

Holy Thursday

AT MATINS

FIRST NOCTURN

FIRST READING: LAMENTATIONS

A reading from the Lamentations of Jer-emi-ah the Prophet.

ALEPH . How sol-i-tar-y sits the cit-y, once filled with peo-ple.

She who was great among the nations is now like a wid-ow.

Once a princess among the prov-inces, now a toil-ing slave.

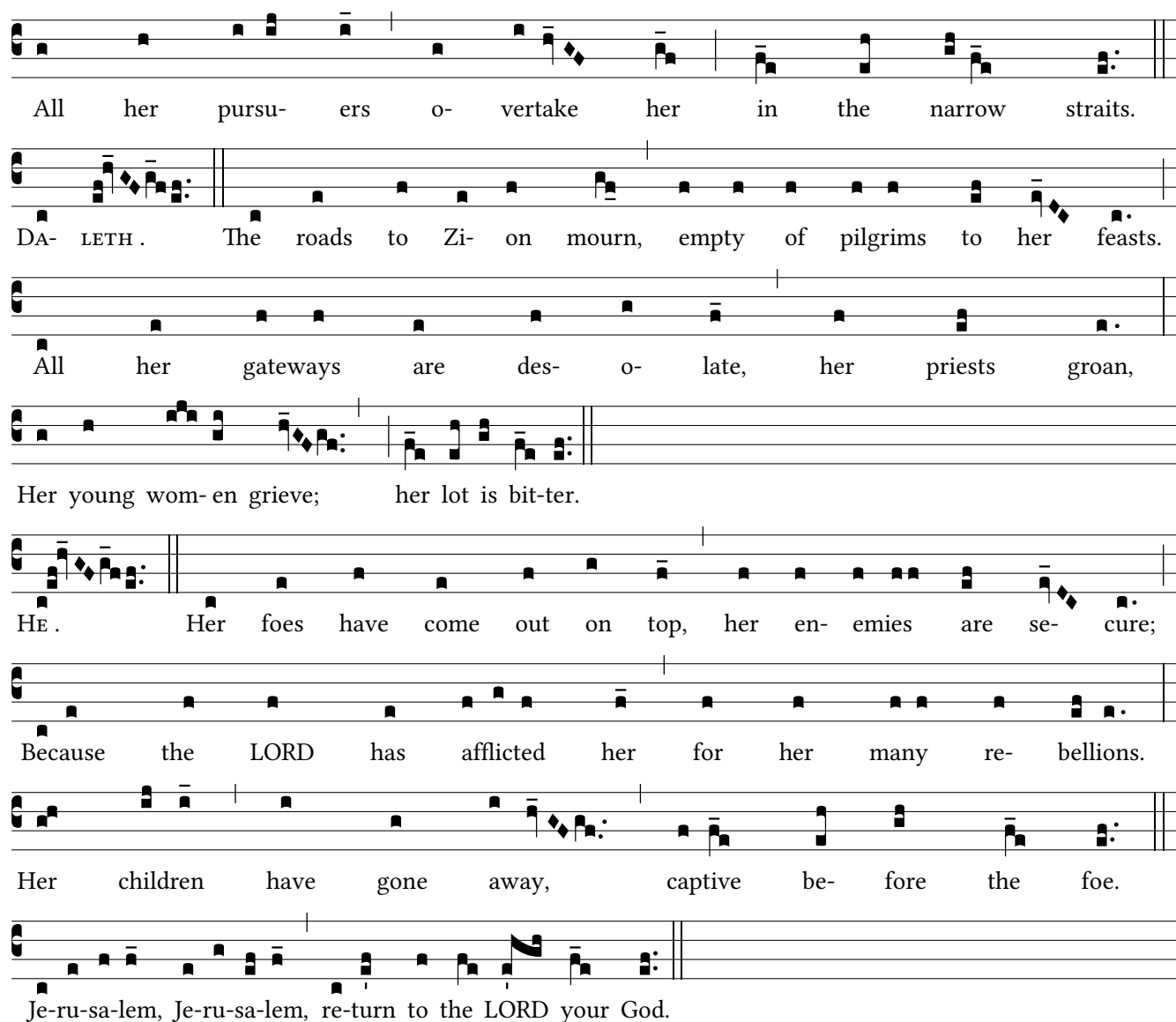
BETH . She weeps incessantly in the night, her cheeks damp with tears.

She has no one to comfort her from all her lov-ers;

Her friends have all betrayed her, and be-come her en-emies.

