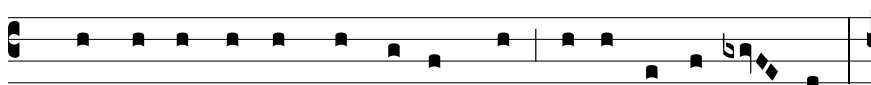
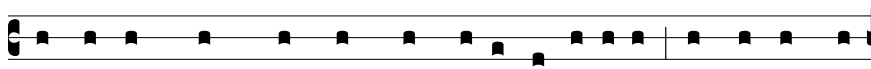


THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING
TO MATTHEW

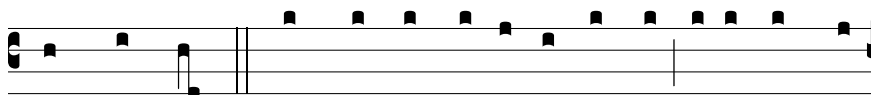
PASSIO



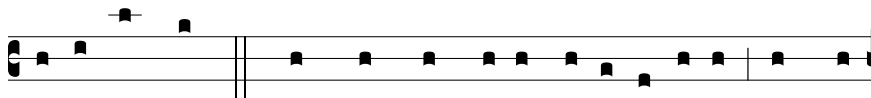
N: The Passion of our Lord Je-sus Christ according to Mat-thew.



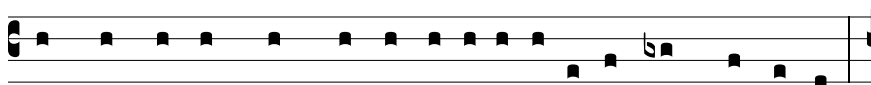
One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Is-car-i-ot, went to the chief



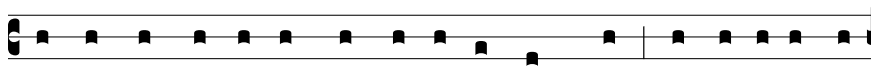
priests and said, S: "What are you willing to give me if I hand him



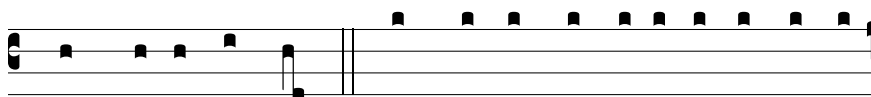
o-ver to you?" N: They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from



that time on he looked for an opportu-ni-ty to hand him o-ver.



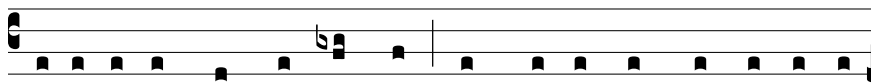
On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the dis-ciples ap-



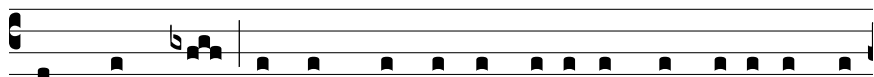
proached Je-sus and said, S: "Where do you want us to prepare for you



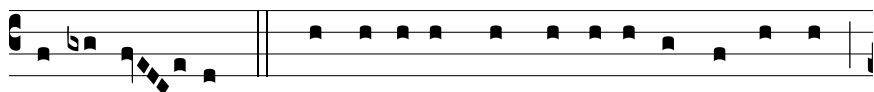
to eat the Passover?" N: He said, J: "Go in-to the cit-y



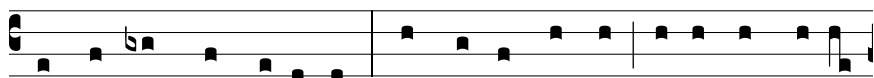
to a certain man and tell him, 'The teacher says, "My appointed



time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with



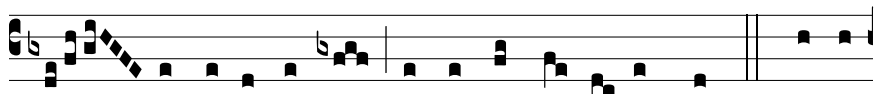
my disciples.”” N: The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered,



and prepared the Passover. When it was evening, he reclined at ta-



ble with the Twelve. And while they were eating, He said,



J: “Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” N: Deeply



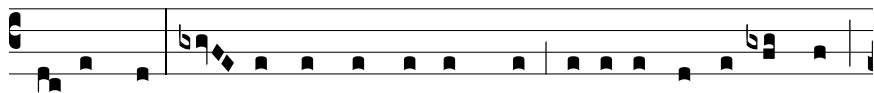
distressed at this, they began to say to him one after another,



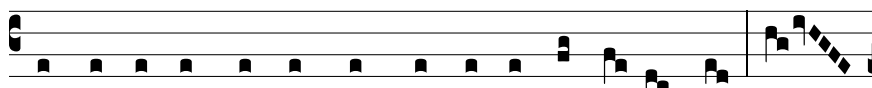
S: “Surely it is not I, Lord?” N: He said in reply, J: “He



who has dipped his hand into the dish with me is the one who will



betray me. The Son of Man indeed goes, as it is written of him,



but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It



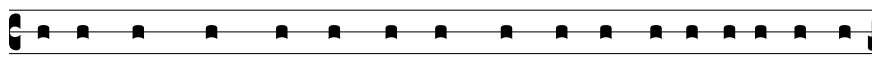
would be better for that man if he had never been born." N: Then



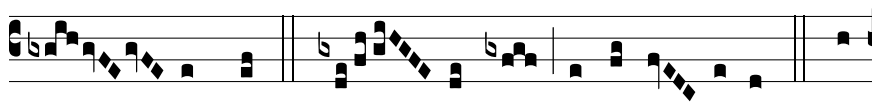
Judas, his betrayer, said in re-ply, S: "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" N: He



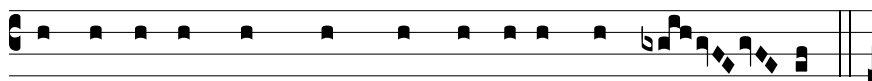
an- swered, J: "You have said so." N: While they were eating,



Je-sus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his dis-



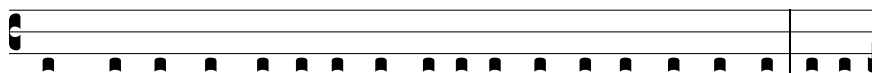
ci- ples said, J: "Take and eat; this is my body." N: Then



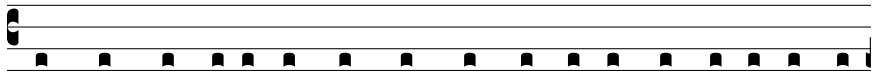
he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, say- ing,



J: "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the cov-enant,



which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell



you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine un-til the day



when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father.” N: Then,



af-ter singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.



