Nikolov's Bulgarian-Chant Troparia (Lesser Chant set)

After Bulgaria, with the help of Russia, won its independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1878, Russian-Bulgarian contacts became much easier. Bulgarians interested in church singing discovered that the Russian chant books contained a set of melodies designated "Bulgarian Chant" (*Bolgarskii Rospěv*), although quite different from the Byzantine Chant sung in Bulgarian churches of that day. Hoping to recover a lost national patrimony, some Bulgarians sought to restore the *Bolgarskii Rospěv* to the Bulgarian kliros. One of these, Anastas Nikolov, traveled to Russia and examined a number of manuscripts containing this chant. From these sources, he compiled a collection and published two volumes of this material, one of chants for the Liturgy (1905), the other of chants for Vespers (1906), under the title *Старо-Българско Църковно Пѣние по Старитѣ нотни рѫкописи от XVII и XVIII Вѣкове* (Old Bulgarian Church Singing according to the Old Musical Manuscripts of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries). These collections, in modern round-headed notation, were intended for practical use rather than for scholarly research. Nikolov lists the manuscripts he consulted in the Preface, but does not specify the sources of particular items. He uses the Nikonian text (as of course did the Russian chant books published by the Holy Synod), although his sources, some of then at least, probably had a pre-Nikonian text. They were published in St Petersburg by Nikolov himself, in a print run of 100 copies, and consequently are quite rare.

Some fifteen years later, back in Bulgaria, he brought out another two-volume collection, under the title *Старо-Българско Църковно Пѣние по Рускитѣ Нотни Рѫкописи отъ XVII и XVIII Вѣкове: Литургия за Народенъ Хоръ* (Old Bulgarian Church Singing according to the Russian Musical Manuscripts of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: The Liturgy for Folk Choir). As the title indicates, this set contains chants for the liturgy, the first volume containing the ordinary and the second material proper to the major feasts, harmonized in a style influenced by Bulgarian folk polyphony. These were published in Sophia by S. M. Staikov in 1921, with the blessing and recommendation of Metropolitan Boris of Ohrid.

The first volume of the earlier of these works contains two sets of troparia, the Great Chant version (pp. 58-82) and the Lesser Chant (pp. 83-97); in each set, the Resurrectional Troparion and the accompanying Theotokion are given. The first volume of the later work includes the Lesser Chant version of the Resurrectional Troparia and their Theotokia (pp. 37-47—the Theotokia are mislabeled "Kontakia").

The following extracts are the troparia of the Lesser Chant version from the 1905 publication, with a few exceptions. First, it is a peculiarity of the Bulgarian Chant that it lacks a Great-Chant melody for troparia of Mode VI (in most sources, this is true also of Mode VII, but Nikolov provides one); so Nikolov included the Lesser-Chant melody in his Great Chant group, and in the Lesser Chant section only refers back to its occurrence there. So that melody is from pp. 75-76 of the book. Second, in the 1921 work he provided two melodies for Mode II (pp. 38-39), both of which differ significantly from the one printed in 1905; and third, the melody for Mode VI in the 1921 book (pp. 44-45) also differs widely from the one found in the earlier collection. I have included these melodies of the 1921 pub-

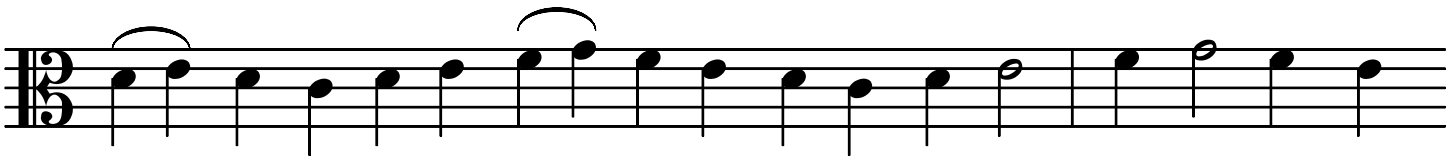
lication as well as the versions presented in 1905. In the other modes, the two editions do not differ greatly; there are a few rhythmic changes, a few alterations in the underlaying of the text, and other instances of tweaking, mainly to bring the melody into greater conformity with the text accents.

The Russian Common Chant derives its troparion melodies for Modes IV (the soprano voice; the bass is Shortened *Grečeskii Rospěv*), VI, VII, and VIII from the *Bolgarskii Rospěv*. The Galician and Carpatho-Rusyn Chants derive all their troparion melodies from the Bulgarian Chant. Nikolov provides what appear to be early versions. Since most old sources provide only the Great Chant for troparia, relying on oral transmission for the Lesser Chant, he provides a valuable resource. The L'viv project may identify his exact sources for the two collections; in all probability, the greater part of them will prove to be Irmologia from Ukraine and Bielarus', from which Russia obtained the *Bolgarskii Rospěv*. For the present, we may gather from Nikolov an idea of the form in which these melodies appeared in sources of the time when the Muscovite church borrowed them from the churches of Southwestern Rus'.

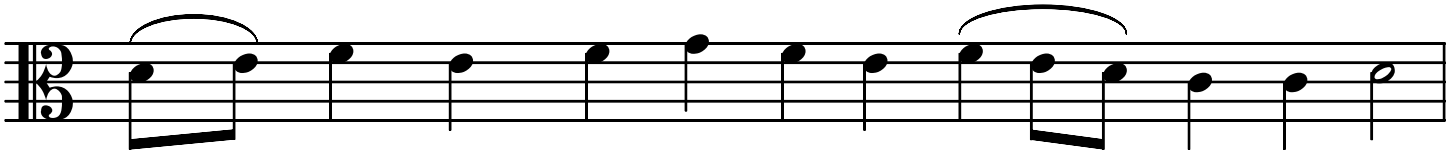
I have halved Nikolov's note values; as he himself points out, the Kievan notation and literal transcriptions into round notes are "slow" in comparison with modern usage. The troparia from the 1921 edition I have also transposed to the alto clef for easier comparison with the 1905 version.

