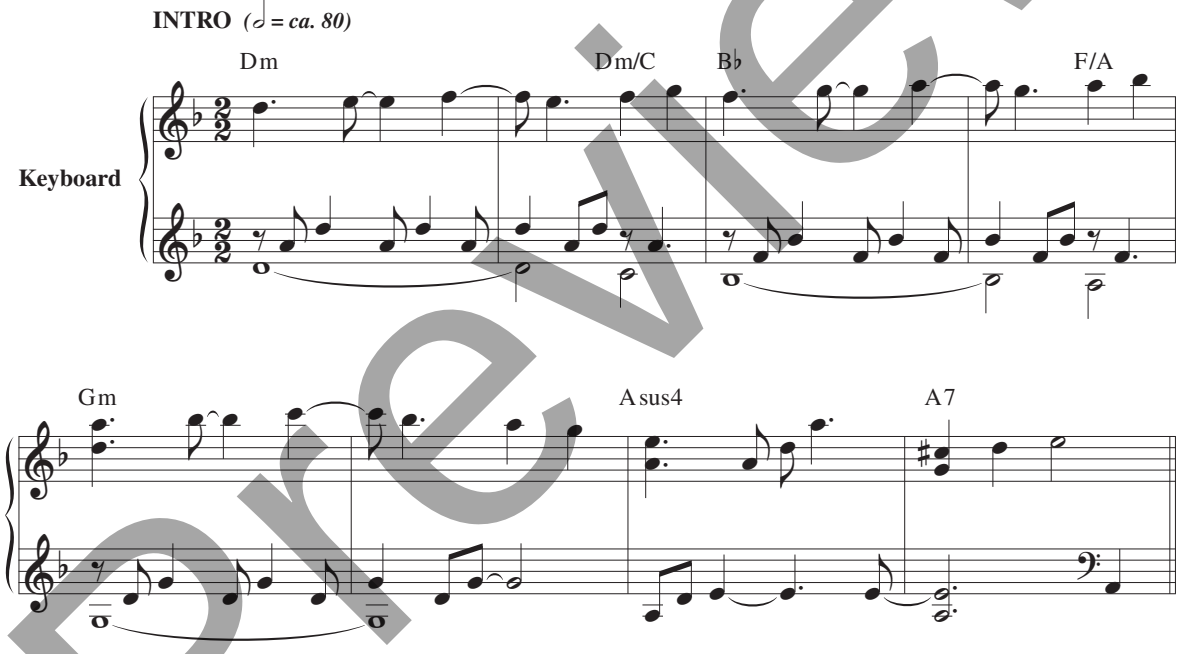
for Matthew Cannaday

Seek a Sign, the Prophet Counseled

Michael Joncas

Justin Wedgewood
Arr. by Scott Soper



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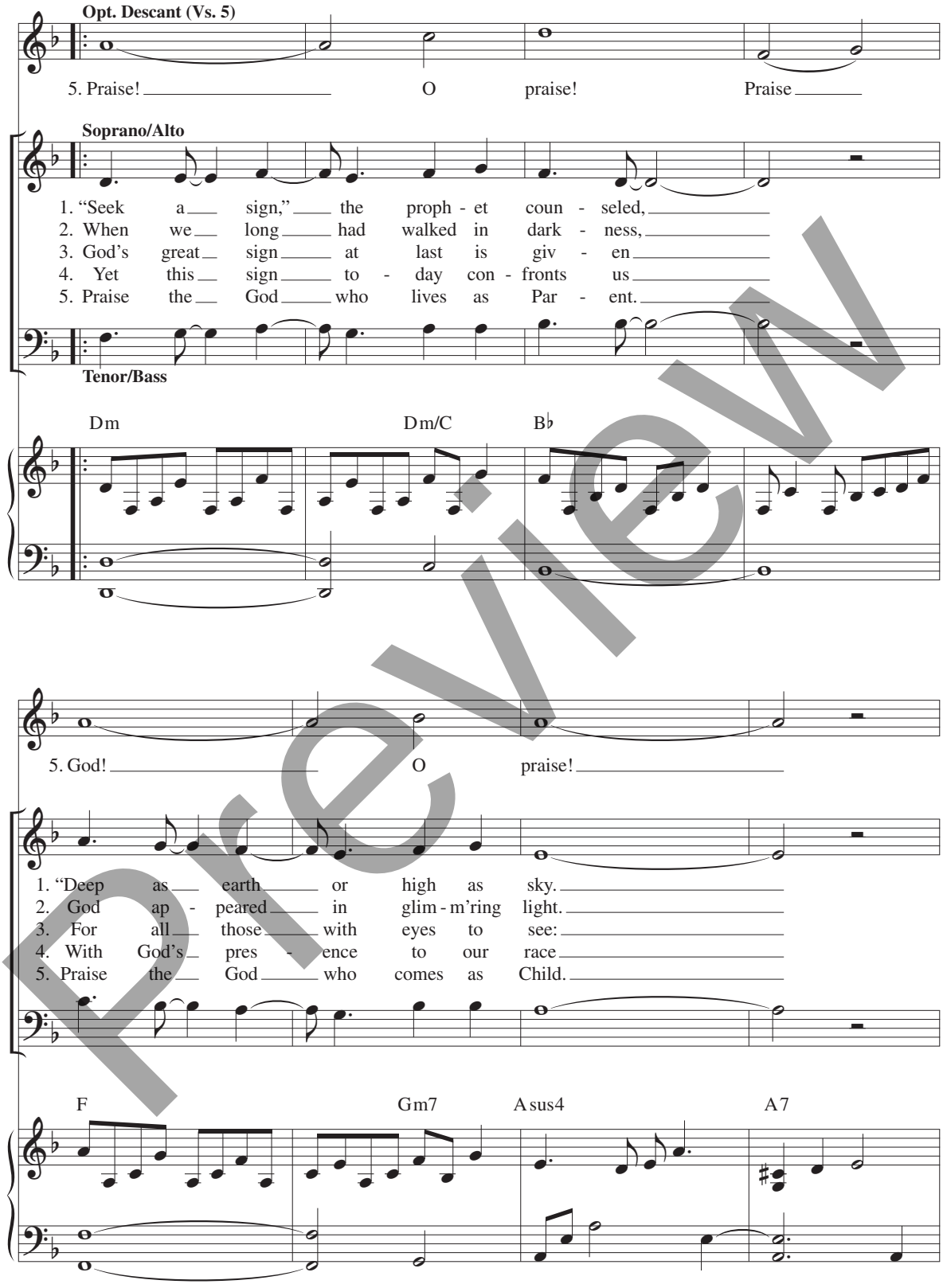
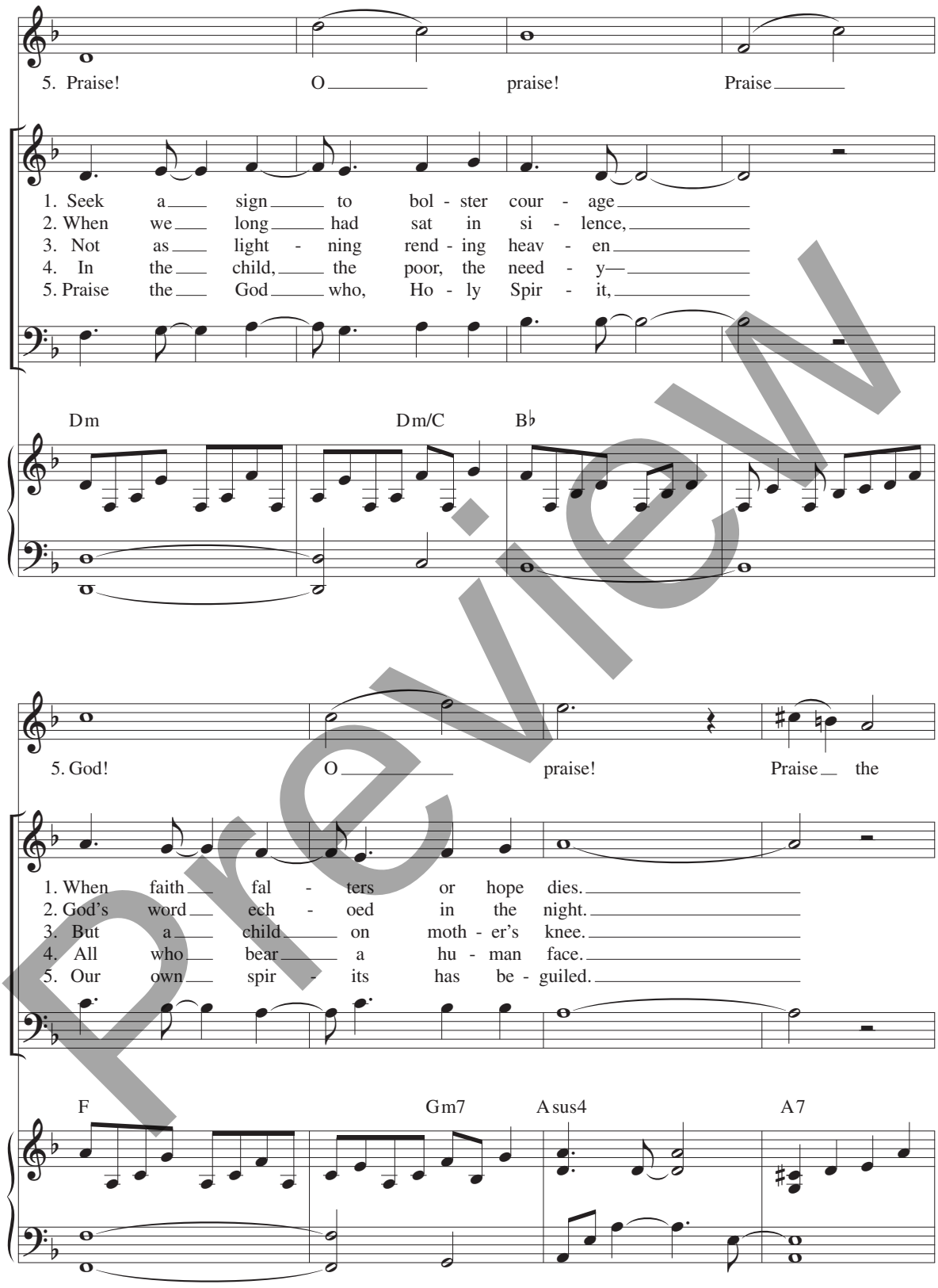
Performance suggestion:
Verse 1, unison choir or solo; Verse 2, women in unison; Verse 3, men in unison;
Verse 4, women sing melody, men sing harmony, using alternate accompaniment on p. 7;
Verse 5, sopranos and/or tenors sing descant, other voices sing melody.