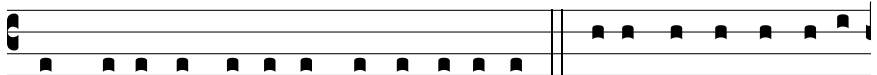
Then Je-sus said to them, J: “This night all of you will have



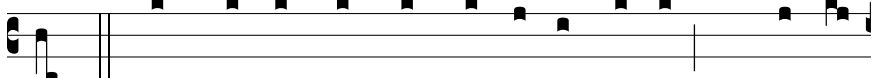
your faith in me shaken, for it is written: I will strike the shepherd,



and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed; but af-ter I have been



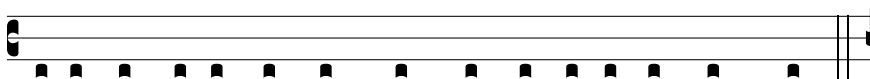
raised up, I shall go before you to Gal-i-lee.” N: Peter said to him in re-



ply, S: “Though all may have their faith in you shaken, mine will nev-



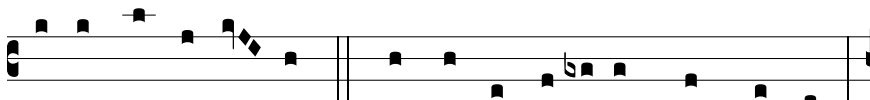
er be.” N: Je-sus said to him, J: “A- men, I say to you, this



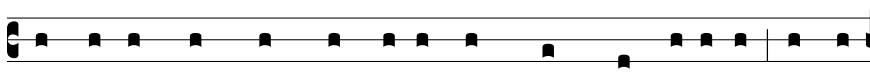
ver-y night before the cock crows, you will de-ny me three times.”



N: Peter said to him, *S:* “Even though I should have to die with you,



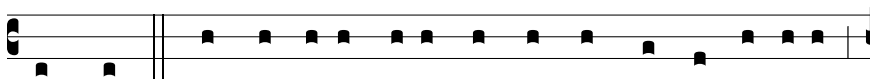
I will not de-ny you.” *N:* And all the dis-ciples spoke likewise.



Then Je-sus came with them to a place called Gethsema-ne, and he



said to his dis-ci- ples, *J:* “Sit here while I go o-ver there



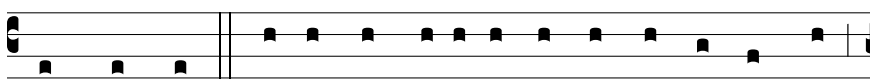
and pray.” *N:* He took along Peter and the two sons of Zeb-edee,



and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them,



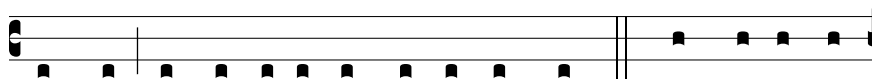
J: “My soul is sorrowful e-ven to death. Remain here and keep



watch with me.” *N:* He advanced a lit-tle and fell prostrate in prayer,



say- ing, J: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass



from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." N: When he returned



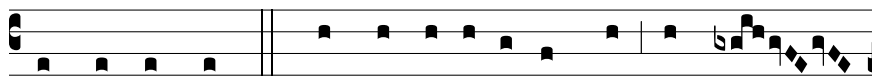
to his dis-ciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter,



J: "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch



and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but



the flesh is weak." N: Withdrawing a second time, he prayed



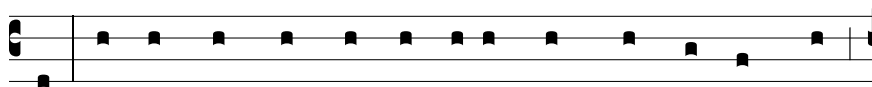
again, J: "My Father, if it is not possi-ble that this cup pass



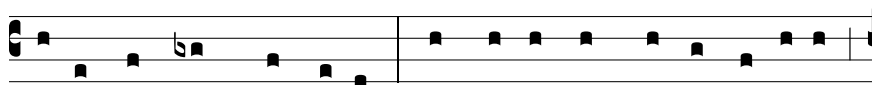
without my drinking it, your will be done!" N: Then he returned once



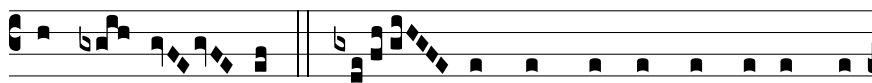
more and found them asleep, for they could not keep their eyes o-



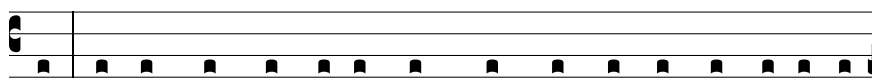
pen. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time,



saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his dis-ciples



and said to them, *J*: "Are you still sleeping and taking your



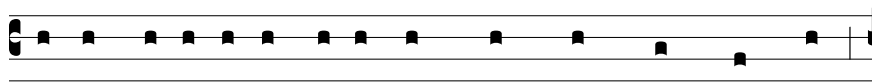
rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be



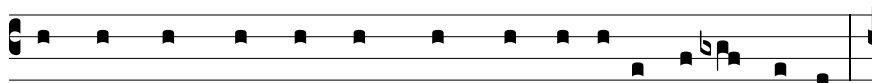
handed o-ver to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is



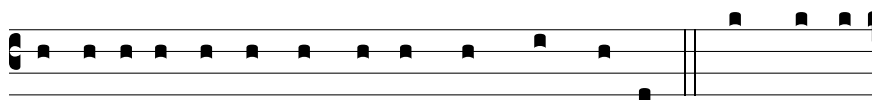
at hand." *N*: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve,



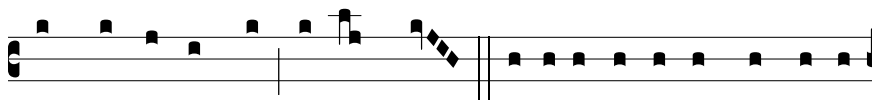
arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs,



who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people.



