

CANTUS PASSIONIS O.P.
THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

N: NARRATOR

J: JESUS

S: SPEAKER

CR: CROWD



ATELIER ST. JACQUES
(Revised: March 6, 2020)

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

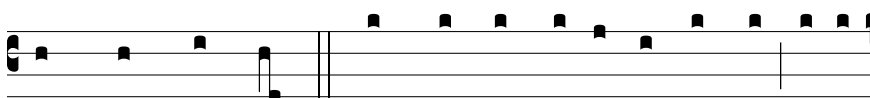
Mt 26:14—27:66



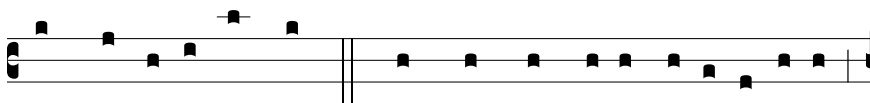
N: The Passion of our Lord Je-sus Christ according to Matthew.



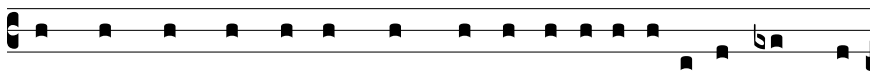
One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Is-car-i-ot, went to the



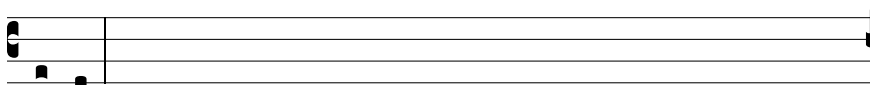
chief priests and said, S: "What are you willing to give me if I



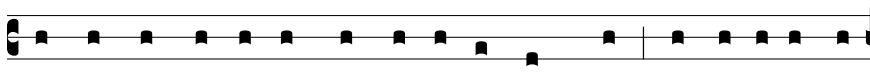
hand him o-ver to you?" N: They paid him thirty pieces of silver,



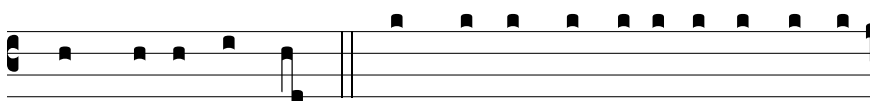
and from that time on he looked for an opportu-ni-ty to hand him



o-ver.



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



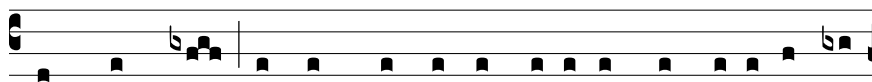
proached Je-sus and said, S: "Where do you want us to prepare for you



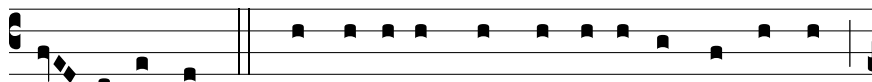
to eat the Passover?" *N:* He said, *J:* "Go in-to the cit-y



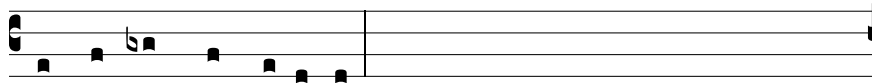
to a certain man and tell him, 'The teacher says, "My appointed



time draws near; in your house I shall cel-eb-rate the Passo-ver with



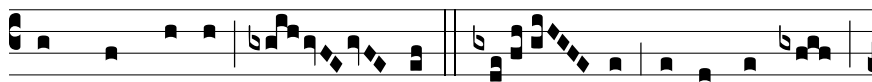
my dis-ciples.'"*N:* The dis-ciples then did as Je-sus had ordered,



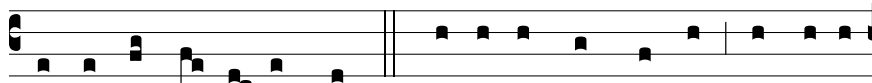
and prepared the Passo-ver.



When it was evening, he reclined at ta-ble with the Twelve. And while



they were eating, He said, *J:* "A- men, I say to you,



one of you will betray me." *N:* Deeply distressed at this, they began



to say to him one af-ter another, *S:* "Surely it is not I, Lord?"



N: He said in reply, *J:* "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



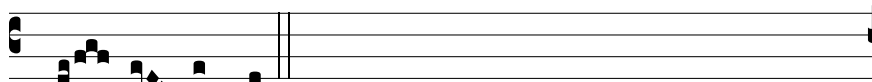
whom the Son of Man is betrayed. It would be better for that



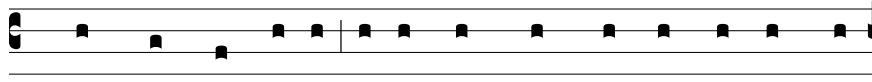
man if he had never been born." *N:* Then Judas, his betrayer, said



in re-ply, *S:* "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" *N:* He an- swered,



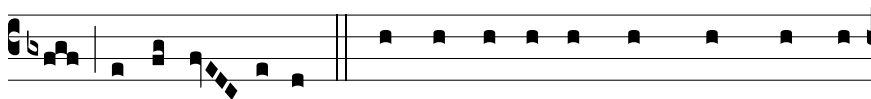
J: "You have said so."



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



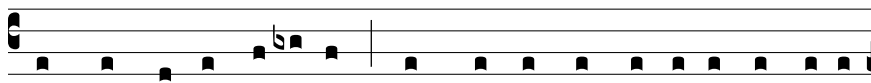
it, and giving it to his dis-ci- ples said, *J:* "Take and



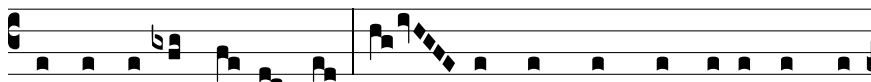
eat; this is my body." N: Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave



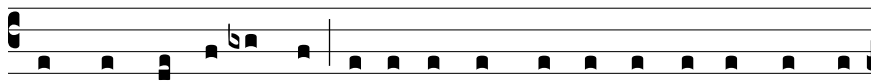
it to them, saying, *J*: “Drink from it, all of you, for this is



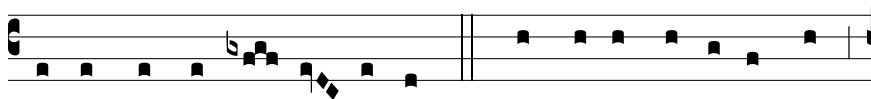
my blood of the cov-enant, which will be shed on behalf of many