Preview

VERSES



Preview



Preview

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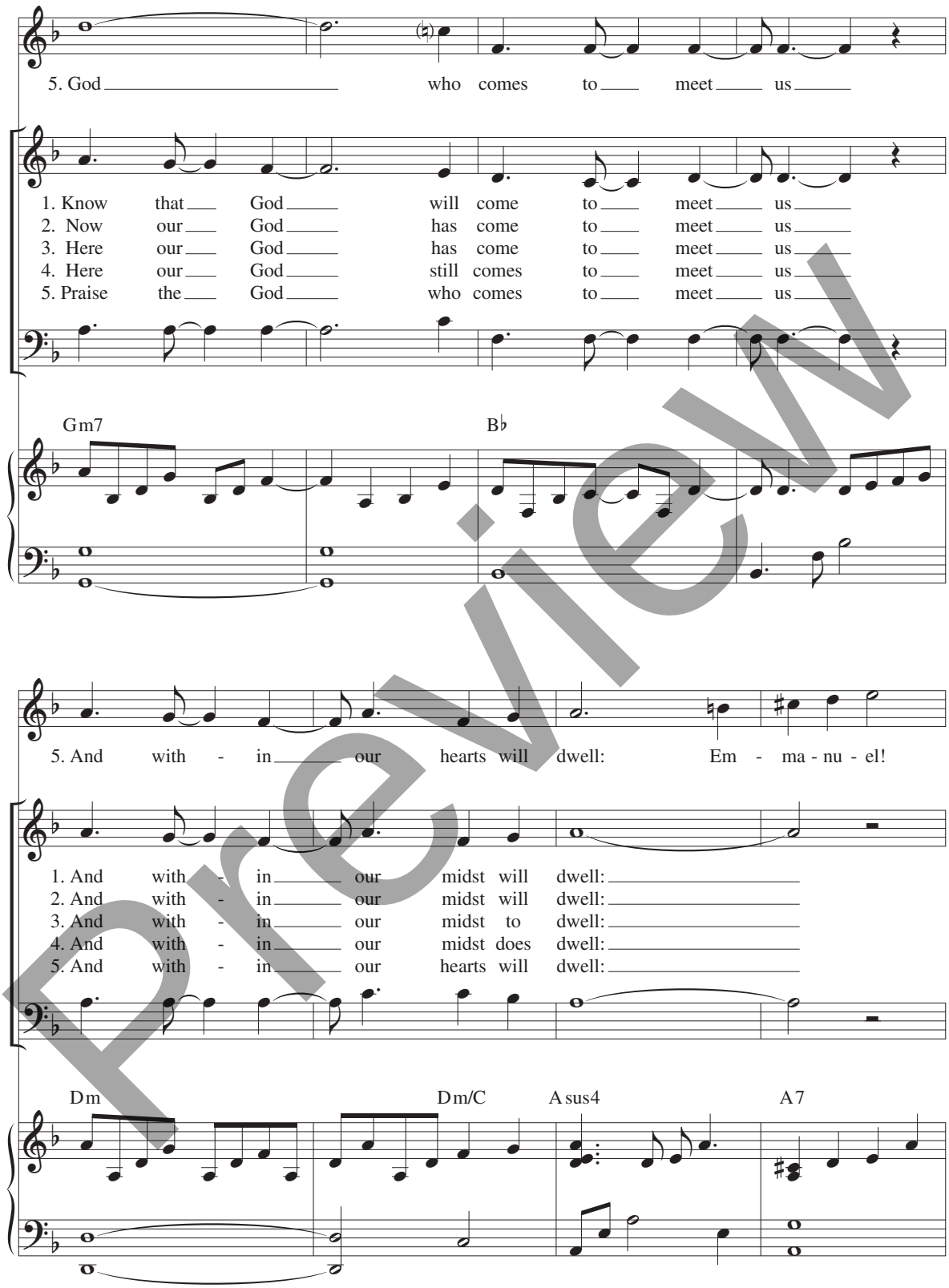

