Vespers on the Afternoon of Cheesefare Sunday
(Forgiveness Vespers)

1. “For-give our sins as we for-give,” You taught us, Lord, to pray,
2. In blaz-ing light Your Cross re-veals the truth we dim-ly knew:
3. As we be-gin the Fast once more, we pray You, Lord of all:

But You a-lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
What triv-ial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to You!
Take far from us in-di-f-er-ence, de-spair, and pow-er’s call.

How can Your par-don reach and bless the un-for-giv-ing heart
Lord, cleanse the depths with-in our souls and bid re-sent-ment cease;
In stead, be-stow in-teg-ri-ty, hu-mil-i-ty and love;

That broods on wrongs and will not let old bit-ter-ness de-part?
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread Your peace.
Let me not judge my neigh-bor’s fault! grant mer-cy from a-bove.

Text: vv. 1-2: Rosamund Herklots, b. 1905; © Oxford University Press; v. 3: JMT
Melody: *Pod tvoj pokrov / We hasten to your patronage* (traditional)