COMPOSER'S NOTE

The first volume of *Gregorian Liturgical Year*—completed in March, 2000—contained pieces for the Sundays and major feast days of the church from Advent I through the Last Sunday in Epiphany. This second volume covers the period from Ash Wednesday through the Seventh Sunday of Easter, or, in other words, from the beginning of Lent through the Sunday before the Day of Pentecost.

Thematic material for each piece is taken from one of the Propers of the Mass *(Introit, Gradual, Alleluia, Offertory, Communion)*, and the entire collection is keyed to the three-year Lectionary shared by Roman Catholics, Episcopalians and Lutherans as well as some denominational bodies not strictly liturgical by nature. The pieces range roughly in length from one to three minutes (an approximate timing will be found at the end of each number) and the level of difficulty may be said to range from 'easy' to 'moderate'. The chant melodies themselves are necessarily taken from the Roman Gradual *(Graduale Romanum, Solesmes 1974)* and the arrangement of the pieces takes the form of the liturgical calendar found in that volume. In the tables of contents which follow, R stands for the Roman Catholic lectionary and sacramentary, E for the American Episcopalian *Book of Common Prayer*, and L for the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. These tables also coordinate the various ways of designating Sundays after Epiphany and Pentecost, i.e. Epiphany and Pentecost (Lutheran), Ordinary Time (Roman Catholic) and Proper (Episcopal). The composer has attempted to select chant melodies associated with texts common to all three churches for every Sunday and major feast of the church year.* Thus organists will know that a given piece does indeed "belong" to the day or feast appointed whether or not the melodies themselves are easily associated merely by hearing them.

Players are encouraged to adopt a fairly "free" rhythmic approach to these pieces but without, at the same time, exaggeration. Special attention should be paid in this regard to obvious points of cadence.

Suggestions for registration have been kept to a minimum; all of the pieces are registered for a two manual and pedal instrument with one enclosed division, *crescendi/decrescendi* thus referring to the Swell division. Imaginative players will find many and other attractive combinations.

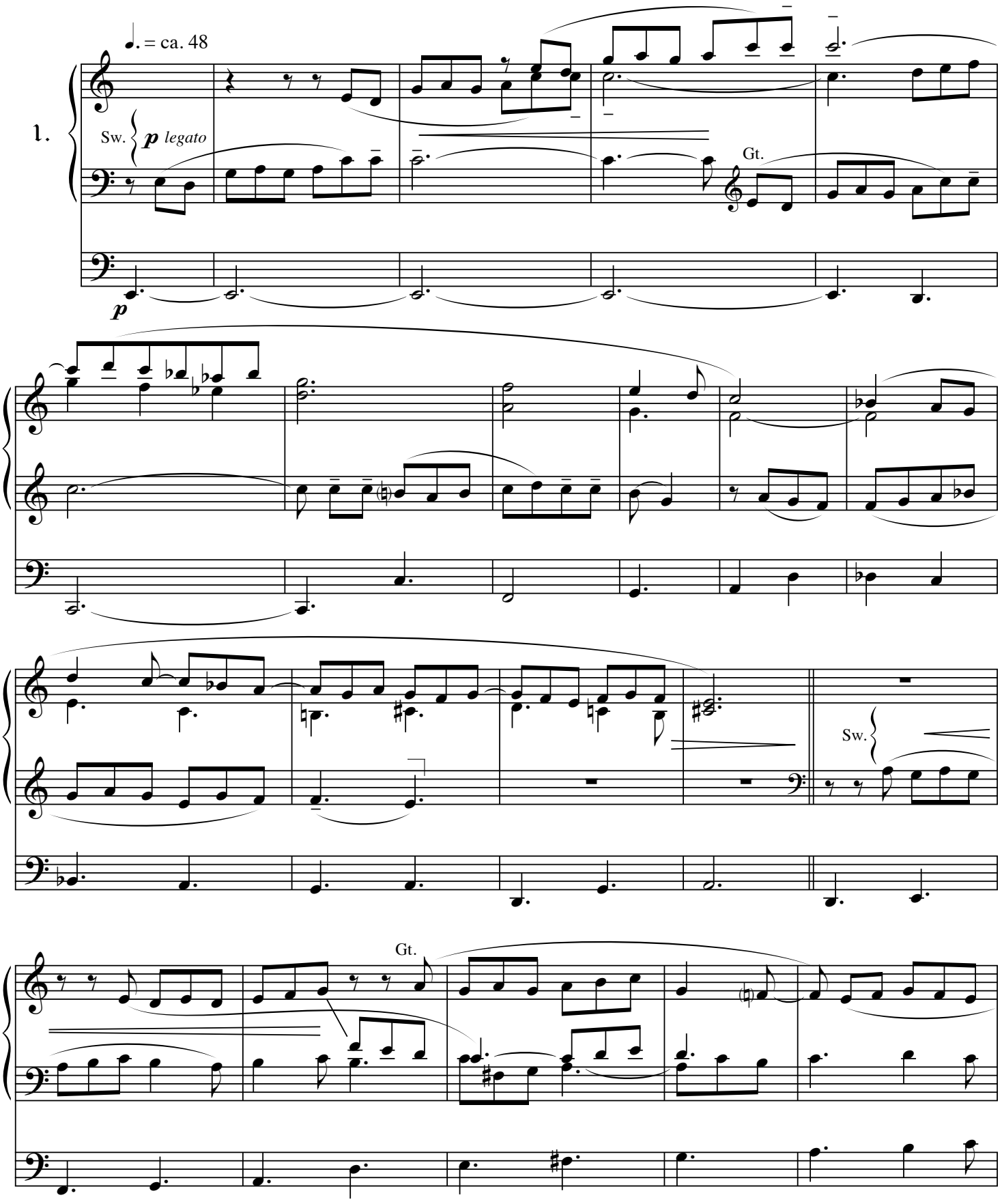
Most of the pieces in these volumes are intended for use as preludes, offertories or communion meditations, although there are a few postludes as well. The composer hopes organists serving non-liturgical churches will find these pieces useful in their particular situations as an enhancement to the beauty of worship, and that all players will be nudged to explore the wonders of Gregorian chant.

Gerald Near
Green Valley, Arizona, 2012

*Text citations are given at the top of each piece. Note that the numbering of Psalms in the Roman lectionary differs from the systems used by Episcopalians and Lutherans. A most useful and highly recommended resource is *The Gregorian Missal (Solesmes, 1990)* which contains—in addition to all the chant melodies used in *A Gregorian Liturgical Year*—translations in English of all chant texts.

