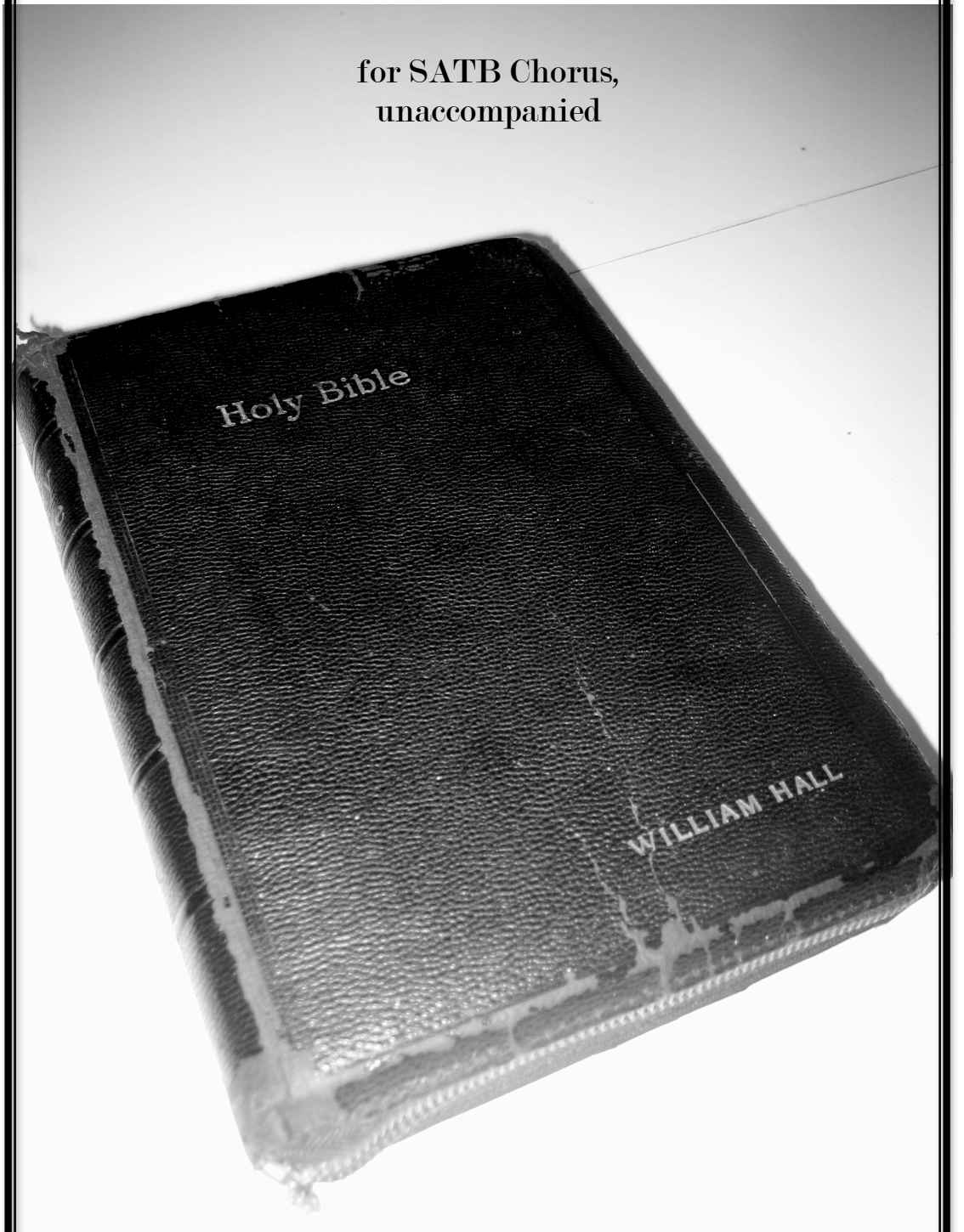
Thomas Rex Beverly

I Pray For Them

for SATB Chorus,
unaccompanied



Text

Excerpts from John 17 (King James Version)

John 17:1
...Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

John 17:9-10
I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them

John 17:21
That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Program Note

A few months ago my mom went to her hometown of Beaver, Pennsylvania. Upon returning from her trip, she told me how she was looking through some of my Grandpa's old things tucked away in the attic when she found something that she wanted me to have: a well-worn King James Bible.

I don't remember much about my Grandpa because he died when I was four, but as I opened the Bible I was amazed to find a few passages marked by old newspaper clippings. As I flipped to the marked pages, I felt close to my Grandpa knowing I was reading the same passages he had read years ago. What most amazed me was that I had already written a theme for a choir piece and had been looking for a text to go with it. As I read John 17:9, I came to Jesus saying, "I pray for them" and stopped. These words fitted perfectly with the music playing in my head and I realized the text I had been looking for had dropped into my lap.

