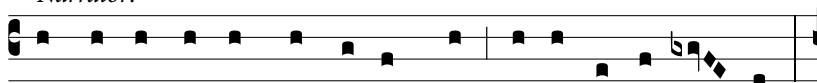
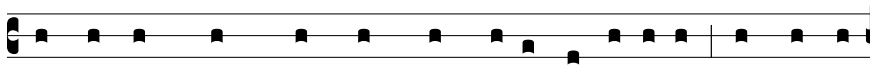


THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING
TO MATTHEW

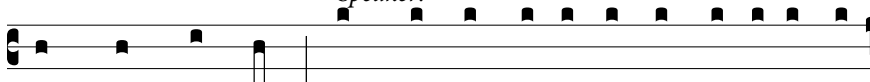
PASSIO

Narrator:

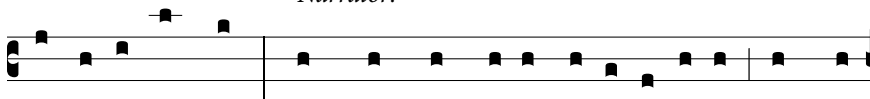
The Passion of our Lord Je-sus Christ according to Mat-thew.



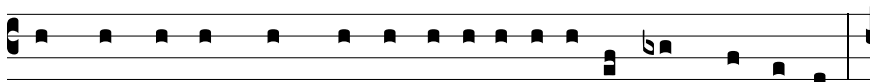
One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Is-car-i-ot, went to the

Speaker:

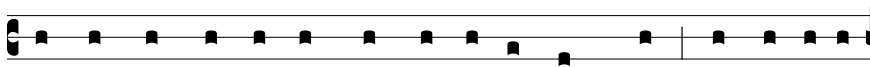
chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I hand

Narrator:

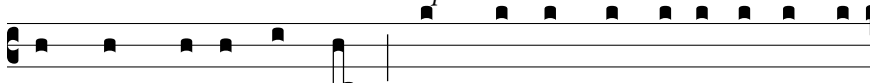
him o-ver to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver, and from



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

Speaker:

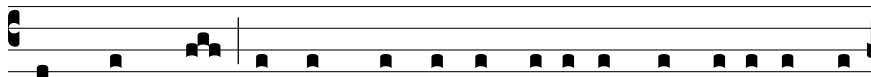
approached Je-sus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare for

*Narrator:**Jesus:*

you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go in-to the cit-y

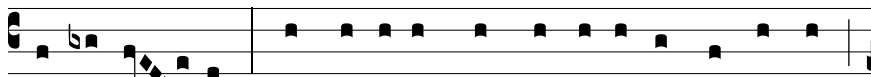


to a certain man and tell him, "The teacher says, "My appointed

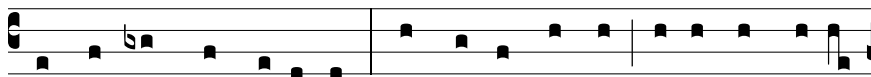


time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover with

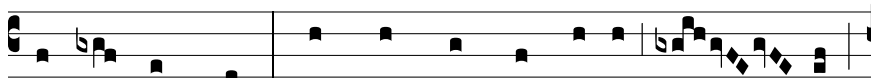
Narrator:



my disciples." 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,

Jesus:

Narrator:



"Amen, I say to you, one of you will betray me." Deeply distressed



Speaker:

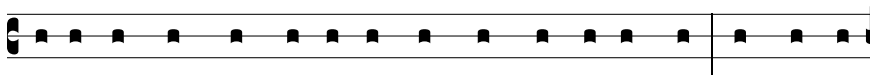
at this, they began to say to him one after another, "Surely it is

Narrator:

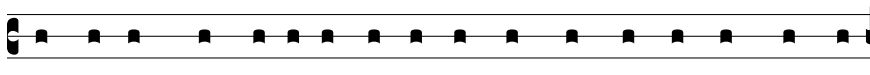
Jesus:



not I, Lord?" He said in reply, "He who has dipped his hand



in-to the dish with me is the one who will betray me. The Son of

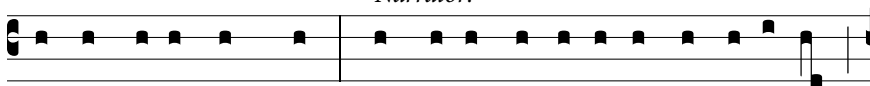


Man indeed goes, as it is written of him, but woe to that man by



whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that man if

Narrator:



he had never been born.” Then Judas, his betrayer, said in re-ply,

Speaker:

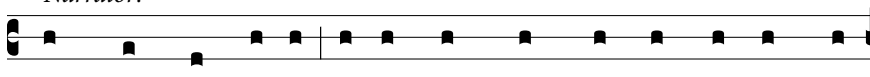
Narrator:

Jesus:



“Surely it is not I, Rabbi?” He an- swered, “You have said so.”

