Our holy father and confessor Paul Gojdich, Bishop of Prešov

JULY 17

1. Come, all you lovers of the feasts, with joy now gather round
2. Born to a priestly family he heard Christ’s loving call
3. Then, armed with bishop’s staff, he sought to feed his Prešov flock
4. Through war and foes who sought to kill the Church within his care,
5. He gave his life for Jesus’ sake for unity and truth,

To praise this glorious man of God and fill this place with sound!
Which bade him come and follow him as priest, to give his all.
With truth of Jesus, God-made man, to tend the wounded stalk
To cut it loose from Peter’s throne, he taught most bravely there
As he had done with faithfulness e’en from his earliest youth.

For on this day we celebrate the bishop-martyr brave,
Then, after that, he sought the peace of the Basilian life.
And nourish it with pastor’s care, with mercy and with love.
Which caused him to be prisoner defending Gospel truth
So now to God the Trinity we raise this joyful song:

True shepherd of the Savior’s flock who strove his sheep to save.
His name was changed to Paul, foretelling of the coming strife.
In this, he sought to turn all hearts from earth to heav’n above.
And shielding the Greek Catholic Church, the Jews, the poor, the youth.
Bring us, with Blessed Paul, to heav’n with you for ages long!!

Text: JMT
Melody: Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage (traditional)