What follows is John 17, one of the passages my Grandpa had marked in his Bible. In this chapter, Jesus is praying before his crucifixion. While I wanted to put entire chapter to music, it was too long so instead I took excerpts from the three main sections in which Jesus prays for himself, for the apostles, and for all believers.

I usually have to do a lot of searching to find a meaningful reason to write a piece. This one found me. It moved me and I hope it moves you too. Enjoy.

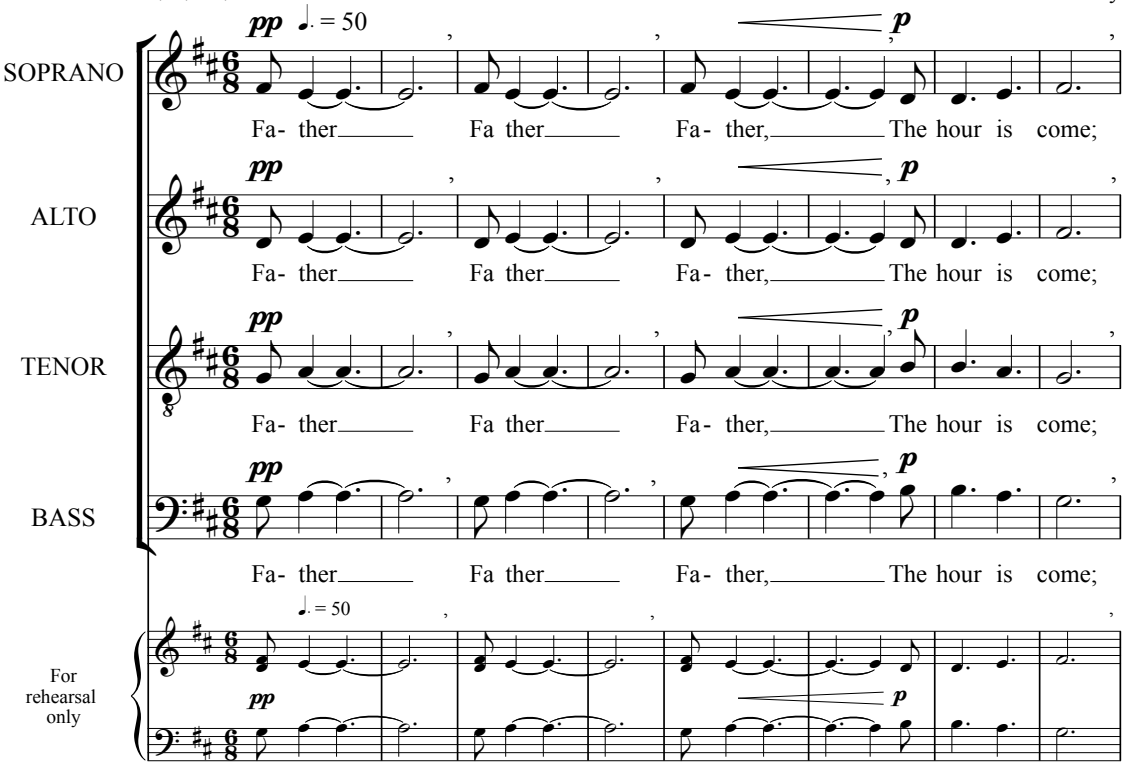
in memory of William Hall

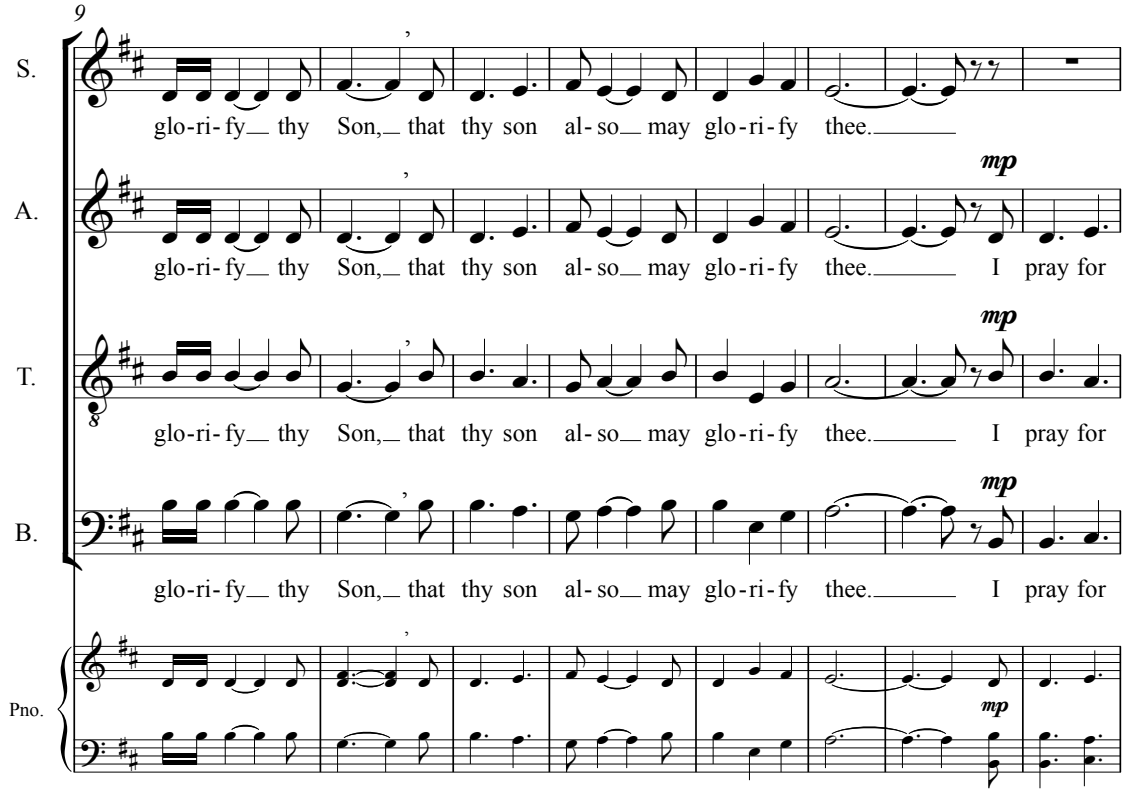
I Pray For Them

for S.A.T.B. Chorus, unaccompanied

John 17: 1, 9, 10, 21