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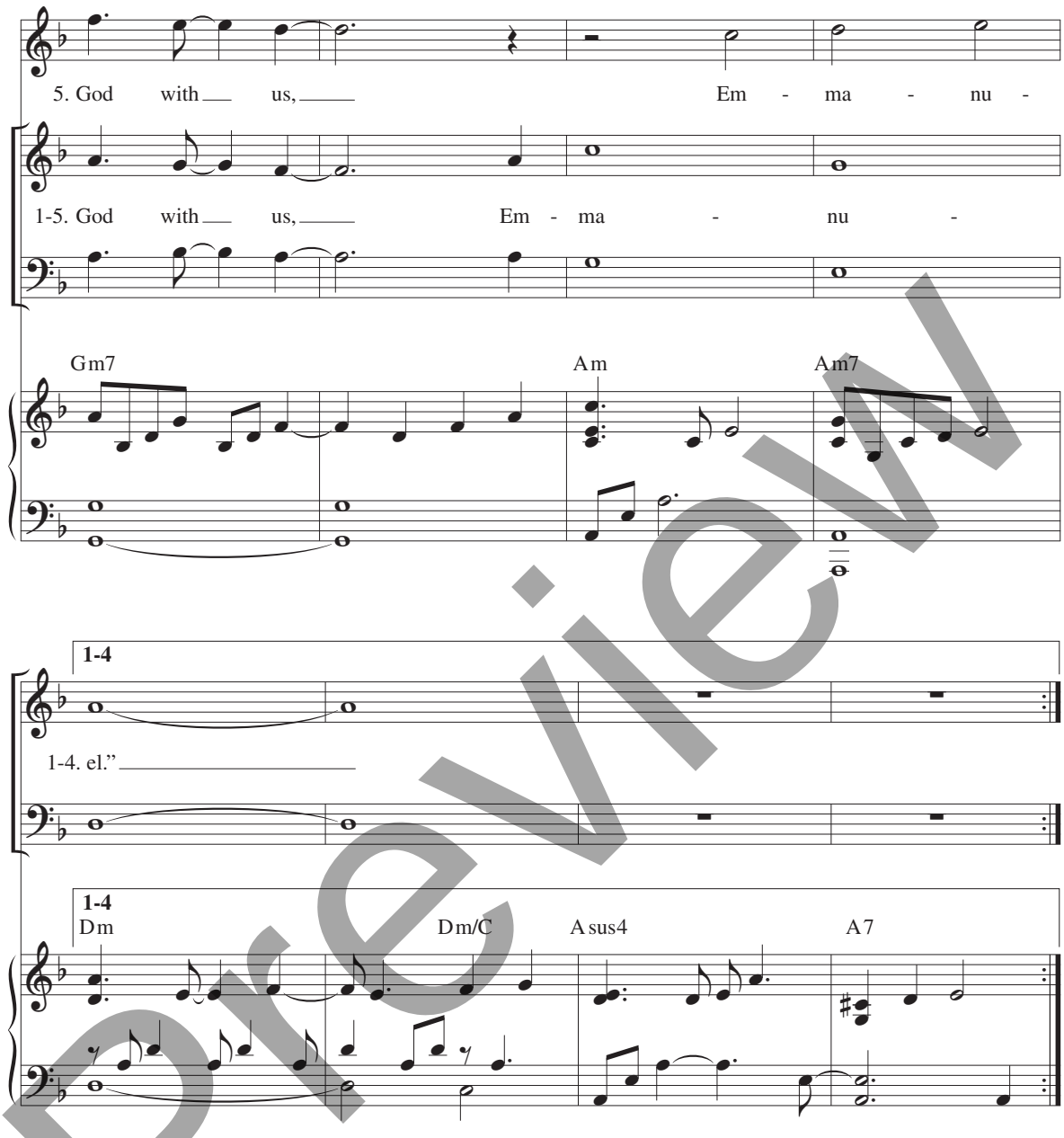

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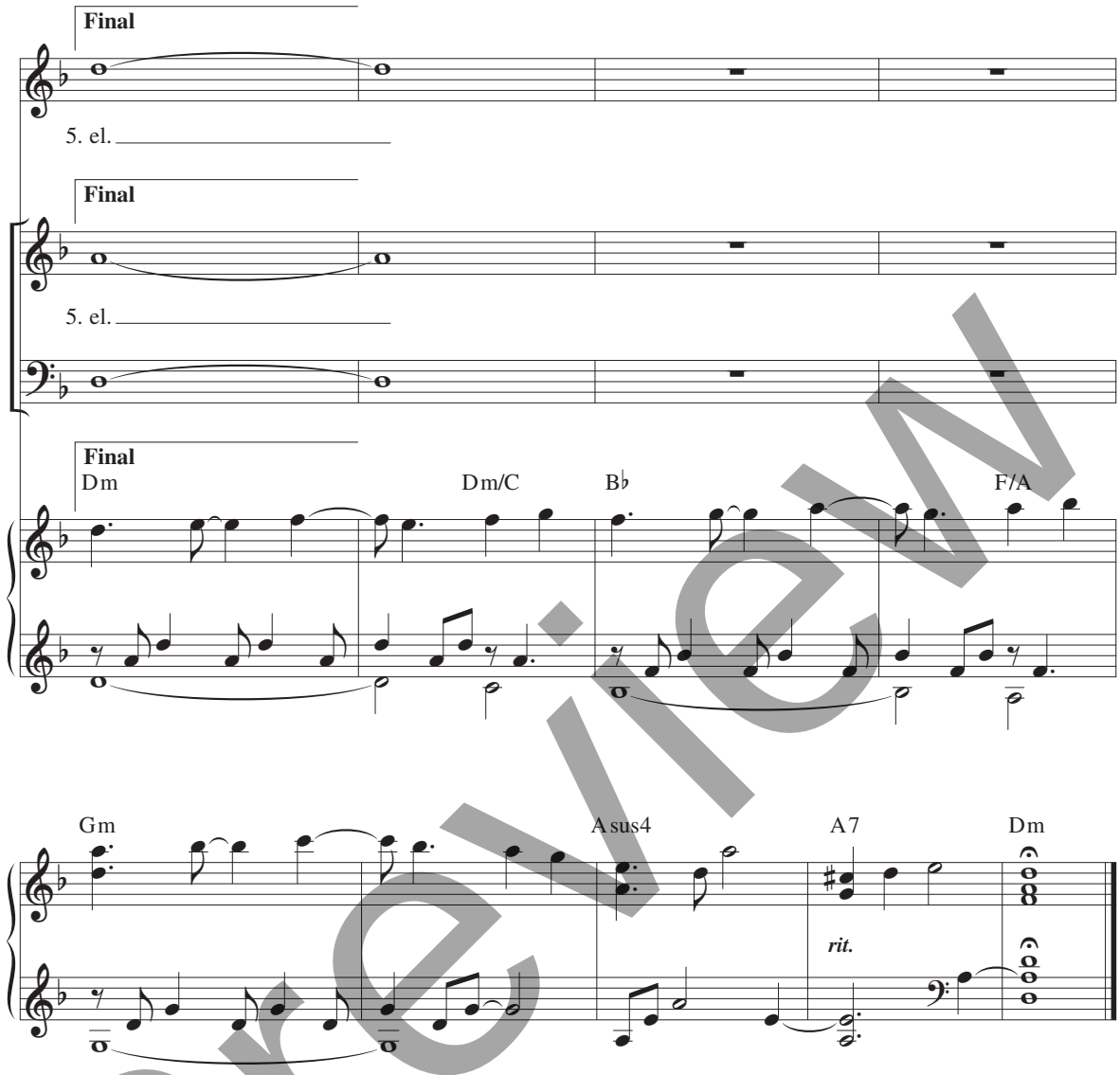