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



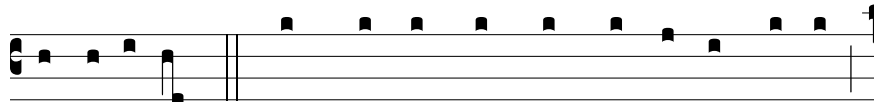
your faith in me shaken, for it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd,



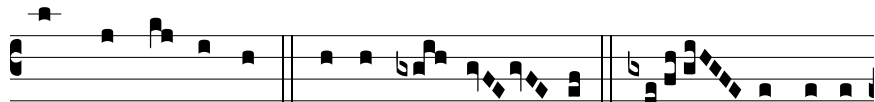
and the sheep of the flock will be dispersed) but af-ter I have



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



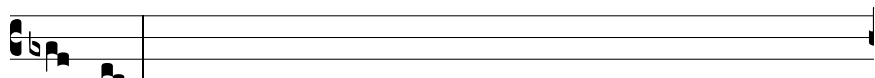
to you, this ver-y night before the cock crows, you will de-ny me



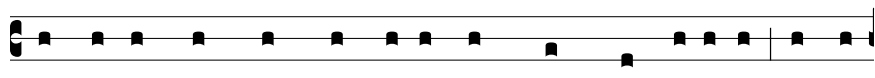
three times." N: Peter said to him, S: "Even though I should have to



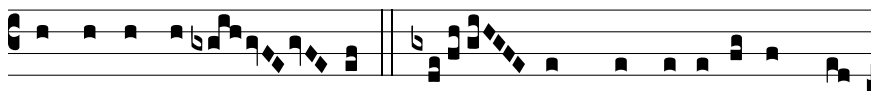
die with you, I will not de-ny you." N: And all the dis-ciples spoke



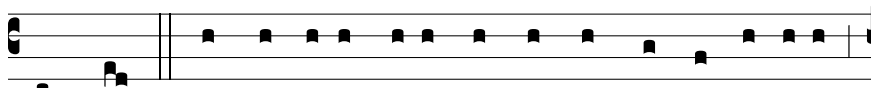
likewise.



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,



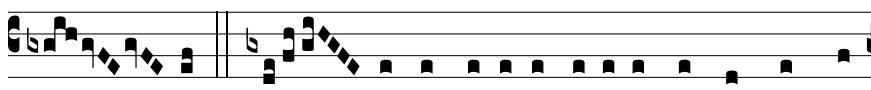
and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them,



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,



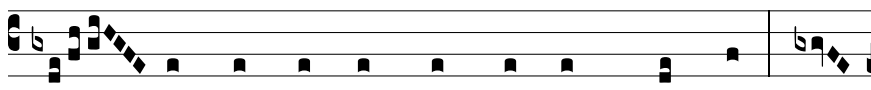
say- ing, J: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass



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,



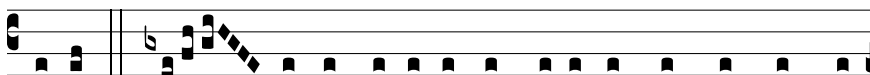
J: "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch



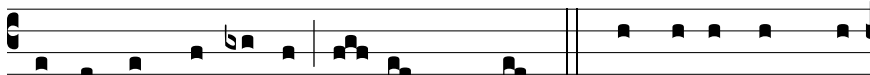
and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but



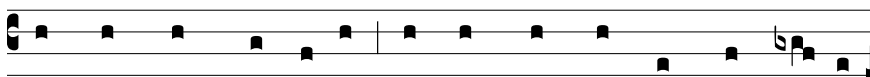
the flesh is weak." *N*: Withdrawing a second time, he prayed



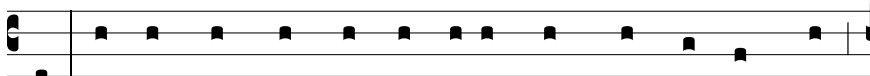
again, *J*: "My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass



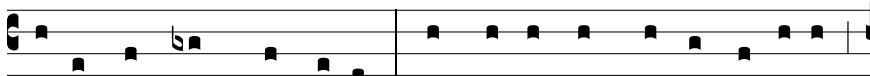
without my drinking it, your will be done!" *N*: Then he returned once



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



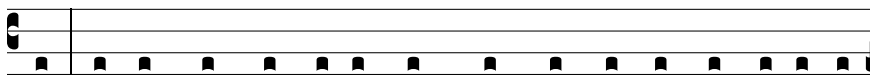
pen. He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time,



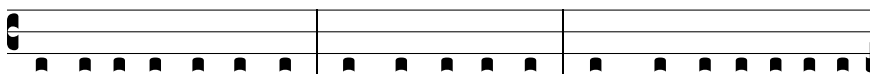
saying the same thing again. Then he returned to his disciples



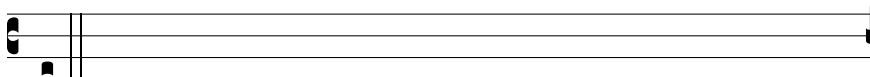
and said to them, *J*: "Are you still sleeping and taking your



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



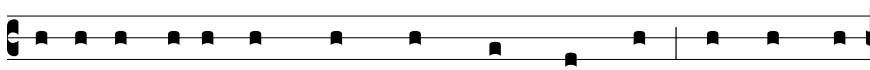
handed o-ver to sinners. Get up, let us go. Look, my betrayer is at



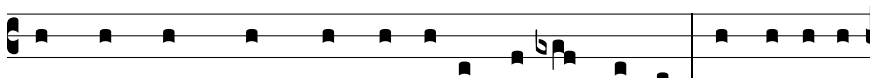
hand.”