Narrator:



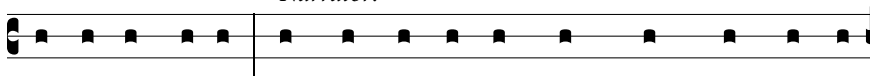
While they were eating, Je-sus took bread, said the blessing, broke

Jesus:

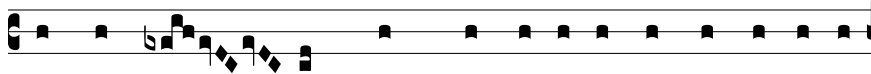


it, and giving it to his dis-ci- ples said, “Take and eat;

Narrator:



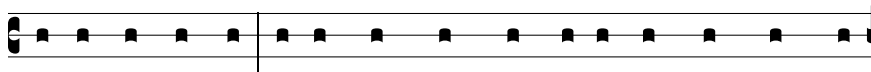
this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it

Jesus:

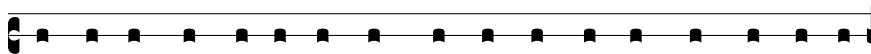
to them, say- ing, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my



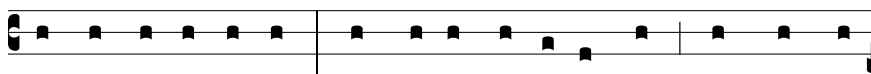
blood of the cov-enant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the



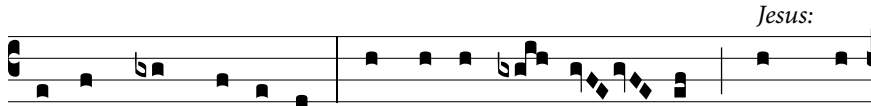
forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this



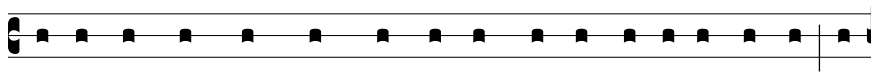
fruit of the vine un-til the day when I drink it with you new in the

Narrator:

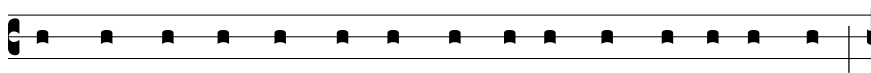
kingdom of my Father." Then, af-ter singing a hymn, they went out



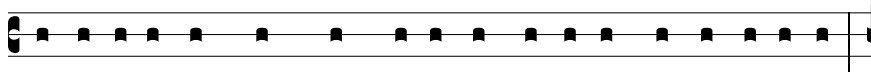
to the Mount of Olives. Then Je-sus said to them, "This night



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;



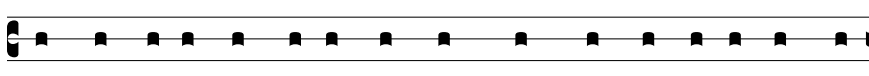
but af-ter I have been raised up, I shall go before you to Gal-i-lee."

*Narrator:**Speaker:*

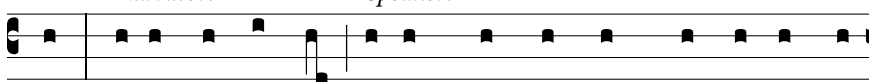
Peter said to him in re-ply, "Though all may have their faith in you

*Narrator:**Jesus:*

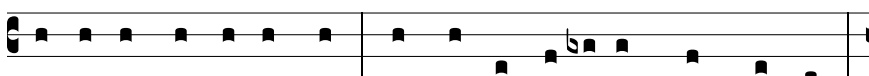
shaken, mine will never be." Jesus said to him, "Amen, I say to



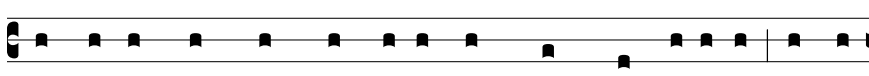
you, this ver-y night before the cock crows, you will de-ny me three

*Narrator:**Speaker:*

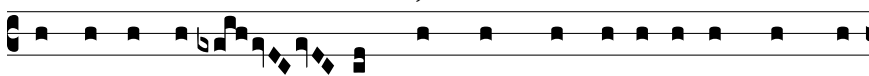
times." Peter said to him, "Even though I should have to die with

Narrator:

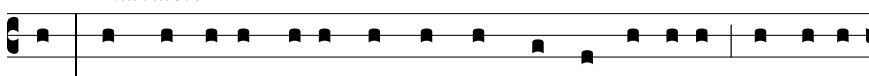
you, I will not de-ny you." And all the dis-ciples spoke likewise.



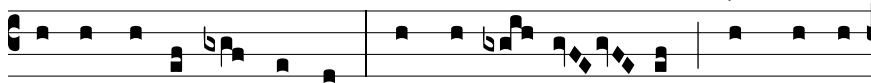
Then Je-sus came with them to a place called Gethsema-ne, and he

Jesus:

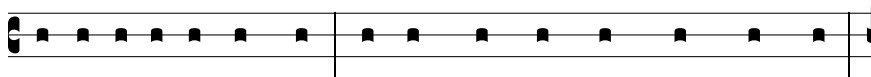
said to his dis-ci- ples, "Sit here while I go o-ver there and

Narrator:

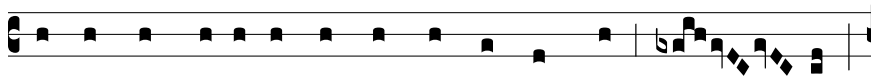
pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zeb-edee, and began

Jesus:

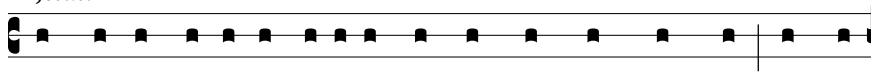
to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is



sorrowful e-ven to death. Remain here and keep watch with me."