His betrayer had arranged a sign with them, saying, *S*: "The man I



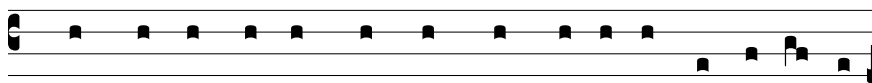
shall kiss is the one; ar-rest him." *N*: Immedi-ate-ly he went o-ver



to Je-sus and said, *S*: "Hail, Rab-bi!" *N*: and he kissed him. Je-sus



an- swered him, *J*: "Friend, do what you have come for."



N: Then stepping forward they laid hands on Je-sus and ar-rest-ed



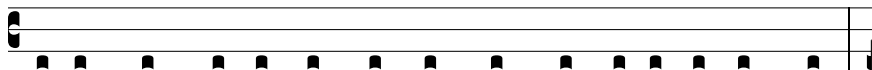
him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Je-sus put his hand



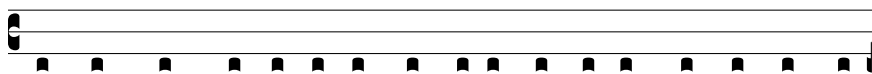
to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off



his ear. Then Je-sus said to him, *J*: "Put your sword back in-



to its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.



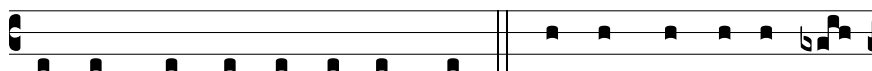
Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not



provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of an-



gels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that



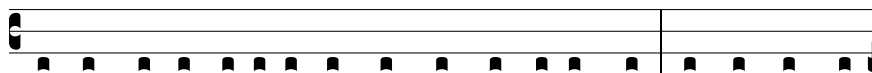
it must come to pass in this way?" N: At that hour Je-sus said



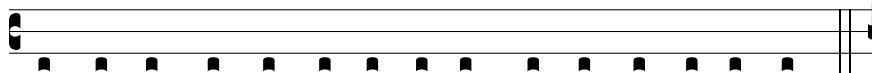
to the crowds, J: "Have you come out as against a robber,



with swords and clubs to seize me? Day af-ter day I sat teaching



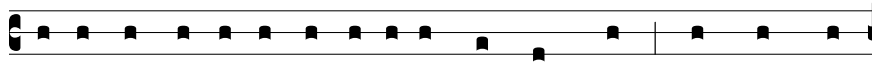
in the temple ar-e-a, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has



come to pass that the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled."



N: Then all the dis-ciples left him and fled. Those who had arrested



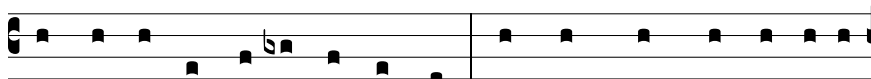
Je-sus led him a-way to Cai-aphas the high priest, where the scribes



and the elders were as-sembled. Peter was following him at a distance



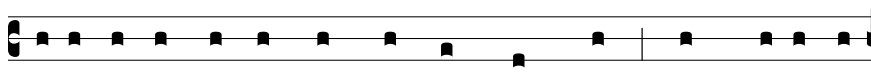
as far as the high priest's courtyard, and going inside he sat down



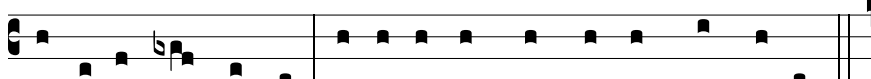
with the servants to see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire



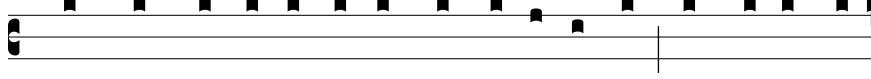
Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false tes-ti-mony against Je-sus in



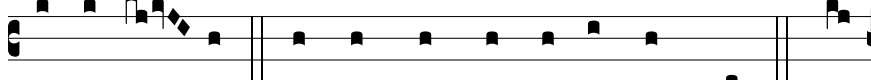
order to put him to death, but they found none, though many false



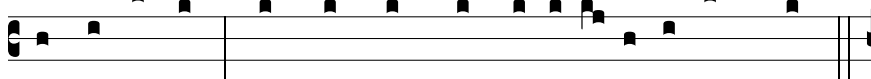
witnesses came forward. Fi-nal-ly two came forward who stated,



S: "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple of God and within three



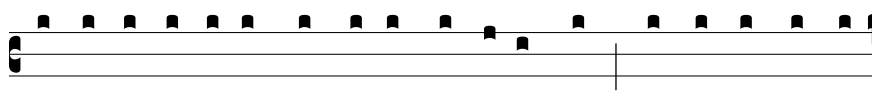
days rebuild it.'" N: The high priest rose and addressed him, S: "Have



you no answer? What are these men tes-ti-fy-ing against you?"