Stephen Reynolds

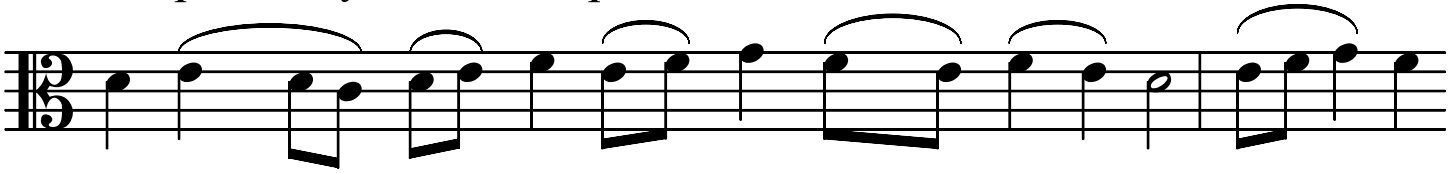
Mode 1



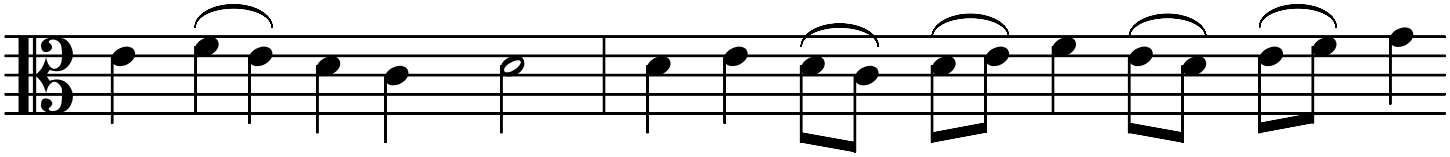
Ка - ме-ни за-пе - ча - та-ну отъ І - у-дей, и во - и-номъ



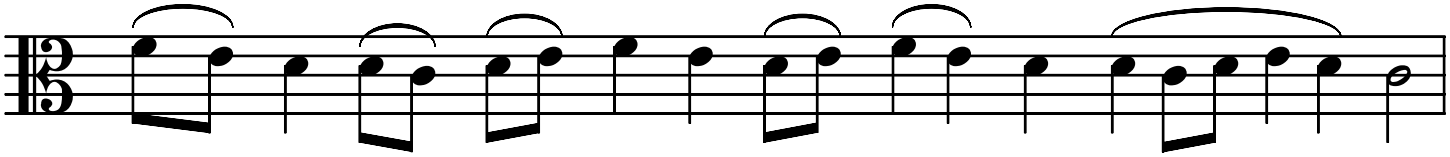
стре - гу - щимъ пре - чи - сто - е тѣ - ло тво - е,



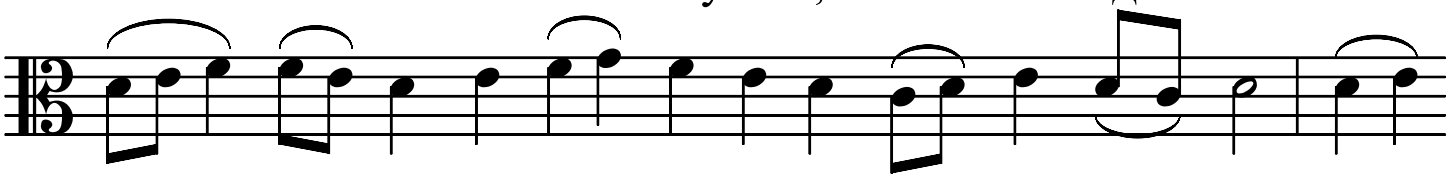
во - скреслъ е - си три - дне - вный, Спа - се, да - ру-



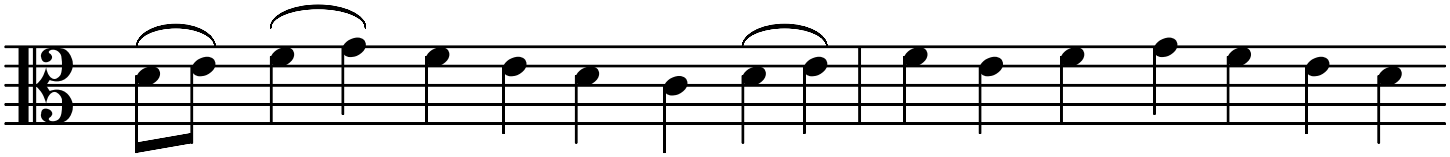
- ѩй мі - ро-ви жизнь; се - го ра - ди си - лы не - бе-



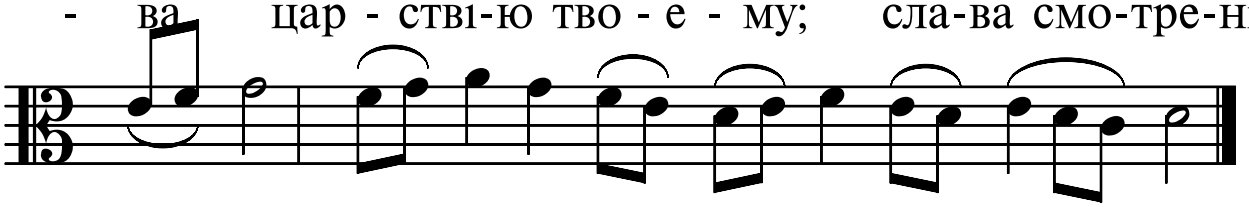
- сны - ѩ во - пі - ѩ - ху ти, жи - зно - дав - че:



Сла - ва во-скре-се - ні - ю тво - е - му, Хрі - сте; сла-

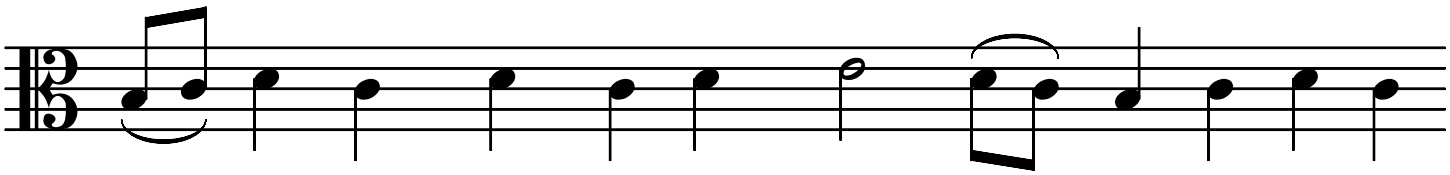


- ва цар - стві-ю тво - е - му; сла-ва смо-тре-ні - ю тво-

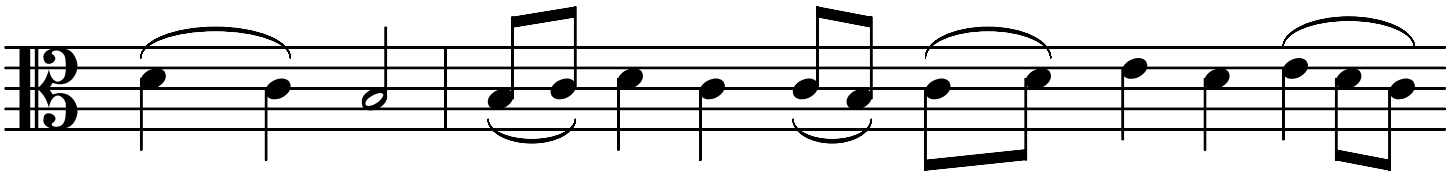


- е - му, е - ди-не че - ло - вѣ - ко - люб - че.