Ash Wednesday

Qui meditabitur: Mode III
Communion: Psalm 1:2b, 3b



Great: light 8' solo stop | Swell: 8' & 4' flutes | Pedal: 16', Sw. to Ped.

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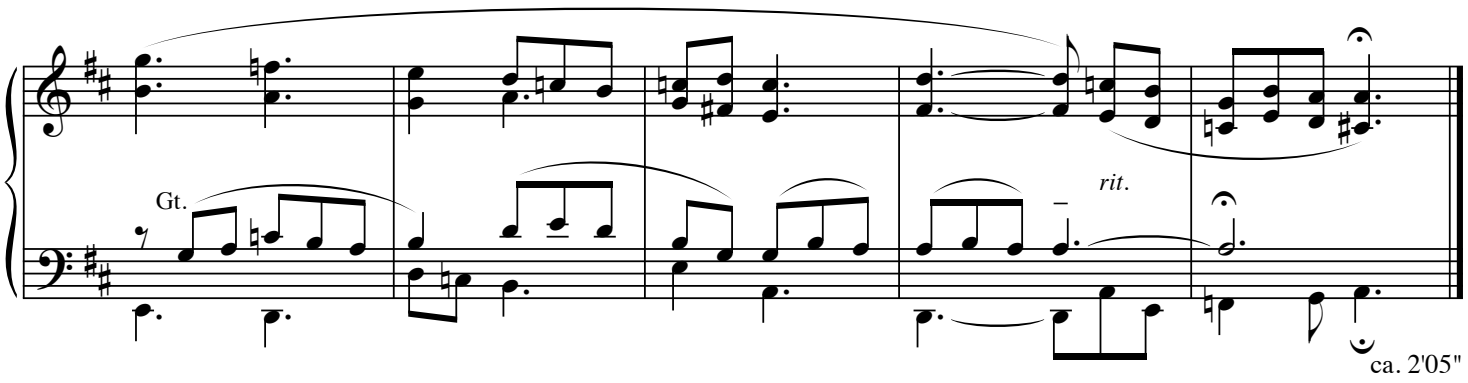
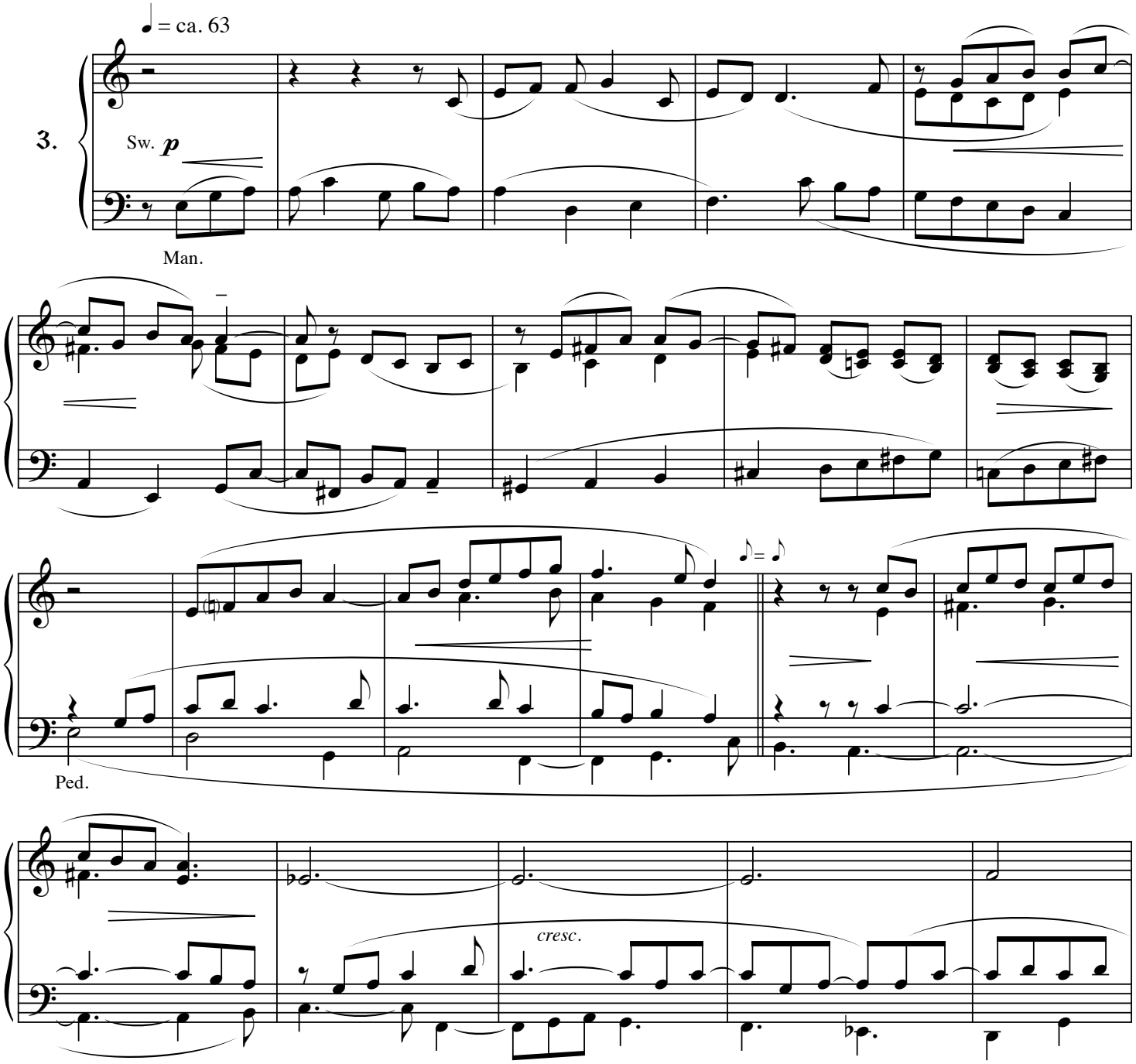


ca. 2'05"

Lent 2

Meditabor: Mode II
Offertory: Psalm 118 (119):47, 48



Swell: flutes 8' & 4' | Great: Solo | Pedal: 16', Sw. to Ped.

