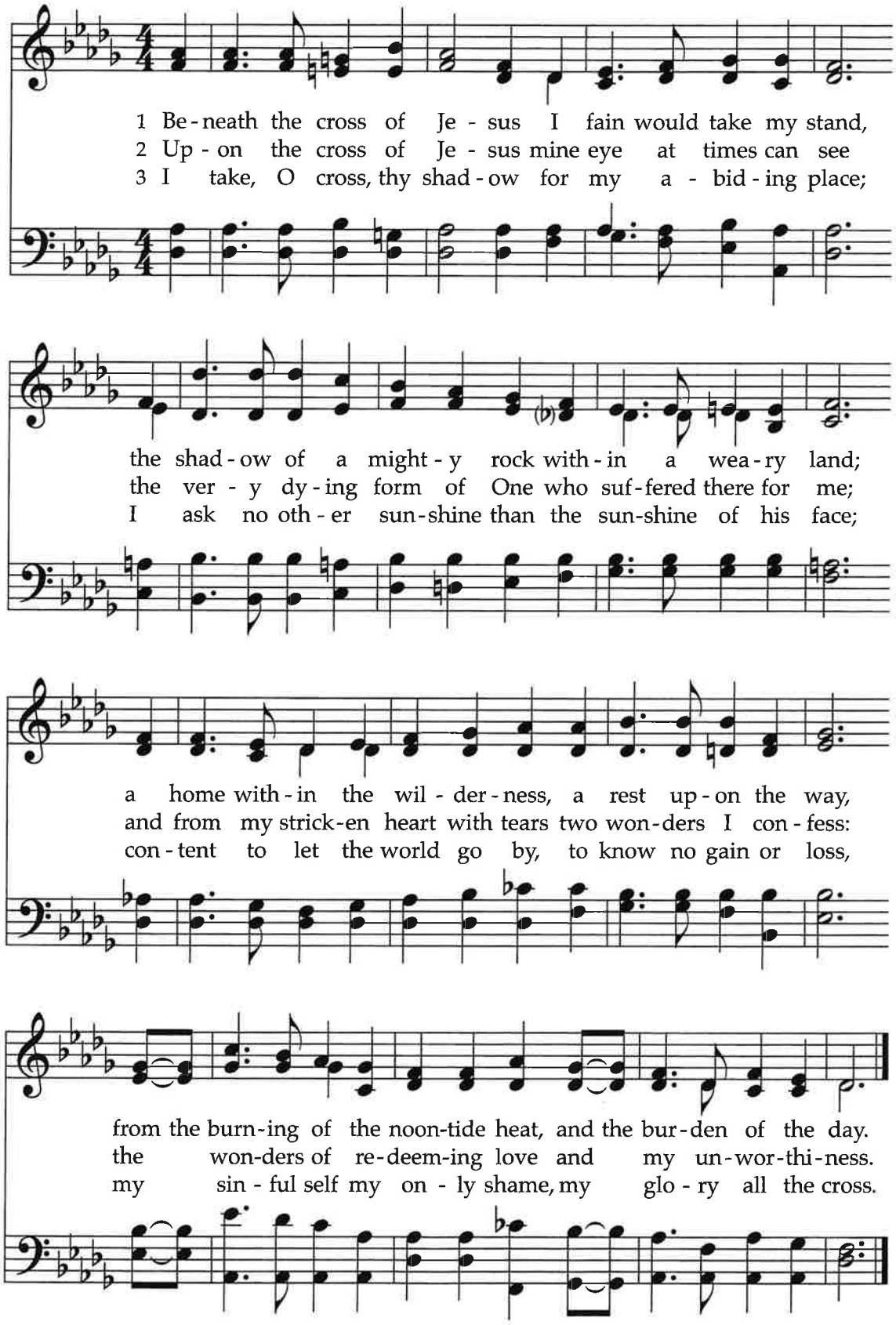
216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

