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Blessing Ritual for a Sacred Object

Christopher Walker

ssaattbb

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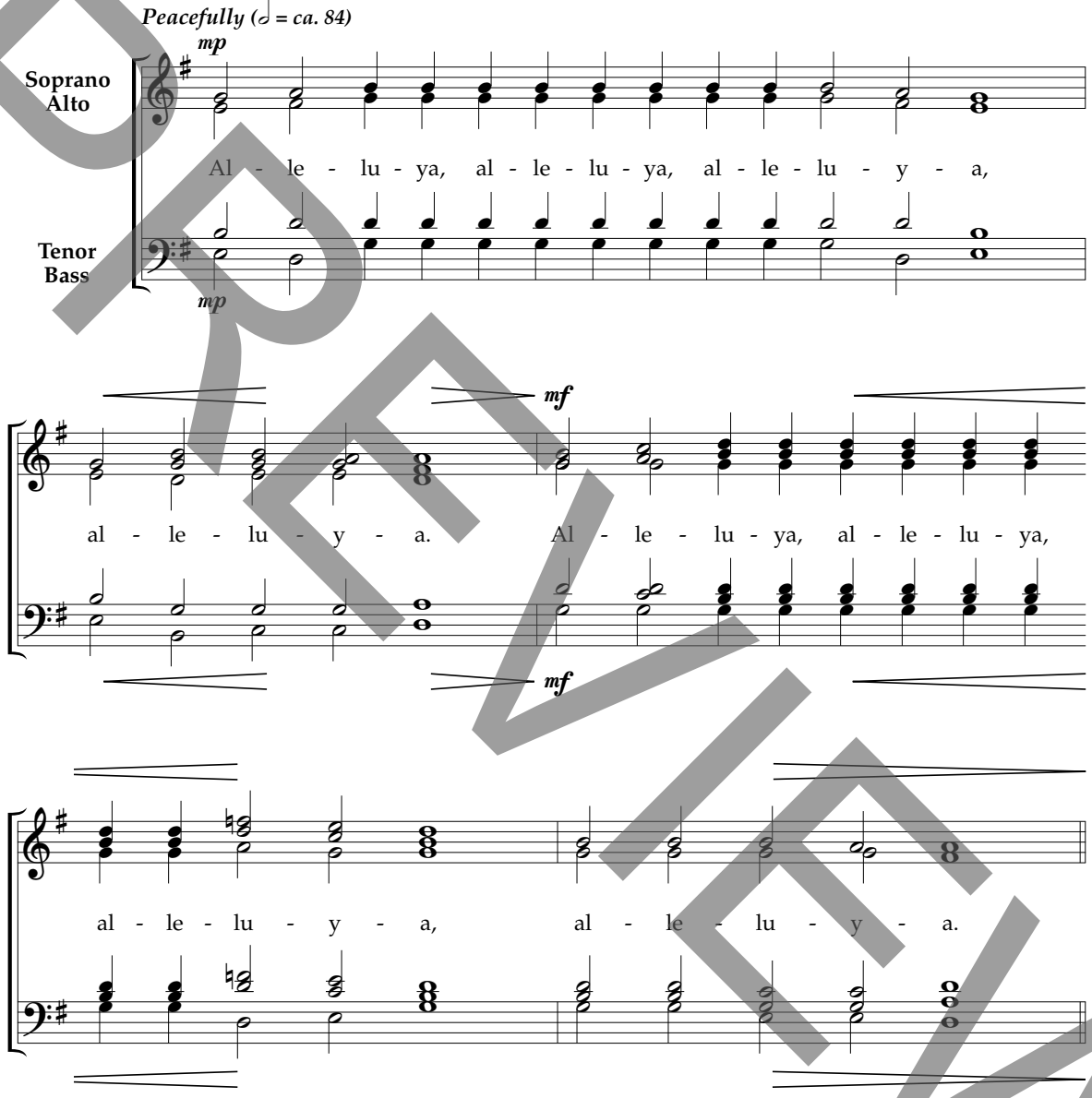
As the sacred object is brought forward, or as the priest processes to the sacred symbol, the choir sings:



Priest/Deacon/Cantor:

Blessed is the Lord our God, for ever and always, unto ages of ages. Amen.