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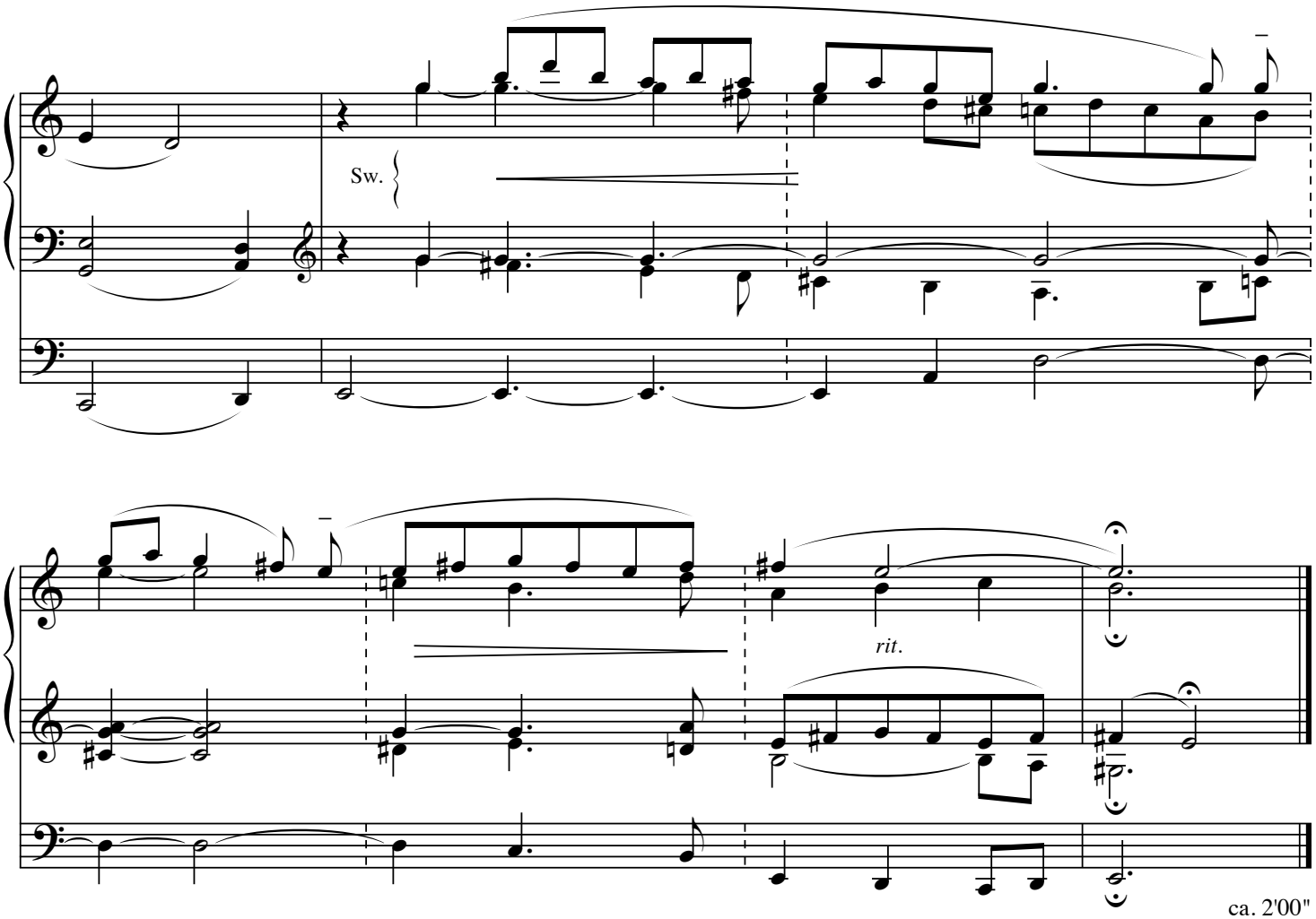
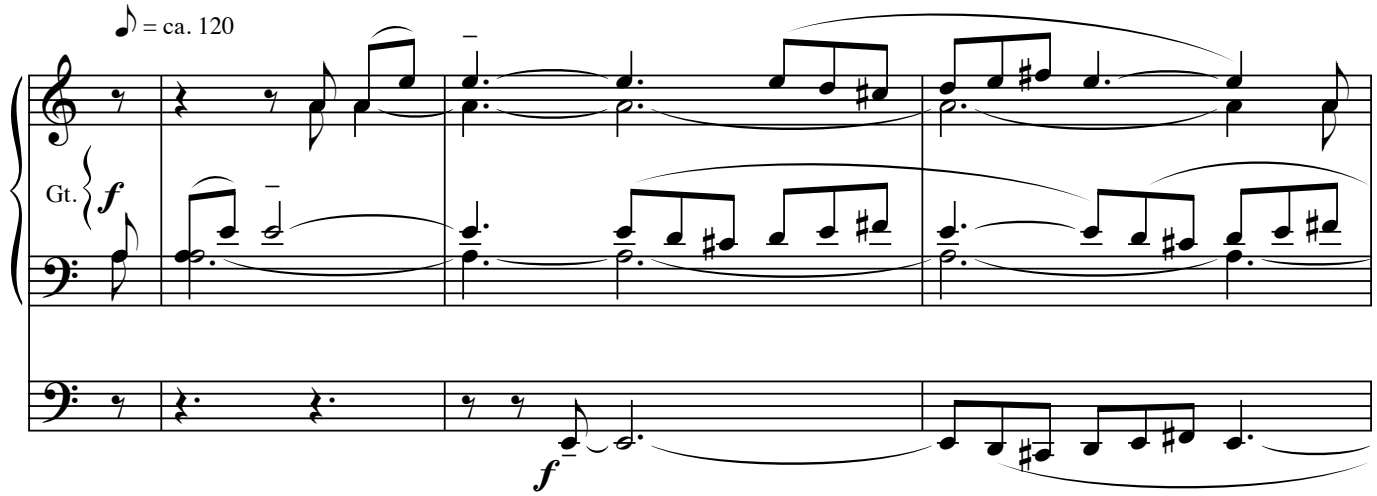


Palm Sunday*

Hosanna filio David: Mode VII
Opening Antiphon



Swell: Full to Reeds | Great: Full, *Sw. to Gt.* | Pedal: 16', 8', 4', *Sw. to Ped.*
*See also No. 9