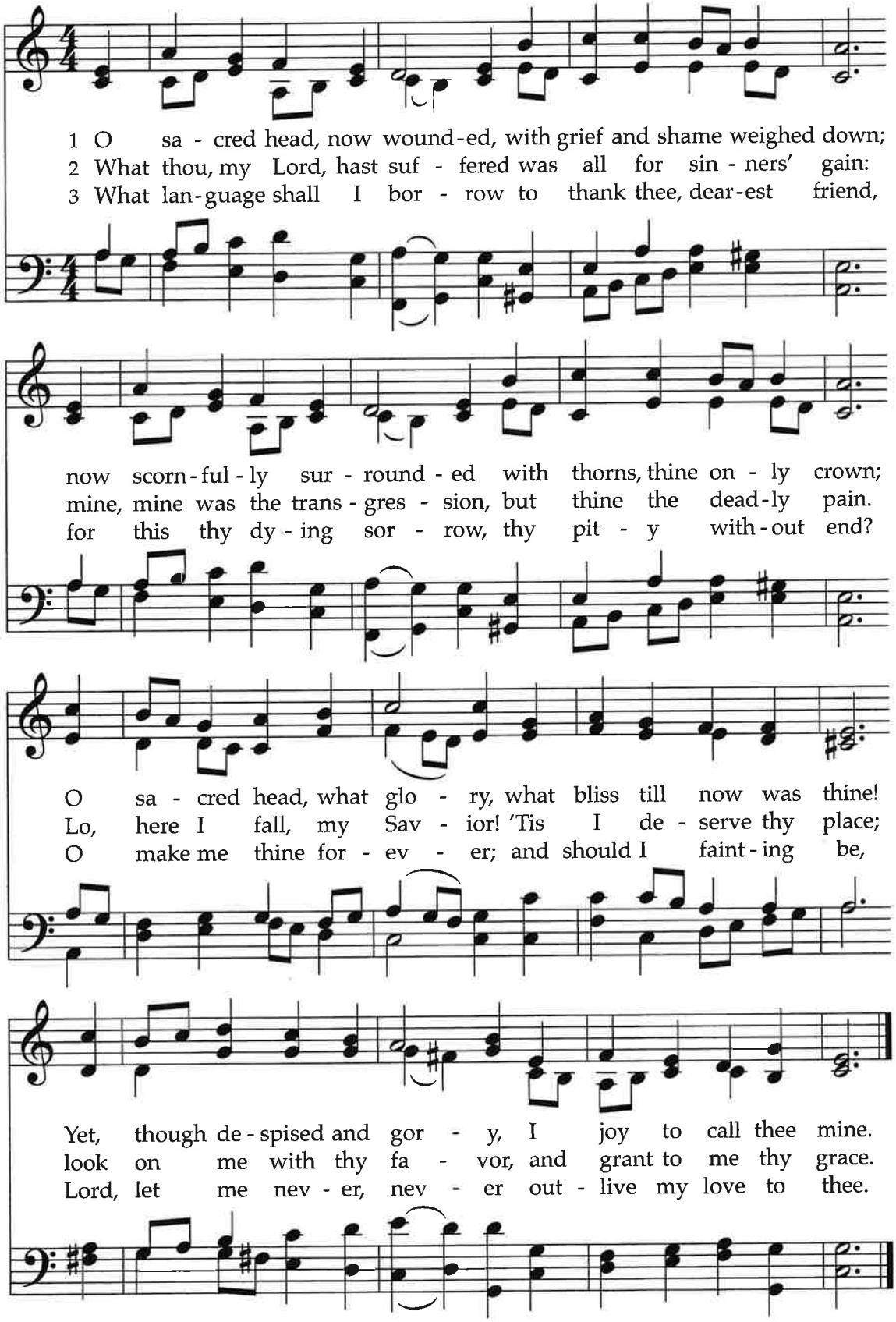


For sheer intensity of feeling few hymns can match this meditation on the cross; impressive images and strong contrasts combine to give the text its ardor. The passionate language is augmented by the highly chromatic tune later composed for these words.

TEXT: Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane, 1868, alt.
MUSIC: Frederick Charles Maker, 1881

ST. CHRISTOPHER
7.6.8.6.8.6.8.6

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221



This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.

TEXT: Latin, 12th or 13th cent.; trans. James Waddell Alexander, 1830, alt.
MUSIC: Hans Leo Hassler, 1601; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1729

PASSION CHORALE
7.6.7.6.D