

I Bind Unto Myself Today

Philip C. Carlstroem
1978
L.M.D.

The lyrics are a translation of a Gaelic poem called "St. Patrick's Lorica," or breastplate.

(A "lorica" was a mystical garment that was supposed to protect the wearer from danger and illness, and guarantee entry into heaven.)

Cecil Alexander penned these words at the request of H. H. Dickinson, Dean of the Chapel Royal at Dublin Castle:

I wrote to her suggesting that she should fill a gap in our Irish Church Hymnal by giving us a metrical version of St. Patrick's "Lorica" and I sent her a carefully collated copy of the best prose translations of it. Within a week she sent me that exquisitely beautiful as well as faithful version which appears in the appendix to our Church Hymnal.

Piano

I bind un - to my - self to - day The strong Name of the
I bind this day to me for - ever By power of faith, Christ's

Tri - ni - ty, By in - vo - ca - tion of the same The
in - car - nation; His bap - tism in the Jor - dan river, His

Three in One and One in Three.
death on Cross for my sal - vation; His

9

burst - ing from the spi - cèd tomb, His ri - ding up the

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9, 10, and 11. The music is in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. Measure 9 starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, Bb4, and C5. Measure 10 continues with quarter notes D5, E5, F5, and G5. Measure 11 features a quarter note G5, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G5. The lyrics are: "burst - ing from the spi - cèd tomb, His ri - ding up the".

12

heaven - ly way, His com - ing at the day of doom I

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12, 13, and 14. The melody continues in the treble clef. Measure 12 has a quarter note G5, followed by quarter notes A5, Bb5, and C6. Measure 13 has a quarter note D6, followed by quarter notes E6, F6, and G6. Measure 14 has a quarter note G6, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note G6. The lyrics are: "heaven - ly way, His com - ing at the day of doom I".

15

bind un - to my - self to - day.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 and 16. The melody continues in the treble clef. Measure 15 has a quarter note G6, followed by quarter notes A6, Bb6, and C7. Measure 16 has a quarter note D7, followed by a quarter rest, and then a quarter note D7. The lyrics are: "bind un - to my - self to - day.". The system ends with a double bar line.