Narrator:

He advanced a lit-tle and fell prostrate in prayer, say- ing,

Jesus:

"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not

Narrator:

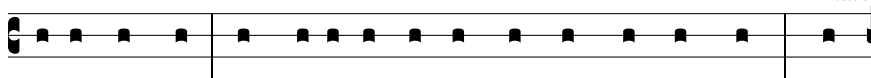
as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his dis-ciples he

Jesus:

found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep



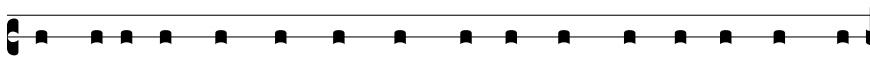
watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not un-

Narrator:

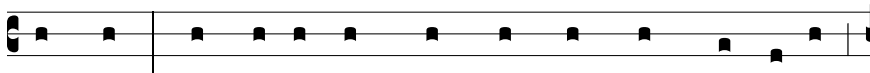
dergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." With-

Jesus:

drawing a second time, he prayed again, "My Father, if it is



not possi-ble that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will

Narrator:

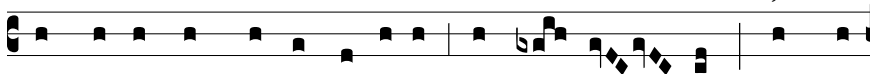
be done!" Then he returned once more and found them asleep,



for they could not keep their eyes open. He left them and with-



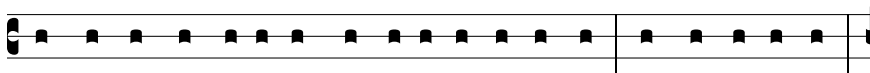
drew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing again.

Jesus:

Then he returned to his dis-ciples and said to them, "Are you



still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand when

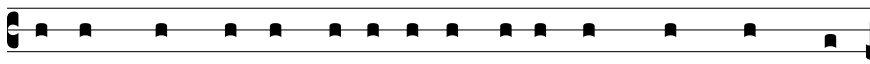


the Son of Man is to be handed o-ver to sinners. Get up, let us go.

Narrator:



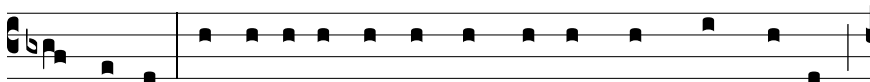
Look, my betrayer is at hand.” While he was still speaking, Judas, one



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,

Speaker:

Narrator:



“The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him.” Immedi-ate-ly he

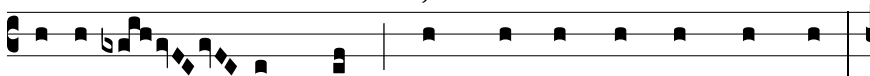
Speaker:

Narrator:



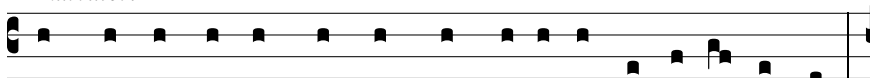
went o-ver to Je-sus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and he kissed him.

Jesus:

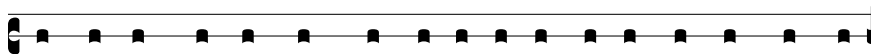


Je-sus an- swered him, “Friend, do what you have come for.”

Narrator:



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

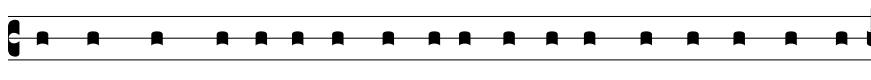
Jesus:



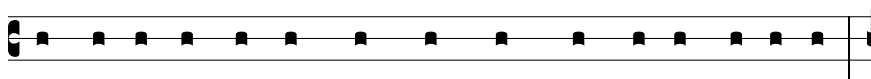
his ear. Then Je-sus said to him, "Put your sword back in-



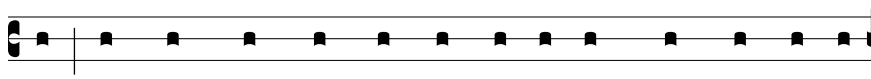
to its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.



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



vide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels?



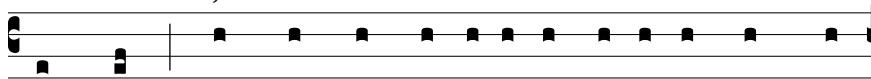
But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it

Narrator:

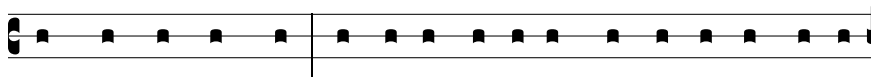


must come to pass in this way?" At that hour Je-sus said to

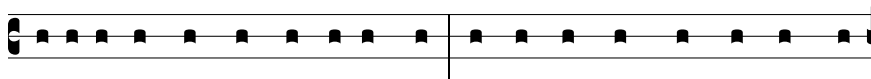
Jesus:



the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords

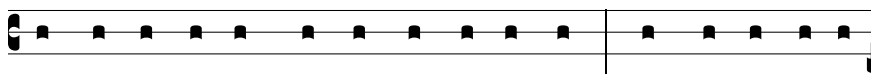


and clubs to seize me? Day af-ter day I sat teaching in the temple

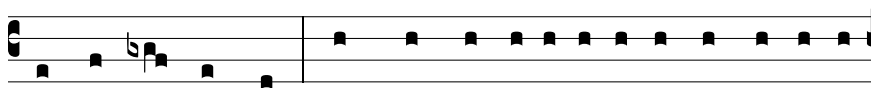


ar-e-a, yet you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that

Narrator:



the writings of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the dis-ci-



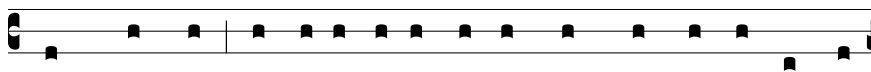
ples left him and fled. Those who had arrested Je-sus led him a-way



to Cai-aphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were



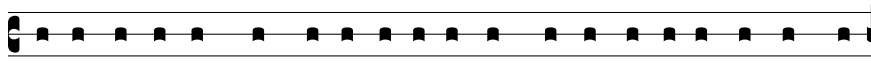
as-sembled. Peter was following him at a distance as far as the high