N: But Je-sus was si-lent. Then the high priest said to him, S: "I order



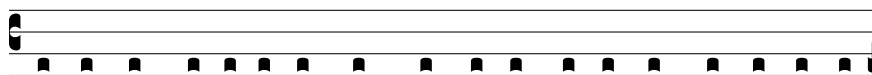
you to tell us under oath before the living God whether you are the



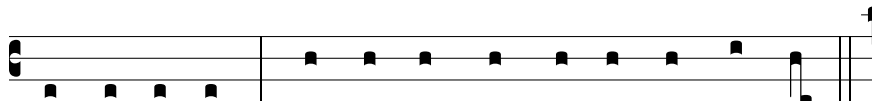
Christ, the Son of God." N: Je-sus said to him in reply,



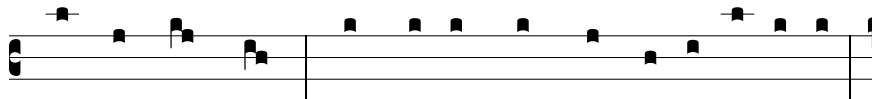
J: "You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see 'the



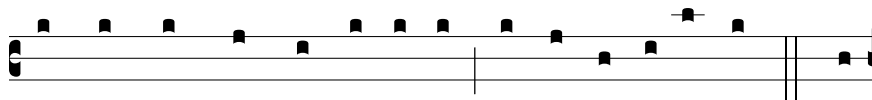
Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power' and 'coming on the



clouds of heaven." N: Then the high priest tore his robes and said,



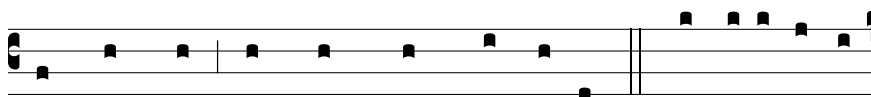
S: "He has blasphemed! What further need have we of witnesses?



You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your o-pinion?" N: They



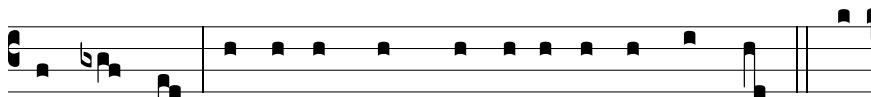
said in re-ply, C: "He deserves to die!" N: Then they spat in his face



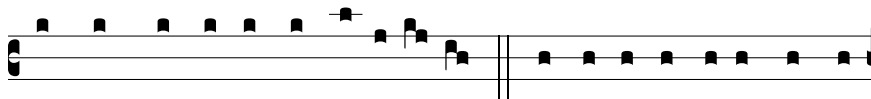
and struck him, while some slapped him, saying, S: "Prophe-sy for us,



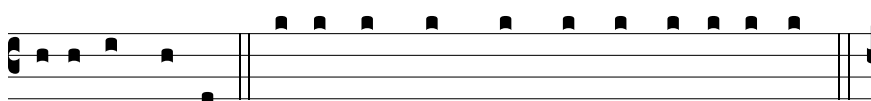
Christ: who is it that struck you?" N: Now Peter was sitting outside in



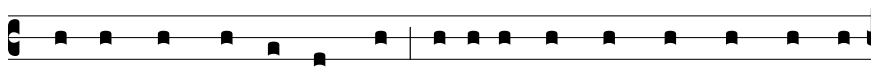
the courtyard. One of the maids came o-ver to him and said, S: "You



too were with Je-sus the Gal-i-le-an." N: But he denied it in front of



everyone, saying, S: "I do not know what you are talking about!"



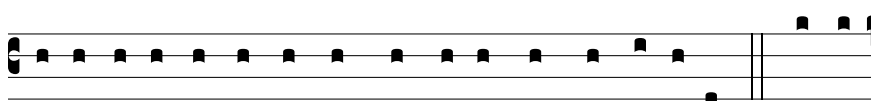
N: As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to



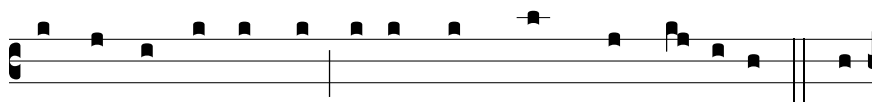
those who were there, S: "This man was with Je-sus the Nazorean."



N: Again he denied it with an oath, S: "I do not know the man!" N: A



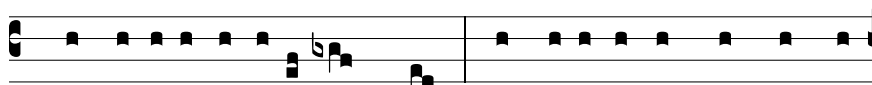
lit-tle lat-er the bystanders came o-ver and said to Peter, S: "Surely



you too are one of them; e-ven your speech gives you away.” N: At



that he began to curse and to swear, S: “I do not know the man.”



N: And immedi-ate-ly a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word



that Je-sus had spo- ken: J: “Be- fore the cock crows you



will de-ny me three times.” N: He went out and began to weep bitter-



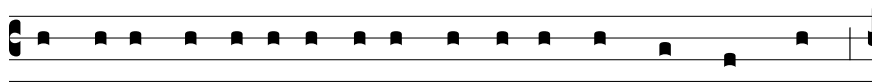
ly. When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the



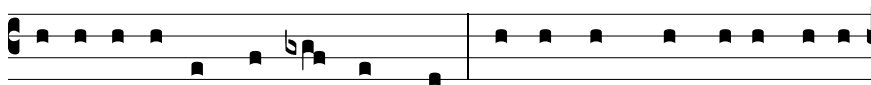
people took counsel against Je-sus to put him to death. They bound



him, led him away, and handed him o-ver to Pilate, the gov-ernor.