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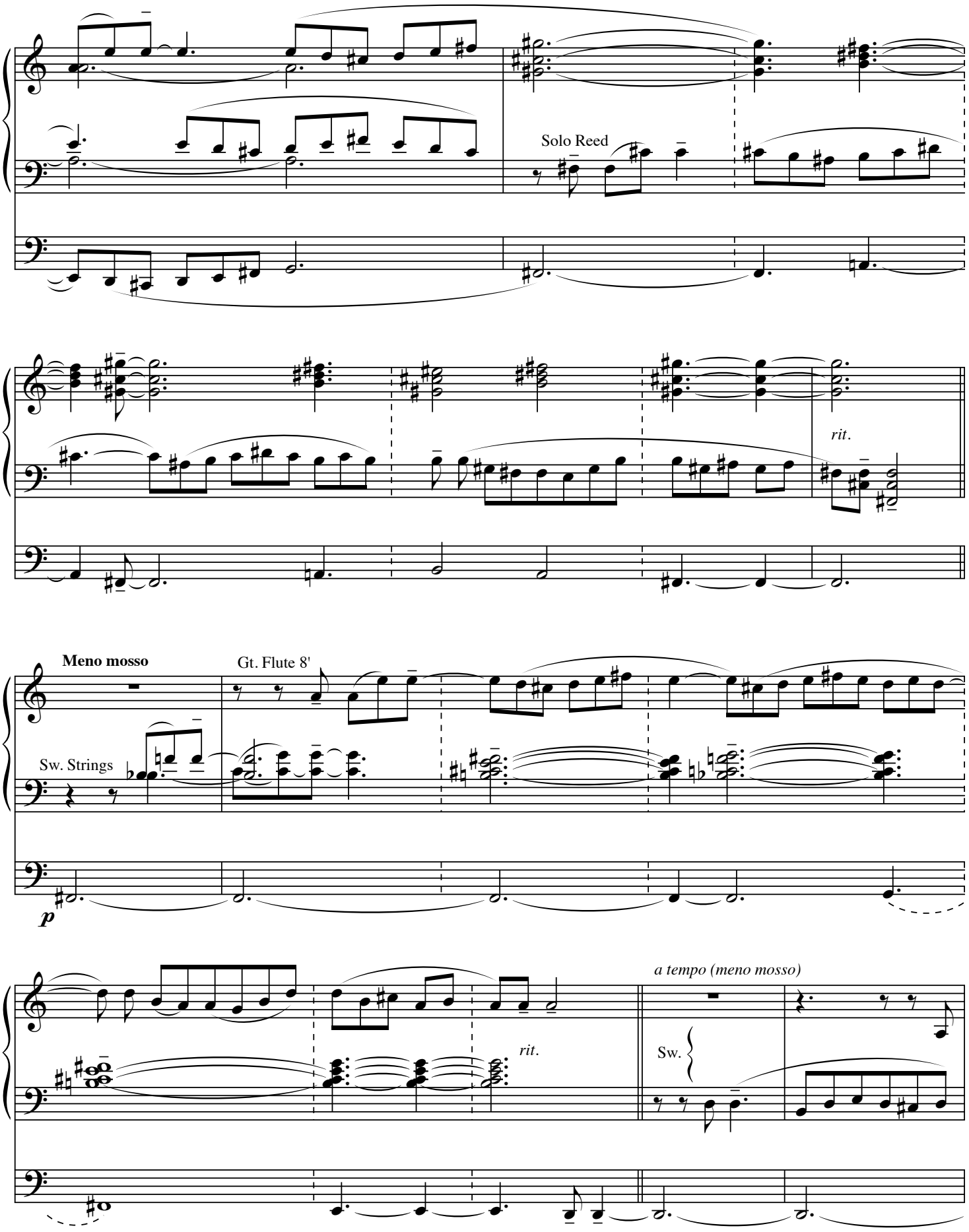