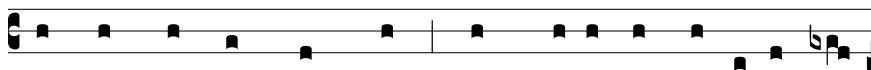
priest's courtyard, and going inside he sat down with the servants to



see the outcome. The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept



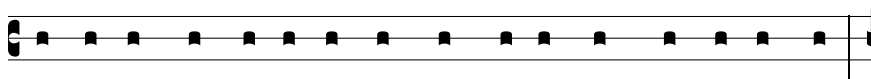
trying to obtain false tes-ti-mony against Je-sus in order to put him



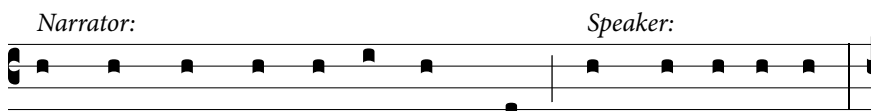
to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came



forward. Fi-nal-ly two came forward who stated, "This man said, 'I



can destroy the temple of God and within three days rebuild it'



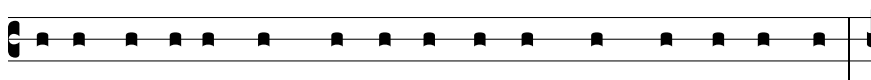
"The high priest rose and addressed him, "Have you no answer?



What are these men tes-ti-fying against you?" But Je-sus was si-lent.



Then the high priest said to him, "I order you to tell us under oath



before the living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God."

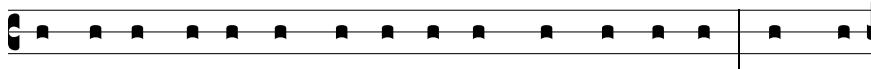


Jesus said to him in reply, "You have said so. But I tell



you: From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right

Narrator:



hand of the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.' " Then the

Speaker:



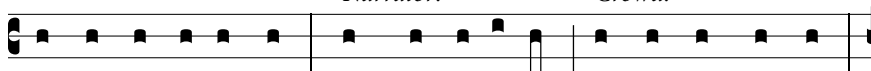
high priest tore his robes and said, "He has blasphemed! What fur-



ther need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy;

Narrator:

Crowd:



what is your o-pinion?" They said in re-ply, "He deserves to die!"

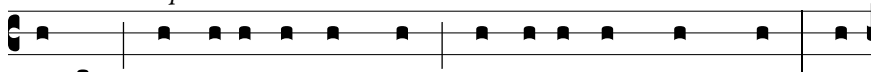
Narrator:



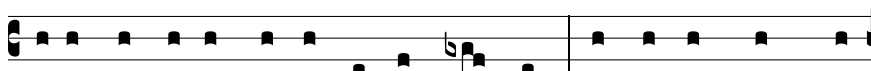
Then they spat in his face and struck him, while some slapped him,

Speaker:

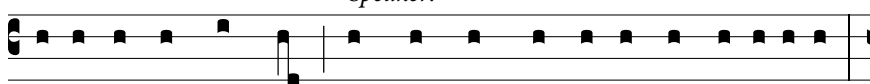
Narrator:



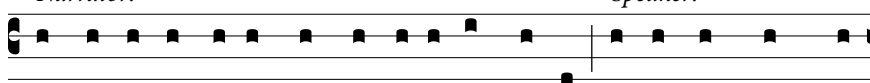
saying, "Prophe-sy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?" Now



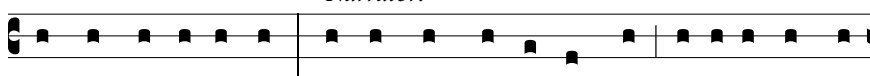
Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came

Speaker:

o-ver to him and said, "You too were with Je-sus the Gal-i-lean."

Narrator:*Speaker:*

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what

Narrator:

you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw

Speaker:

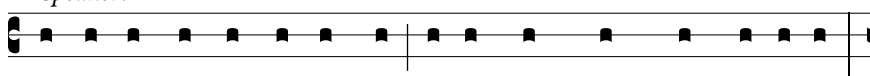
him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Je-sus

Narrator:*Speaker:*

the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the

Narrator:

man!" A lit-tle lat-er the bystanders came o-ver and said to Peter,

Speaker:

"Surely you too are one of them; e-ven your speech gives you away."

Narrator:*Speaker:*

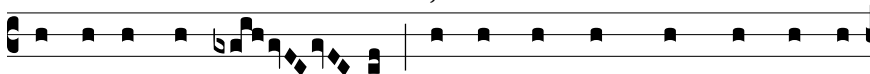
At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man."

Narrator:



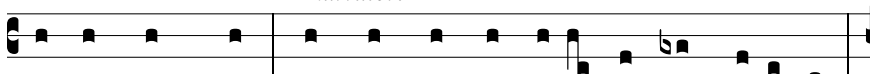
And immedi-ate-ly a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word

Jesus:

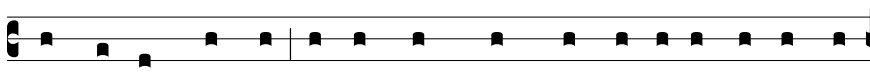


that Je-sus had spo- ken: "Before the cock crows you will de-

Narrator:



ny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitter-ly.



