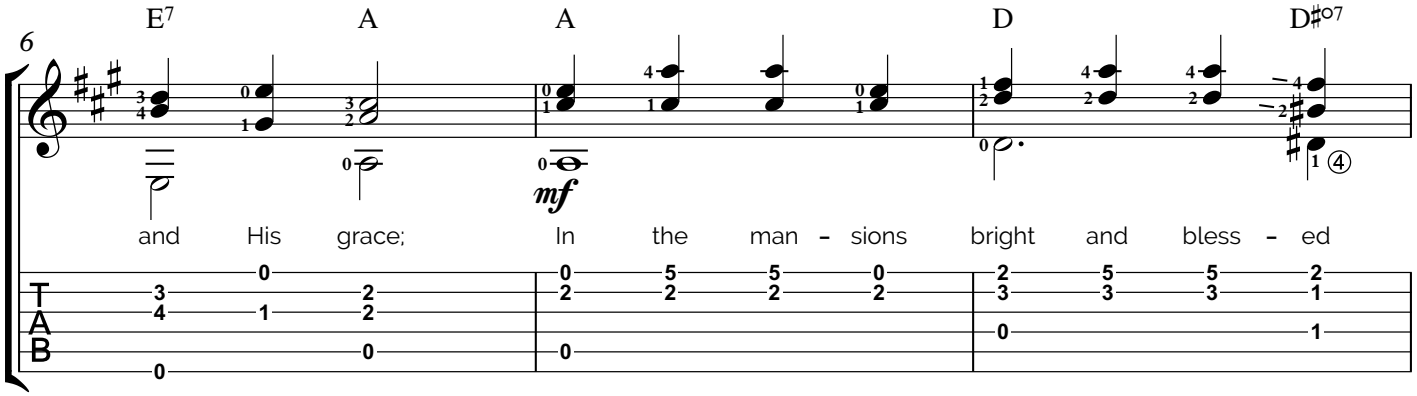
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When We All Get To Heaven
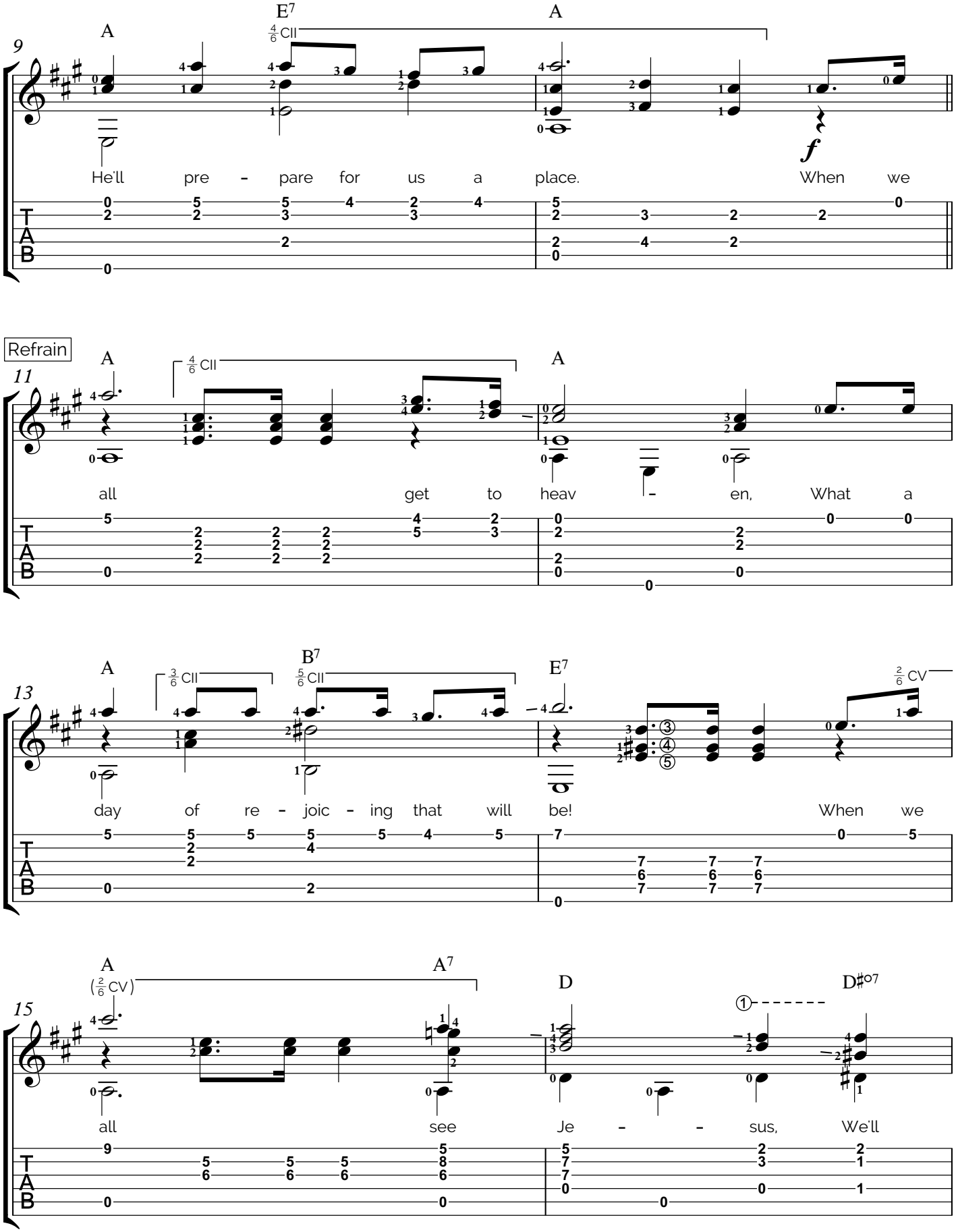
Traditional



