

Saint Thekla

The First Lily in the Garden of God

"TEN TENS,"

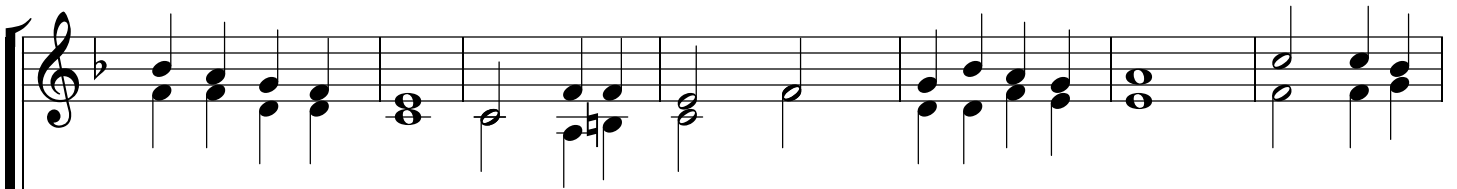
Robert Stephen Hawker (1803-1875), alt.

Old 124th., arr. JLS

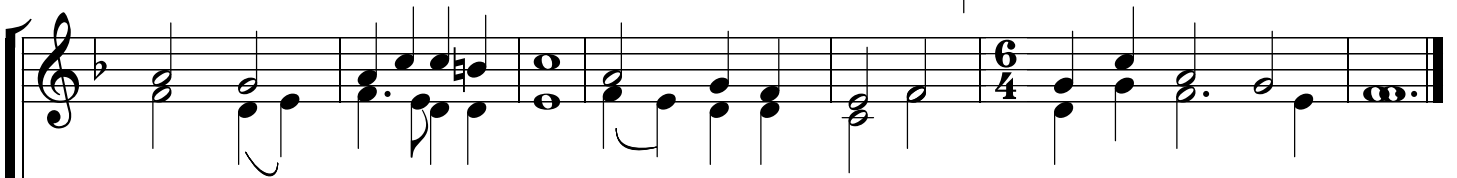
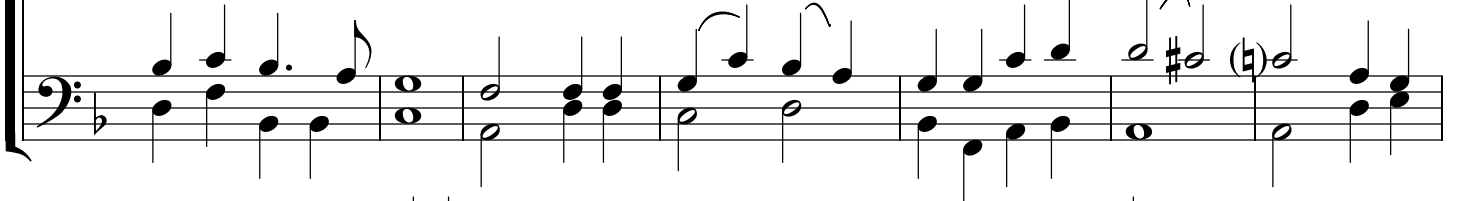
1. Sweet is the shrink - ing im-age of the rose, When her first blush is
2. Such was the maid - en of my lay. In youth She hid her beau - ty
3. Then came St. Paul th' A - pos - tle to those streets; Cas - tled I - co - nium
4. Un - heard the bride - groom's voice, and vain his vow, In the sweet bon - dage
5. See! in her ci - ty - gate the maid - en stands, The threat, the pro - mise

1. o'er the mos - sy ground: Her brow is best where man - y a blos - som grows:
2. in her fa - ther's halls: He who had wooed her with the words of truth,
3. was the ci - ty's name: He came -- he taught -- how Thek - la's bos - om beats:
4. of the faith to share; Her high re - solves a fa - ther may not bow,
5. all are urged in vain; She folds up - on her faith - ful breast her hands --

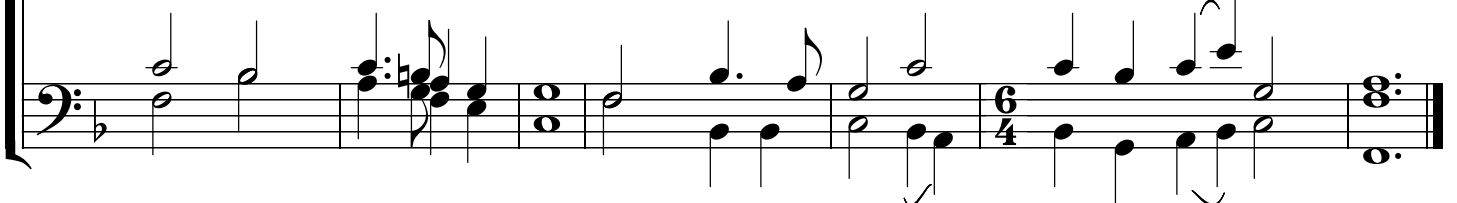
1. She ga - zes on the flowers that shine a - round, Till with the breath of
2. Like moon - light on the snow, his im - age falls Up - on her ves - tal
3. How his deep lan - guage shades her si - lent frame, She stood -- she list - ened
4. She will not soft - en at a mo - ther's prayer, Till with re - vol - ted
5. That calm - ness in her eyes is half dis - dain. She hears the man - date



1. spring her spi-rit glows, And her young branch with lif-ted leaves is crowned: Then must her
 2. spi-rit yet in sooth, No no-bler knight in the high fes-ti - vals Of his own
 3. till her soul en - treats The birth of bap - tism, and its hallow-ing Name. The works are
 4. heart and quiver-ing brow, The youth will wreak on her his mad des - pair; On, to the
 5. to the sol-diers' hands, "To the wild beasts!" nor will she then com-plain, Though Gen-tile



1. eyes be raised from that low sod, She bears her breast to heaven and yields to God.
 2. ci - ty sought a cho-sen bride: He was her fa - ther's choice and mo - ther's pride.
 3. ut - tered and the wa-ters poured, She breathes her bind-ing troth un - to the Lord.
 4. judge-ment seat with reck-less breath, And wit-ness - ing her faith is doomed to death.
 5. hearts were moved and man-y an eye Wept as they saw pure Thek - la led to die.



6. She stood with gentle and uplifted look
 When they had loosed the lions on their prey;
 But lo! the fierce and famished creatures shook,
 And crouching at her feet in fondness lay;
 There will they rest, though none beside may brook
 There furious fangs, nor soothe their angry way;
 "The fire! the flame!" hark what fierce accents rise,
 "Yea! schorch her to the gods for sacrifice."

7. A miracle again! another sign!
 The unseen an-gel of the Lord was there;
 They saw the fames, subdued, around her shine,
 And mingle harmless with her waving hair:
 And lo! a starry cross, as on a shrine,
 Beamed on the forehead of that maiden fair,
 The first bright daughter of the church, whose fame
 Hath won in many lands a sainted name.