Thomas Rex Beverly





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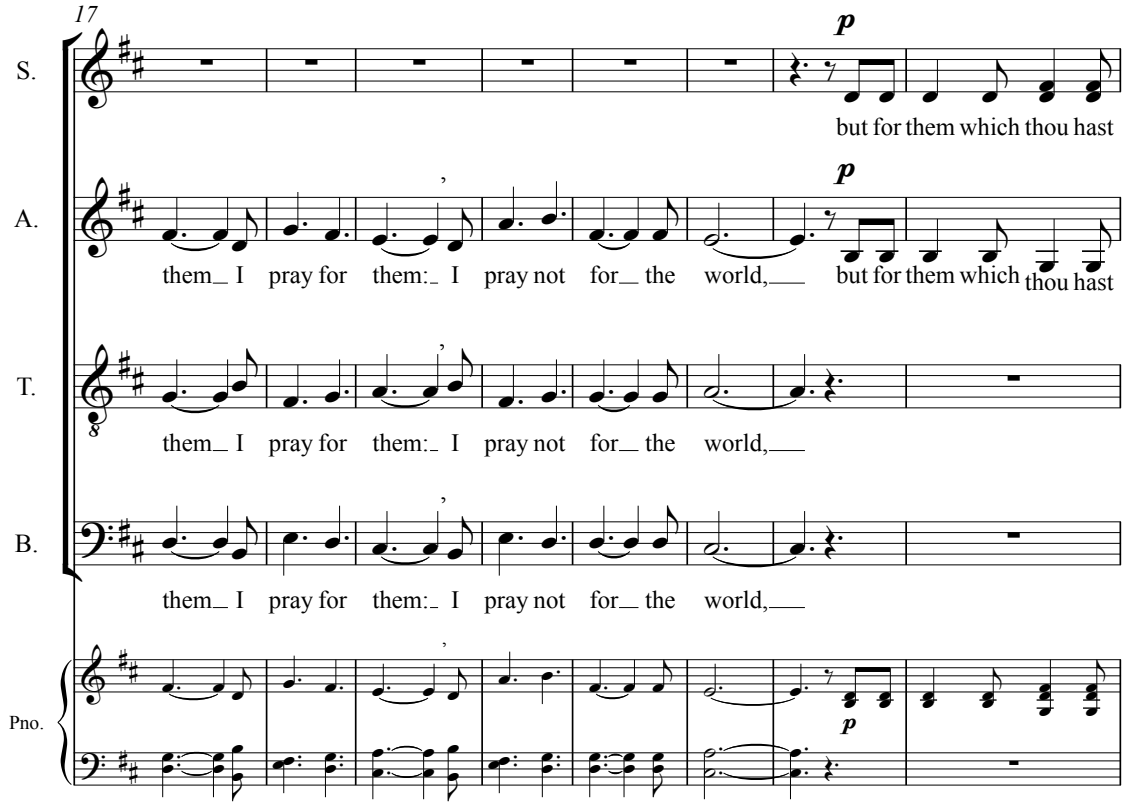
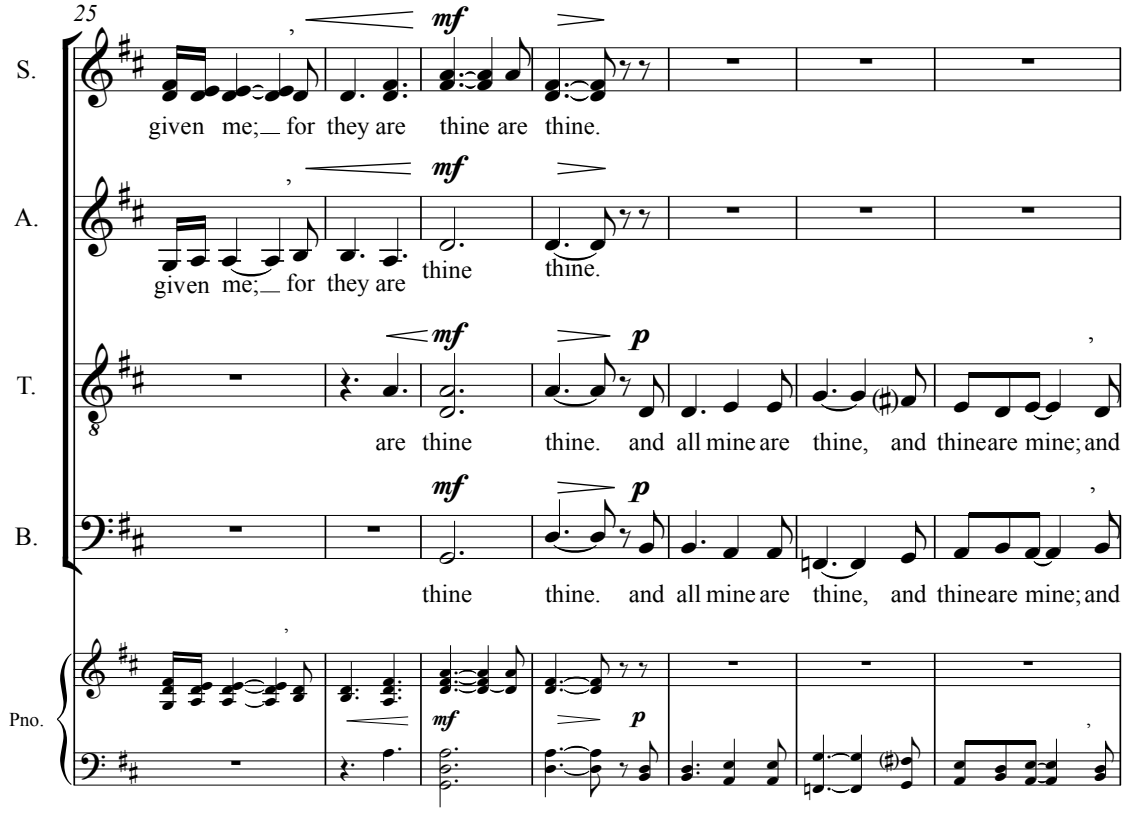