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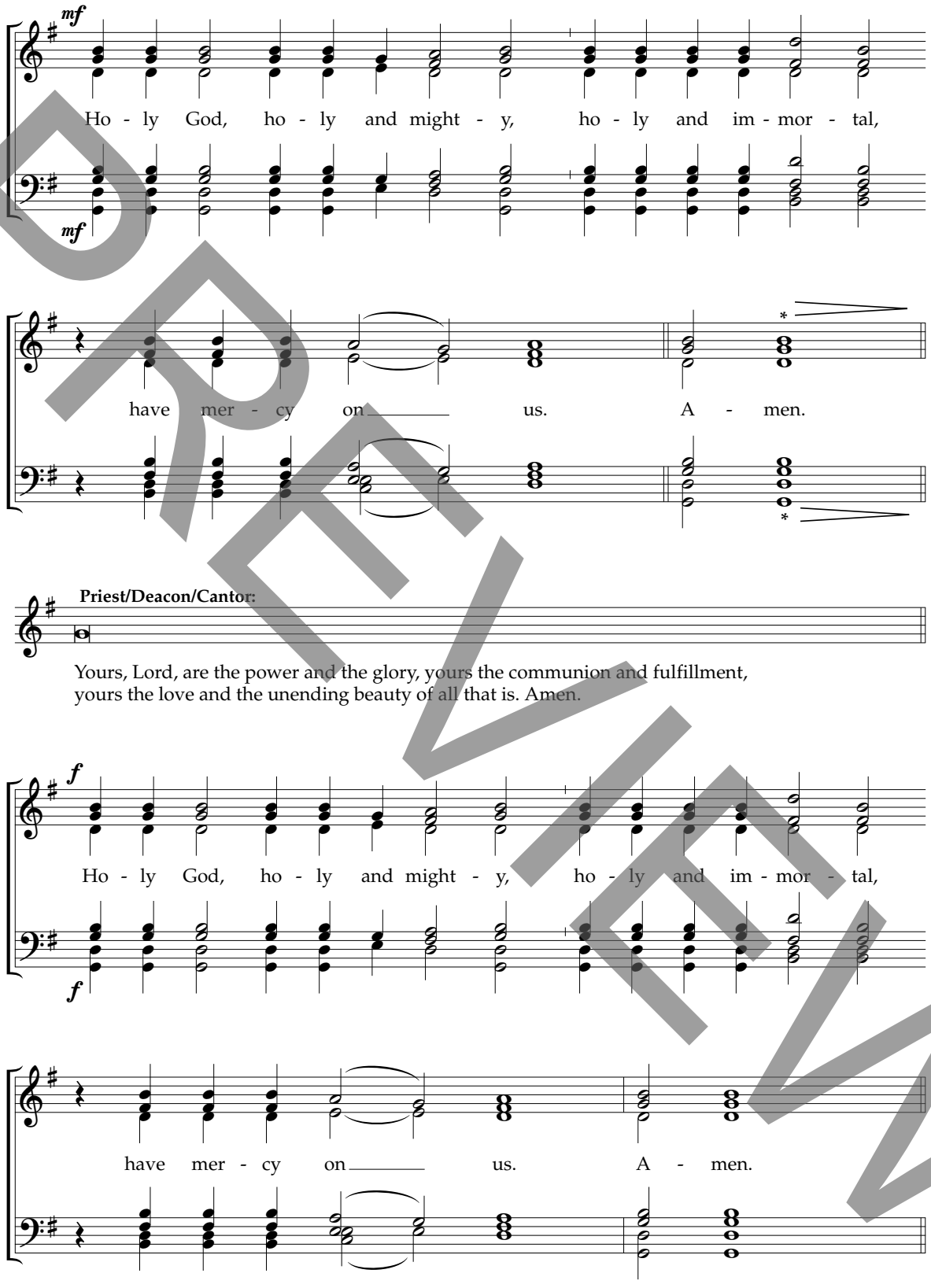
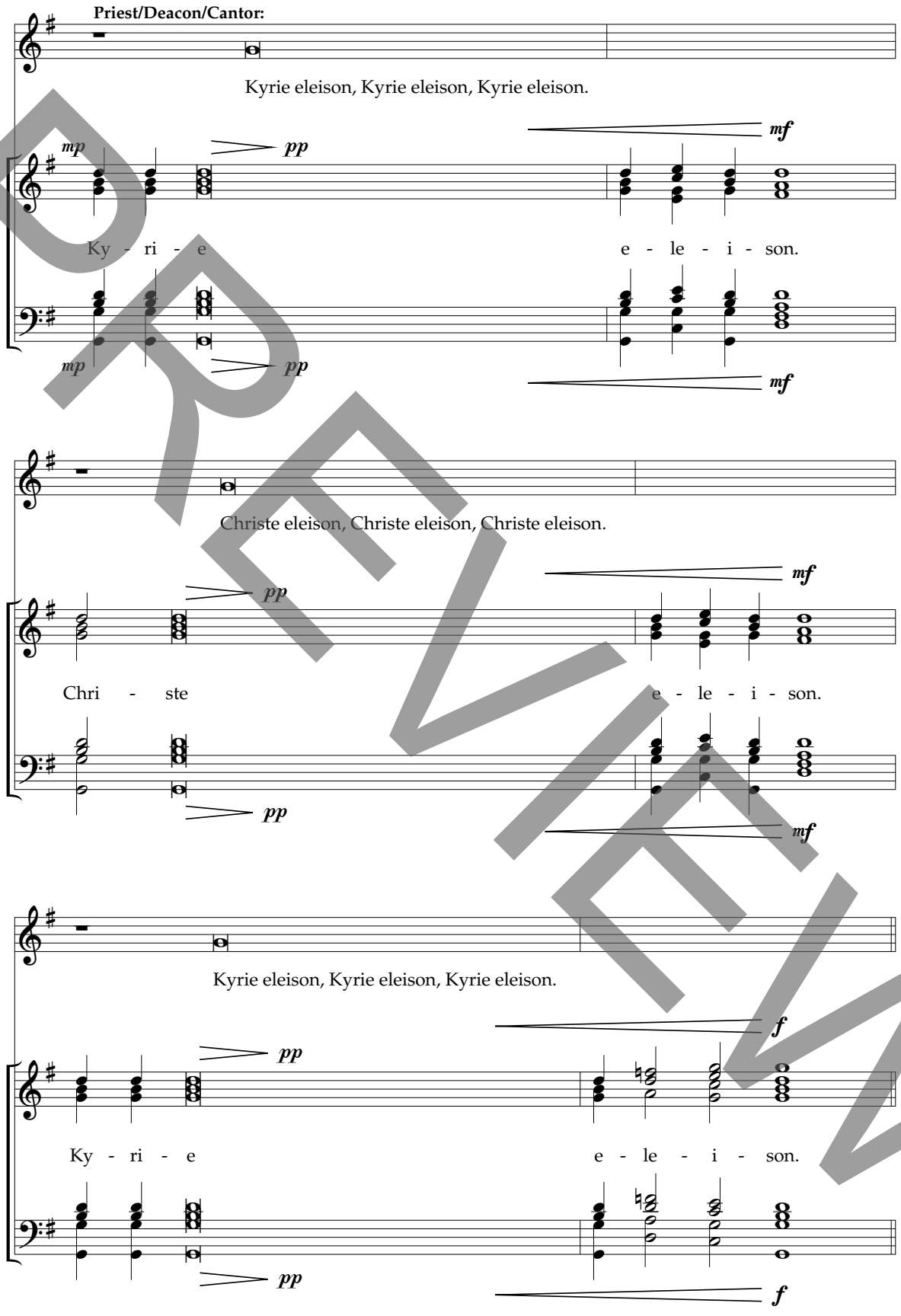
PREVIEW