Preview

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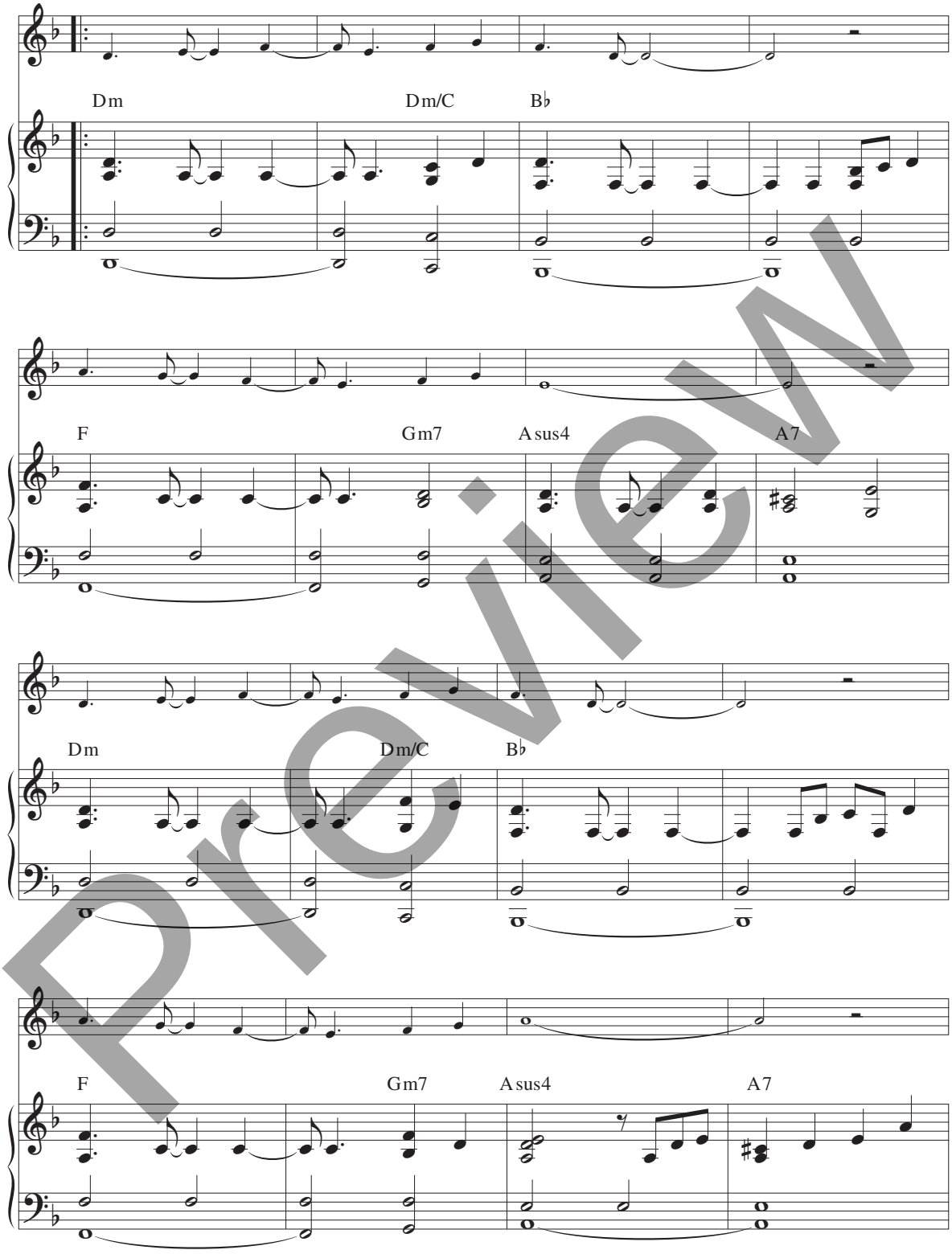
Alternate Accompaniment