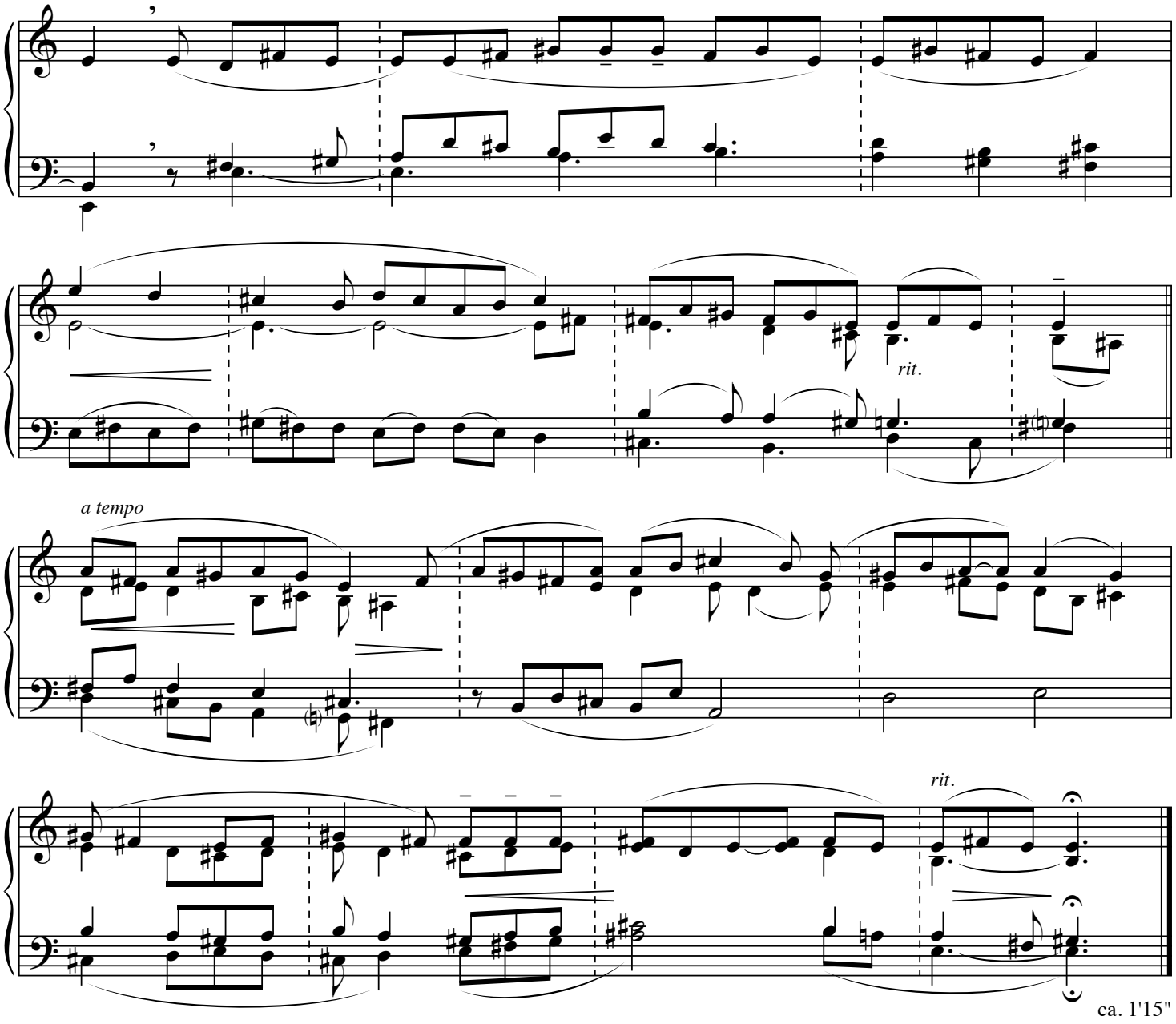
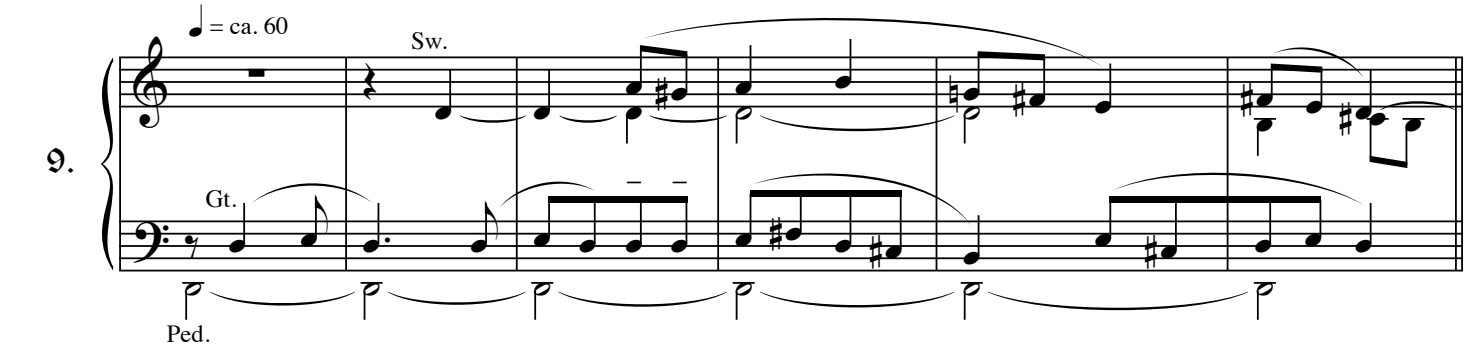