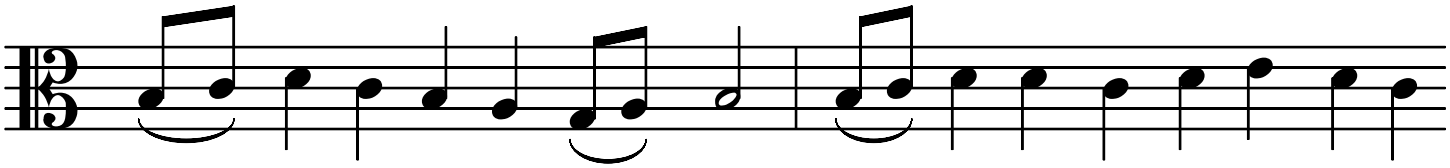
Mode 2



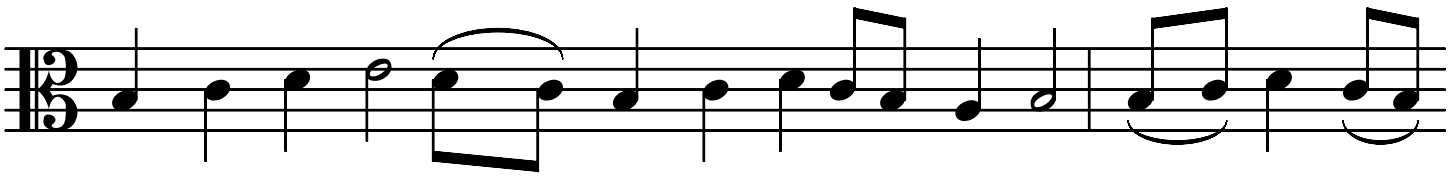
Ег - да сниз-шелъ е - си къ–смер-ти, жи - во - те без-



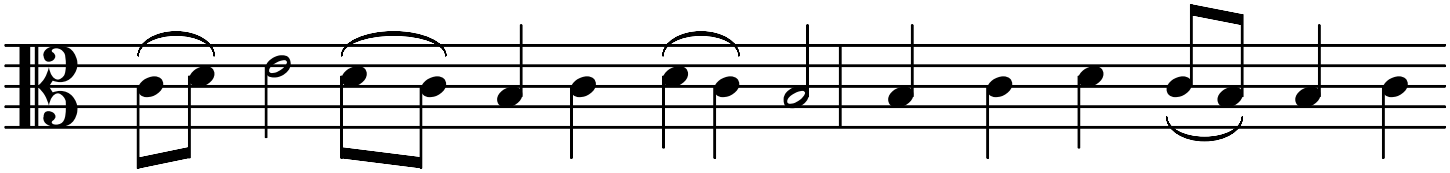
- смерт - ный, тог - да адъ у - мерт - вилъ е - си



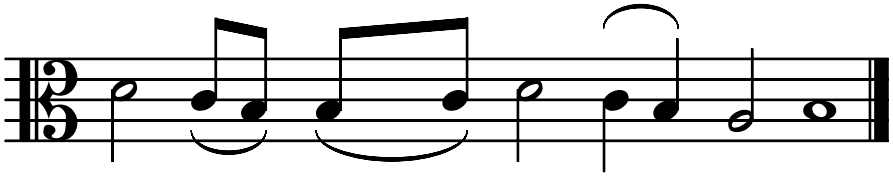
бли - ста-ні-єм бо - же - ства; єг - да же и у-мер-ші-ꙗ



отъ пре-ис-под-никъ во-скре-силъ є - си, всꙗ си - лы



не - бе - сны - ꙗ взы - ва - ху: Жи-зно-дав - че Хрі-сте

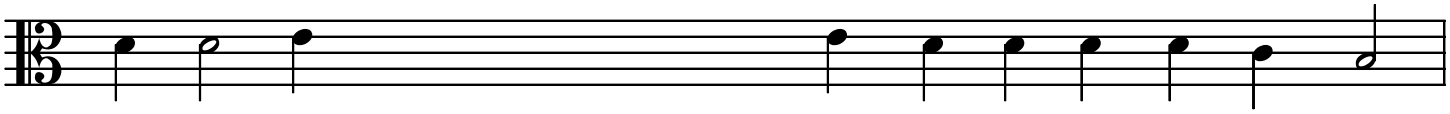


Бо - же нашъ, сла - ва те - бѣ.

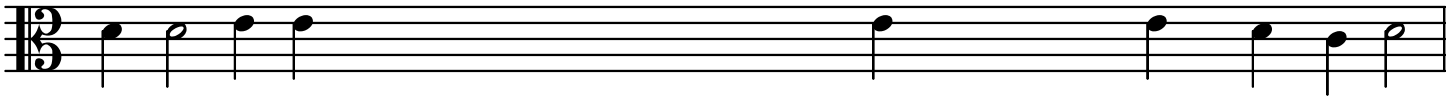
Mode 2. Resurrectional Troparion.

Nikolov 1921, No. 1 (pp. 38-39)

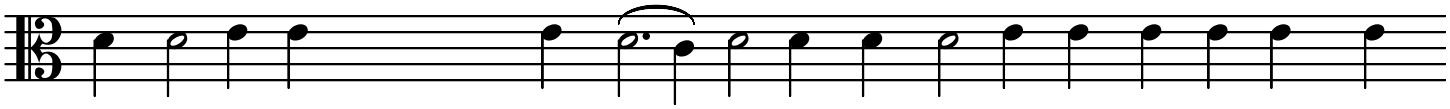
Ег - да сниз - шелъ е - си къ смер - ти, жи - во - те без - смерт - ный,



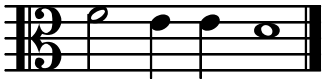
тог - да Адъ у - мерт - вилъ е - си бли - ста - ні - єм Бо - же - ства;



Ег - да же и у - мер - ші - ꙗ отъ пре - ис - под - никъ во - скре - силъ є - си,



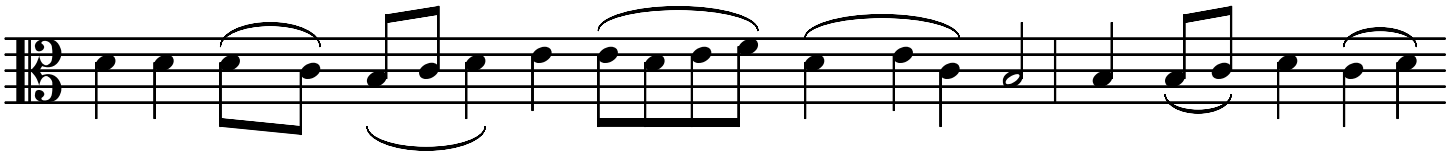
Всꙗ си-лы не-бес-ны-ꙗ взы - ва - ху жи-зно-дав-че Хрі-сте Бо-же нашъ,



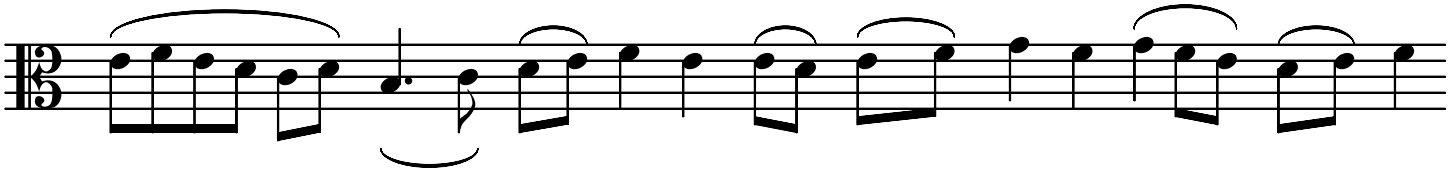
Сла-ва Те-бѣ.