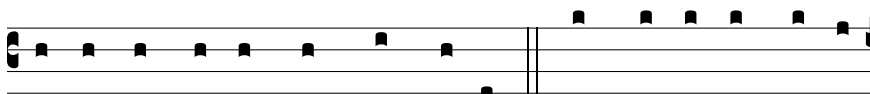
N: While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, ac-



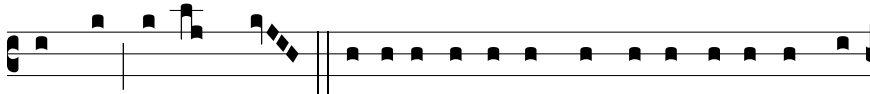
panied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs, who had come



from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer



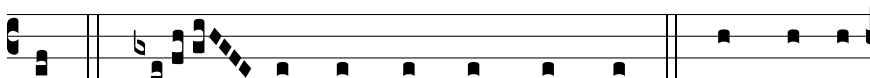
had arranged a sign with them, saying, *S:* “The man I shall kiss is



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



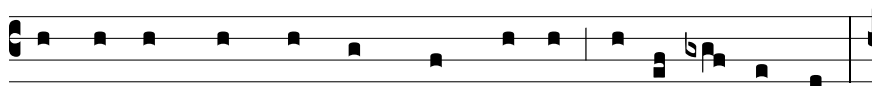
him, *J:* “Friend, do what you have come for.” *N:* Then stepping



forward they laid hands on Je-sus and ar-rest-ed him. And behold,



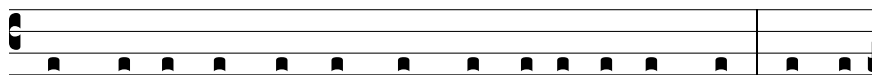
one of those who accompanied Je-sus put his hand to his sword,



drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear.



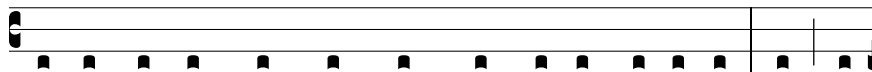
Then Je-sus said to him, J: "Put your sword back in-to its



sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you



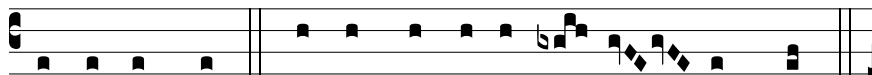
think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me



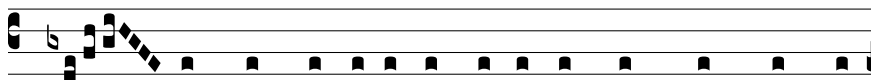
at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels? But then



how would the Scriptures be fulfilled which say that it must come to



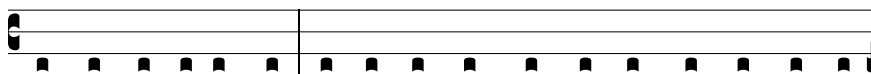
pass in this way?" N: At that hour Je-sus said to the crowds,



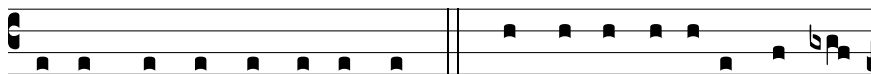
J: "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs



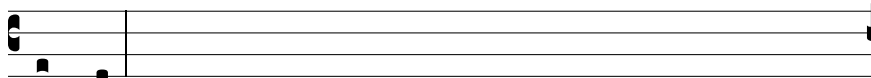
to seize me? Day af-ter day I sat teaching in the temple ar-e-a, yet



you did not arrest me. But all this has come to pass that the writings



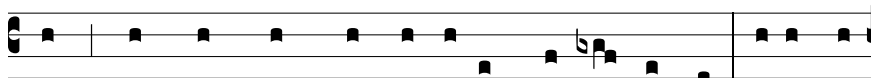
of the prophets may be fulfilled." N: Then all the dis-ciples left him



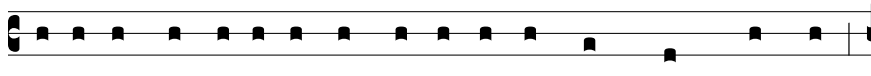
and fled.



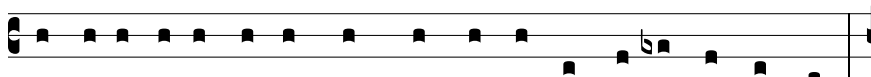
Those who had arrested Je-sus led him a-way to Cai-aphas the high



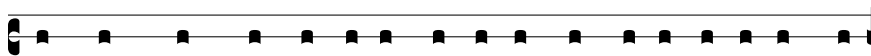
priest, where the scribes and the elders were as-sembled. Peter was



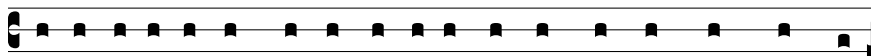
following him at a distance as far as the high priest's courtyard,



and going inside he sat down with the servants to see the outcome.



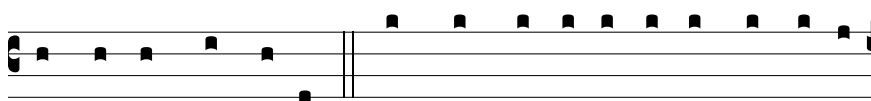
The chief priests and the entire Sanhedrin kept trying to obtain false



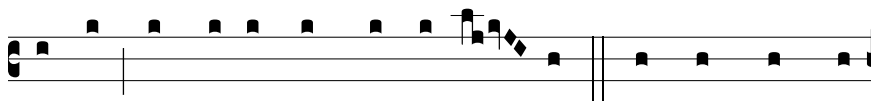
tes-ti-mony against Je-sus in order to put him to death, but they



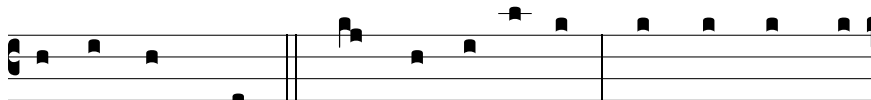
found none, though many false witnesses came forward. Final-ly two



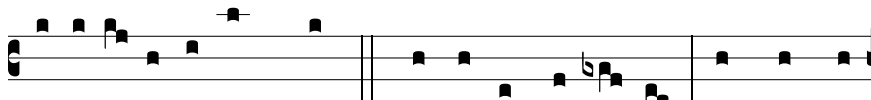
came forward who stated, S: "This man said, 'I can destroy the temple



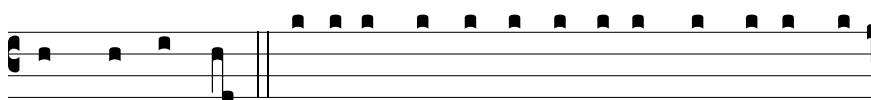
of God and within three days rebuild it." N: The high priest rose