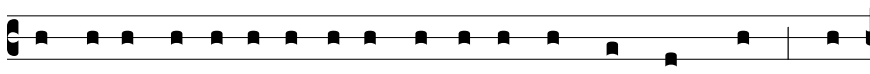
When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the peo-



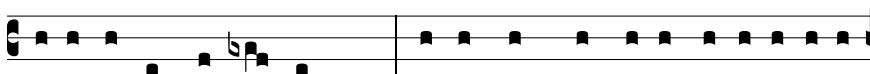
ple took counsel against Je-sus to put him to death. They bound



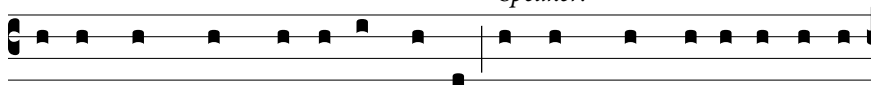
him, led him away, and handed him o-ver to Pilate, the gov-ernor.



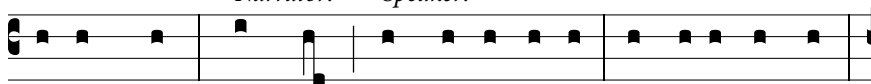
Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Je-sus had been condemned, deep-



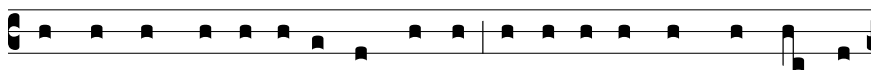
ly regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of silver

Speaker:

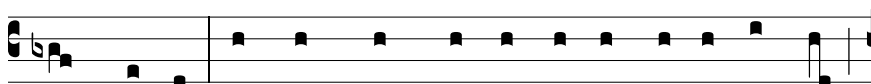
to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in betraying in-

Narrator: Speaker:

nocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? Look to it yourself."

Narrator:

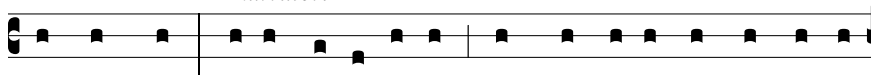
Flinging the money in-to the temple, he departed and went off and



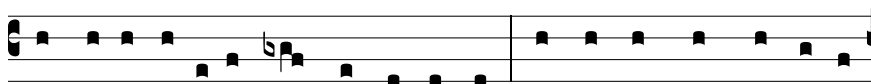
hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,

Speaker:

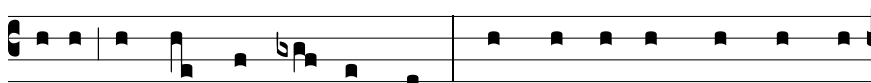
"It is not lawful to depos-it this in the temple treasur-y, for it is the

Narrator:

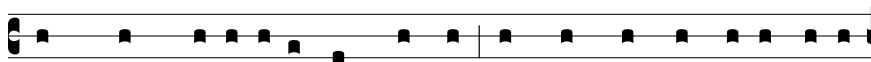
price of blood." After consul-tation, they used it to buy the potter's



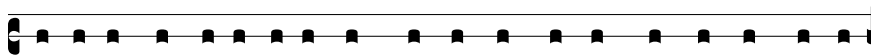
field as a bur-i-al place for foreigners. That is why that field e-ven



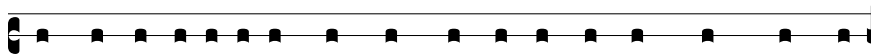
today is called the Field of Blood. Then was fulfilled what had been



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

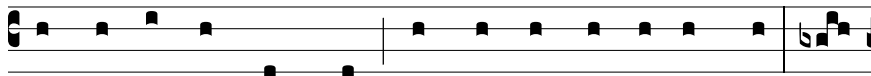


some of the Is-ra-elites, and they paid it out for the potter's field just



as the Lord had commanded me. Now Je-sus stood before the gover-

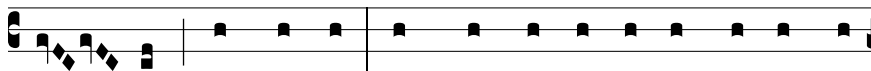
Narrator:



nor, and he questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Je-

Jesus:

Narrator:

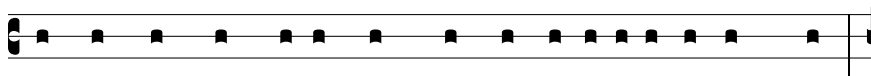


sus said, "You say so." And when he was accused by the chief

Speaker:



priests and elders, he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do

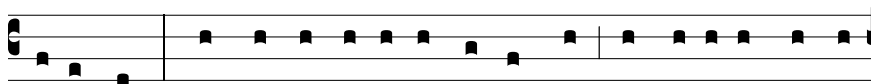


you not hear how many things they are tes-ti-fying against you?"

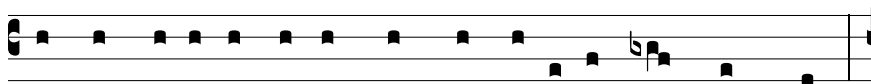
Narrator:



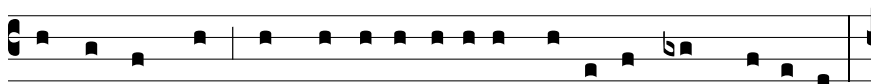
But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor was great-



ly amazed. Now on the oc-casion of the feast the governor was ac-

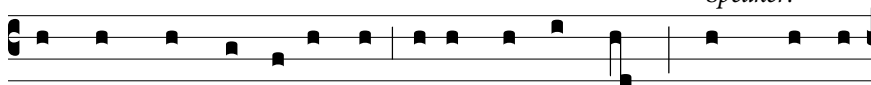


customed to release to the crowd one prison-er whom they wished.



