

# The Dark Enclosing Tomb of Night

Genevieve Glen, OSB

Timothy R. Smith

INTRO *Moderately* (♩ = ca. 116)

Keyboard

Em D/E Cmaj7 D Em

Am9 D Em9 D C

G Am

## VERSE 1

1. The dark en-clos - ing tomb of night Is pierced by morn - ing's

Em D/E C/E Cmaj7 D/C

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1. prom - ised light; \_\_\_\_\_ Fire bursts a-side \_\_\_\_\_ the chill, dark stone: \_

C G D/F# D

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A sin - gle flame \_\_\_\_\_ burns all a - lone. \_\_\_\_\_

C Am G/B C D

**Soprano** **REFRAIN**

**Alto**

\_\_\_\_\_ The torch is passed from hand to \_\_\_\_\_ Un - til it

**Tenor**

**Bass**

Em Cmaj7 D

burns in ev - 'ry land \_\_\_\_\_ To break the stran - gle - hold of death \_\_\_\_\_

And warm cold clay with \_\_\_\_\_ burn - ing breath. \_\_\_\_\_

G G/B C C/E D Am Am/C

D C D

# RES

VERSE 2, 3

Descant

2. The earth a - fire shouts back its praise To  
3. O Christ, strike from our clay new song That

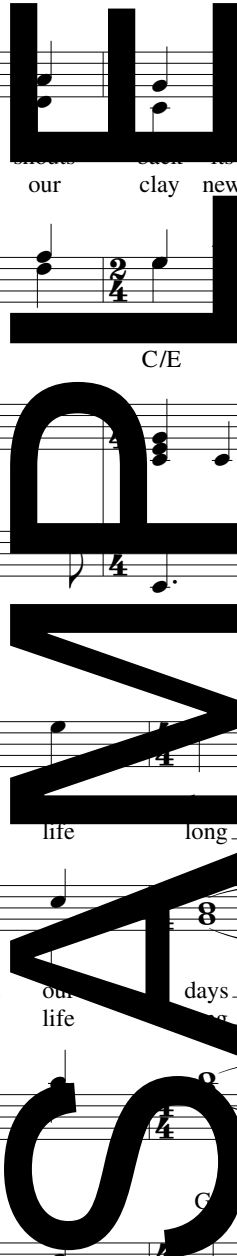
2. The earth a - fire shouts back its praise To  
3. O Christ, strike from our clay new song That

Em D/E C/E Em

2. you, the flint who strikes our life long  
3. we may praise you all life long

2. you, the flint who strikes our days  
3. we may praise you all life

Cmaj7 D/C C G



2. From the un- yield - ing heart of rock Im -  
 3. In al - le - lu - ias ring - ing free To

2. From the un- yield - ing heart of rock Im -  
 3. In al - le - lu - ias ring - ing free To

D/F# Dsus4 C

2. pris - oned un - der the an - cient lock.  
 3. God, our God, the One in Three.

2. pris - oned un - der the an - cient lock.  
 3. God, our God, the One in Three.

Am G/B C D

REFRAIN (Descant last time)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ passed from hand to hand \_\_\_\_\_ Un-til it

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ } The torch is passed from hand to hand \_\_\_\_\_ Un-til it

3. \_\_\_\_\_ }

Em Em D

burns in ev - 'ry land \_\_\_\_\_ break the stran - gle - hold of death \_\_\_\_\_

burns in ev - 'ry land \_\_\_\_\_ To bre the stran - gle - hold of death \_\_\_\_\_

G G/B C C/E D Am Am/C

And warm cold clay with burn - ing breath.

And warm cold clay with - ing breath.

D C D

*D.S.* 2 Final *rit.*

3.O breath. ... breath.

*D.S.* 2 Final *rit.*

3.O breath. ...orch is breath.

*rit.*

*D.S.* 2 Final D *rit.*

# Performance Notes

When the Easter candle flames in a darkened church, one knows that the stone that sealed the tomb has been rolled back. Fire, that awe-inspiring symbol of a powerful, elusive, uncontrollable God, burns and spreads as the risen Savior breathes life-giving Spirit through the entire body of humanity, giving life to what would otherwise remain only lumps of cold clay (see Genesis 2:7). Freed from the cold stone prison of death, we rejoice in the light of Christ. Alleluia!

—Genevieve Glen, OSB, textwriter

*The Dark Enclosing Tomb of Night* is a story about the Easter fire spreading across the world. There is a contrast of tension and release between the verses and the refrain. The verses, tense with anticipation, lead to the release of the refrain which speaks of the torch being passed. Verse 1 may be sung by unison choir or, alternatively, by men or women only. If preferred, the descant may be sung only on verse 3.

Be careful not to accent each and every syncope, which can make it sound very mechanical. Rather, look to the iambic pentameter as your guide to accents; this will produce a more natural, flowing style. For example:

“The **dark** en-clos-ing **tomb** of **night**”  
(Don’t accent “-ing” and “of”)

“The **torch** is **passed** from **hand** to **hand**”  
(Don’t accent “from” and “to”)

For added variety, an instrumental interlude between verses 2 and 3 (play one verse with refrain) may feature flute, violin, harmonica, or any instrumental improvisation.

Suggested use: Easter Vigil, Easter Octave, Easter Season

—Timothy R. Smith, composer

# The Dark Enclosing Tomb of Night

(Guitar/Vocal)

Genevieve Glen, OSB

Timothy R. Smith

**INTRO** *Moderately* (♩ = ca. 116)

Em D/E C/E Em

(Keyboard)

**VERSES**

Em D/E C/E Em

1. The dark en - clos - ing tomb of night Is  
 2. The earth a - fire shouts clay new praise To  
 3. O Christ, strike from our clay new song That

Cmaj7 D/C C G

1. pierced by morn - ing's strikes our light;  
 2. you, the flint who strikes our days  
 3. we may praise you all life long

D/F# D C

1. Fire bursts a - side the stone: A  
 2. From the un - yield - ing heart of rock Im -  
 3. In al - le - lu - ias ring - ing free To

Am G/B D

1. sin - gle flame burns all a lone.  
 2. pris - oned un - der an - der lock.  
 3. God, our God, the in Three.

**REFRAIN**

Em Cmaj7 D

1. The torch is passed from hand to hand Un - til it  
 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. \_\_\_\_\_

G G/B C C/E D Am Am/C

burns in ev - 'ry land \_\_\_\_\_ To break the stran - gle - hold of death \_

D C

\_\_\_\_\_ And warm cold clay with \_\_\_\_\_ ath. \_\_\_\_\_

3 D Final D rit.

breath. \_\_\_\_\_ The torch is breath. \_\_\_\_\_

SAMPLE

## Assembly Edition

**THE DARK ENCLOSING TOMB OF NIGHT**

Genevieve Glen, OSB Timothy R. Smith

Verses

1. The dark en - clos - ing tomb of night pierced by morn-  
 2. The earth a - fire shouts back its praise you, the flint  
 3. O Christ, strike from our cl

1. - ing's prom - ised light; fire bursts a - side  
 2. who strikes our days From the un - yield-  
 3. you all life long al - le - lu -

1. the chill, dark stone: A sin - gle flame burns all a - lone.  
 2. - ing heart of rock Im - prisoned un - der an - cient lock.  
 3. - ias ring - ing free To God our God the One in Three.

Refrain

1-3. The torch is passed from hand to hand Un - til it  
 burns in ev - 'ry land To break the stran - gle - hold of death  
 And warm cold clay with burn - ing breath.

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