

O Word of God Incarnate

Meiningen, 1693

Munich
76.76.D

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is in a common time signature. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign. The second staff begins with a bass clef and a sharp sign. The music is written in a style typical of 17th-century church music, with a focus on harmonic support for the text. A measure number '5' is placed above the fifth measure of the first staff.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is in a common time signature. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign. The second staff begins with a bass clef and a sharp sign. The music is written in a style typical of 17th-century church music, with a focus on harmonic support for the text. A measure number '10' is placed above the tenth measure of the first staff.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is in a common time signature. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a sharp sign. The second staff begins with a bass clef and a sharp sign. The music is written in a style typical of 17th-century church music, with a focus on harmonic support for the text. A measure number '15' is placed above the fifteenth measure of the first staff.

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
A Lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The Church from You, our Savior, received the Gift divine,
And still that Light is lifted over all the earth to shine.
It is the sacred Vessel where gems of truth are stored;
It is the heaven drawn Picture of Christ, the living Word.

The Scripture is a banner before God's host unfurled;
It is a shining Beacon above the darkling world.
It is the Chart and Compass that over life's surging tide,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands, to You, O Christ, will guide.

O make your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold,
To bear before the nations Your true light as of old.
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace,
Till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face.

William W. How