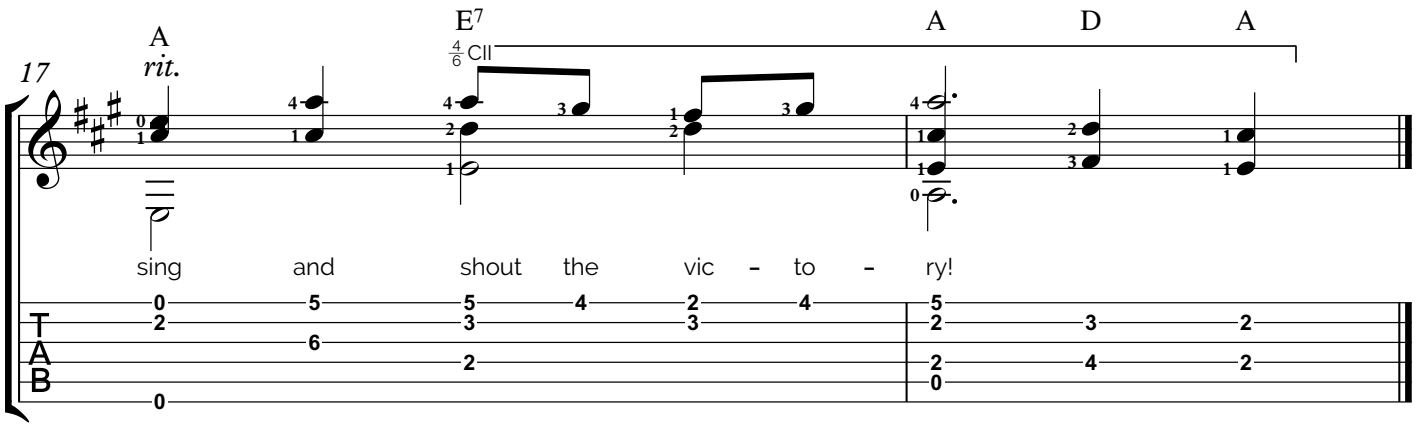




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2. While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