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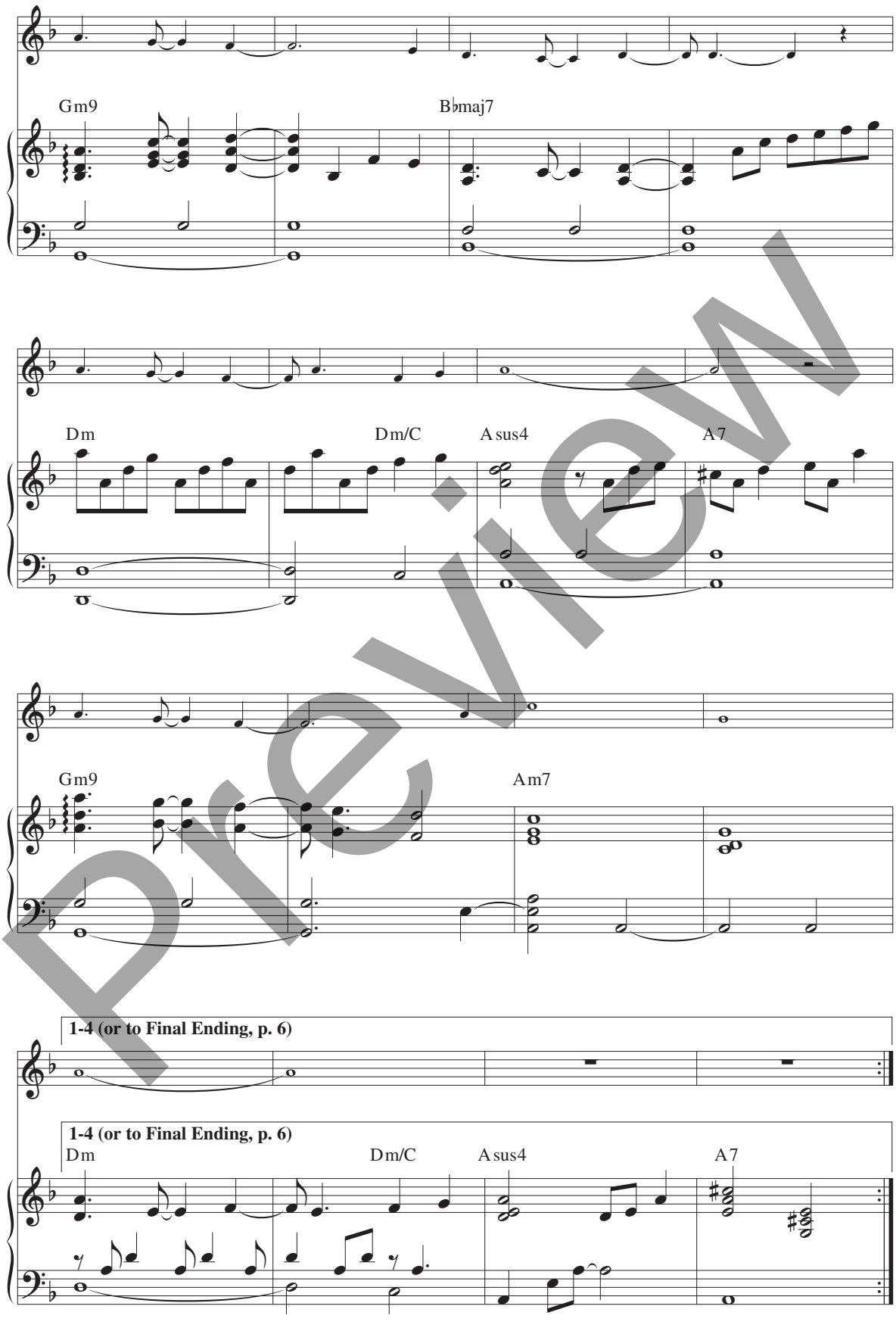

Preview

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Textwriter Notes

[Excerpted and adapted from *Within Our Hearts Be Born,* ed. 30113320]

"Seek a Sign, the Prophet Counseled" celebrates the events leading up to the birth of Jesus, but in such a way that the hymn could also be used during the Christmas season. It meditates on the idea of the signs given to us of God's presence in our midst. Stanza one is inspired by the interchange between God and Ahaz in Isaiah 7:10, but transposed to recognize that the sign has been given in Jesus as Emmanuel, the name and title revealed to Joseph in Matthew 1:21. Stanza two echoes Isaiah 9:1 (which is proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at Midnight) and the Prologue of the Gospel of John (proclaimed at the Christmas Mass during the Day) to reflect on the signs of God's presence in light and word. Stanza three anticipates the incarnation mystery announced in Matthew 1:18 that Mary was "found with child through the Holy Spirit." The stanza tries to contrast the apocalyptic imagery of the end of the world with which Advent began with the image of Jesus, Mary's child, as the sign of God's presence to us. Stanza four reminds us that the child of Bethlehem grew to be a man who identified himself with the least of his brothers and sisters in Matthew 25:40. Stanza five concludes the hymn in a prayer of Trinitarian praise, suggesting the signs under which each of the Divine Persons might be manifested, while recognizing their unity as the God who comes to meet us.