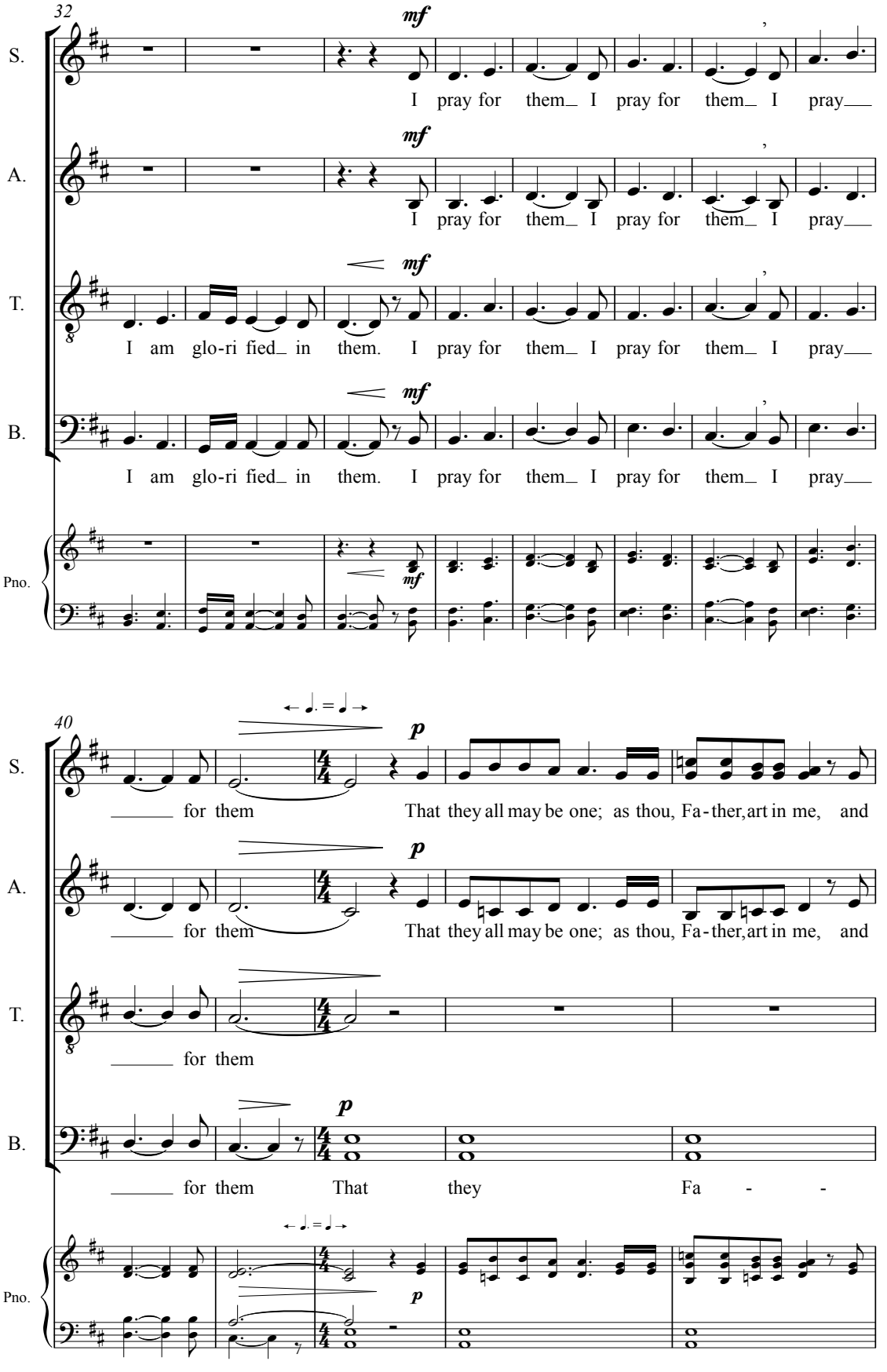
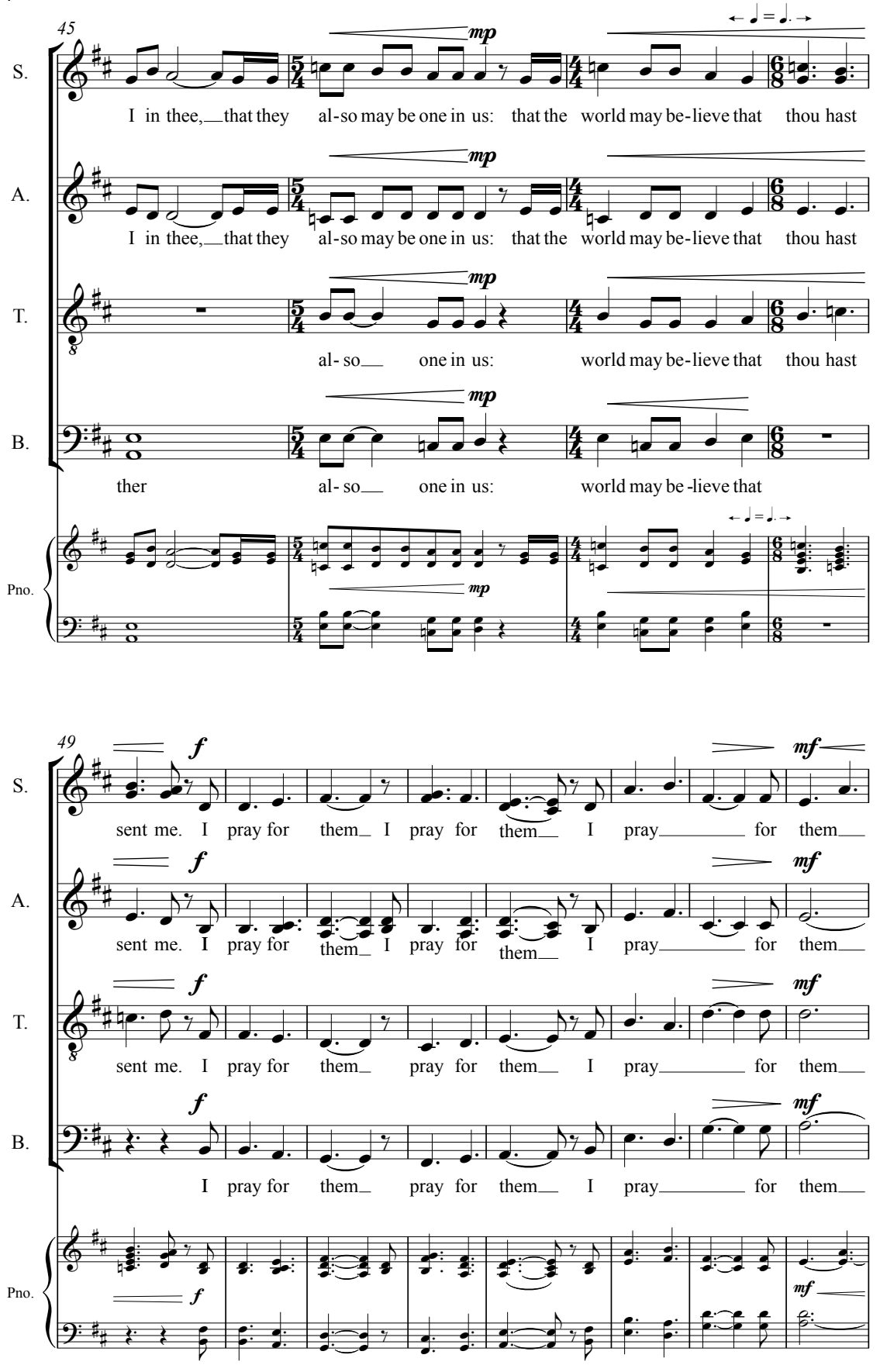
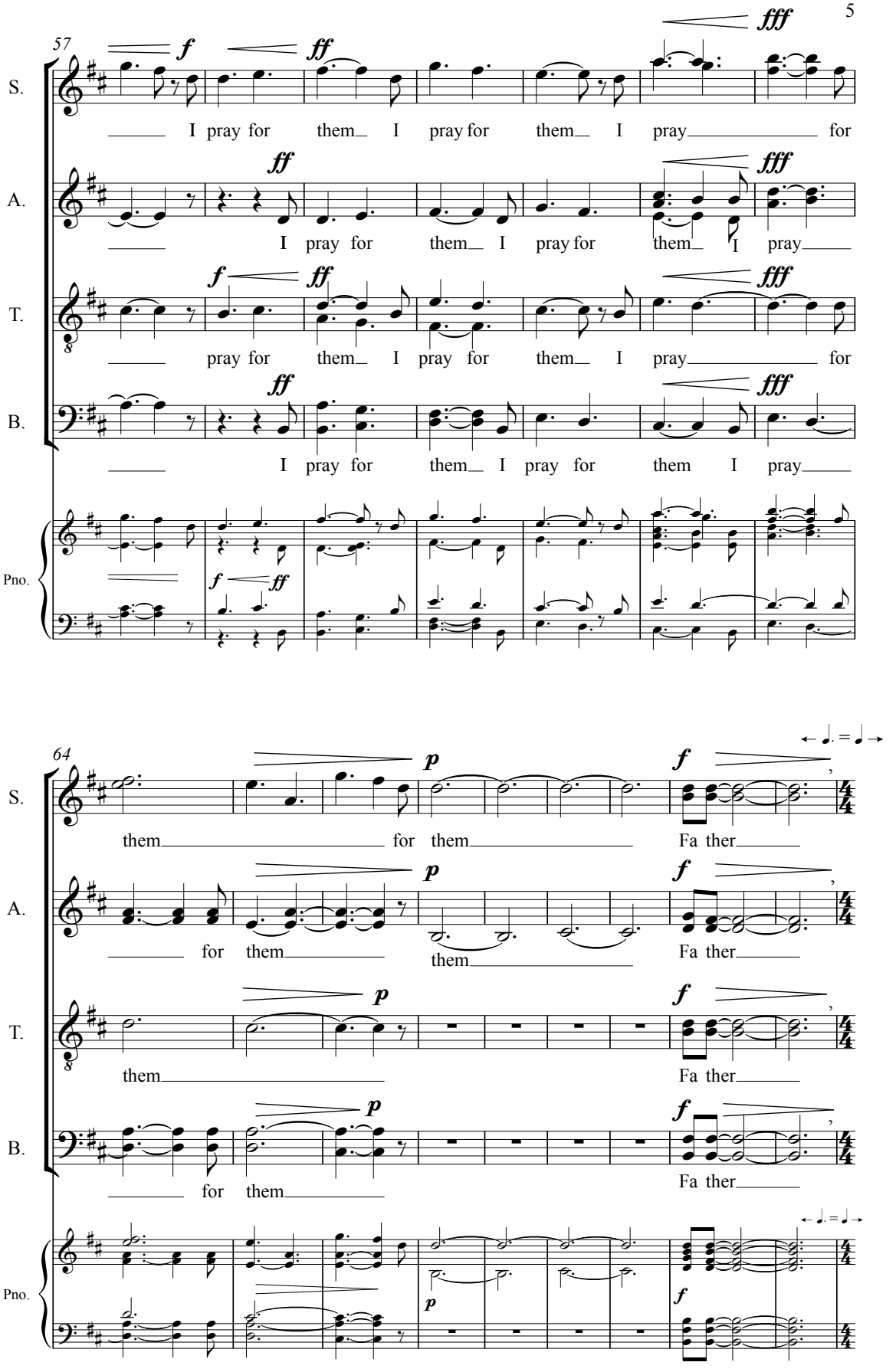
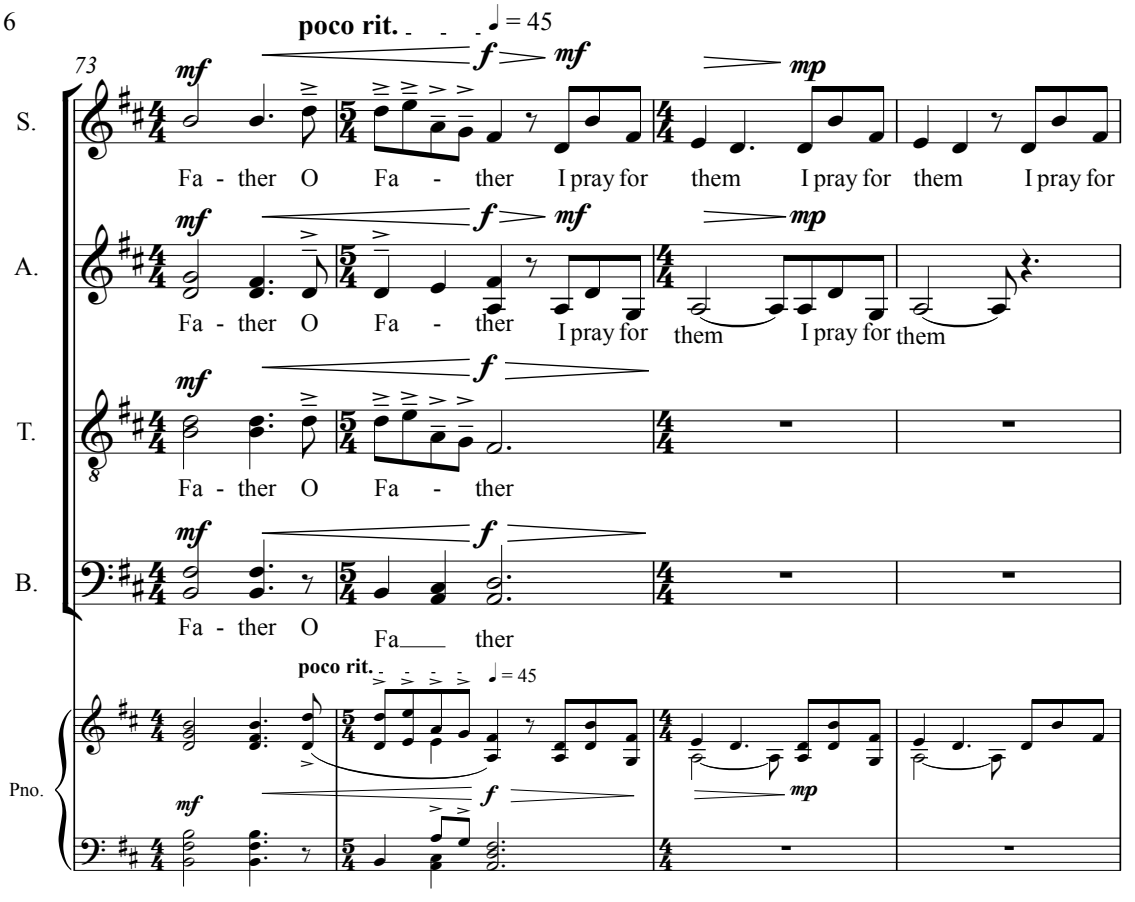

