

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 - dif - fer - 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)