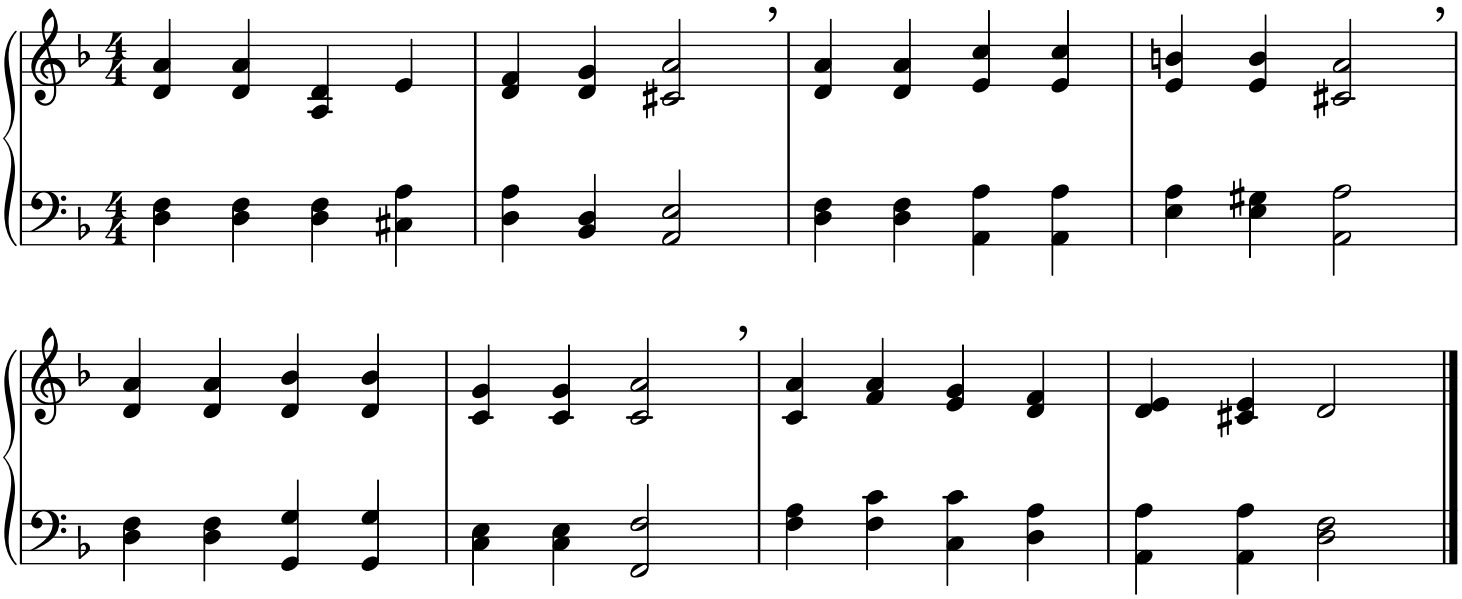
Forty Days and Forty Nights

George H. Smyttan / HEINLEIN



1. Forty days and forty nights
   thou wast fasting in the wild;
   forty days and forty nights
   tempted, and yet undefiled.

2. Sunbeams scorching all the day,
   chilly dewdrops nightly shed;
   prowling beasts about thy way
   stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

3. Shall not we thy sorrow share
   and from earthly joys abstain,
   fasting with unceasing prayer,
   glad with thee to suffer pain?

4. Then, if Satan, vexing sore,
   flesh or spirit should assail,
   thou, his vanquisher before,
   grant we may not faint nor fail.

5. So shall we have peace divine:
   holier gladness ours shall be;
   ’round us, too, shall angels shine,
   such as ministered to thee.

6. Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
   ever constant by thy side;
   that with thee we may appear
   at th’eternal Eastertide.

Inspiration: Mathew 4: 1-2; Luke 4: 1-13.
Lyrics: 77.77; George H. Smyttan, 1822-1870, in “Hymns Fitted to the Order of Common Prayer”, 1861.
Music: HEINLEIN (aka AUS DER TIEF); attributed to Martin Herbst, 1654-1681, in “Nürnbergisches Gesang-Buch”, 1676.