Refrain

3. Let us then be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

Refrain

4. Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open–
We shall tread the streets of gold.
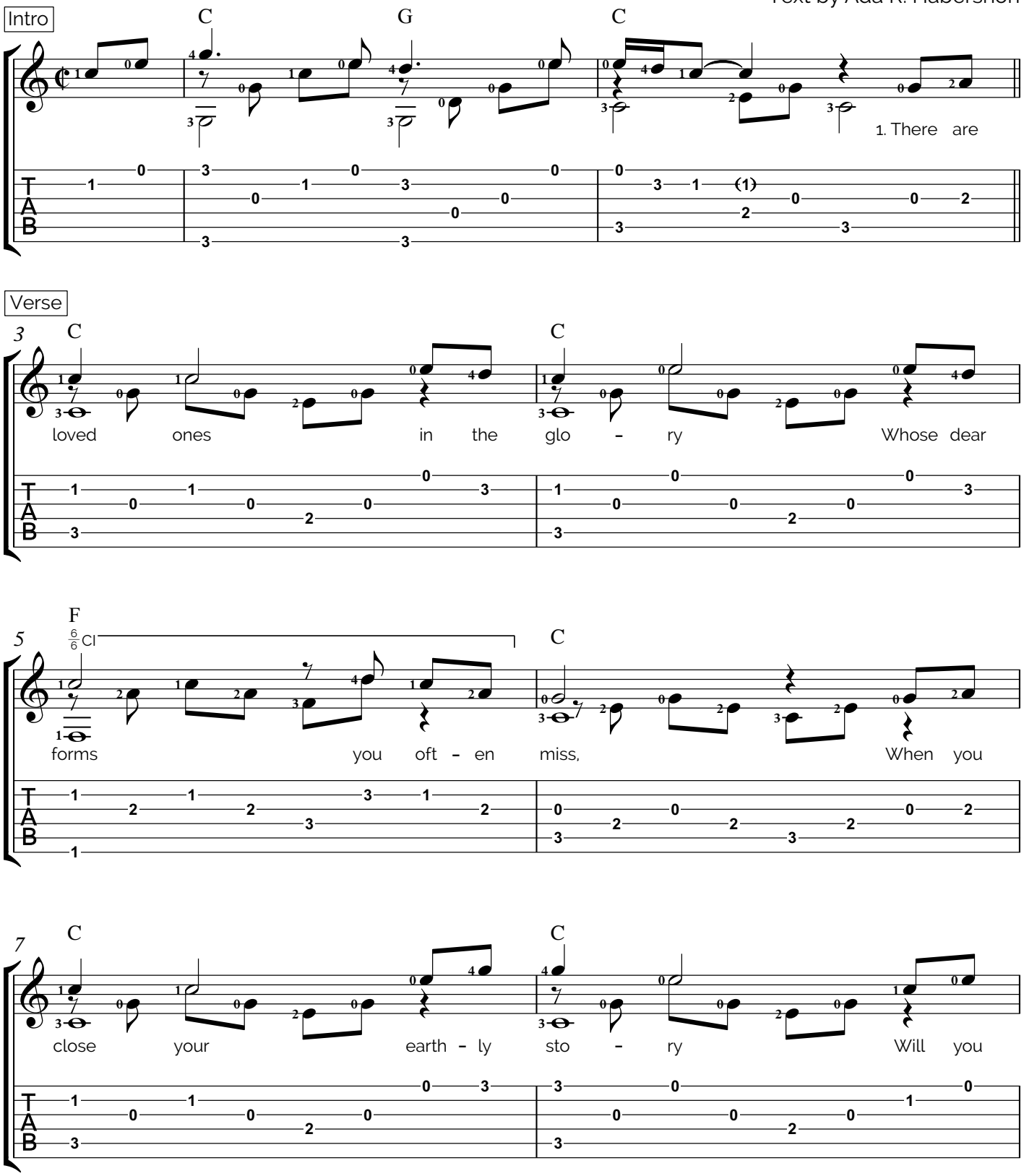
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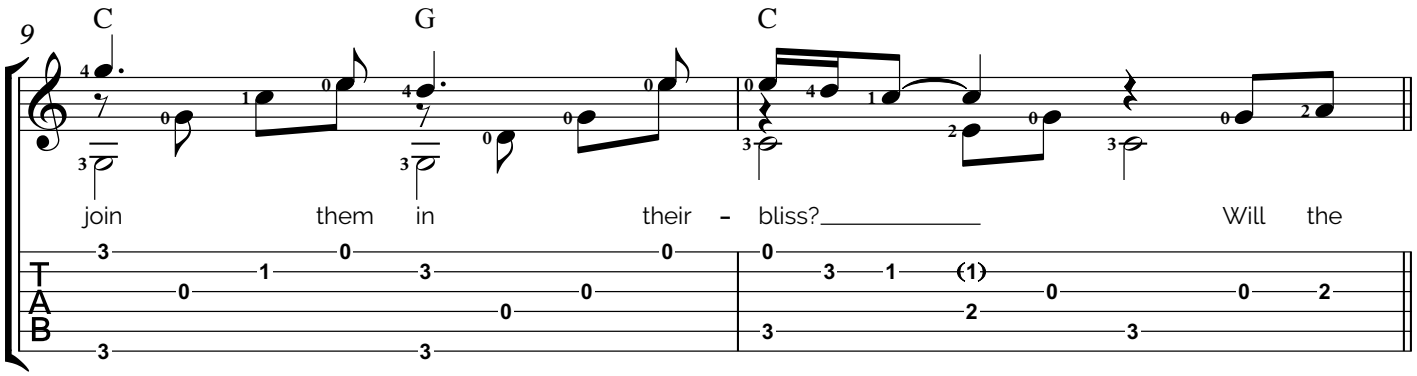
Will the Circle Be Unbroken

