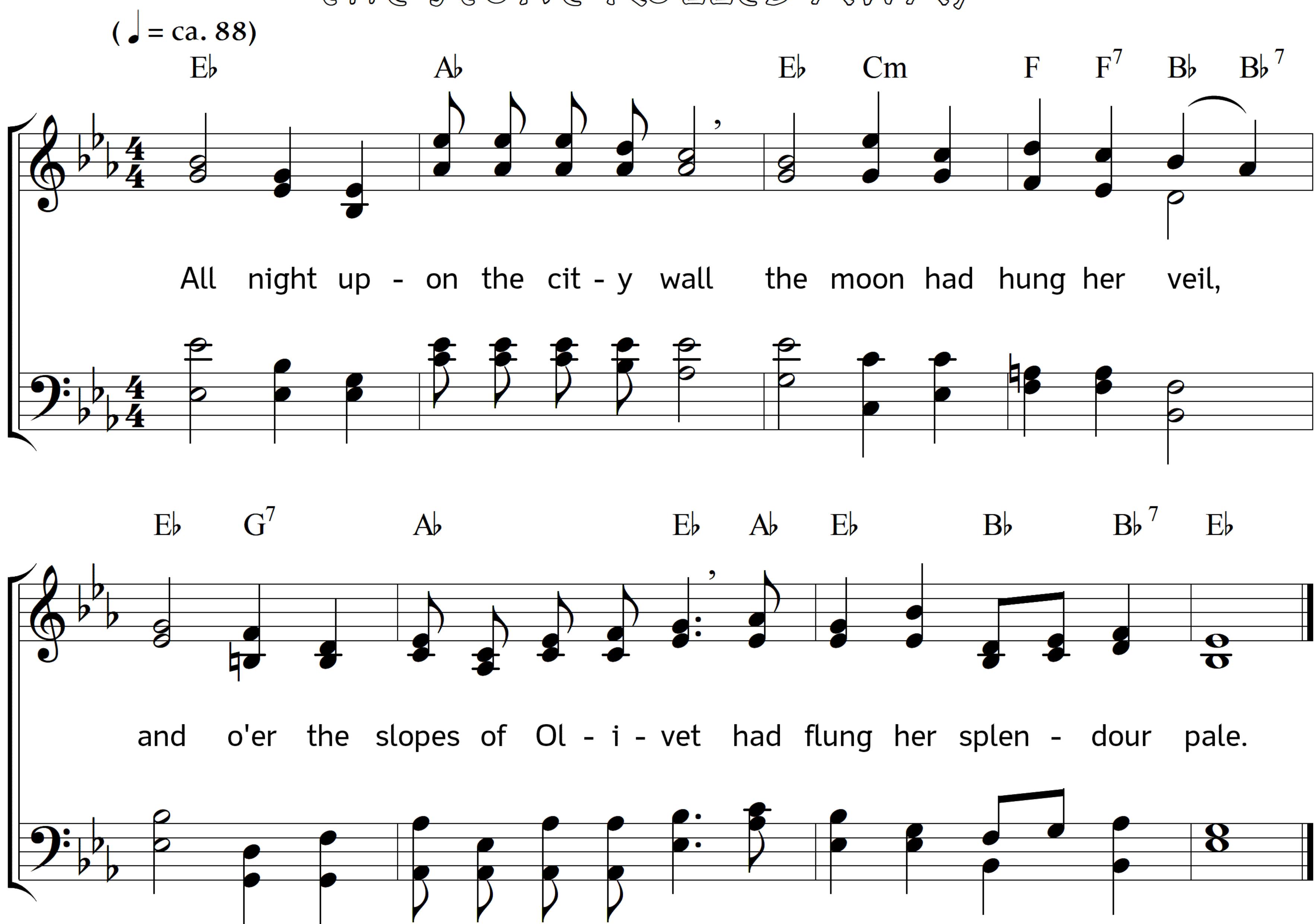
THE STONE ROLLED AWAY



- 2. On Golgotha's dark blood-steeped turf all night her beams had shone:'t was silence then; the groans had ceased; the shouting crowd was gone.
- All night within the rocky tomb the holy body lay,

until the messenger from heaven

announced the rising day.

- 4. From heaven, ere morn awoke, he came, on mightier errand sent than to light up another star in that clear firmament.
- 5. To roll away the stone he came, which sealed the wondrous tomb, in which the immortal One had lain shut up in mortal gloom.

- 6. Man's hands had hewn the virgin rock, man's hands had placed the stone; but that which rolls it back must be an angel's hand alone.
- 7. Down from the highest heaven of heavens he comes to break the seal; without a word, to thrust aside the Roman sentinel.
- 8. He rolls it back, and takes his seat in silence on it there; his countenance the lightning flash, his robe divinely fair.
- 9. Upon that stone of earth he sits in silence, there to wait till the three days' imprisoned King shall issue from the gate; –

- 10. the rocky gate, misnamed of death, from which comes forth in power the First-begotten of the dead, death's mighty Conqueror.
- 11. So cometh still to us from heaven a blessed angel oft, a gentle messenger of light, with footstep fair and soft.
- 12. Oh, many and many a stone from us has thus been rolled away: it seemed too vast for us to touch, as o'er the gate it lay.
- 13. When we awoke at early dawn,we said with troubled heart:Who shall roll back the ponderous stone,or bid our fears depart?
- 14. As we went forth, we found with joy the dreaded care had flown; we saw no hand, we heard no voice, and yet the stone was gone!
- 15. And on it sat an angel fair, all heaven upon his face; he pointed to a risen Lord, and spoke sweet words of grace.
- 16. And all the day our hearts were light, with holy gladness gay; the dreaded thing had taken wing; the stone was rolled away.

- 17. That which shut in our gracious Lord, and hid him from our sight, was gone; and Jesus had come forth, the Prince of Love and Light.
- 18. The stone for ever rolled away, the angel sitting there, were pledges of a heavenly grace that banished all our care.
- 19. Oh, on how many an earthly grief or fear, a light unknown has, with a joyful suddenness, in heavenly glory shone!
- 20. To many a tomb of earthly tears comes one of heavenly mien; on many a gloomy stone of life an angel sits unseen.
- 21. Yes, thus, when the sweet morning's sun night's ravelled brow unknits, on many a stone of earth below a gentle angel sits.
- 22. Fresh from the heavens he has come down, and on a massive stone which he has rolled away he rests, to watch the rising sun.
- 23. And with the rising sun he goes his work to do for man; the daily work of heavenly love which only angels can.