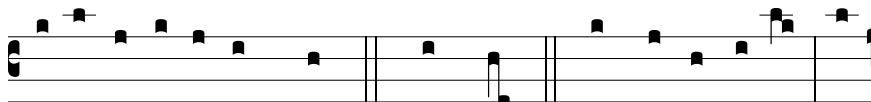
Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Je-sus had been condemned,



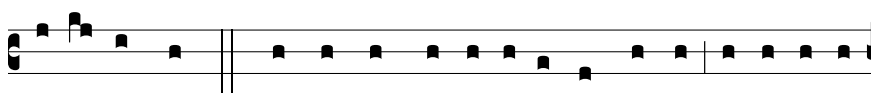
deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces



of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, S: "I have sinned in



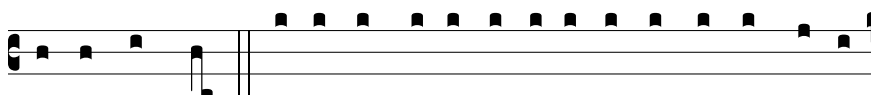
betraying in-nocent blood." N: They said, S: "What is that to us? Look



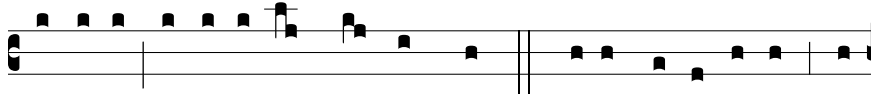
to it yourself." N: Flinging the money in-to the temple, he departed



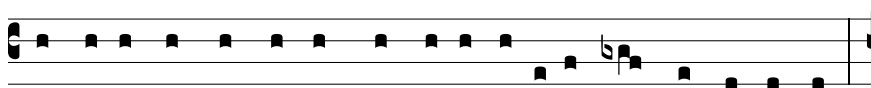
and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the



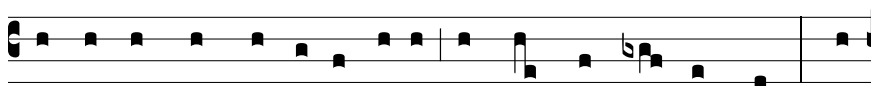
money, but said, S: "It is not lawful to depos-it this in the temple



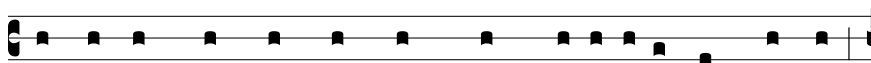
treasur-y, for it is the price of blood." N: After consul-tation, they



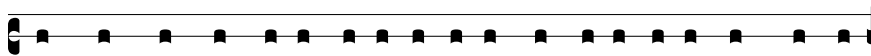
used it to buy the potter's field as a bur-i-al place for foreigners.



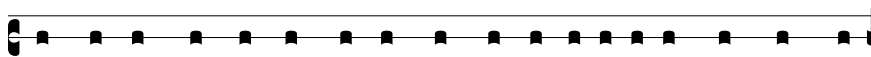
That is why that field e-ven today is called the Field of Blood. Then



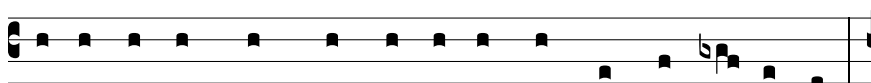
was fulfilled what had been said through Jer-e-miah the prophet,



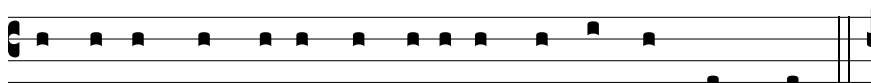
And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a



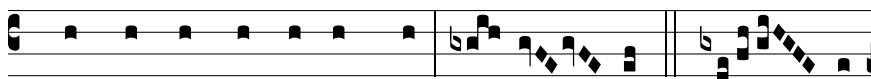
price on his head, a price set by some of the Is-ra-elites, and they paid



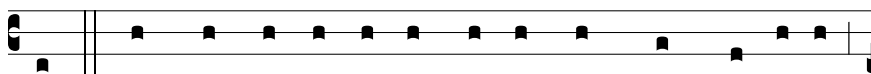
it out for the potter's field just as the Lord had commanded me.



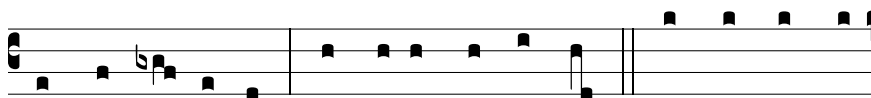
Now Je-sus stood before the governor, and he questioned him,



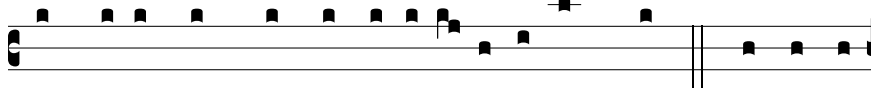
N: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Je- sus said, J: "You say



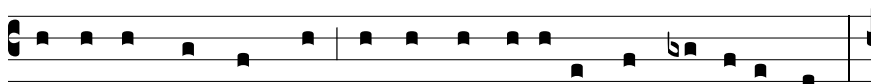
so." N: And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders,



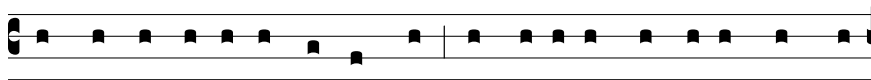
he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, S: "Do you not hear



how many things they are tes-ti-fy-ing against you?" N: But he did



not answer him one word, so that the governor was greatly amazed.



Now on the oc-casion of the feast the governor was accustomed to



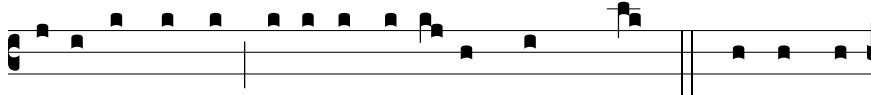
release to the crowd one prison-er whom they wished. And at that



time they had a no-to-rious prison-er called Barabbas. So when they



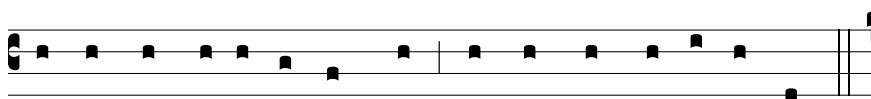
had assembled, Pilate said to them, S: "Which one do you want me



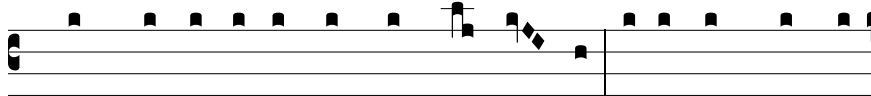
to release to you, Barabbas, or Je-sus called Christ?" N: For he knew