Solo Reed
rit.
Meno mosso
Gt. Flute 8'
Sw. Strings
p
a tempo (meno mosso)
rit.
Sw.



Good Friday

Christus factus est: Mode V
Gradual: Philippians 2:8, 9



Great (or Choir): light solo stop 8' | Swell: 8', 4' flutes | Pedal: 16', Sw. to Ped.

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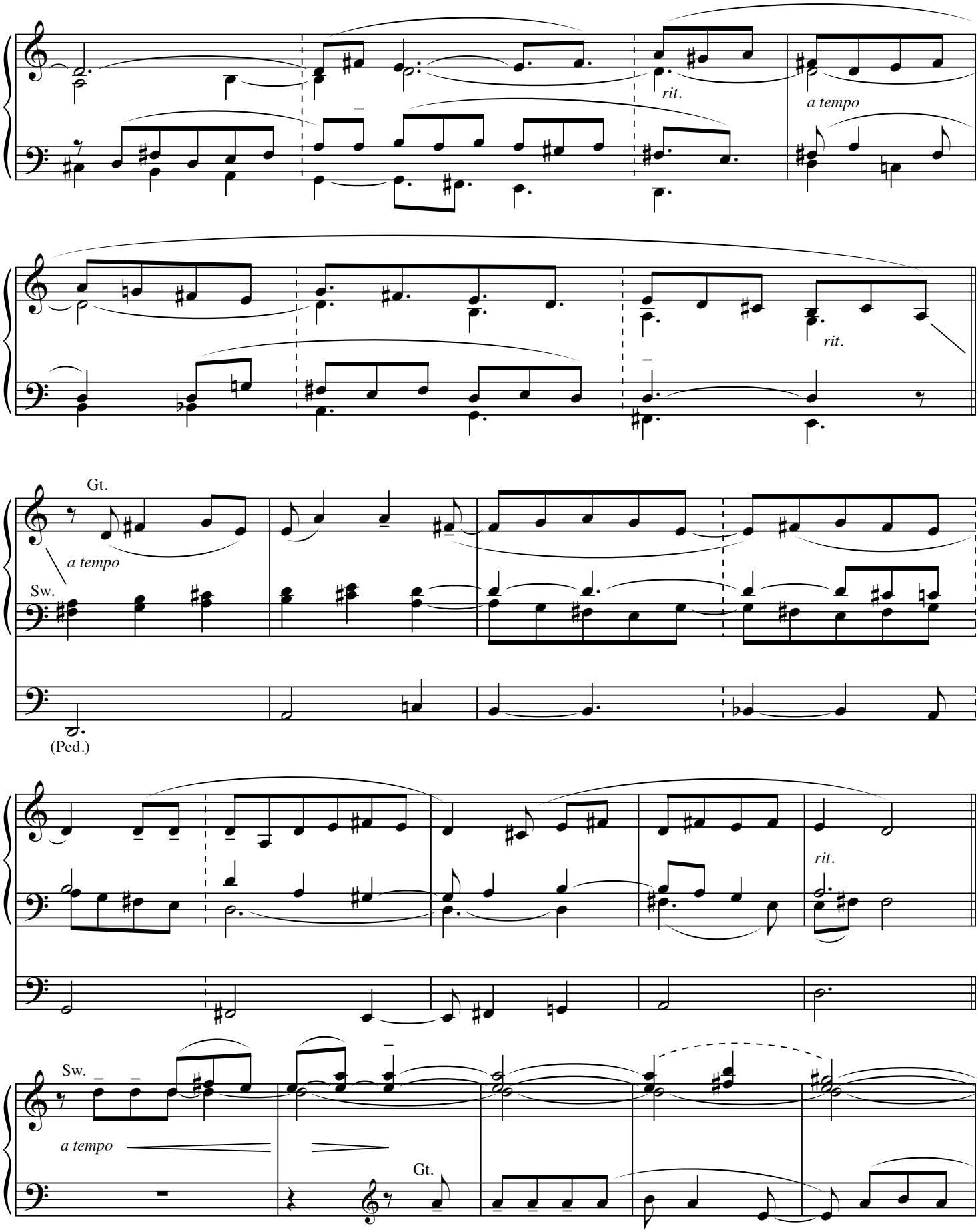
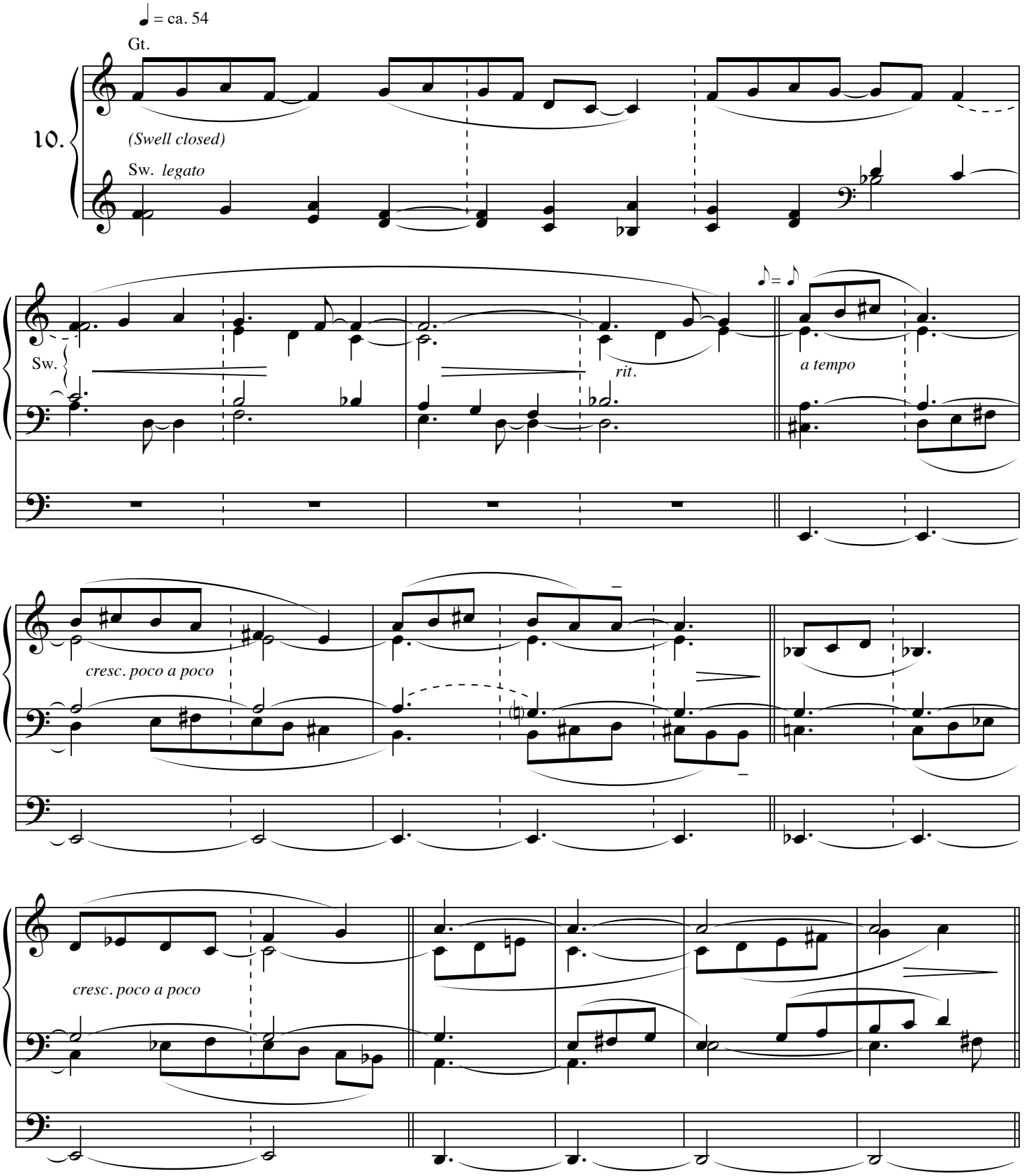

rit.
a tempo
rit.
Gt.
a tempo
Sw.
(Ped.)
rit.
Sw.
a tempo
Gt.

The Easter Vigil*

Alleluia: Mode VI
Communion (B)



Swell: strings | Great (or Choir): solo | Pedal: 16', *Sw. to Ped*.
*See also Vol. 1, No.13