17
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
p
but for them which thou hast
them_ I pray for them:_ I pray not for_ the world,___
but for them which thou hast
them_ I pray for them:_ I pray not for_ the world,___
them_ I pray for them:_ I pray not for_ the world,___

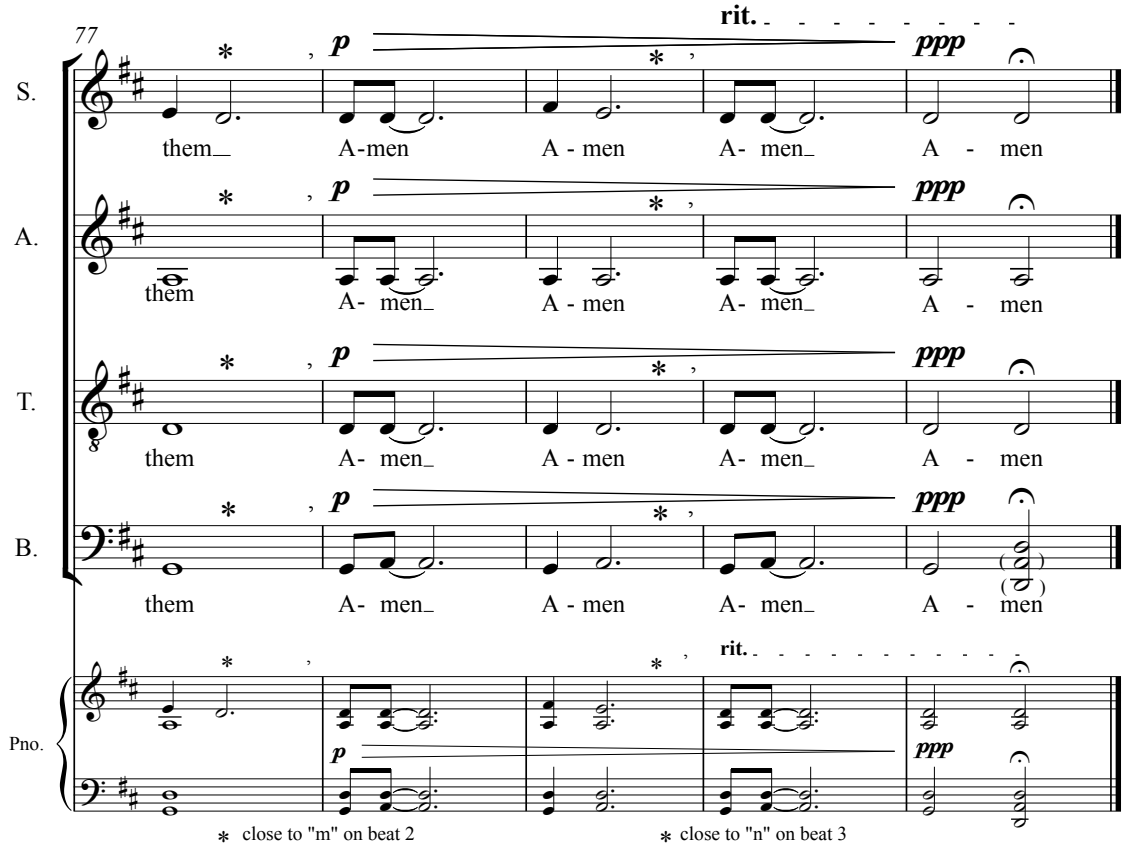

25
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
p
given me;_ for they are thine are thine.
given me;_ for they are thine thine.
are thine thine. and all mine are thine, and thineare mine; and
thine thine. and all mine are thine, and thineare mine; and


32
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
I pray for them_ I pray for them_ I pray___
I am glo-ri fied_ in them. I pray for them_ I pray for them_ I pray___
40
p
___ for them That they all may be one; as thou, Fa-ther, art in me, and
___ for them
___ for them That they Fa - -


45
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mp
I in thee, that they al-so may be one in us: that the world may be-lieve that thou hast
I in thee, that they al-so may be one in us: that the world may be-lieve that thou hast
al- so one in us: world may be-lieve that thou hast
ther al- so one in us: world may be -lieve that
49
f
mf
sent me. I pray for them I pray for them I pray for them
sent me. I pray for them I pray for them I pray for them
sent me. I pray for them pray for them I pray for them
I pray for them pray for them I pray for them


57
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
I pray for them I pray for them I pray for
I pray for them I pray for them I pray
pray for them I pray for them I pray for
I pray for them I pray for them I pray
64
them for them Fa ther
for them them Fa ther
them Fa ther
for them Fa ther


poco rit.
♩ = 45
73
S.
A.
T.
B.
Pno.
mf
f
mp
Fa - ther O Fa - ther I pray for them I pray for them I pray for
Fa - ther O Fa - ther I pray for them I pray for them
Fa - ther O Fa - ther
Fa - ther O Fa ther


77
rit.
p
ppp
them A-men A - men A- men A - men
them A- men A - men A- men A - men
them A- men A - men A- men A - men
them A- men A - men A- men A - men
* close to "m" on beat 2
* close to "n" on beat 3