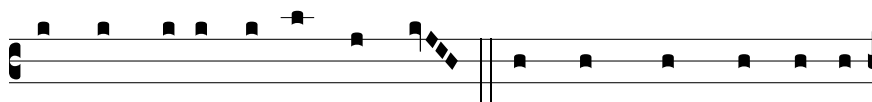
that it was out of en-vy that they had handed him o-ver. While



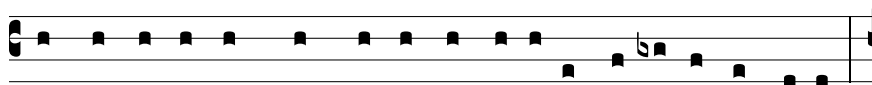
he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message,



S: "Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in



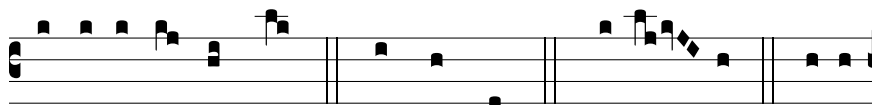
a dream today because of him.” N: The chief priests and the el-



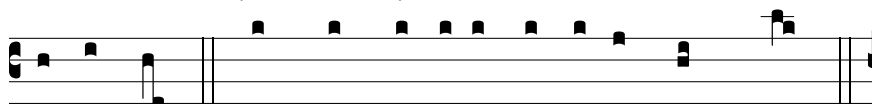
ders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus.



The governor said to them in re-ply, S: “Which of the two do you want



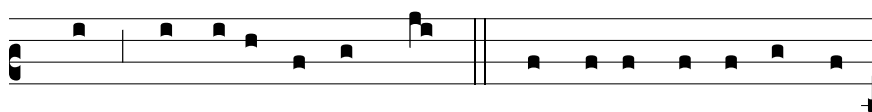
me to release to you?” N: They answered, C: “Barab- bas!” N: Pilate



said to them, S: “Then what shall I do with Je-sus called Christ?”



N: They all said, C: “Let him be cru- ci-fied!” N: But he said,



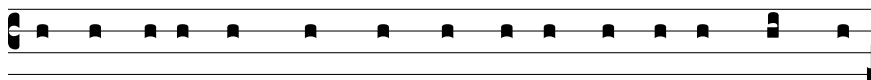
S: “Why? What e-vil has he done?” N: They on-ly shouted the loud-



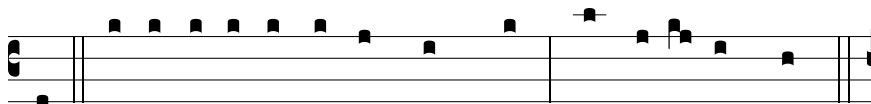
er, C: “Let him be cru- ci-fied!” N: When Pilate saw that he was



not succeeding at all, but that a ri-ot was breaking out instead,



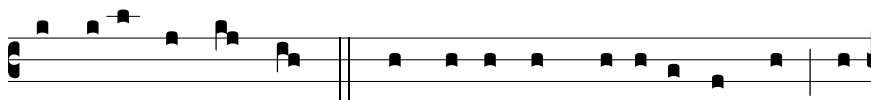
he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, say-



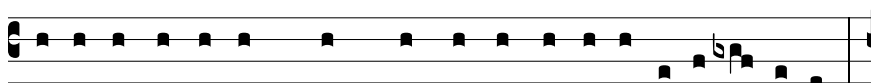
ing, S: "I am in-nocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves."



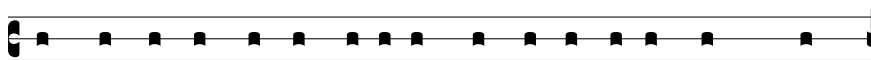
N: And the whole people said in re-ply, C: "His blood be upon us



and upon our children." N: Then he released Barabbas to them, but



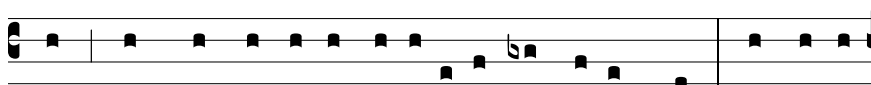
af-ter he had Je-sus scourged, he handed him o-ver to be cru-cified.



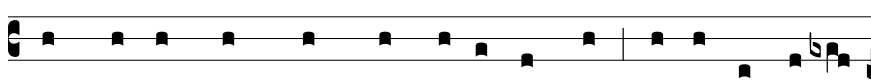
Then the soldiers of the governor took Je-sus inside the praetorium



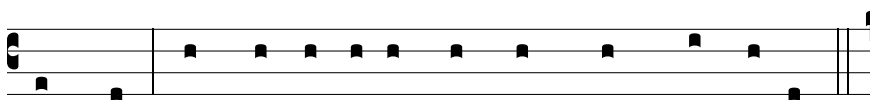
and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his



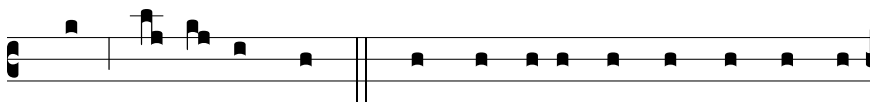
clothes and threw a scarlet mil-i-tar-y cloak about him. Weaving a



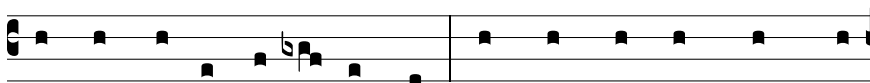
crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his



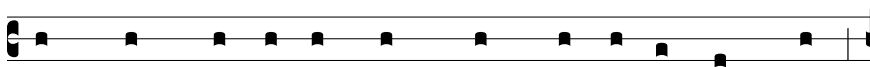
right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,