And at that time they had a no-to-rious prison-er called Barabbas.

Speaker:



So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do

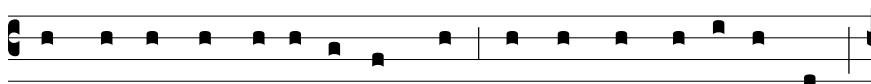
Narrator:



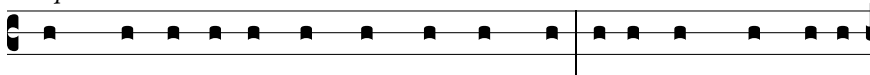
you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Je-sus called Christ?" For



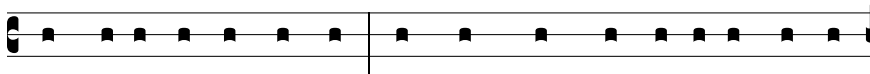
he knew that it was out of en-vy that they had handed him o-ver.



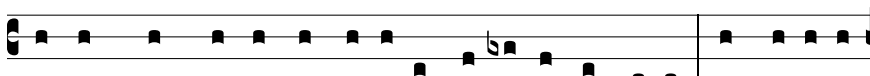
While he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message,

Speaker:

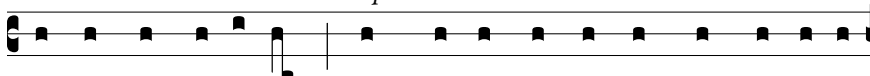
“Have nothing to do with that righteous man. I suffered much in a

Narrator:

dream today because of him.” The chief priests and the elders persuad-



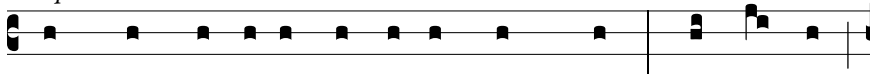
ed the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus. The governor

Speaker:

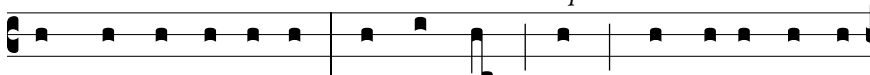
said to them in re-ply, “Which of the two do you want me to re-

*Narrator:**Crowd:**Narrator:*

lease to you?” They answered, “Barabbas!” Pilate said to them,

*Speaker:**Narrator:*

“Then what shall I do with Je-sus called Christ?” They all said,

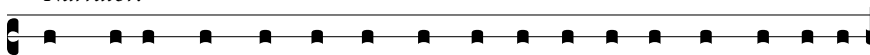
*Crowd:**Narrator:**Speaker:*

“Let him be cru-cified!” But he said, “Why? What e-vil has he

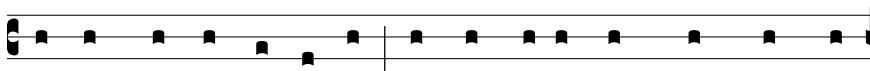
*Narrator:**Crowd:*

done?” They on-ly shouted the louder, “Let him be cru-cified!”

Narrator:



When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a ri-



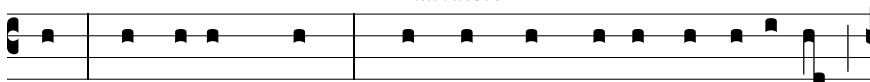
ot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands

Speaker:



in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am in-nocent of this man's

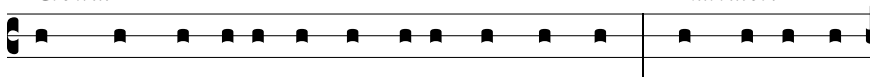
Narrator:



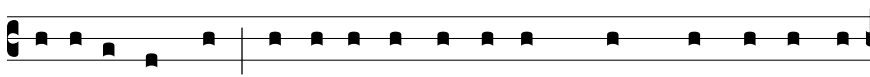
blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in re-ply,

Crowd:

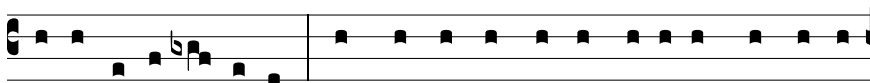
Narrator:



"His blood be upon us and upon our children." 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



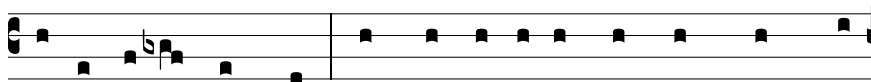
inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him.



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,

Speaker:

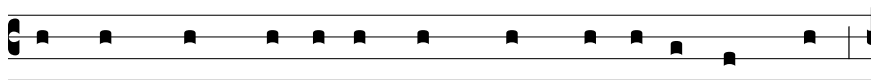
Narrator:



saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 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



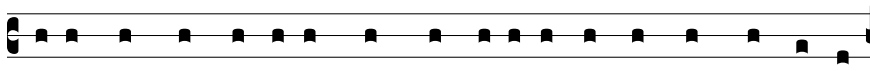
carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha



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



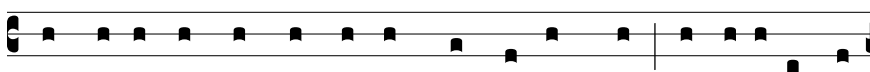
mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he refused to drink.