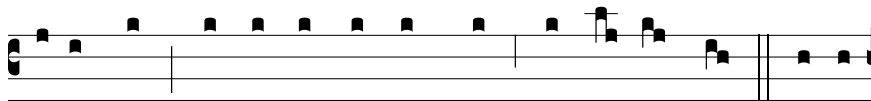
and addressed him, S: "Have you no answer? What are these men



tes-ti-fy-ing against you?" N: But Je-sus was si-lent. Then the high



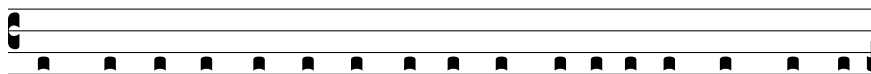
priest said to him, S: "I order you to tell us under oath before the



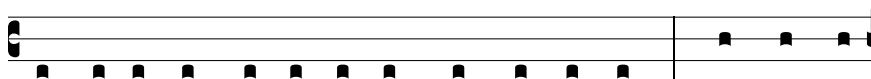
living God whether you are the Christ, the Son of God." N: Je-sus



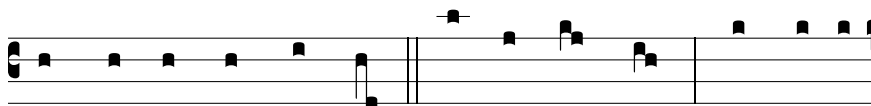
said to him in reply, J: "You have said so. But I tell you:



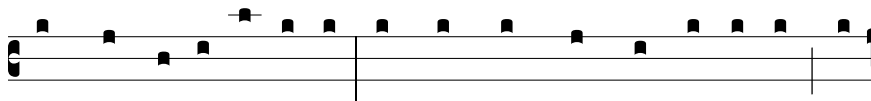
From now on you will see 'the Son of Man seated at the right hand of



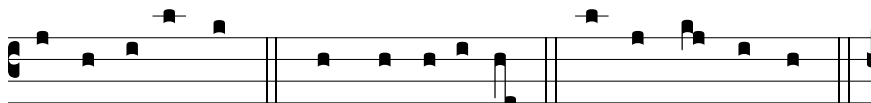
the Power' and 'coming on the clouds of heaven.'" N: Then the high



priest tore his robes and said, S: "He has blasphemed! What further



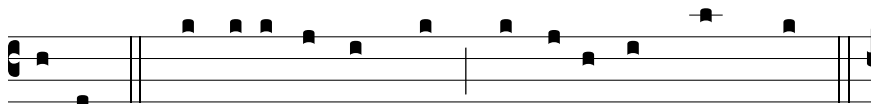
need have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what



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,



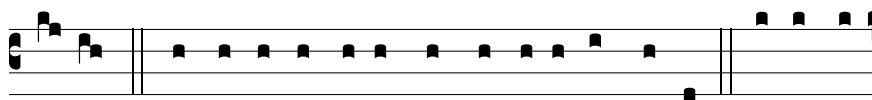
saying, S: "Prophe-sy for us, Christ: who is it that struck you?"



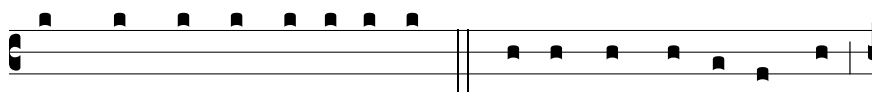
N: Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids



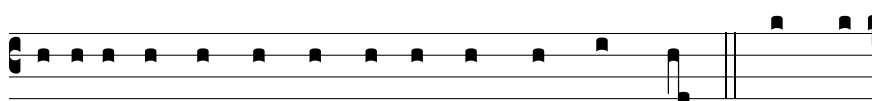
came o-ver to him and said, S: "You too were with Je-sus the Gal-i-



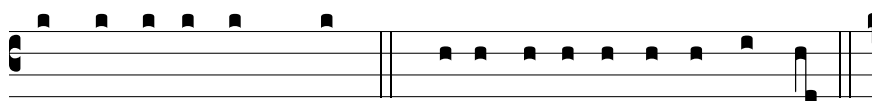
le-an." N: But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, S: "I do not



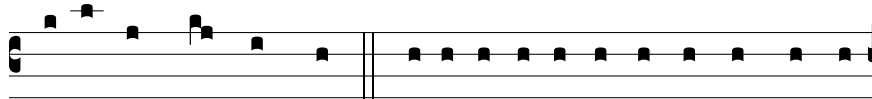
know what you are talking about!" N: As he went out to the gate,



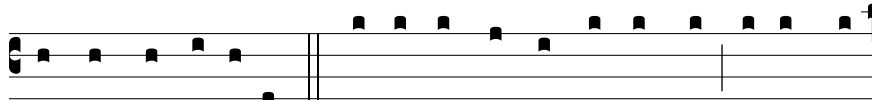
another girl saw him and said to those who were there, S: "This man



was with Je-sus the Nazorean." N: Again he denied it with an oath,



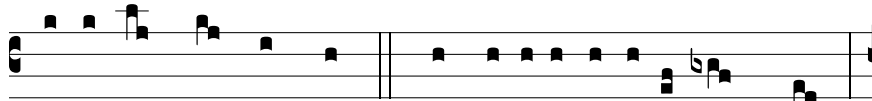
S: "I do not know the man!" N: A lit-tle lat-er the bystanders came o-



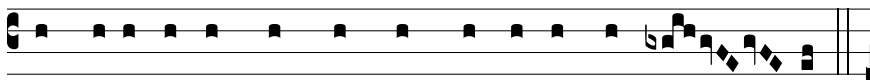
ver and said to Peter, S: "Surely you too are one of them; e-ven your



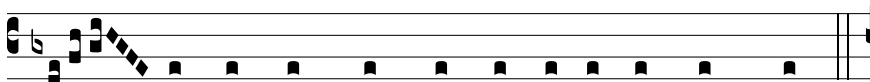
speech gives you away." N: At that he began to curse and to swear,



S: "I do not know the man." N: And immedi-ate-ly a cock crowed.



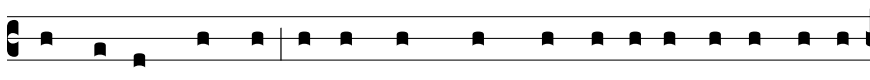
Then Peter remembered the word that Je-sus had spo- ken:



J: "Be- fore the cock crows you will de-ny me three times."



N: He went out and began to weep bitter-ly.