S: "Hail, King of the Jews!" N: They spat upon him and took the reed



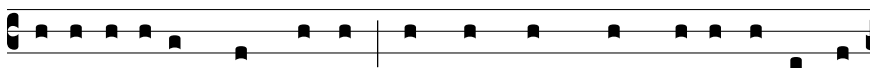
and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him,



they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes,



and led him off to cru-ci-fy him. As they were going out, they met



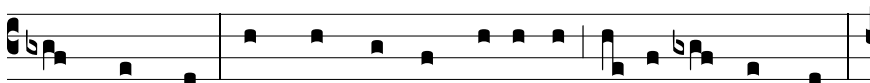
a Cyren-i-an named Simon; this man they pressed in-to service to



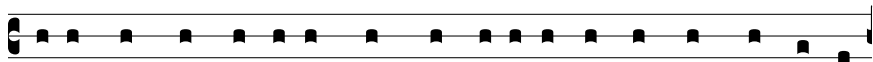
carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha



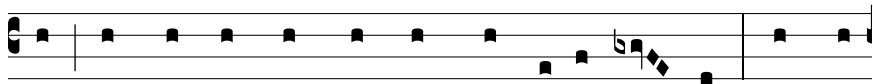
—which means Place of the Skull— they gave Je-sus wine to drink



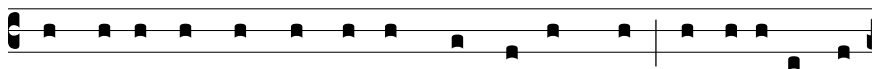
mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.



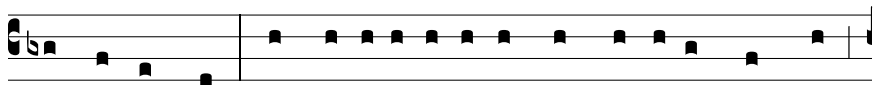
After they had cru-cified him, they divided his garments by casting



lots; then they sat down and kept watch o-ver him there. And they



placed o-ver his head the written charge against him: This is Jesus, the



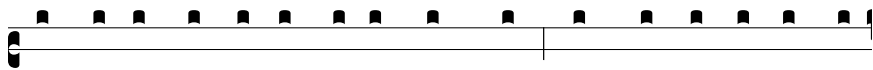
King of the Jews. Two rev-o-lutionar-ies were cru-cified with him,



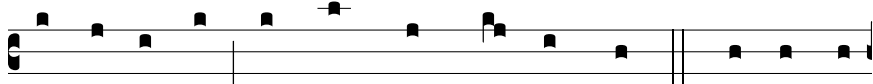
one on his right and the oth-er on his left. Those passing by re-



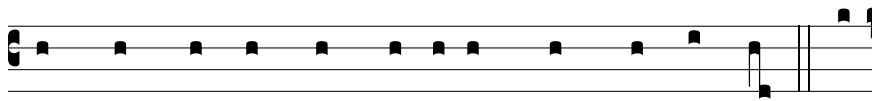
viled him, shaking their heads and saying, S: "You who would destroy



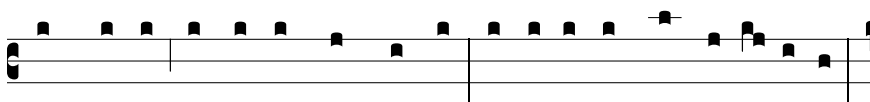
the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are



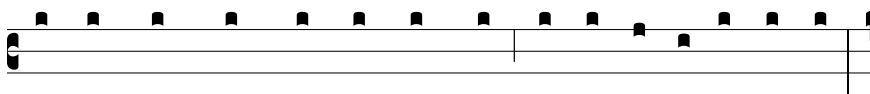
the Son of God, and come down from the cross!" N: Likewise the



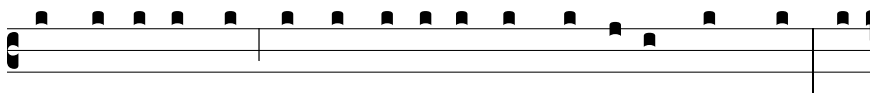
chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, S: "He



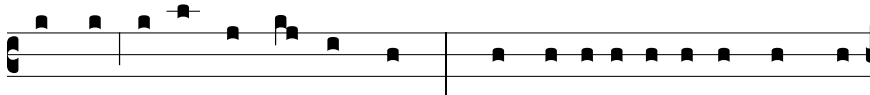
saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Is- ra-el!



Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.



He trusted in God; let him de-liv-er him now if he wants him. For



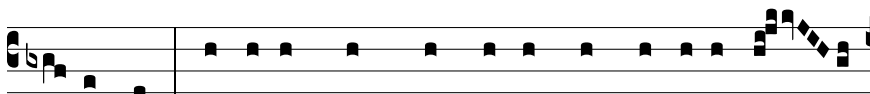
he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" N: The rev-o-lutionar-ies who were



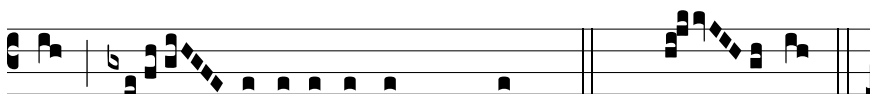
cru-cified with him al-so kept a-busing him in the same way. From



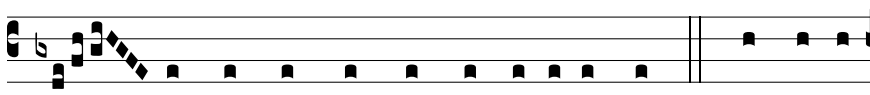
noon onward, darkness came o-ver the whole land un-til three in the



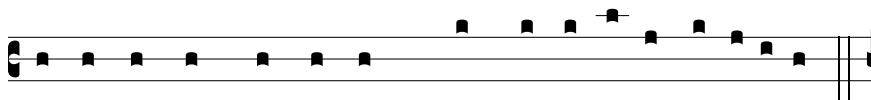
af-ternoon. And about three o'clock Je-sus cried out in a loud



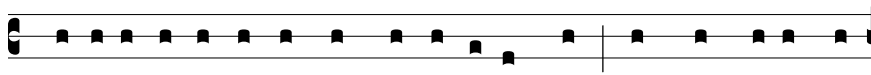
voice, J: "E- li, E-li, le-ma sabachthani?" N: which means,



J: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" N: Some of the



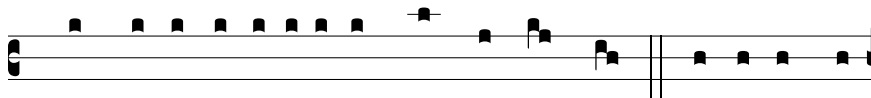
bystanders who heard it said, S: "This one is calling for E-lijah."