Mode 2. Resurrectional Troparion.

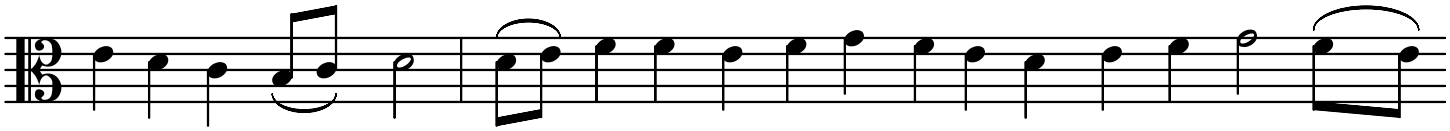
Nikolov 1921, No. 2 (p. 39)



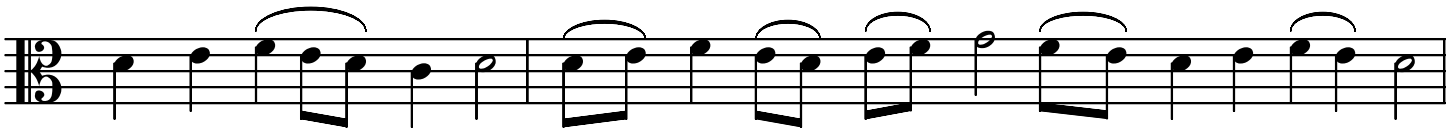
Ег-да сниз - шелъ е - си късмер - ти, жи - во - те без-



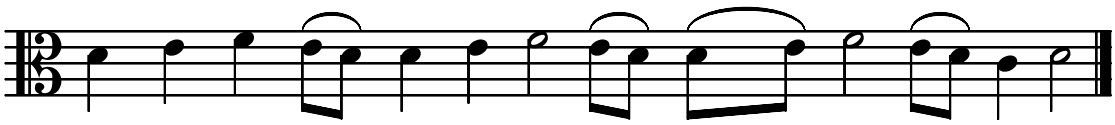
- смерт - ный, тог - да адъ у - мерт - вилъ е - си бли - ста-



- ні-єм бо - же - ства; єг - да же и у-мер-ші-ꙗ отъ пре-ис-под - никъ

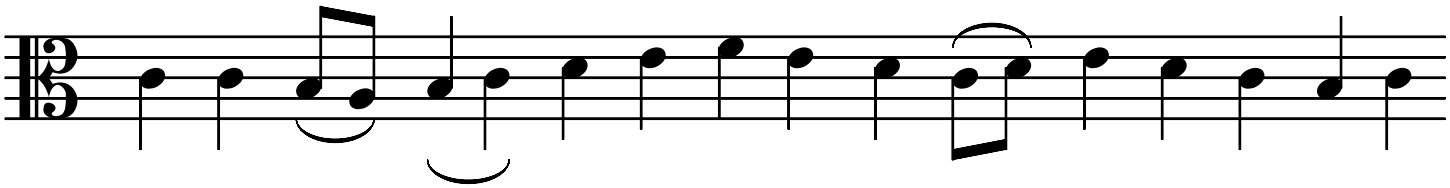


во-скре-силъ є - си, всꙗ си - лы не - бе - сны - ꙗ взы-ва - ху:

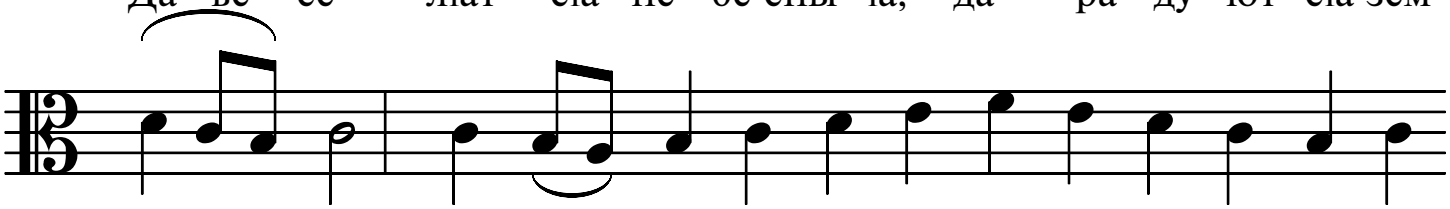


Жи-зно-дав - че Хрі-сте Бо - же нашъ, сла - ва те-бѣ.

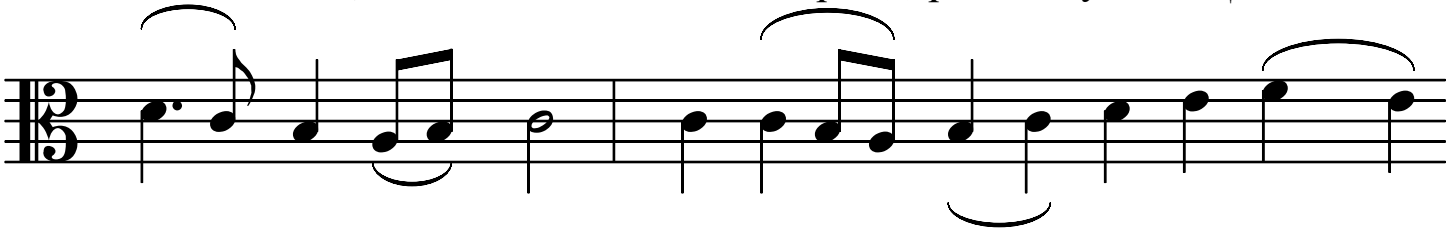
Mode 3



Да ве - се - лят - ся не - бе-сны - я, да ра - ду - ют - ся зем-



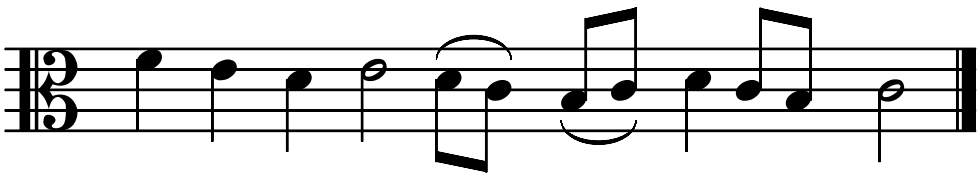
- на - я; я - ко со - тво - ри дер - жа - ву мы - це - ю сво-