Edition 4641-Z

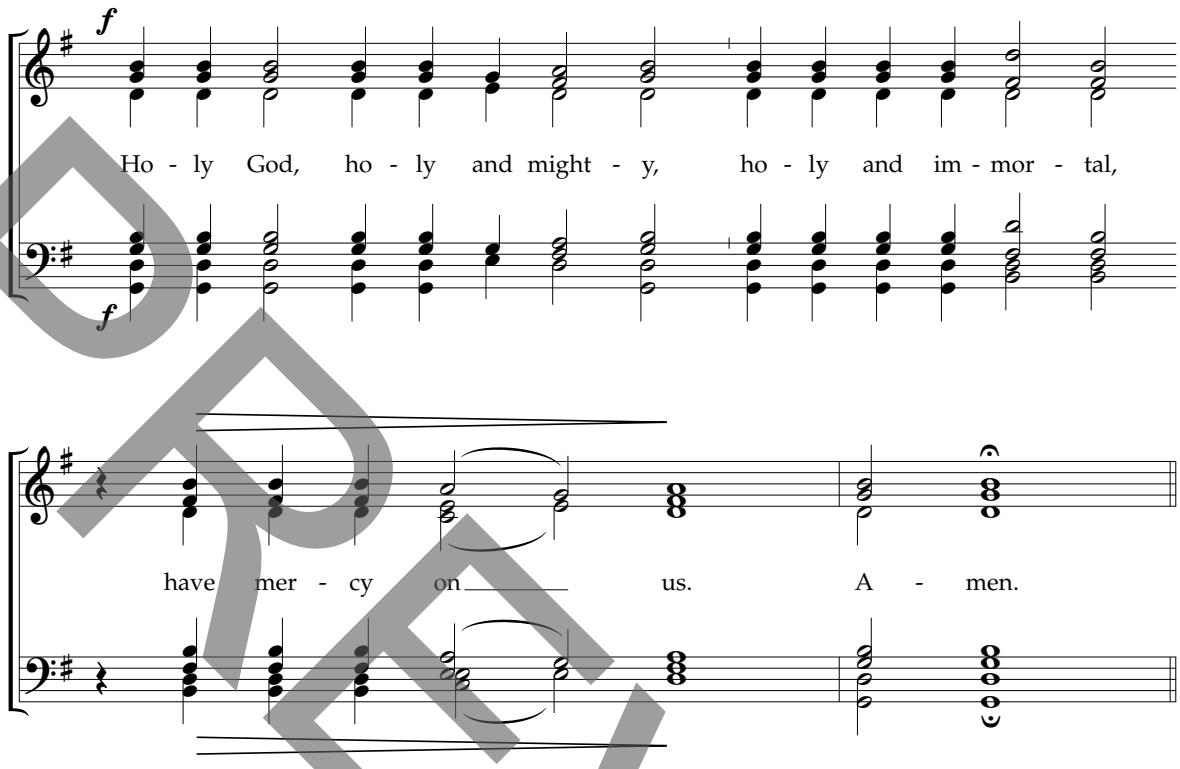


***The choir may hum this chord under the prayer that follows.**

PREVIEW


Priest/Deacon/Cantor:
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
mp
pp
mf
Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.
Chri - ste
e - le - i - son.
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
f
Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son.

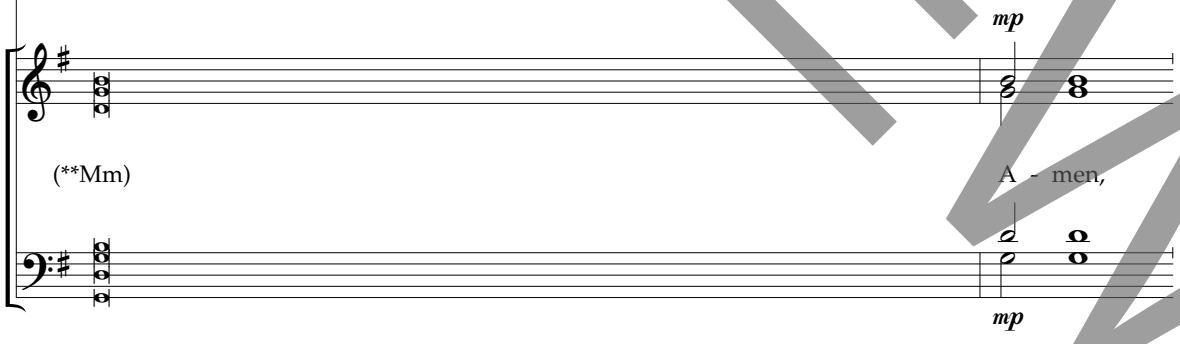
PREVIEW



PRAYER OF BLESSING

Priest/Deacon:

Lord, bless this * sacred symbol of your love.
May it remind us that we are called to a life of faith in you.
Increase our faith and strengthen us to proclaim the Good News of salvation.
May the mystery of your life preserve us, and the mystery of your love
sustain us all the days of our life; until we come to the day of
fulfillment in your Kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

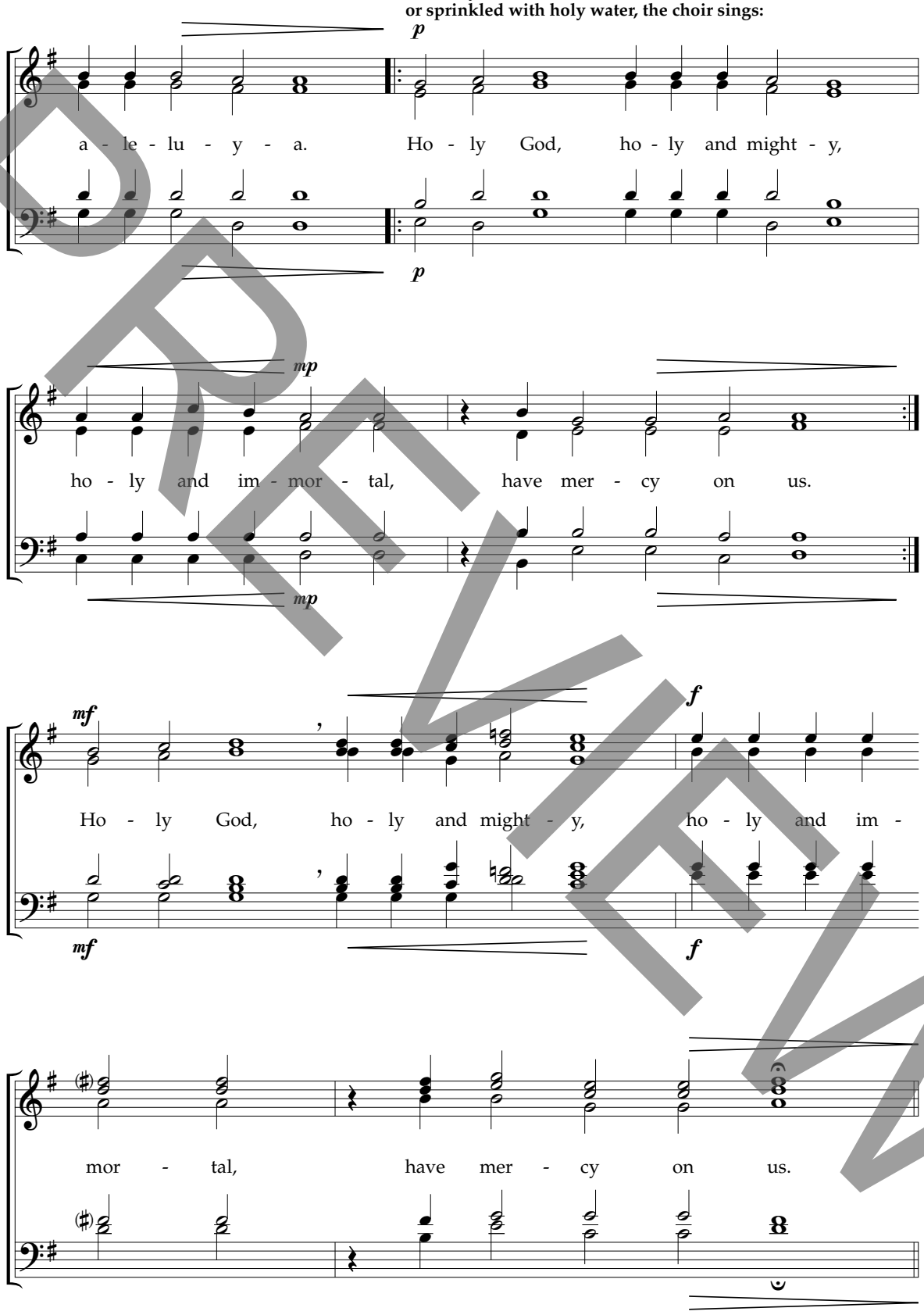


***Insert the name of the sacred object and/or the name of the saint associated with it; include a phrase about the use of the sacred object. See Composer Notes, page 12.**