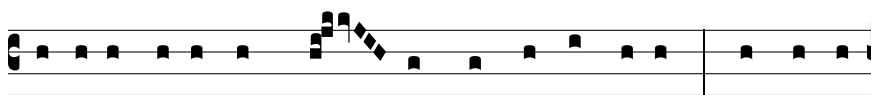
N: Immedi-ate-ly one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine,



and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said,



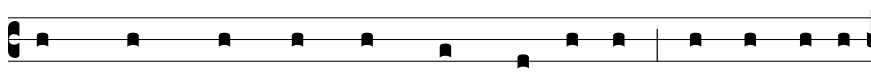
S: "Wait, let us see if E-li-jah comes to save him." N: But Je-sus cried



out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. N: And behold,



the veil of the sanctu-ar-y was torn in two from top to bottom. The



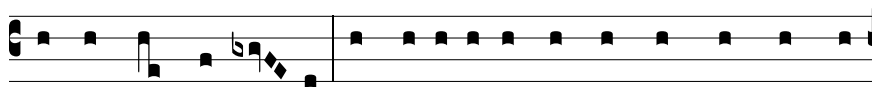
earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies



of many saints who had fallen a-sleep were raised. And coming forth



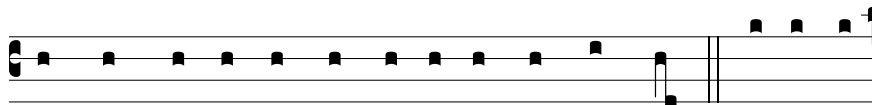
from their tombs af-ter his resurrection, they entered the ho-ly cit-y



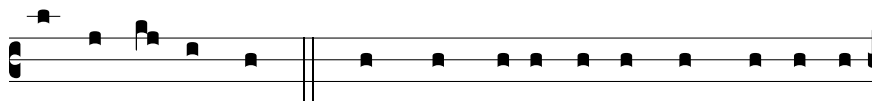
and appeared to man- y. The centu-ri-on and the men with him who



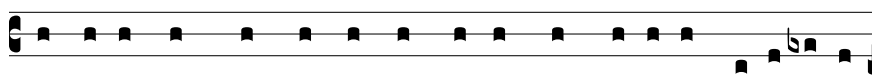
were keeping watch o-ver Je-sus feared greatly when they saw the



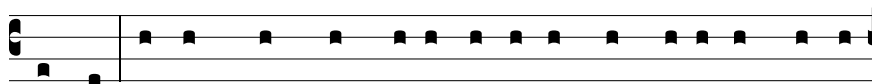
earthquake and all that was happening, and they said, S: "Truly, this



was the Son of God!" N: There were many women there, looking on



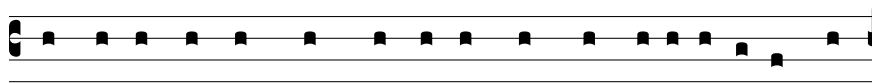
from a distance, who had followed Je-sus from Gal-i-lee, minis-tering



to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother



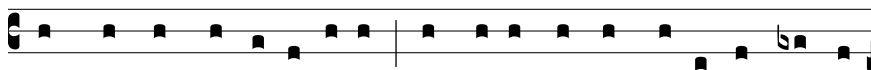
of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zeb-edee.



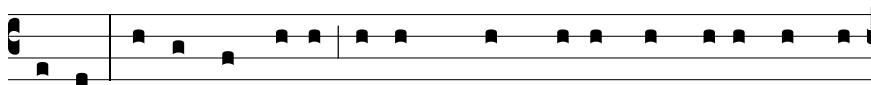
When it was evening, there came a rich man from Ar-i-mathe-a named



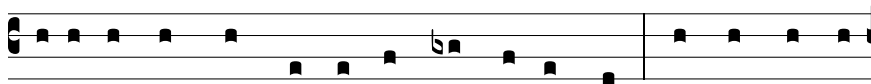
Joseph, who was himself a dis-ci-ple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and



asked for the bod-y of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed



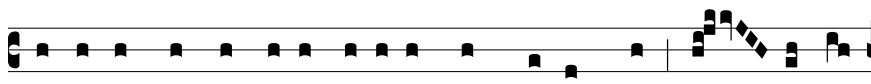
o-ver. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid



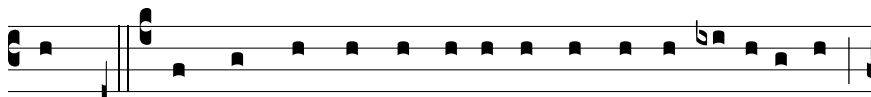
it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a



huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and depart-ed. But Mary



Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, fac- ing the



tomb. The next day, the one following the day of prepa-ration,



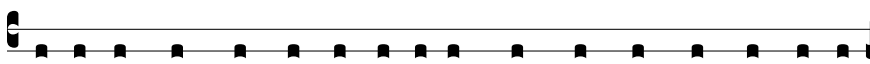
the chief priests and the Phari-sees gathered before Pilate and said,



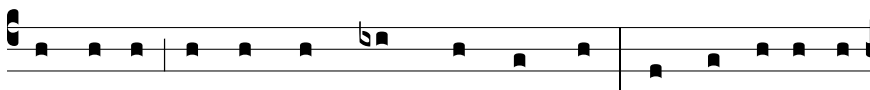
“Sir, we remember that this impostor while still a-live said, ‘After three



days I will be raised up.’ Give orders, then, that the grave be secured



un-til the third day, lest his dis-ciples come and steal him and say to



the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' This last imposture



would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "The guard is



yours; go, secure it as best you can." So they went and secured the



tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and setting the guard.