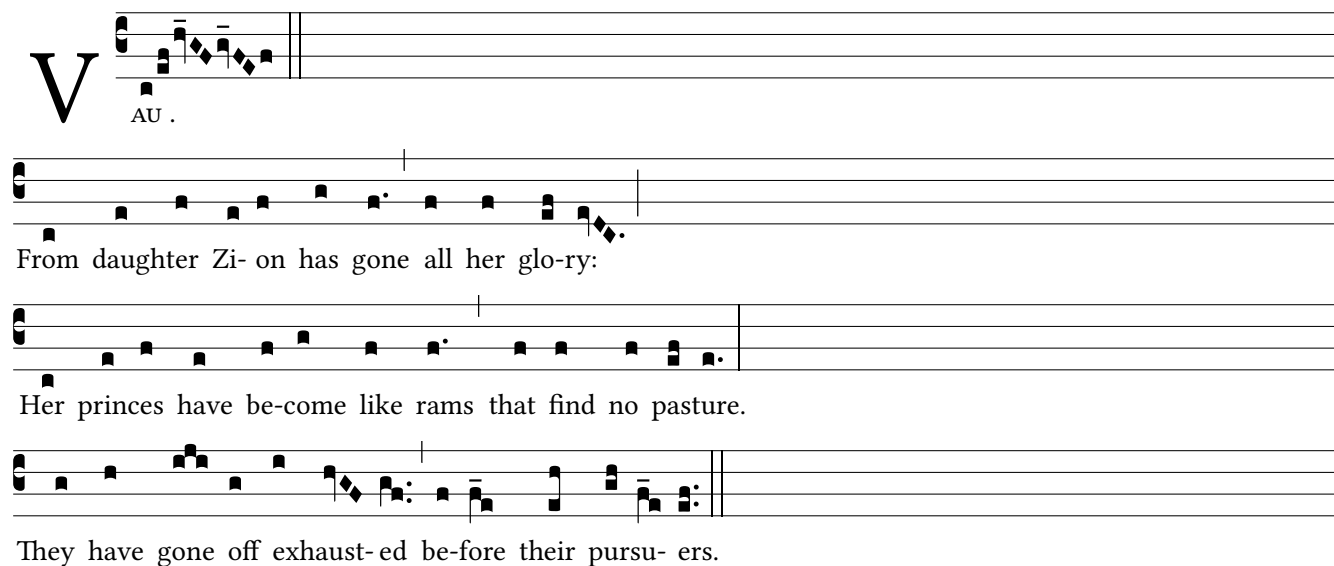
GHIMEL . Ju-dah has gone into ex-ile, after oppression and harsh la-bor;

She dwells among the nations, yet finds no rest:



All her pursu- ers o- vertake her in the narrow straits.
 DA- LETH . The roads to Zi- on mourn, empty of pilgrims to her feasts.
 All her gateways are des- o- late, her priests groan,
 Her young wom- en grieve; her lot is bit- ter.
 HE . Her foes have come out on top, her en- emies are se- cure;
 Because the LORD has afflicted her for her many re- bellions.
 Her children have gone away, captive be- fore the foe.
 Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa-lem, re- turn to the LORD your God.

SECOND READING: LAMENTATIONS



V
 AU .
 From daughter Zi- on has gone all her glo- ry:
 Her princes have be- come like rams that find no pasture.
 They have gone off exhaust- ed be- fore their pursu- ers.

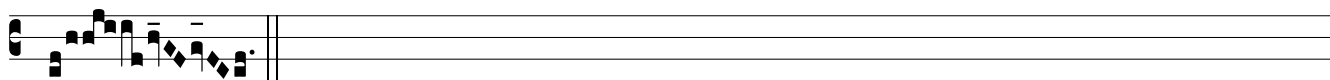
ZA- IN . Je-ru-sa-lem remembers in days of wretched homelessness,
 All the precious things she once had in days gone by.
 But when her people fell into the hands of the foe, and she had no help,
 Her foes looked on and laughed at her col-lapse.
 HETH . Je-ru-sa-lem has sinned grievously, therefore she has be-come a mocker- y;
 Those who honored her now demean her, for they saw her na-kedness;
 She herself groans out loud, and turns away.
 TETH . Her uncleanness is on her skirt; she has no thought of her fu- ture.
 Her downfall is aston-ishing, with no one to comfort her.
 "Look, O LORD, at my mis- er-y; how the en-emy tri- umphs!" Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa-lem, re-turn to
 the LORD your God.

THIRD READING: LAMENTATIONS

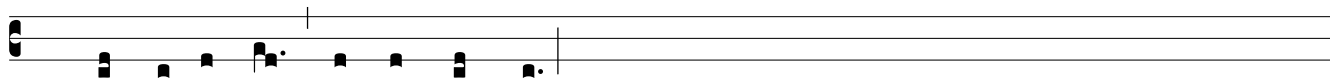
J OD. The foe stretched out his hands to all her precious things;
 She has seen the nations enter her sanctu- ar-y,



Those you forbade to come into your assembly.



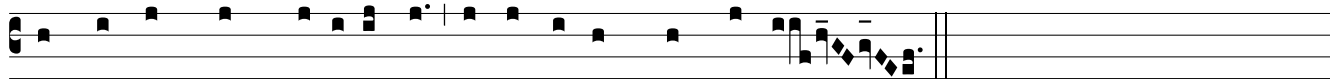
CAPH .