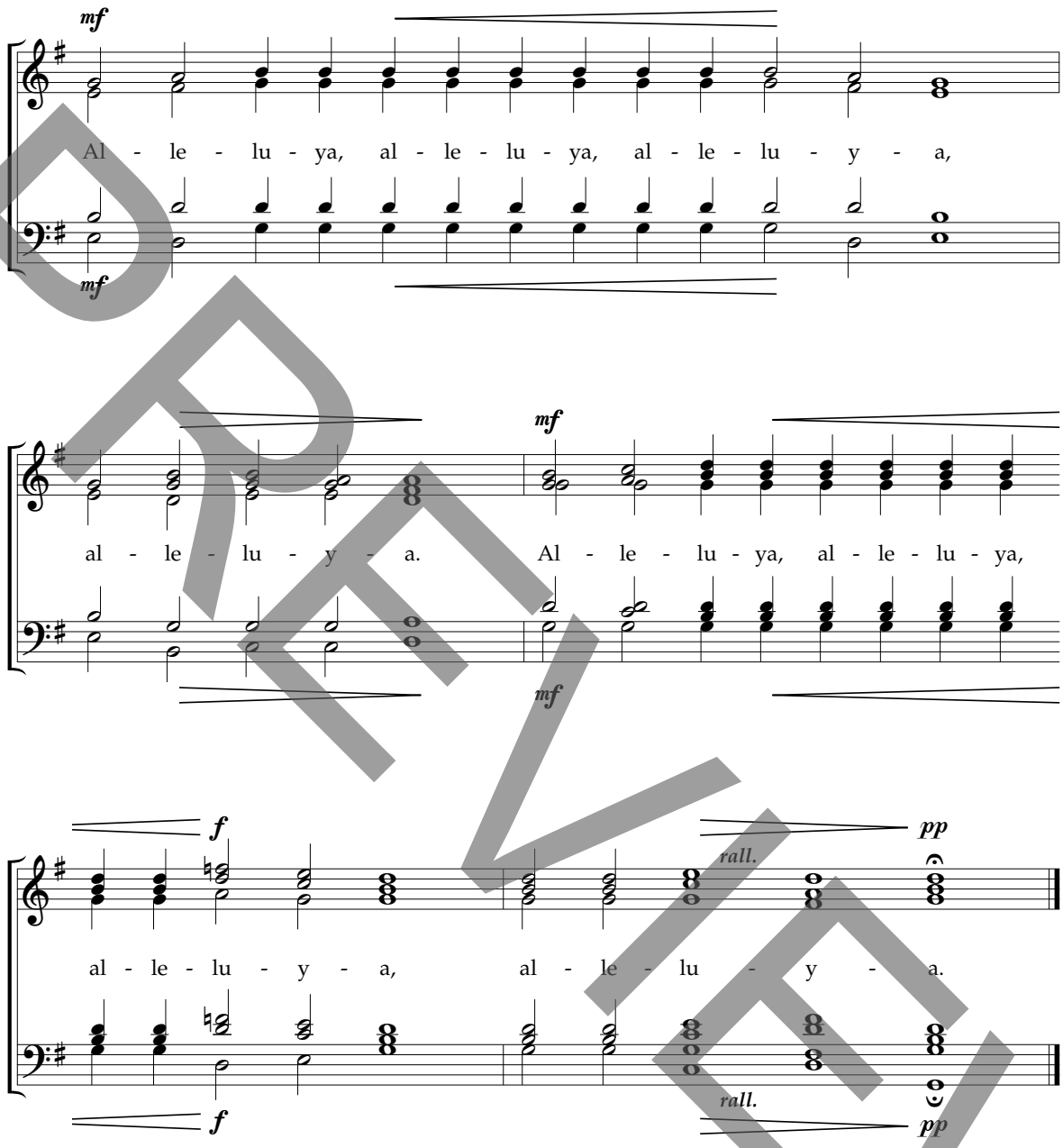
****Optional choir humming under the prayers.**

PREVIEW

As the symbol is blessed with incense or sprinkled with holy water, the choir sings:



PREVIEW

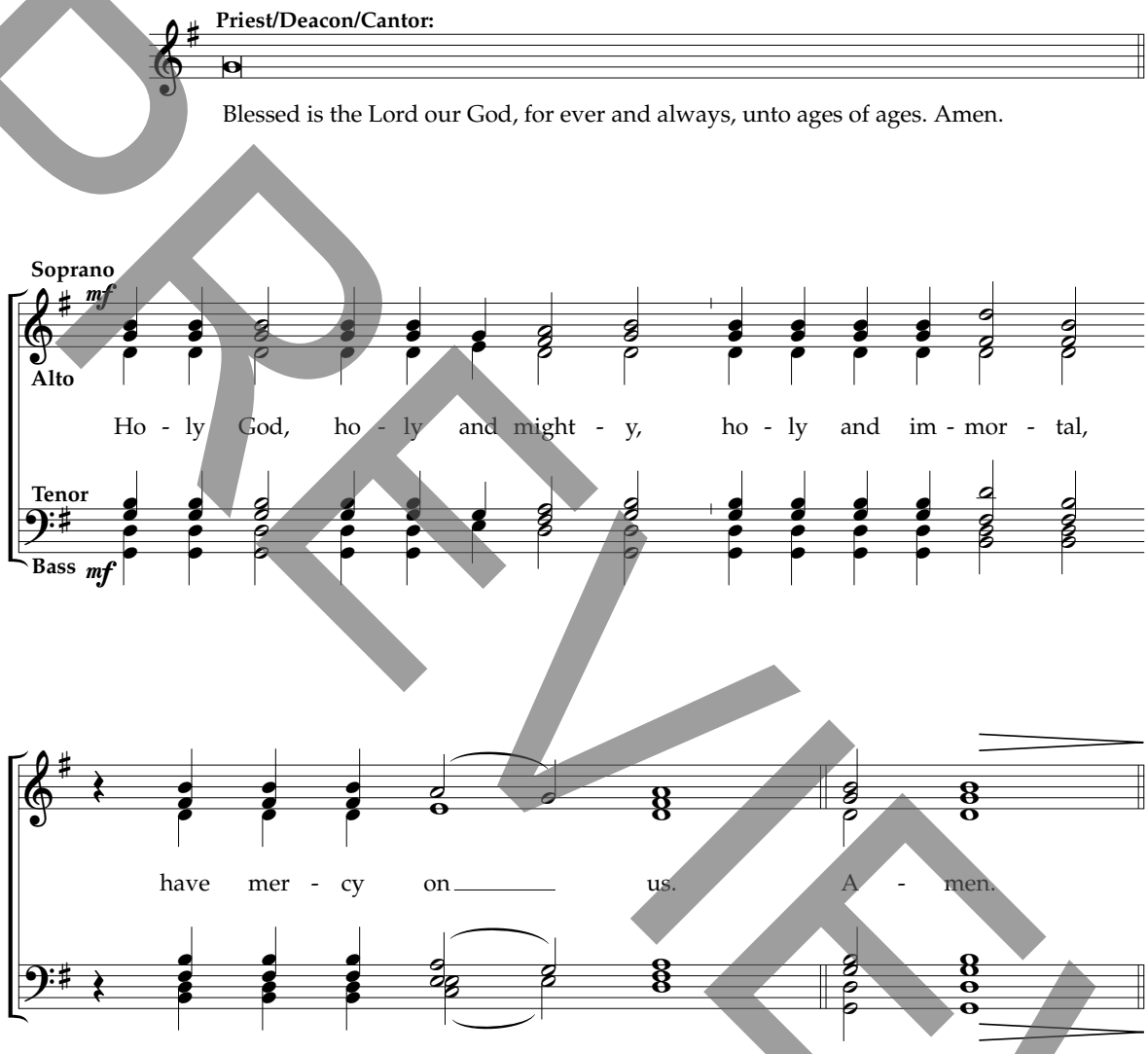

mf
Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - y - a,
mf
mf
al - le - lu - y - a. Al - le - lu - ya, al - le - lu - ya,
mf
f
pp
rall.
al - le - lu - y - a, al - le - lu - y - a.
f
rall.
pp

PREVIEW

Penitential Rite

from "Blessing Ritual for a Sacred Object"

Christopher Walker



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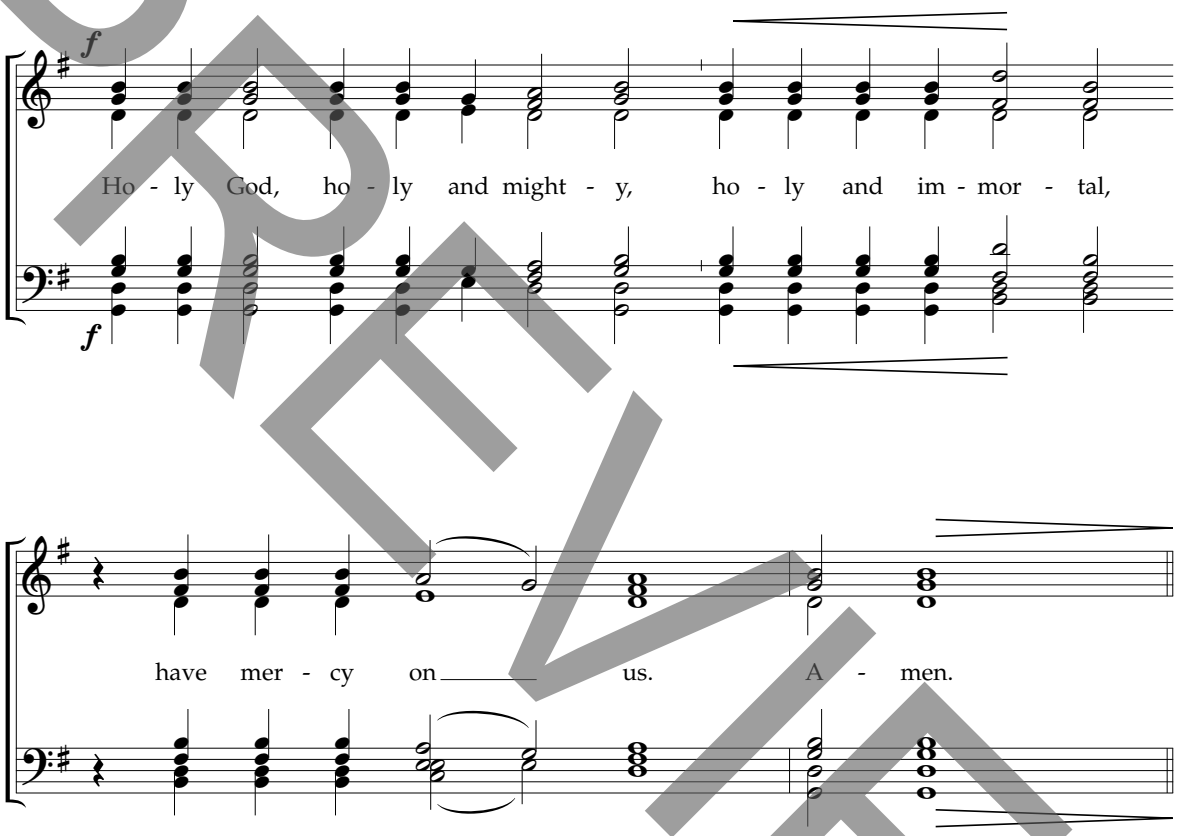
PREVIEW

Priest/Deacon/Cantor:

Yours, Lord, are the power and the glory, yours the communion and fulfillment,
yours the love and the unending beauty of all that is. Amen.