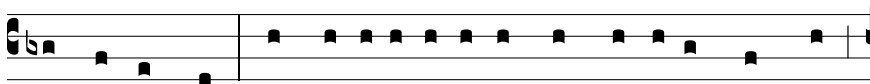
After they had cru-cified him, they divided his garments by casting



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

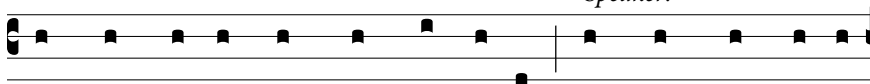


King of the Jews. Two rev-o-lutionar-ies were cru-cified with him,

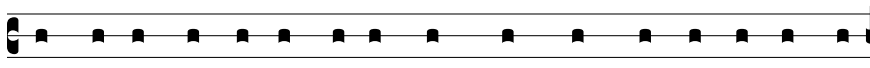


one on his right and the oth-er on his left. Those passing by re-

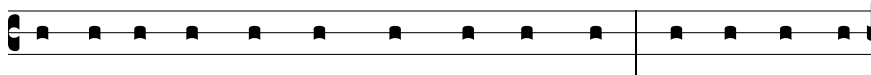
Speaker:



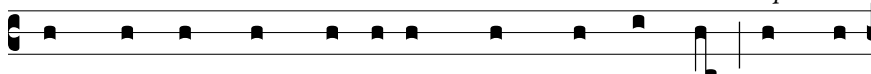
viled him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who would destroy



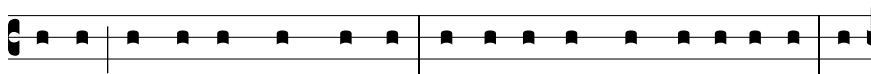
the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, if you are

Narrator:

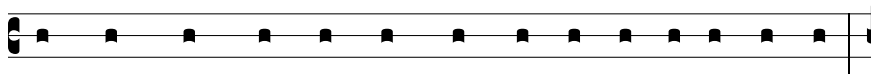
the Son of God, and come down from the cross!” Likewise the chief

Speaker:

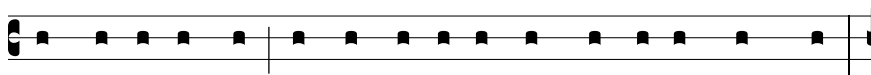
priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, “He saved



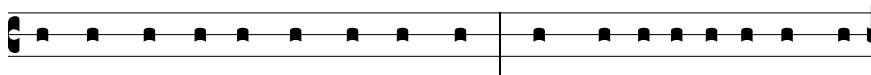
others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Is-ra-el! Let



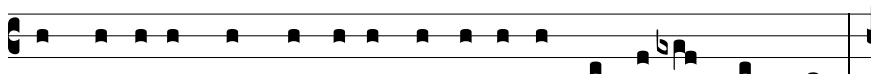
him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.



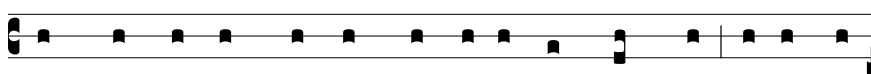
He trusted in God; let him de-liv-er him now if he wants him.

Narrator:

For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” The rev-o-lutionar-ies who



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



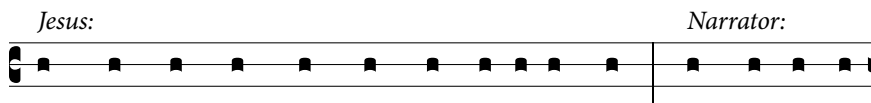
From noon onward, darkness came o-ver the whole land un-til three



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



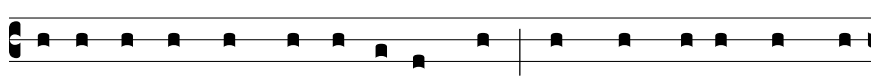
loud voice, “E-li, E-li, le-ma sabachthani?” which means,



“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Some of the by-



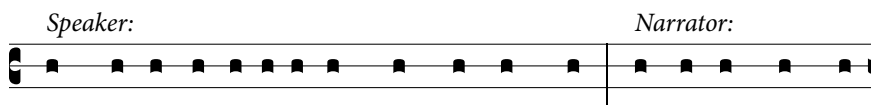
standers who heard it said, “This one is calling for E-lijah.” Immedi-



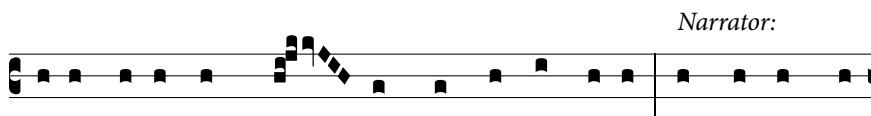
ately one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and



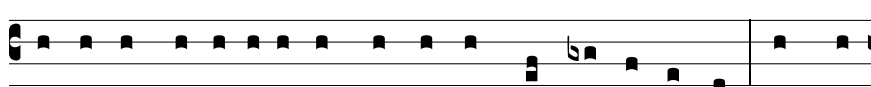
putting it on a reed, gave it to him to drink. But the rest said,



“Wait, let us see if E-li-jah comes to save him.” But Je-sus cried out



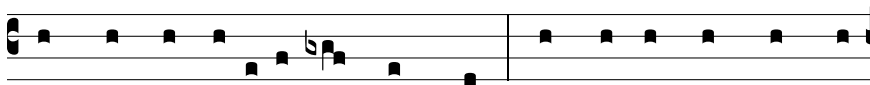
again in a loud voice, and gave up his spirit. And behold, the