Music by Charles H. Gabriel
Text by Ada R. Habershon

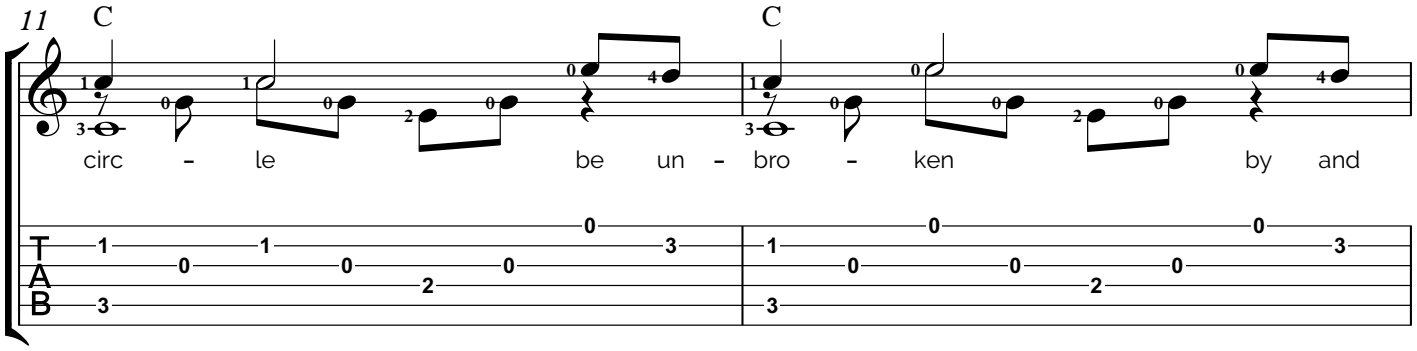
Gospel (♩ = 30)