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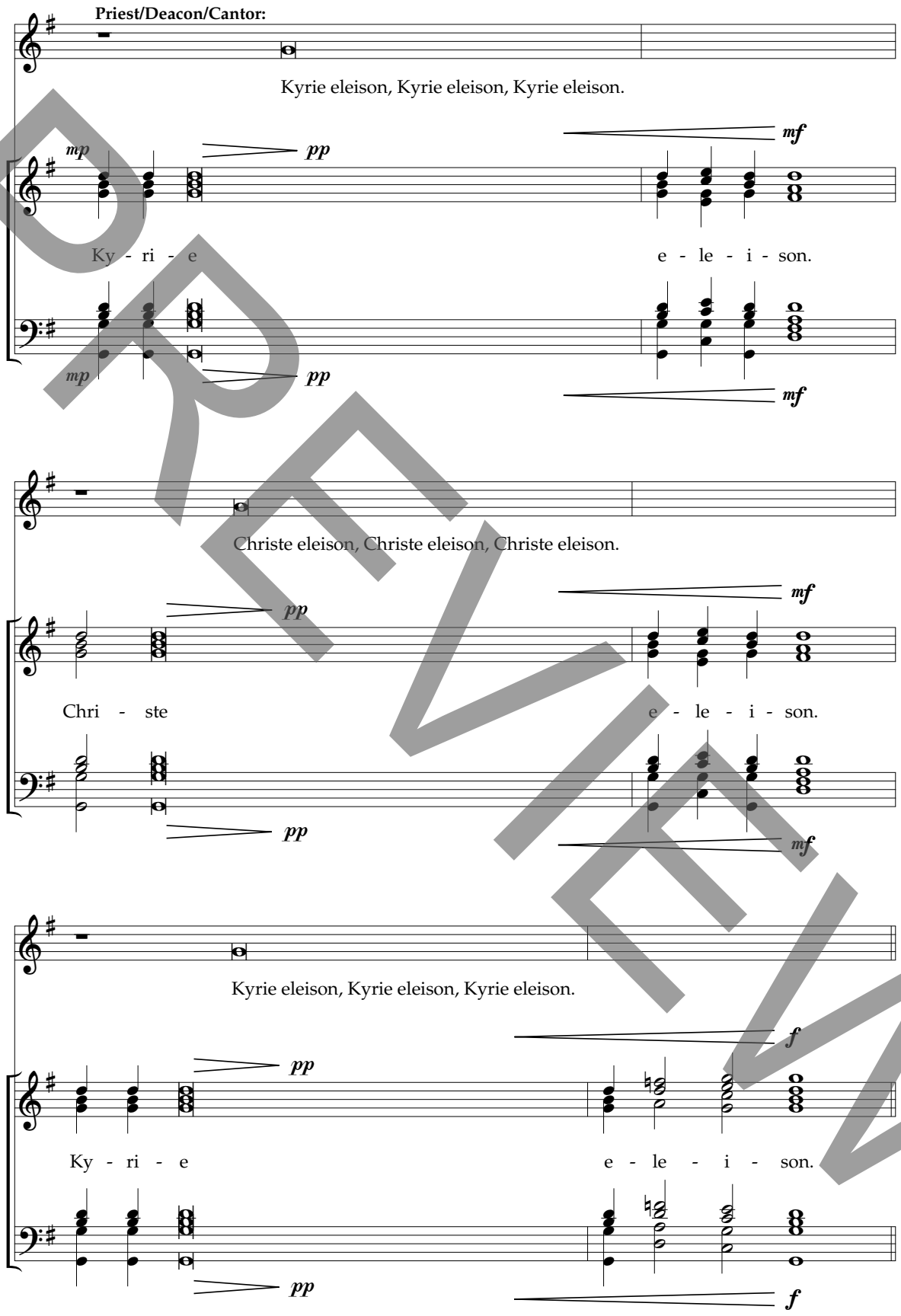
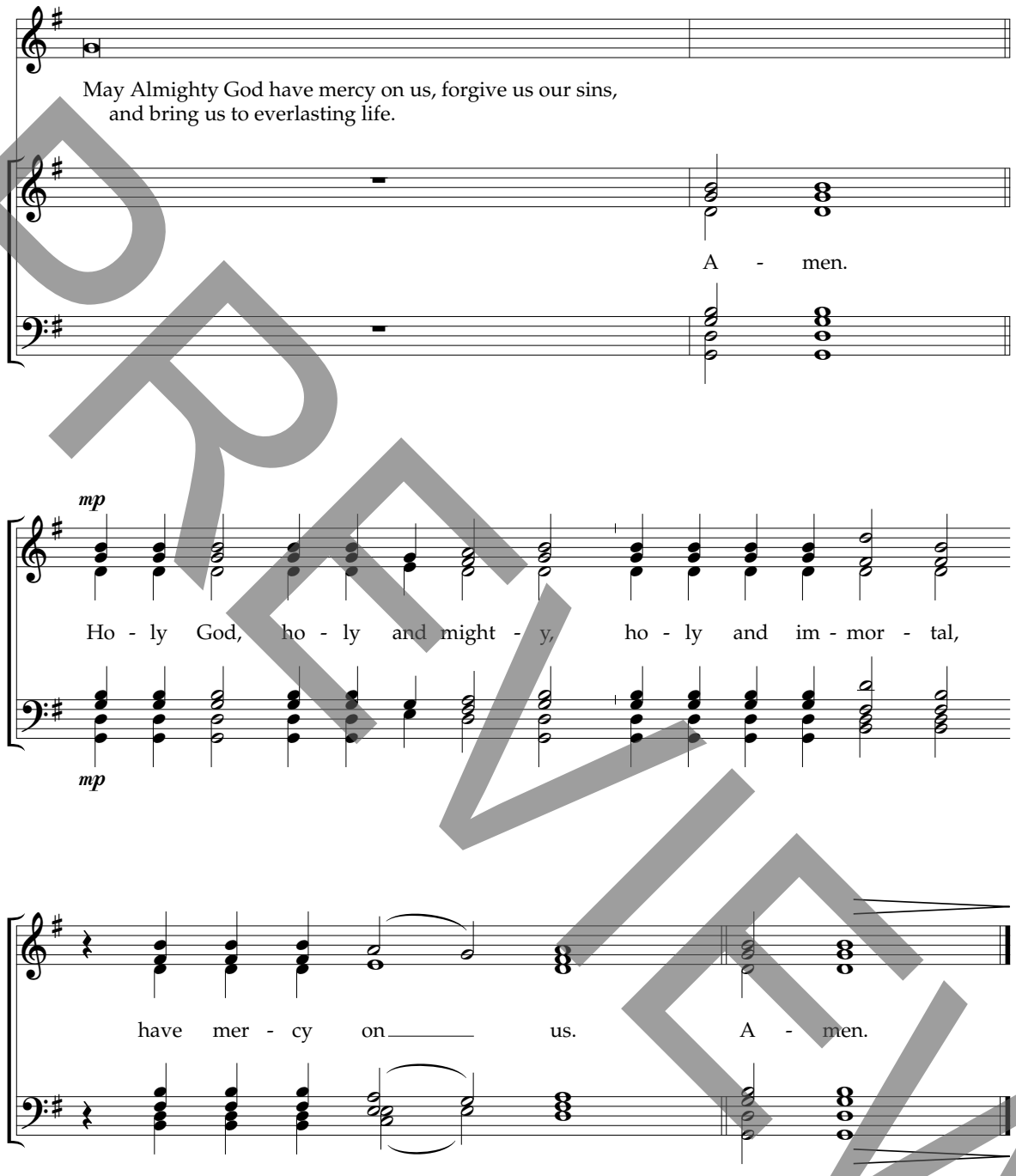