—Michael Joncas

Preview

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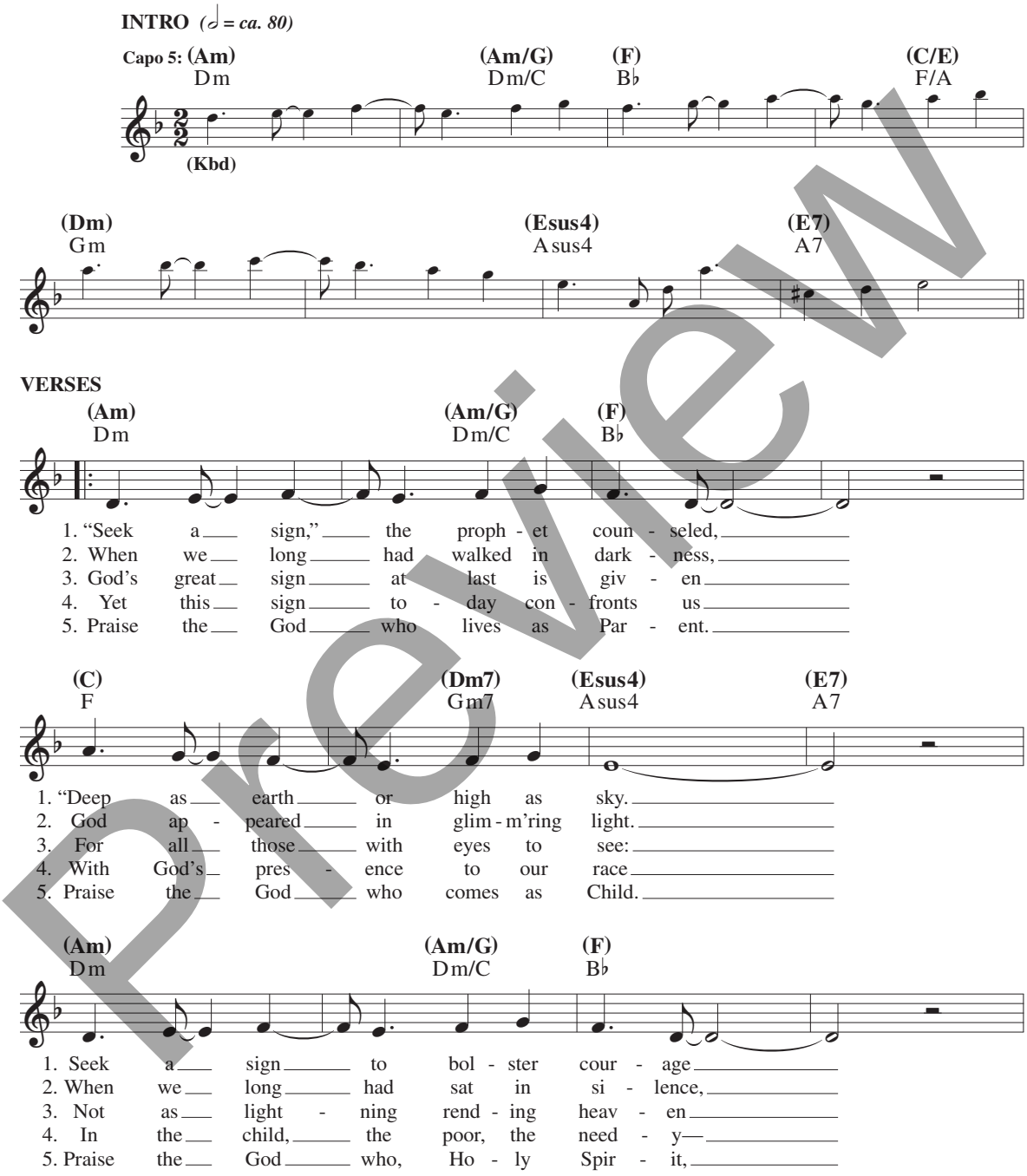
for Matthew Cannaday

Seek a Sign, the Prophet Counseled

(Guitar/Vocal)

Michael Joncas Justin Wedgewood



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Preview

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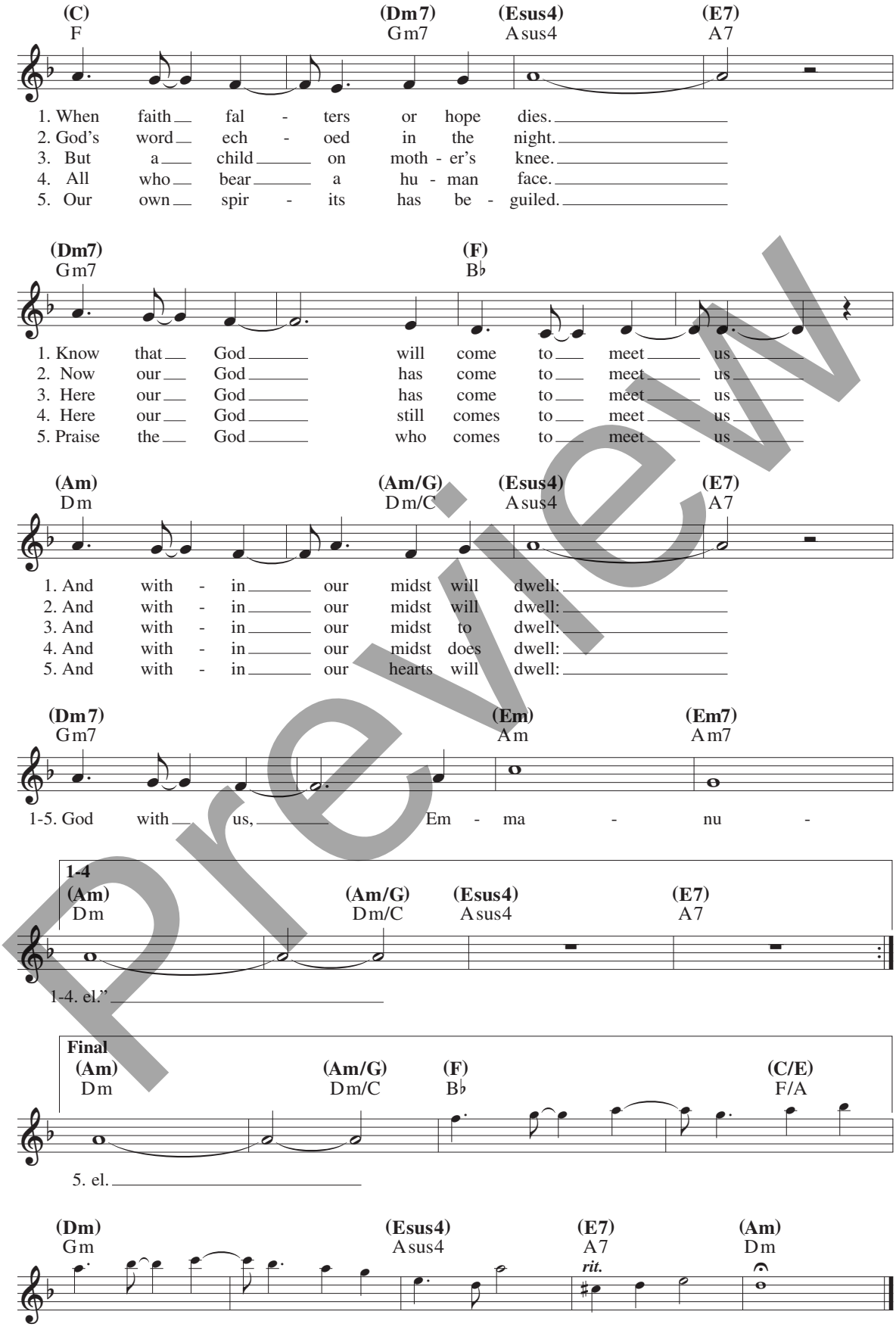