- є - го Го - сподь: :по - пра смер - ті - ю смерть,

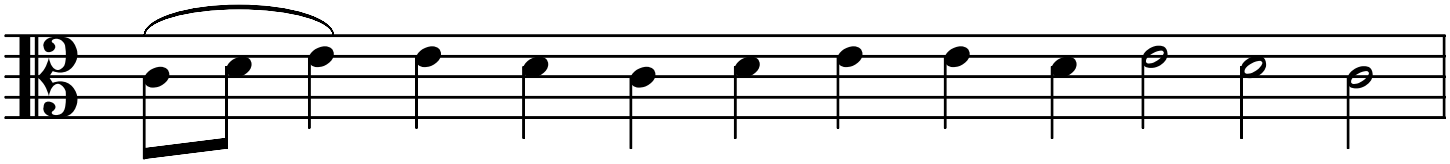
пер - ве - нецъ мерт - выхъ бысть, изъ чре - ва

а - до - ва из - ба - ви насъ, и по - да - де

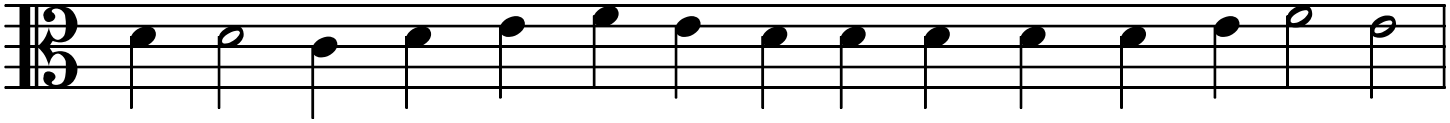


мі - ро - ви ве - лі - ю ми - лость.

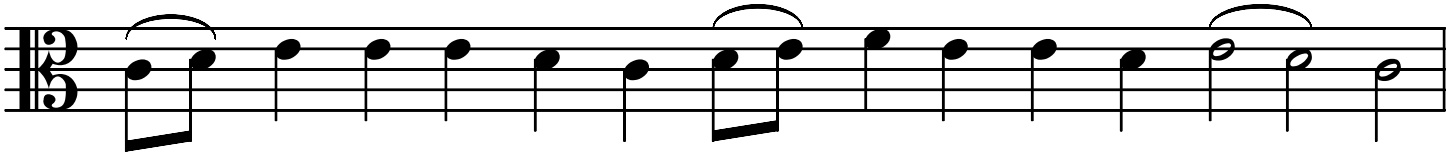
Mode 4



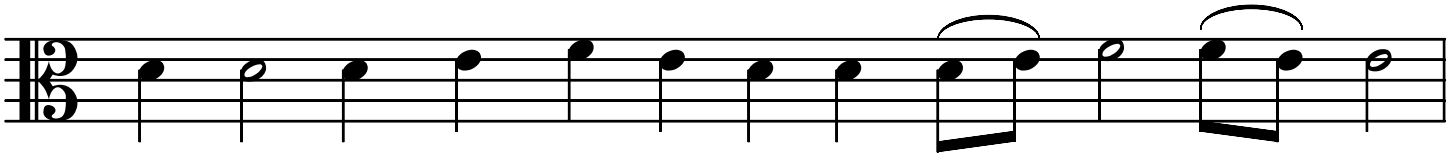
Свѣт - лу - ю во - скре - се - ні - ꙗ про - по - вѣдь



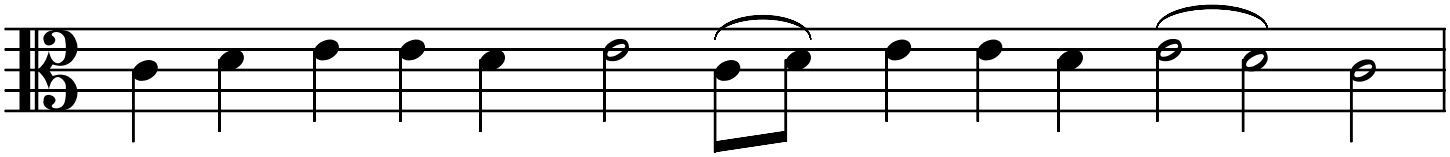
отъ Ан - ге - ла у - ви - дѣв - ше Го - спо - дни У - че - ни - цы,



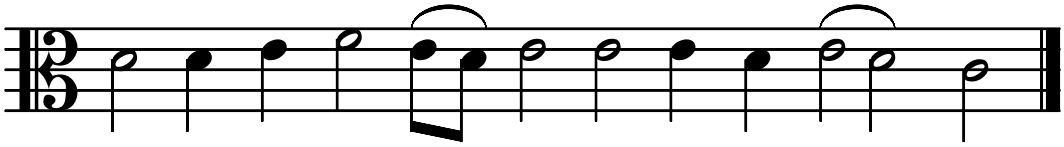
и пра - дѣд - но - є о - су - жде - ні - є от - верг - ше,



А - по - сто - ломъ хва - лꙗ - ще - сꙗ гла - го - ла - ху:

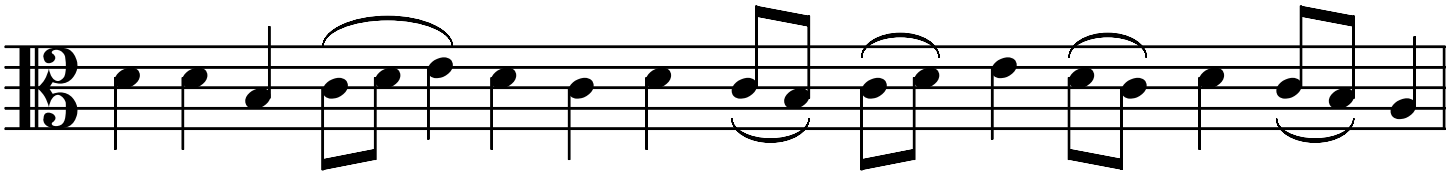


ис - про - вер - же - сꙗ смерть, во - скре - се Хрі - стсъ Богъ,

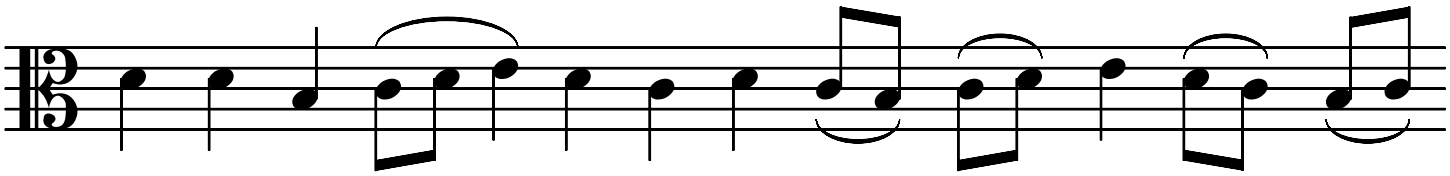


да - ру - ꙗй мі - ро - ви ве - лі - ю ми - лость.