Priest/Deacon/Cantor:
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
mp
pp
mf
Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son.
Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison.
Chri - ste
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
f
Ky - ri - e
e - le - i - son.

PREVIEW


May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.
A - men.
mp
Ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y, ho - ly and im - mor - tal,
mp
have mer - cy on us. A - men.

PREVIEW

Trisagion

from "Blessing Ritual for a Sacred Object"

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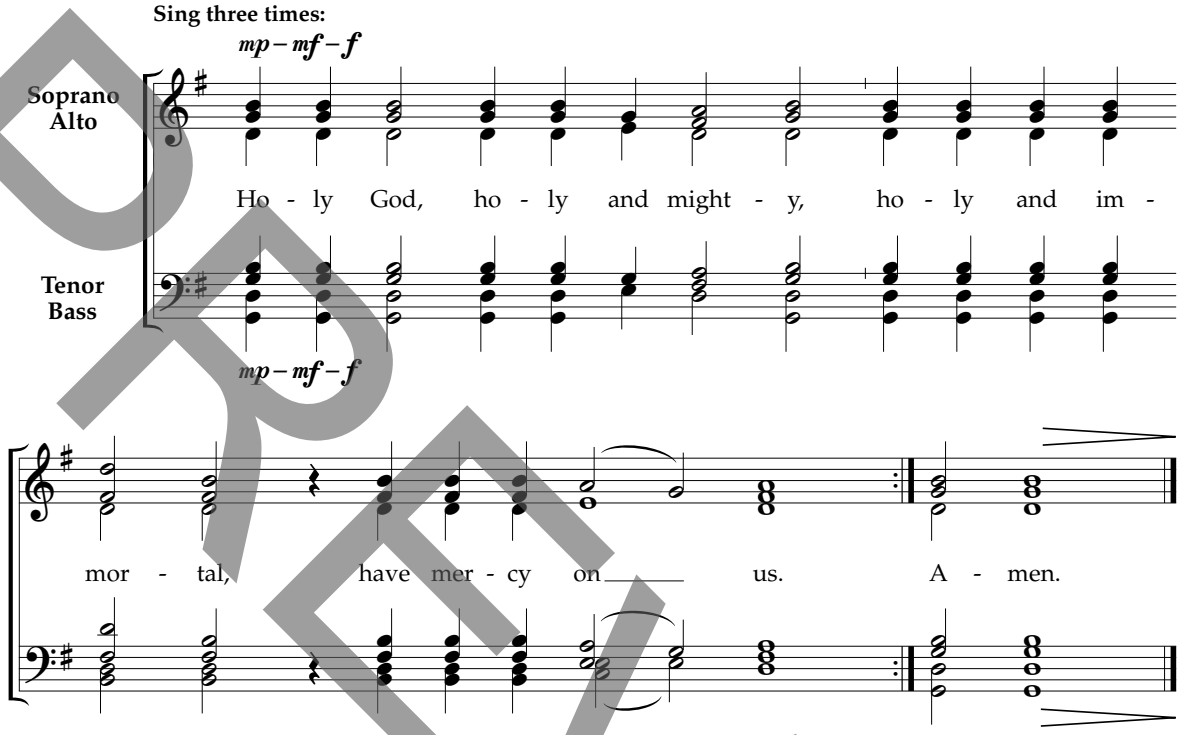

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Composer Notes

The entire ritual may be used for the blessing of a sacred symbol, statue, ikon, processional cross, altar, tabernacle, ambo, banner, window, vessel or other item for sacred use—even a part of the blessing of a new church or chapel.

The Prayer of Blessing (page 5) is given as an example only. Feel free to replace it with a prayer more appropriate for the sacred object being blessed.

The priest's part may be spoken or sung. If spoken, or if the priest finds it difficult to hold pitch, the choir may hum a G or a G chord; alternatively, play a low octave G on the keyboard to maintain musical continuity. A cantor may sing the priest's invocations, but not the Prayer of Blessing.

The choral parts should be sung with passionate expression. Ideally, this piece should be sung unaccompanied, but gentle accompaniment may be added to support the singing.

The Kyrie section on page 4 may be sung for the Penitential Rite during Lent, or for penitential services. Or, for a more extended form, the Penitential Rite (page 8) may be used.

—Christopher Walker