

O Heiland reiß die Himmel auf! O Savior tear the heavens wide!

German Carol

Text: Friedrich Spee, 1622

Traditional, 1666

O Hei-land reiß die Him-mel auf, her - ab, her - ab vom
O Sa-vour tear the heav-ens wide, come down from heav - en

4

Himmel lauf, reiß ab vom Him - mel Tot und Tür,
to a - bide, the gates of heav - en tear a - way,

7

reiß ab, wo Schloß und Rie - gel für.
break down where locks and bars hold sway.

9

Musical notation for measures 9-12. The piece is in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) plays a sequence of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand (bass clef) plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. Measure 12 ends with a flat sign (b) on the bass line.

13

Musical notation for measures 13-16. The right hand continues with eighth and quarter notes. The left hand features a bass line with a flat sign (b) in measure 14 and a half-note chord in measure 16.

17

Musical notation for measures 17-20. The right hand uses chords and eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with a flat sign (b) in measure 17 and a half-note chord in measure 20.

21

Musical notation for measures 21-25. The right hand features chords and eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with a flat sign (b) in measure 21 and a half-note chord in measure 25.

26

Musical notation for measures 26-29. The right hand has chords and eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with a flat sign (b) in measure 26 and a half-note chord in measure 29.

30

Musical notation for measures 30-33. The right hand has chords and eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with a flat sign (b) in measure 30 and a half-note chord in measure 33.

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. The piece is in 2/4 time. The right hand features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand provides a bass line with quarter and eighth notes. A key signature change to one sharp (F#) occurs at measure 36.

39

Musical score for measures 39-43. The right hand continues with a melodic line, and the left hand has a steady bass line. A key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) occurs at measure 41.

44

Musical score for measures 44-48. The right hand has a more active melodic line with eighth notes. The left hand features a bass line with some chords. A key signature change to one sharp (F#) occurs at measure 46.

49

Musical score for measures 49-52. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with eighth notes. A key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) occurs at measure 51.

53

Musical score for measures 53-57. The right hand has a simple melodic line. The left hand features a bass line with chords and rests. A key signature change to one sharp (F#) occurs at measure 55.

58

Musical score for measures 58-62. The right hand has a melodic line with eighth notes. The left hand has a bass line with quarter notes. A key signature change to two sharps (F# and C#) occurs at measure 60.

Singable Translation

O Savior, tear the heavens wide!
come down from heaven to abide!
The gates of heaven tear away;
break down where locks and bars hold sway!

O God, in heav'nly dew pour down,,
in dew, O Savior to us flow!
O clouds, let fall and bring in rain
a King o'er Jacob's house to reign!

O earth, break out in ev'ry vale
a carpet green on hill and dale,
O earth, the sweetest flower bring forth.
O Savior, from the earth spring forth!

Where are You, Comforter divine,
to whom all earth its hopes incline?
O come, come down from heaven's hall
and comfort us who on You call!

O brightest Sun, O sweetest Star,
we long to see You from afar!
O Sun, ascend! Without Your light
we all abide in darkest night.

On earth we suffer pain and strife,
and death appears the goal of life:
but come and lead us by the hand
from weeping to Your heav'nly land!