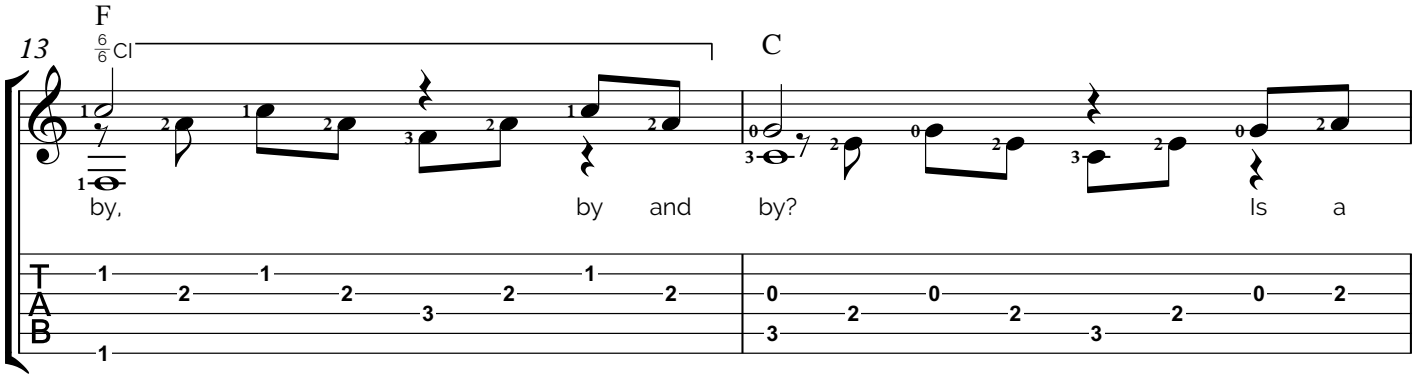


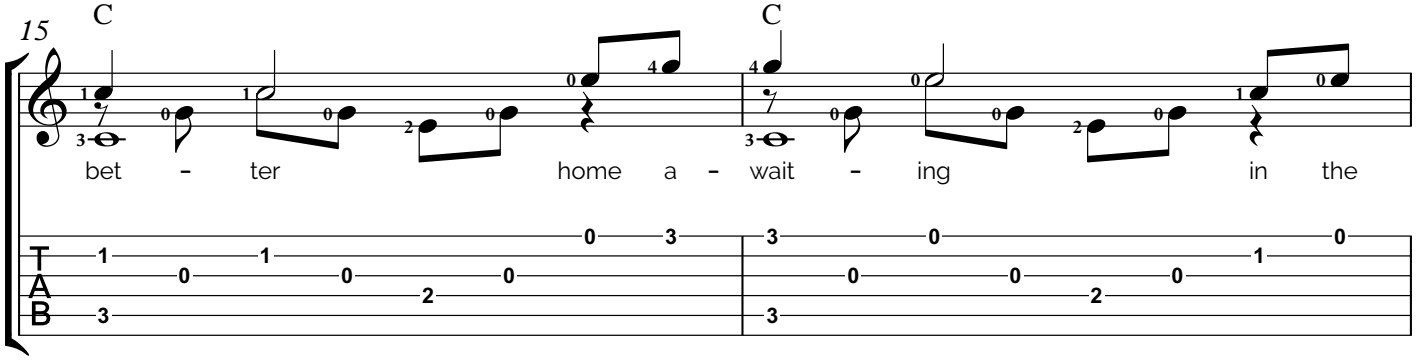
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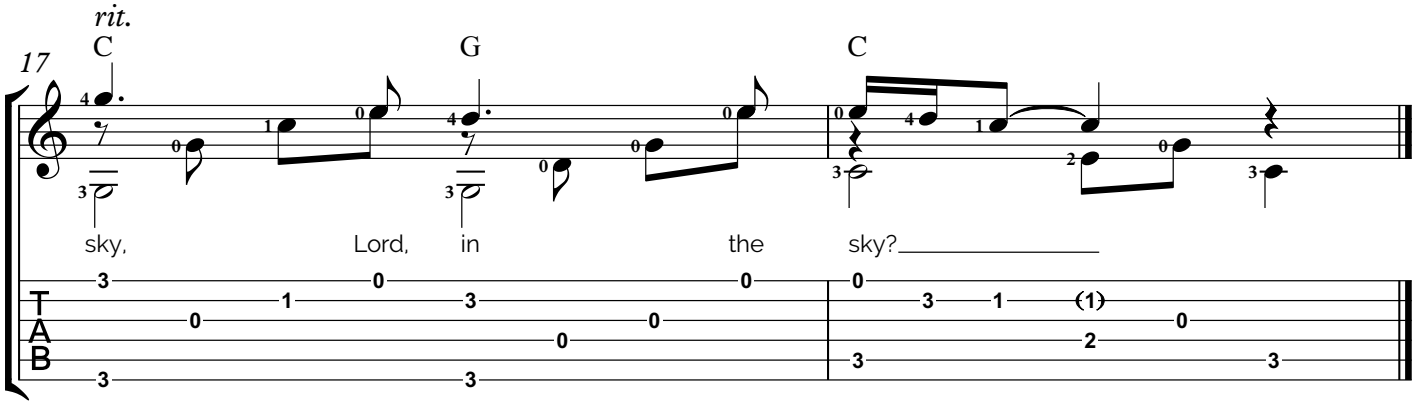
Refrain