Preview

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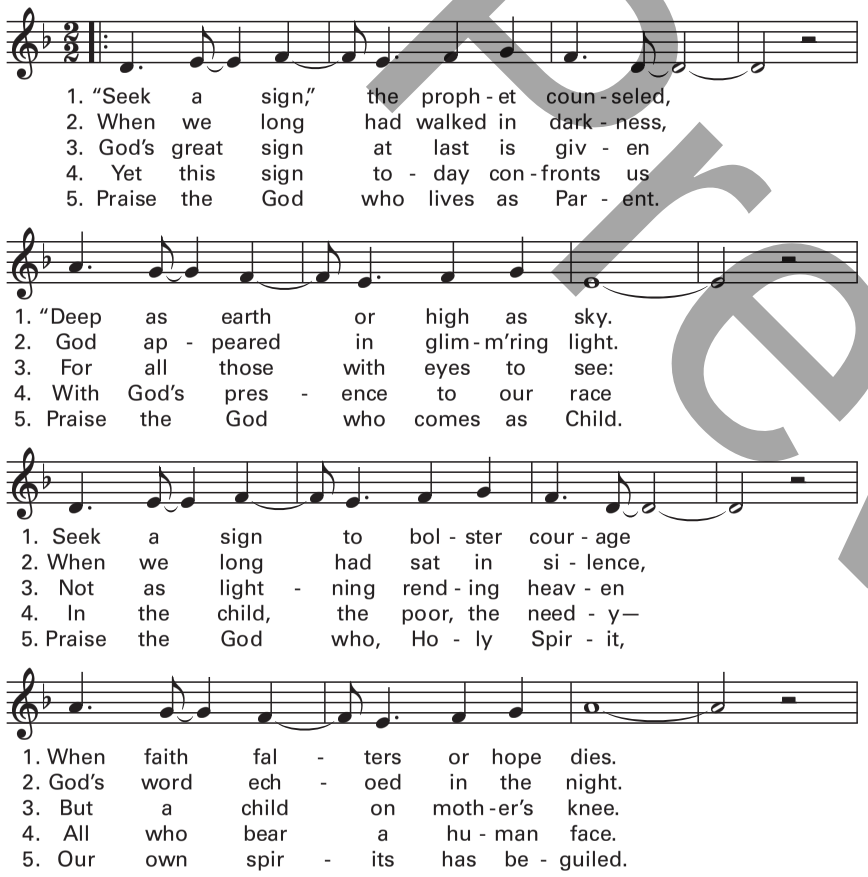
SEEK A SIGN, THE PROPHET COUNSELED

Justin Wedgewood



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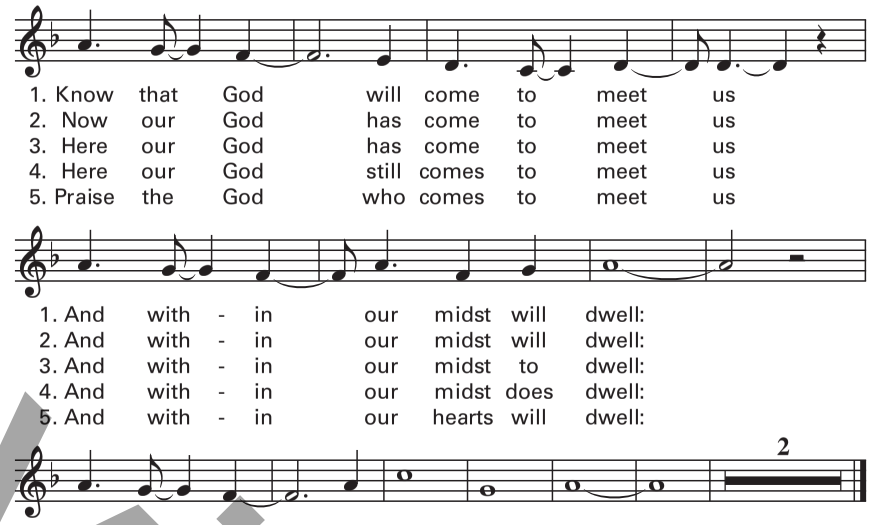
SEEK A SIGN, THE PROPHET COUNSELED (cont.)



Preview

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