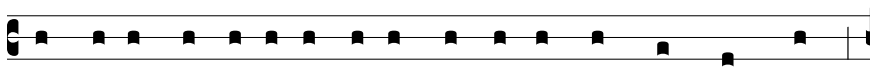
When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people



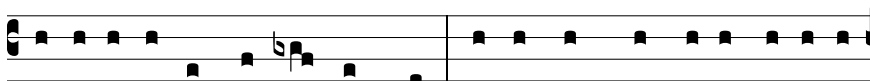
took counsel against Je-sus to put him to death. They bound him, led



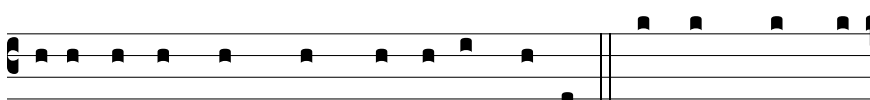
him away, and handed him o-ver to Pilate, the gov-ernor.



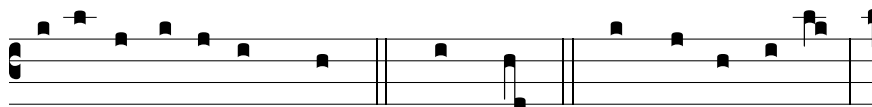
Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that Je-sus had been condemned,



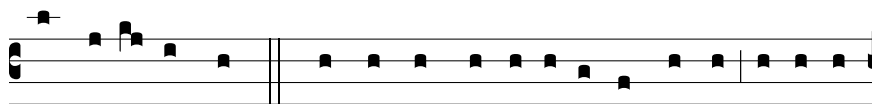
deeply regretted what he had done. He returned the thirty pieces of



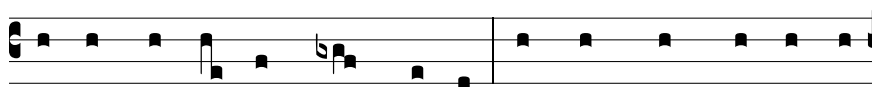
silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, S: "I have sinned in



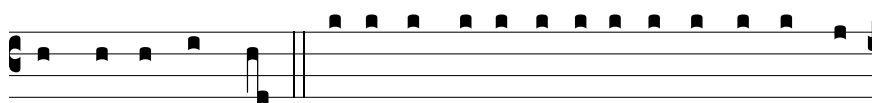
betraying in-nocent blood.” N: They said, S: “What is that to us?



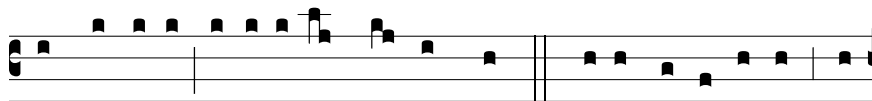
Look to it yourself.” N: Flinging the money in-to the temple, he depart-



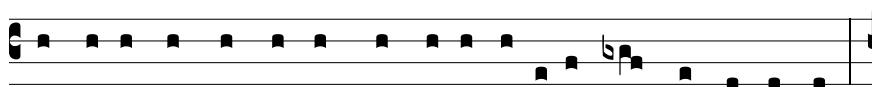
ed and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up



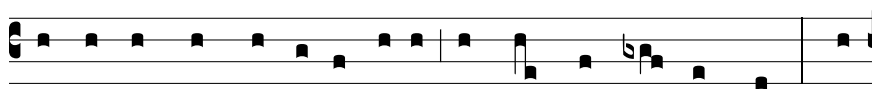
the money, but said, S: “It is not lawful to depos-it this in the tem-



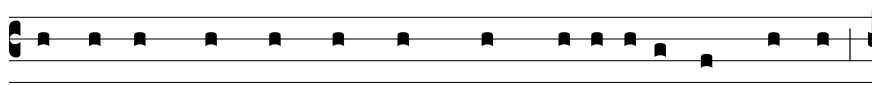
ple treasur-y, for it is the price of blood.” N: After consul-tation, they



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.



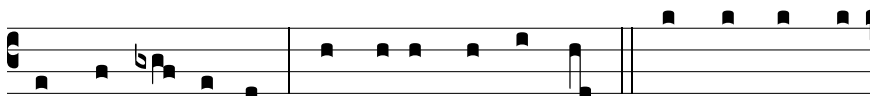
Now Je-sus stood before the governor, and he questioned him,



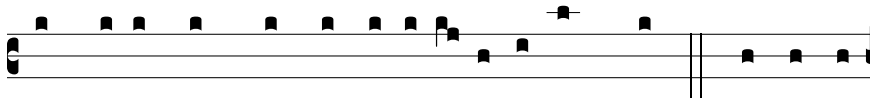
N: "Are you the king of the Jews?" Je- sus said, J: "You say



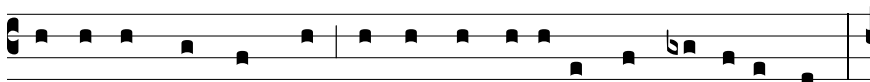
so." N: And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders,



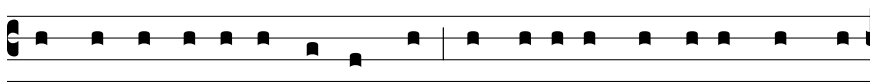
he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, S: "Do you not hear



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



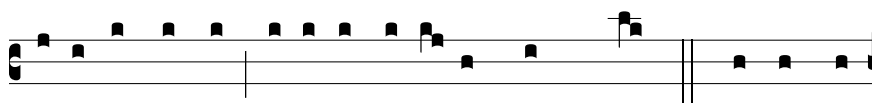
release to the crowd one prison-er whom they wished. And at that



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



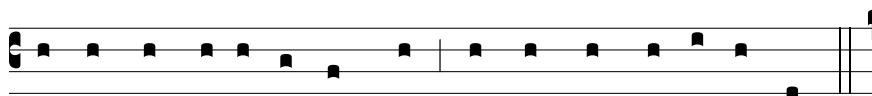
had assembled, Pilate said to them, S: "Which one do you want me



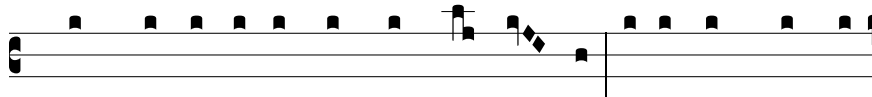
to release to you, Barabbas, or Je-sus called Christ?" N: For he knew



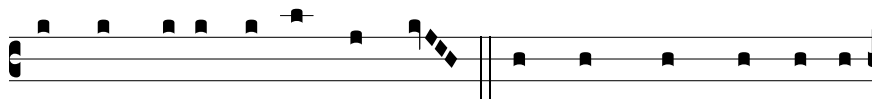
that it was out of en-vy that they had handed him o-ver. While