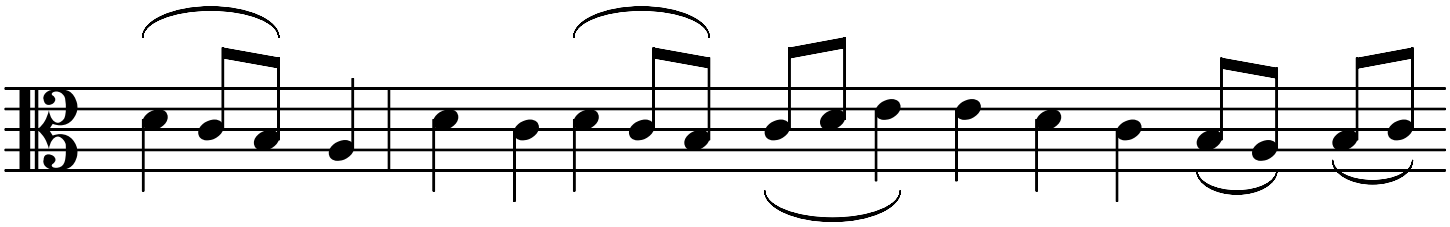
Mode 5 (Plagal 1)



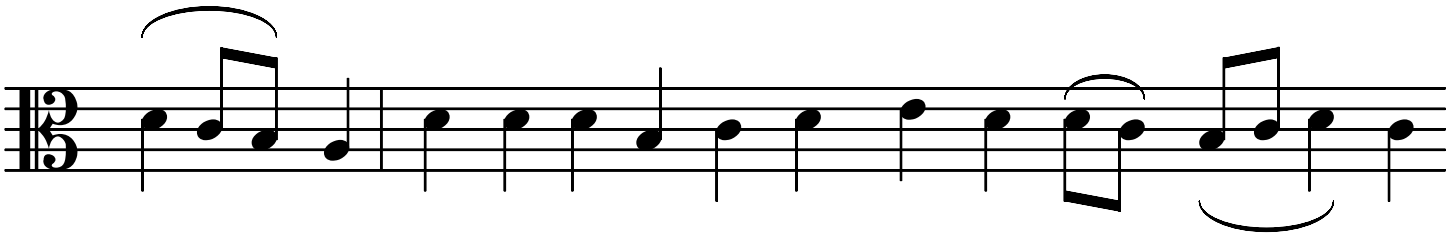
Со-без-на - чаль - но - е Сло - во От - цу и Ду - хо - ви



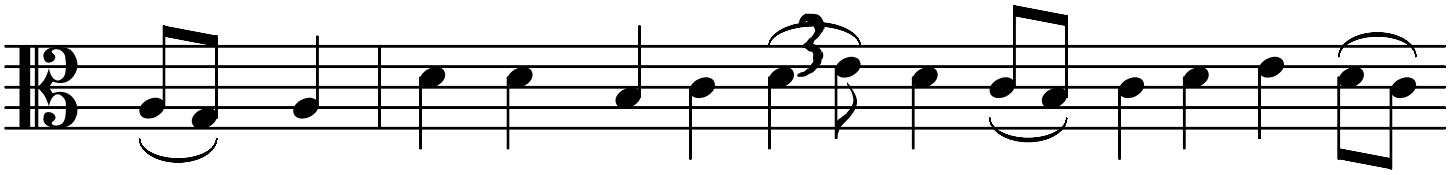
отъ Дѣ - вы рожд - ше - є - сѧ на спа - се - ні - є



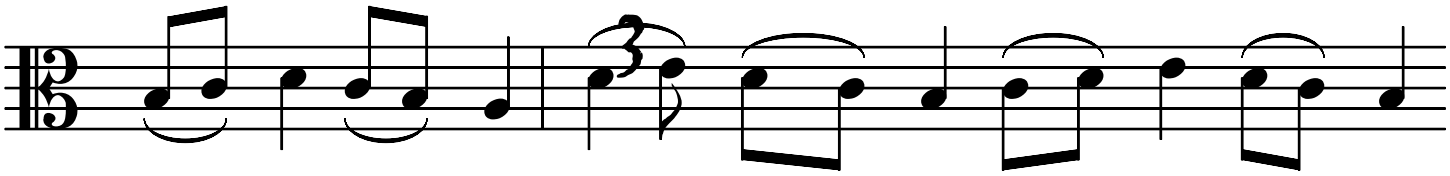
на - ше, во - спо-ємъ вѣр - ні - и и по - кло-



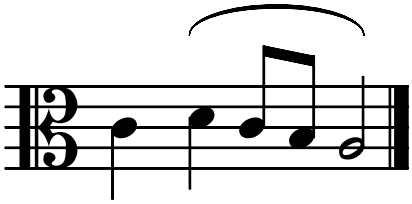
- ним - сѧ; ѧ - ко бла-го - во - ли пло - ті - ю взы - ти



на кресть и смерть пре-тер - пѣ - ти и во-скр-еси - ти



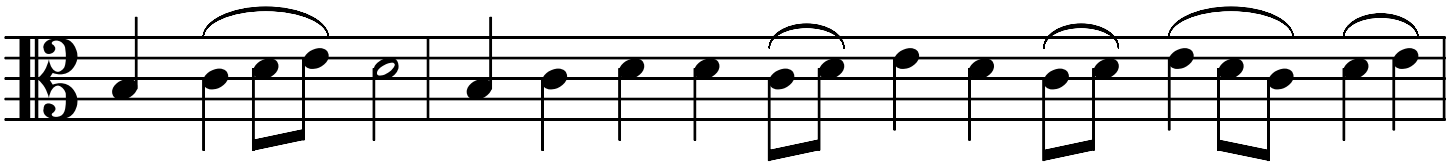
у - мер-шы - ѧ слав - нымъ во - скре - се - ні - ємъ



СВО - ИМЪ.