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2. In the joyous days of childhood,
   Oft they told of wondrous love,
   Pointed to the dying Savior,
   Now they dwell with Him above.

   Refrain

3. You remember songs of heaven
   Which you sang with childish voice,
   Do you love the hymns they taught you,
   Or are songs of earth your choice?

   Refrain

4. You can picture happy gath'rings
   Round the fireside long ago,
   And you think of tearful partings,
   When they left you here below.

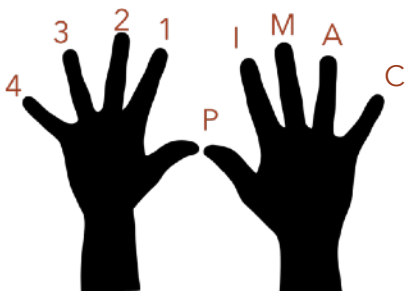
   Refrain

5. One by one their seats were empty,
   One by one they went away,
   Now the fam'ly is parted,
   Will it be complete one day?

   Refrain

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Fingering Notations



Practice Tips

The 7 Steps to Learn Any Piece:

1. Make small sections
2. Know all the notes and musical markings
3. Clap and count the rhythm aloud
4. Play the right hand alone, counting aloud
5. Play the left hand alone, counting aloud
6. Play hands together, taking corrective pauses (no mistakes! Count aloud.)
7. Play hands together in rhythm, with a slow metronome, counting aloud.

Musical Starting Points:

1. Know which notes are melody (probably stems up), and play the others quieter
2. Connect all melody notes smoothly (no gaps)
3. When a musical line or melody goes up in pitch, get quieter
4. When a musical line or melody goes down in pitch, get louder
5. Don't let the high notes stand out (any note higher than those before and after)
6. Repeated notes get louder (start quiet if you need to)

Practice Tips:

1. Before slowing down or speeding up (rubato) master it at a steady pace.
2. For problem spots, state the problem out: where, what, how. ("What's going on here?")
3. Memorize every piece (even if you don't, you'll learn it faster if you try)
4. Have a purpose behind each repetition (blind repetitions are lazy practice).
5. Record yourself frequently. Listen or watch to decide what to practice next.

If you're planning on playing guitar for years to come, it pays to shore up your basics. We'd love to help. The Woodshed® Classical Guitar Program is a step-by-step method that guarantees flowing music. Train great habits of form, positioning and movement so your hands move freely and you play beautifully.
Click here to learn more and see if it's a fit for you.