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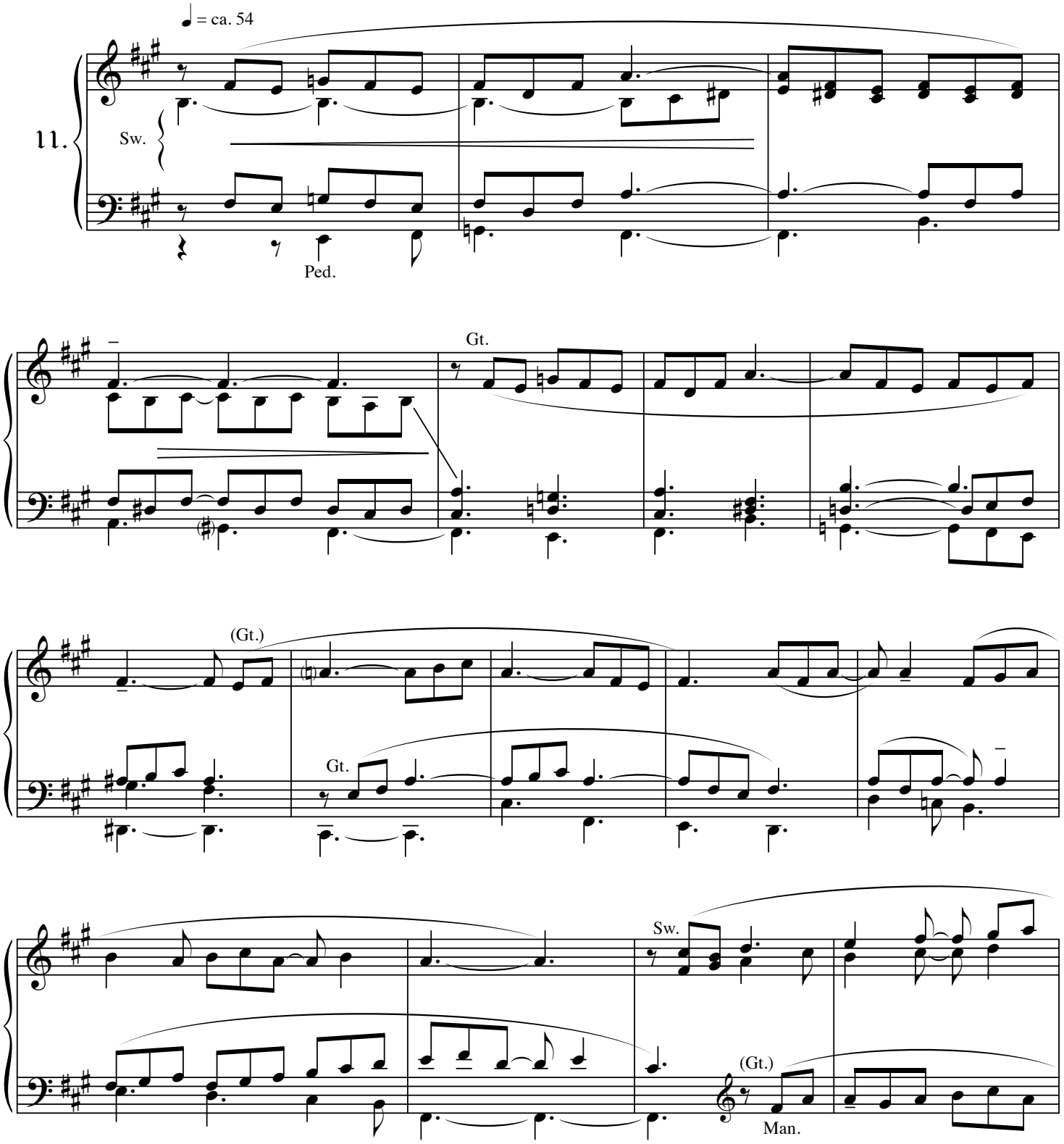
Easter Day

Haec dies, quam fecit Dominus: Mode II
Gradual: Psalm 117 (118):24 & 1



Swell: strings | Great (or Choir): flute 8 | Pedal: 16', *Sw. to Ped*.

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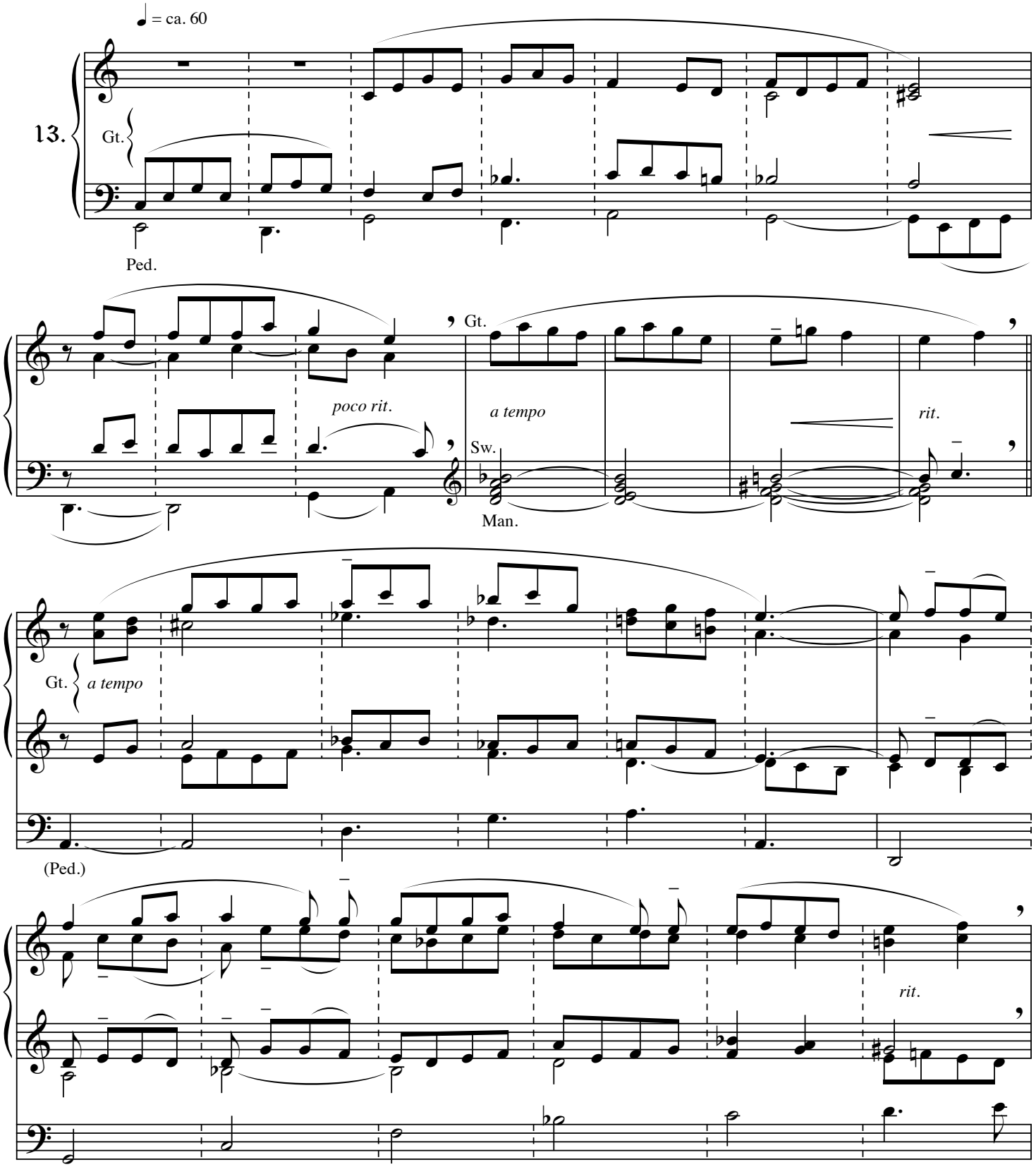
Easter 3

Lauda anima mea Dominum: Mode IV
Offertory: Psalm 145 (146):2



Full to mixtures and reeds, all divisions.