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



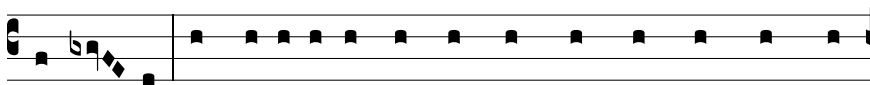
quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many



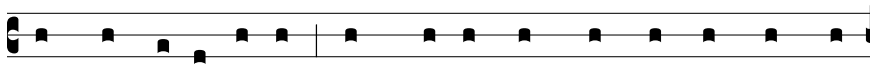
saints who had fallen a-sleep were raised. And coming forth from their



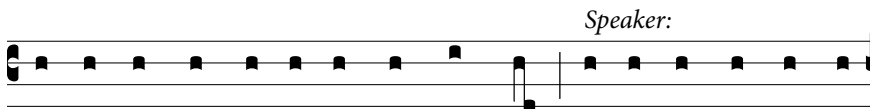
tombs af-ter his resurrection, they entered the ho-ly cit-y and appeared



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

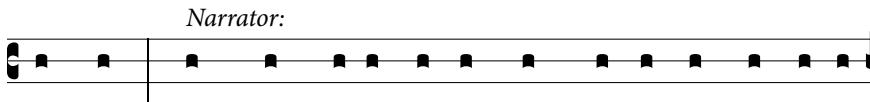


ing watch o-ver Je-sus feared greatly when they saw the earthquake



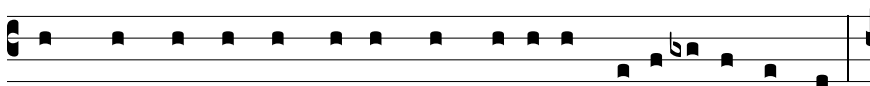
Speaker:

and all that was happening, and they said, "Truly, this was the Son



Narrator:

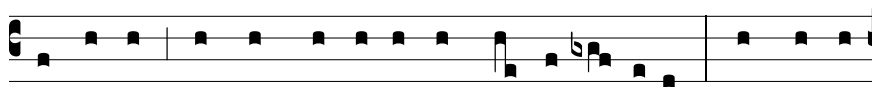
of God!" There were many women there, looking on from a dis-



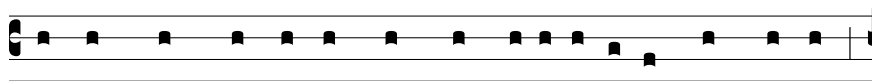
tance, who had followed Je-sus from Gal-i-lee, minis-tering to him.



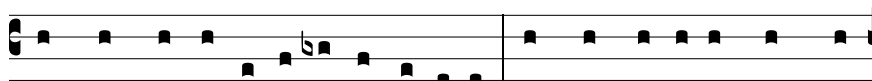
Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James



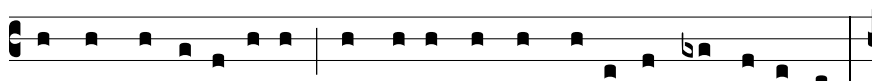
and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zeb-edee. When it was



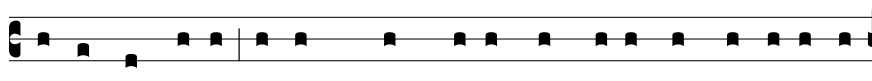
evening, there came a rich man from Ar-i-mathe-a named Joseph,



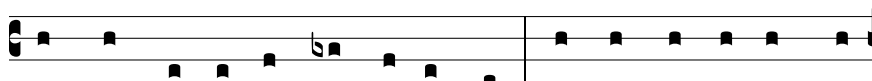
who was himself a dis-ci-ple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked



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



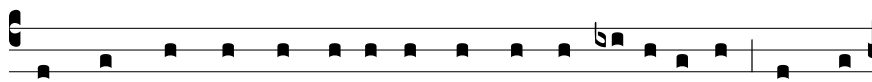
new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone



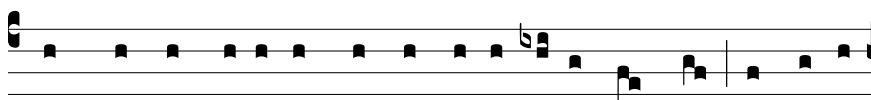
across the entrance to the tomb and depart-ed. But Mary Magdalene



and the other Mary remained sitting there, fac- ing the tomb.



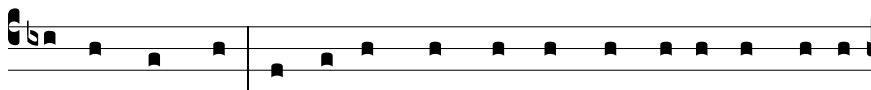
The next day, the one following the day of prepa-ration, the chief



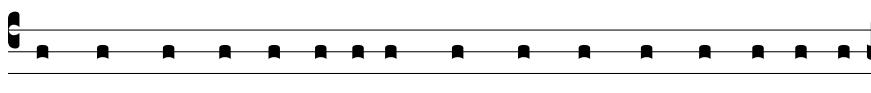
priests and the Phari-sees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we re-



member that this impostor while still a-live said, 'After three days I



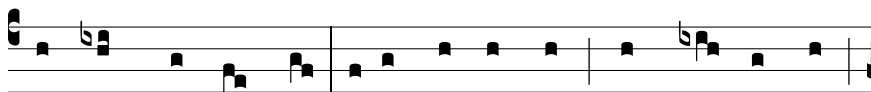
will be raised up.' Give orders, then, that the grave be secured un-til



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.