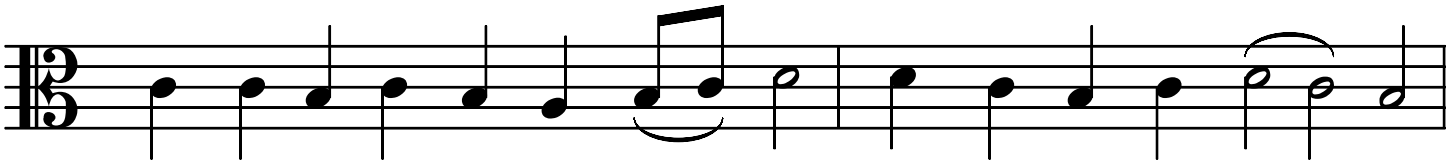
Mode 6 (Plagal 2)

Ан-гель-скі - ꙗ си - лы на гро - бѣ тво-ємъ, и стре-гу - щі - и о-

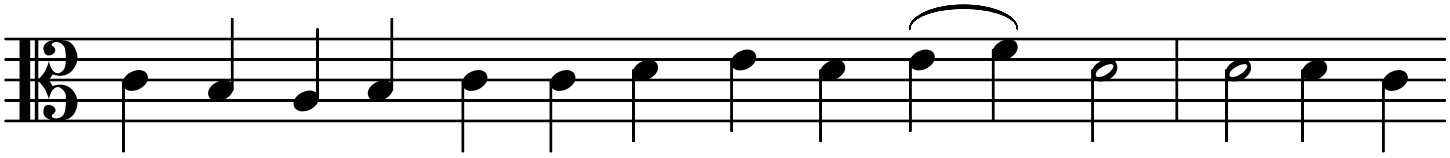


- мерт - вѣ - ша, и сто - ꙗ - ше Ма - рі - ꙗ во гро - бѣ,

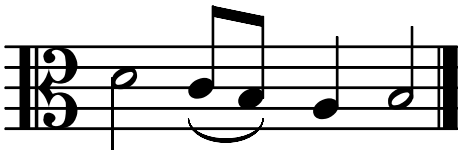
и - щу-щи пре-чи-ста-го тѣ - ла тво - є - го, пли-нилъ є - си ад,



не - ис - ку - сил - сꙗ отъ не - го: срѣ - тилъ є - си Дѣ - ву



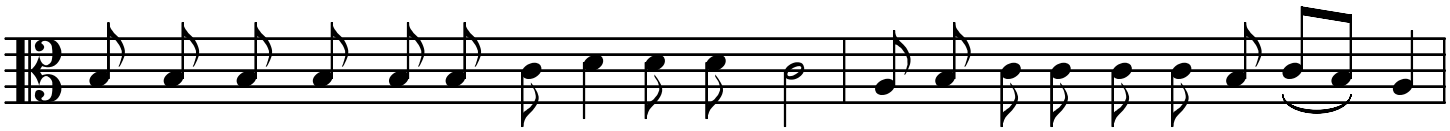
да - ру - ꙗй жи - вотъ, во - скре - сый изъ мерт - выхъ, Го - спо - ди,



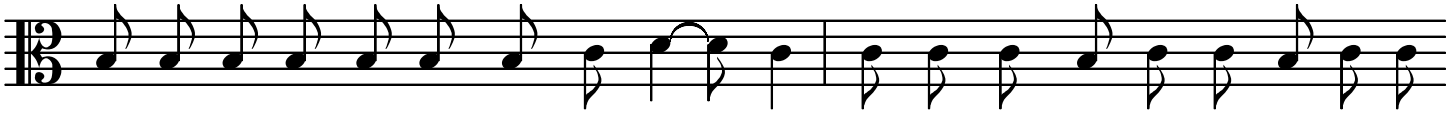
сла - ва те - бѣ.

Mode 6. Resurrectional Troparion.

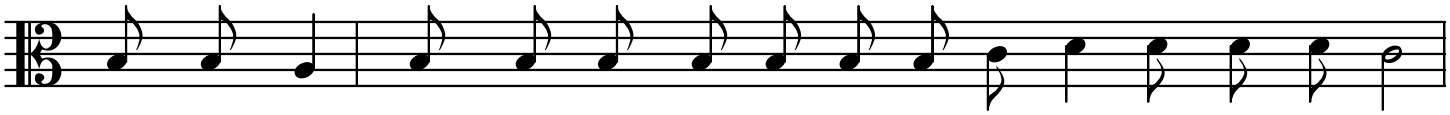
Nikolov 1921 (p. 44)



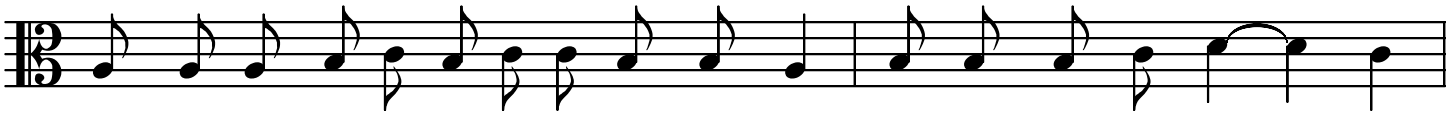
Ан-гель-скі - ꙗ си-лы на гро-бѣ тво-ємъ, и стре-гу-щі - и о-мер-твѣ - ша,



и сто-ꙗ-ше Ма-рі - ꙗ во гро - бѣ, и - щу-щи пре-чи-ста-го тѣ-ла



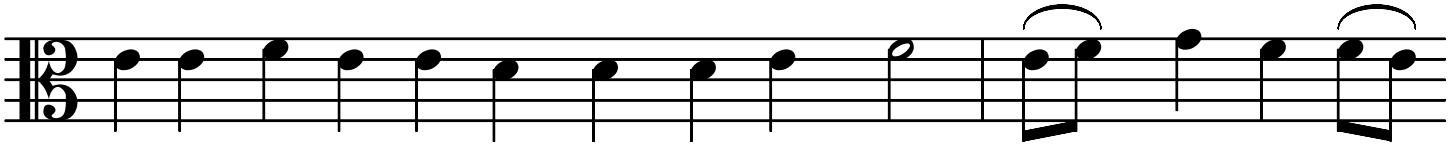
тво - є - го, пли - нилъ є - си ад, не - ис - ку - сив - сꙗ отъ не - го:



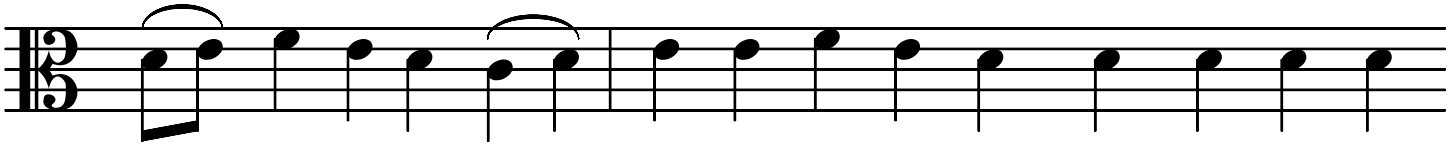
срѣ-тилъ є - си Дѣ-ву да-ру-ꙗй жи-вотъ, во-скре-сый изъ мерт - выхъ,

Го-спо-ди, сла - ва те - бѣ.