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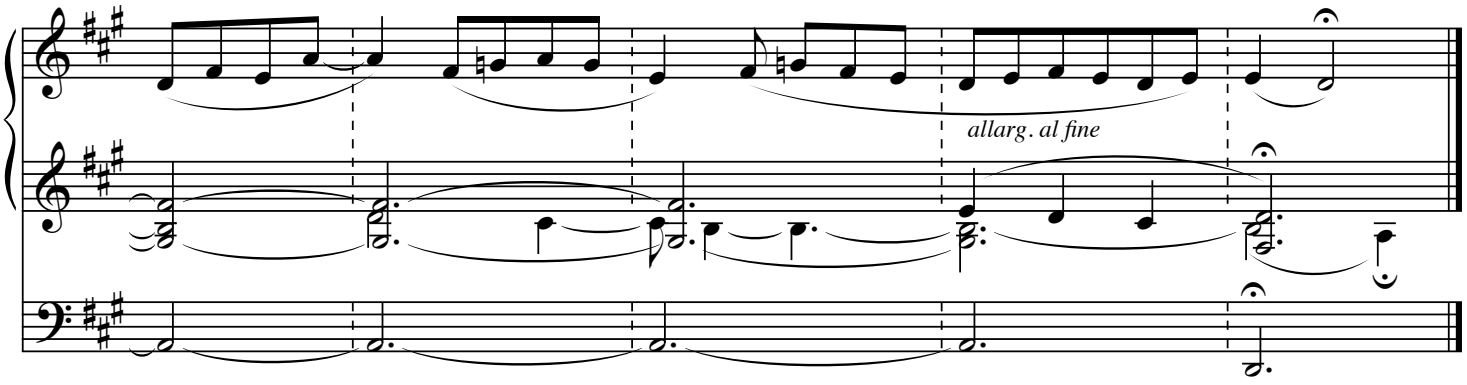
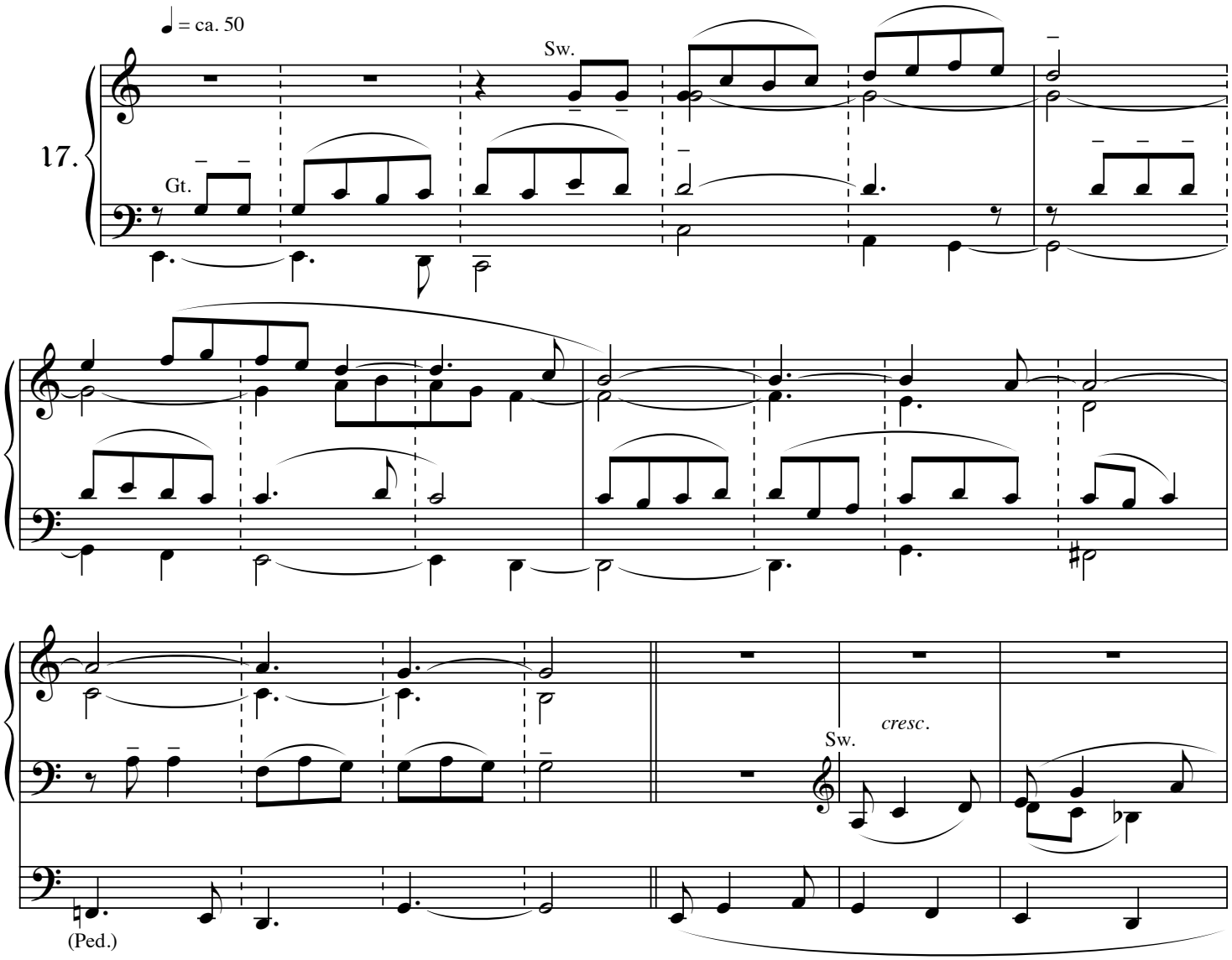


ca. 1'20"

The Ascension of the Lord (or Easter 7)

Viri Galilaei, quid admiramini aspicientes in caelum?: Mode VII
Introit: Acts 1:11



Swell: strings | Great (or Choir): solo | Pedal: 16', *Sw. to Ped*.

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