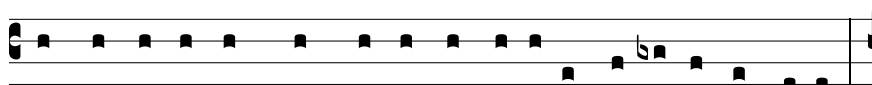
he was still seated on the bench, his wife sent him a message,



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



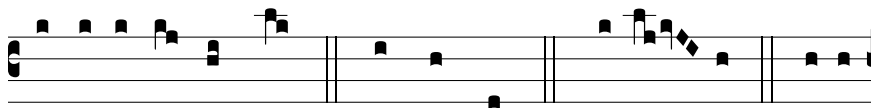
a dream today because of him." N: The chief priests and the el-



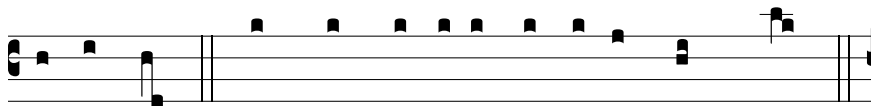
ders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to destroy Jesus.



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



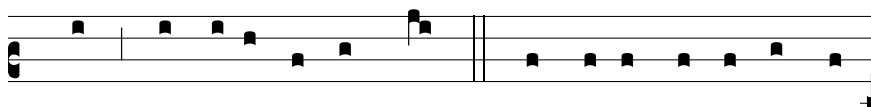
me to release to you?" N: They answered, C: "Barab- bas!" N: Pilate



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



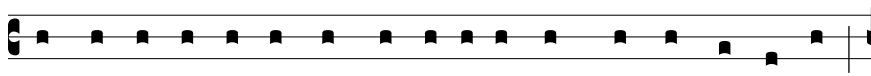
N: They all said, C: "Let him be cru- ci- fied!" N: But he said,



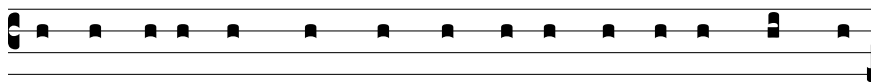
S: "Why? What e-vil has he done?" N: They on-ly shouted the loud-



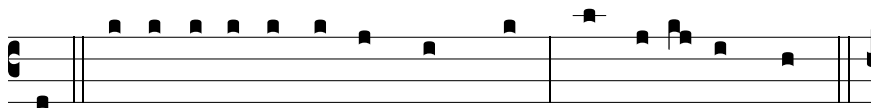
er, C: "Let him be cru- ci- fied!" N: When Pilate saw that he was



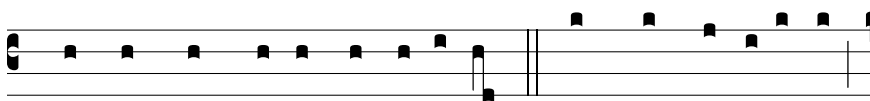
not succeeding at all, but that a ri-ot was breaking out instead,



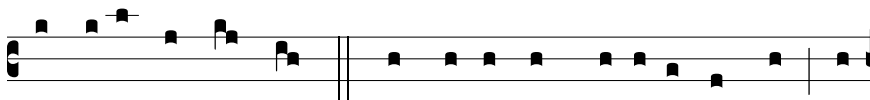
he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, say-



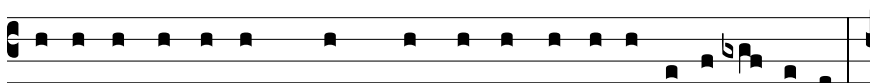
ing, S: "I am in-nocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves."



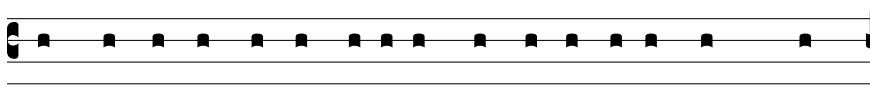
N: And the whole people said in re-ply, C: "His blood be upon us



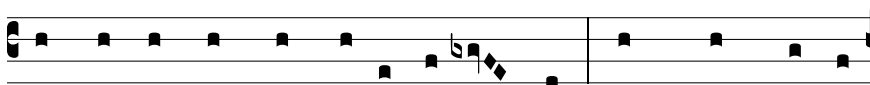
and upon our children." N: Then he released Barabbas to them, but



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



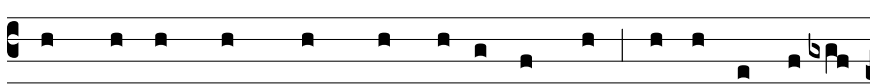
Then the soldiers of the governor took Je-sus inside the praetorium



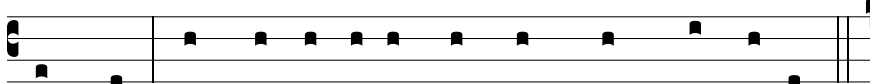
and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his



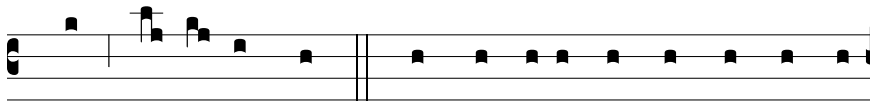
clothes and threw a scarlet mil-i-tar-y cloak about him. Weaving a



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



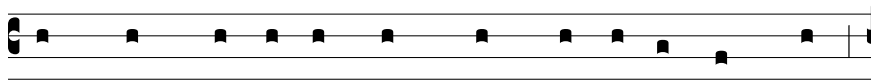
right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,



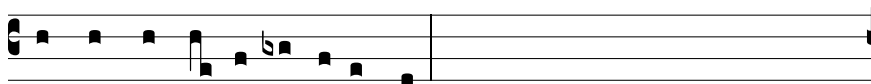
S: "Hail, King of the Jews!" N: They spat upon him and took the reed



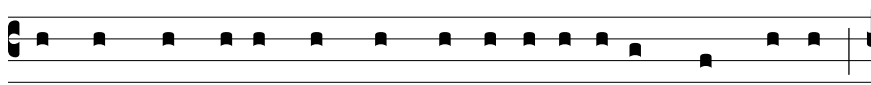
and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him,



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;