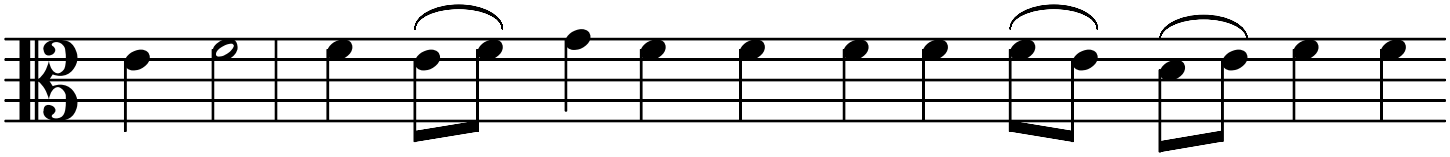
Mode 7 (Grave Mode)



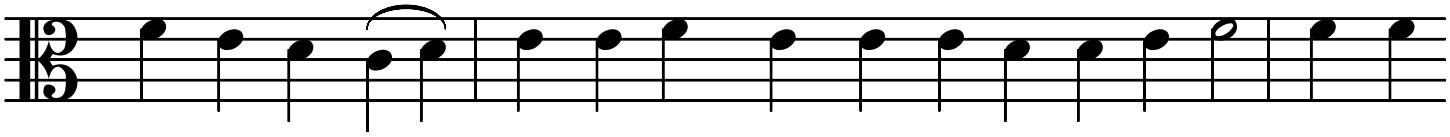
Раз-ру-шилъ є - си кре-стомъ тво-имъ смерть, от - верзль є - си



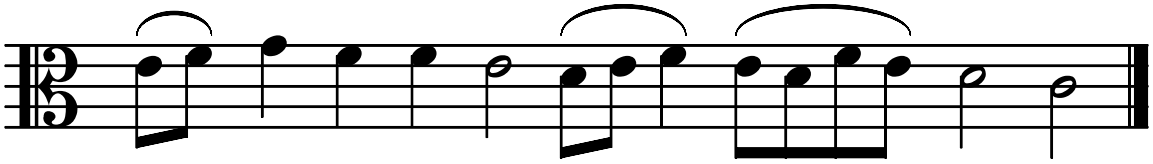
раз - бой-ни-ку рай, мѵ - ро - но - си-цамъ плачъ пре - ло-жилъ



є - си, и а - по-сто-ломъ про-по - вѣ - да - ти по-

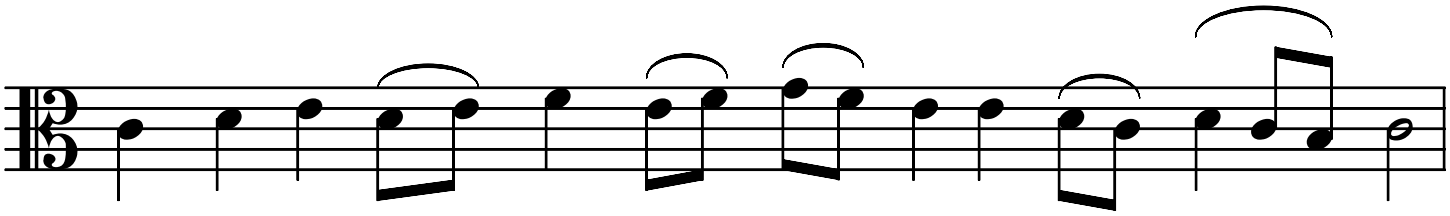


- ве-лилъ є - си, ꙗ - ко вос-креслъ є - си Хрі-сте Бо-же, да - ру-

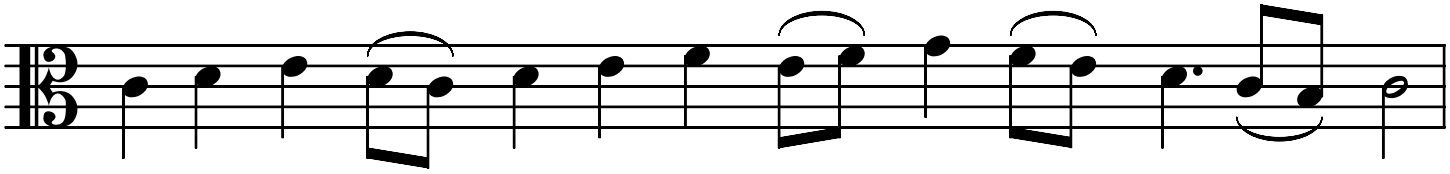


- ꙗй мі - ро - ви ве - лі - ю ми-лость.

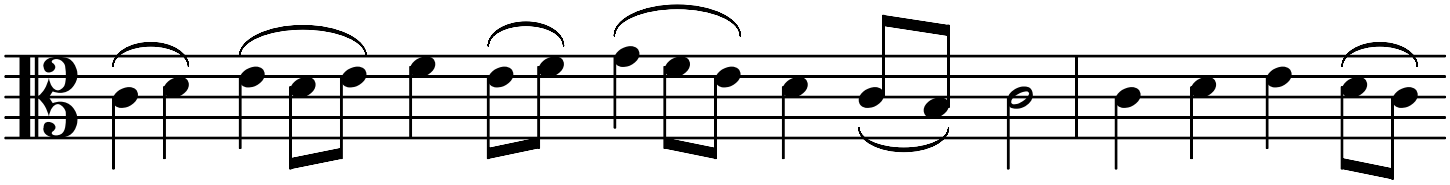
Mode 8 (Plagal 4)



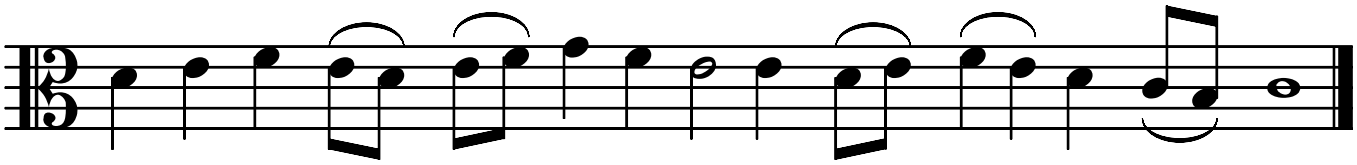
Съ–вы-со - ты сниз - шелъ є - си, бла-го - у - троб - не,



по - гре - бе - ні - є прі - ѥалъ є - си три - днев - но - є,



да насъ сво - бо - ди - ши стра - стей; жи - во - те и



во-скре-се - ні - є на-ше, Го-спо - ди, сла - ва те - бѣ.