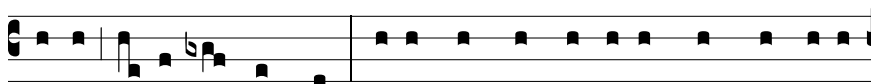
this man they pressed in-to service to carry his cross. And when they



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 tast-



ed it, he refused to drink. After they had cru-cified him, they divid-



ed his garments by casting lots; then they sat down and kept watch



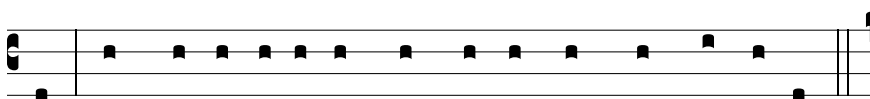
o-ver him there. And they placed o-ver his head the written charge



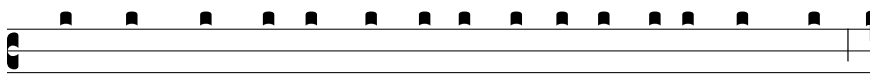
against him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews. Two rev-o-lutionar-



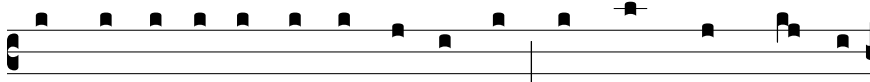
ies were cru-cified with him, one on his right and the oth-er on his



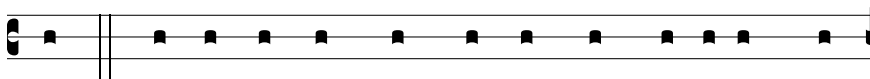
left. Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,



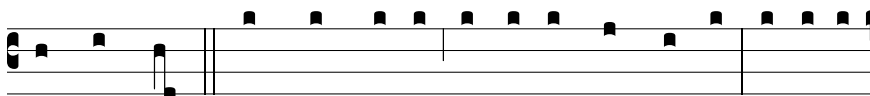
S: "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,



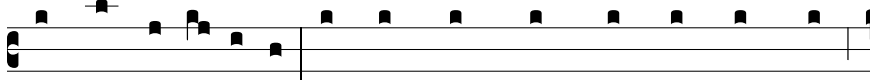
save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the



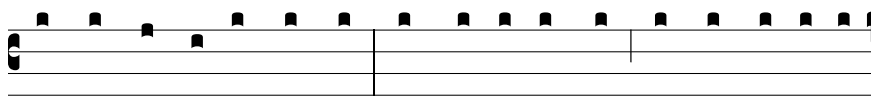
cross!" N: Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked



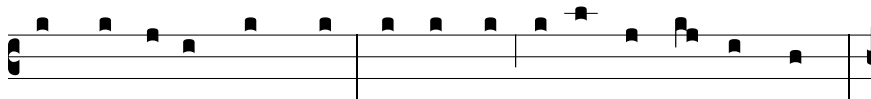
him and said, S: "He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is



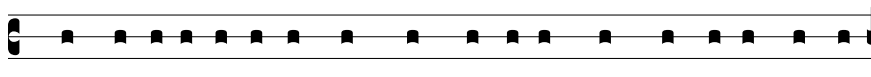
the king of Is- ra-el! Let him come down from the cross now,



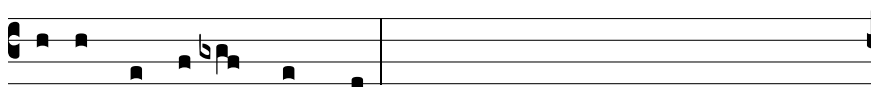
and we will believe in him. He trusted in God; let him de-liv-er



him now if he wants him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"



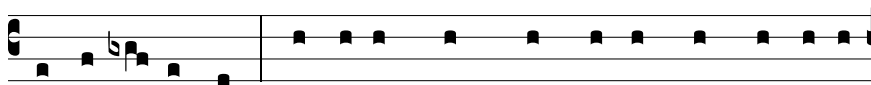
N: The rev-o-lutionar-ies who were cru-cified with him al-so kept a-



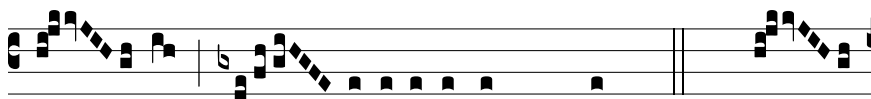
busing him in the same way.



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



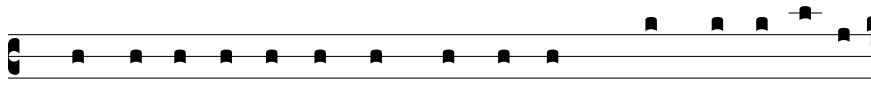
in the af-ternoon. And about three o'clock Je-sus cried out in a



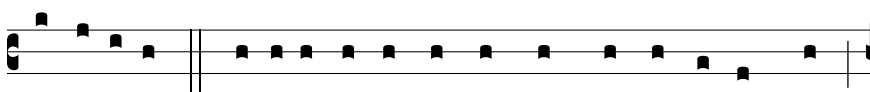
loud voice, J: "E- li, E-li, le-ma sabachthani?" N: which



means, J: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"



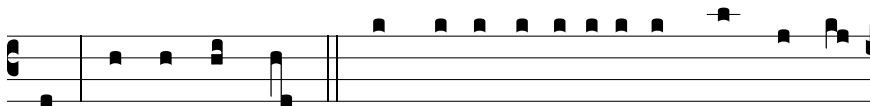
N: Some of the bystanders who heard it said, S: "This one is calling



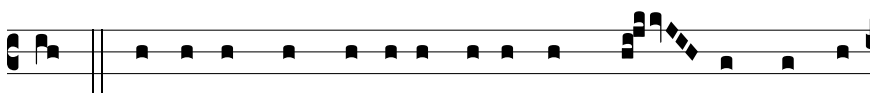
for E-lijah.” N: Immedi-ate-ly one of them ran to get a sponge;



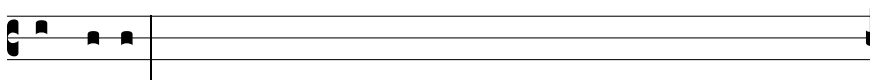
he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to him to



drink. But the rest said, S: “Wait, let us see if E-li-jah comes to save

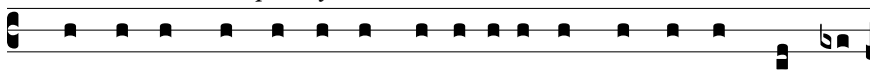


him.” N: But Je-sus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up

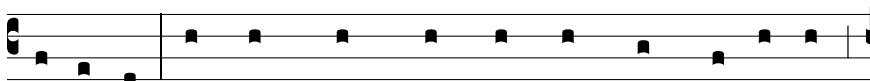


his spirit.

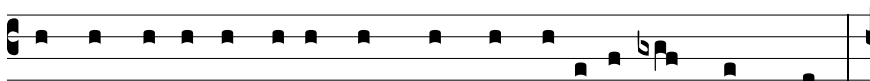
Here all kneel and pause for a short time.



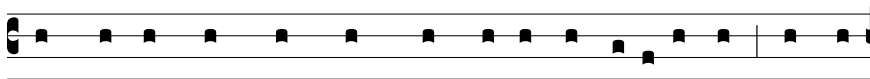
N: And behold, the veil of the sanctu-ar-y was torn in two from top



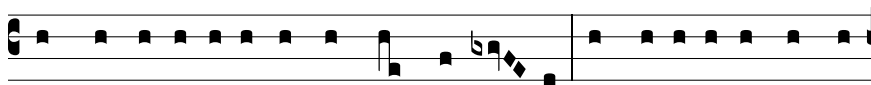
to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened,



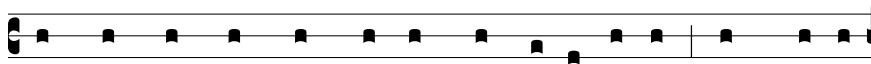
and the bodies of many saints who had fallen a-sleep were raised.



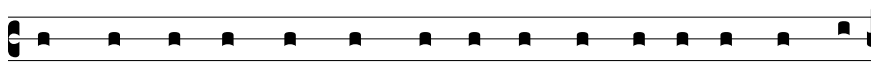
And coming forth from their tombs af-ter his resurrection, they en-



tered the ho-ly cit-y and appeared to man- y. The centu-ri-on and the



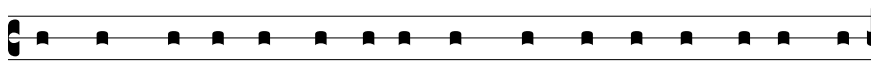
men with him who were keeping watch o-ver Je-sus feared greatly



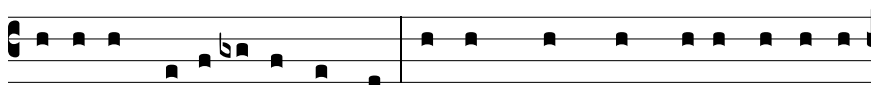
when they saw the earthquake and all that was happening, and they



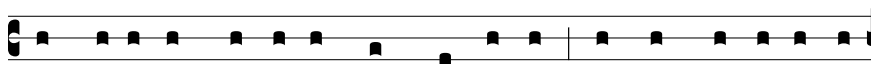
said, S: "Truly, this was the Son of God!" N: There were many wom-



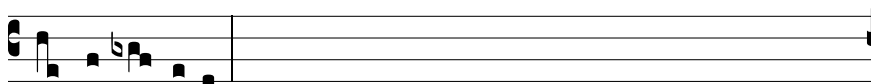
en there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Je-sus from



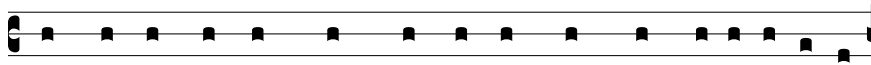
Gal-i-lee, minis-tering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene



and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the



sons of Zeb-edee.



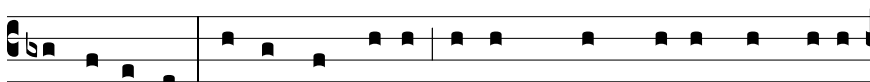
When it was evening, there came a rich man from Ar-i-mathe-a



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



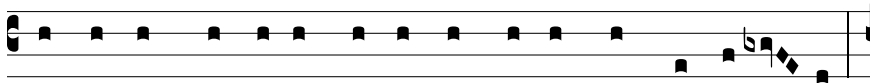
Pilate and asked for the bod-y of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be



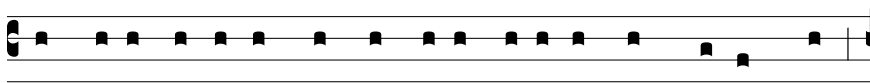
handed o-ver. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen



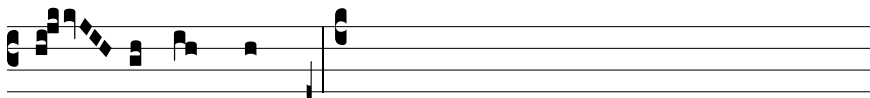
and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he



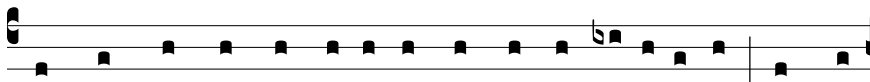
rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and depart-ed.



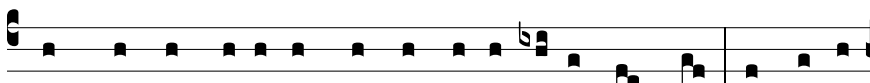
But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there,



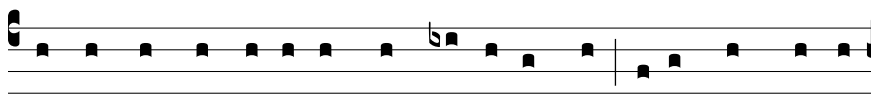
fac- ing the tomb.



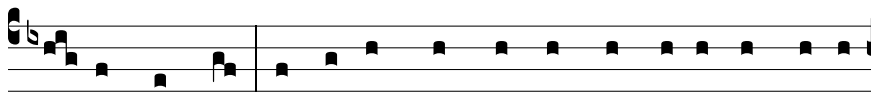
The next day, the one following the day of prepa-ration, the chief



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



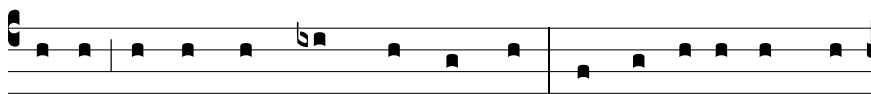
member that this impostor while still a-live said, 'After three days I



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.