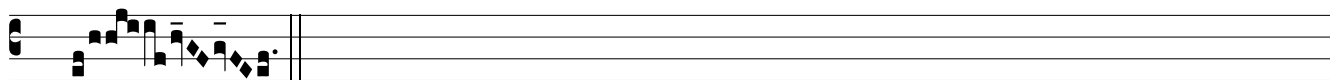
All her people groan, searching for bread;



They give their precious things for food, to re-tain the breath of life.“



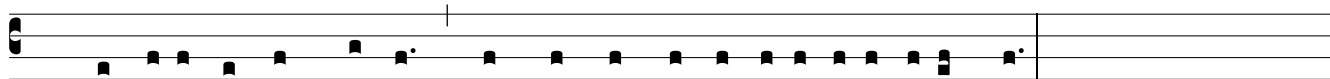
Look, O LORD, and pay attention to how I have been demeaned!



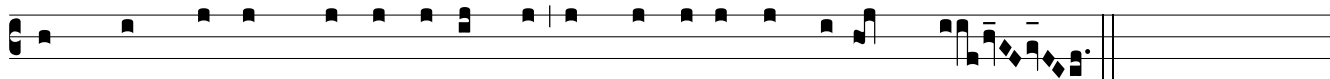
LAMED .



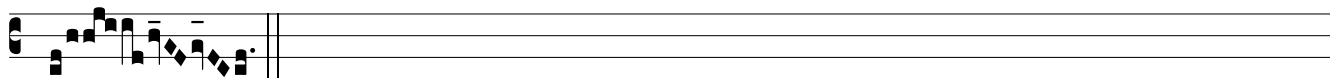
Come, all who pass by the way, pay attention and see:



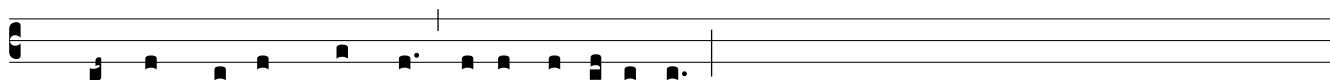
Is there any pain like my pain, which has been ruthlessly inflicted upon me,



With which the LORD has tormented me on the day of his blazing wrath?



MEM .



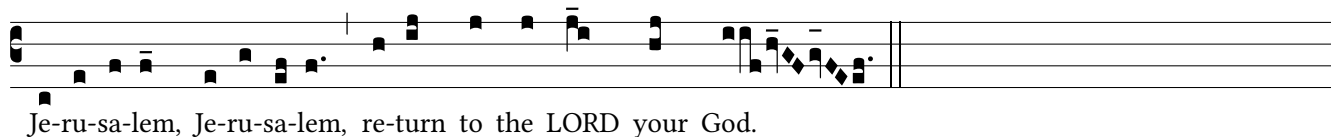
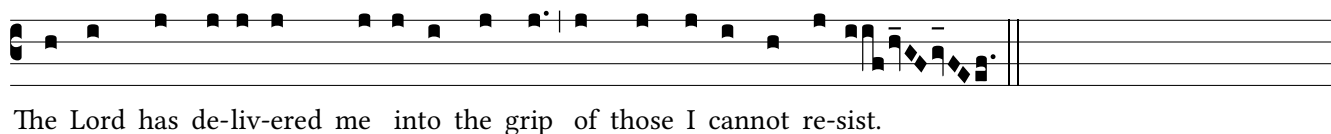
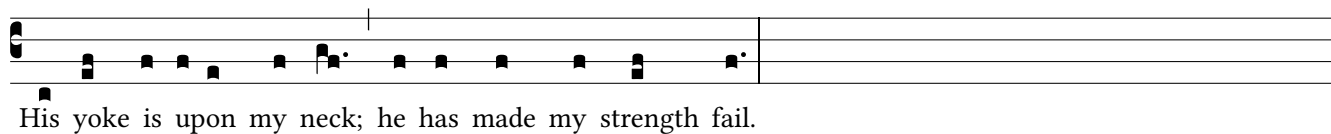
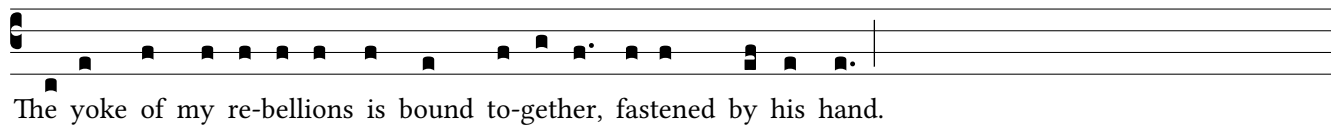
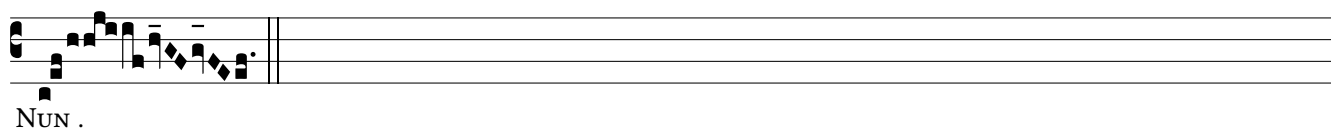
From on high he hurled fire down into my ver-y bones;



He spread out a net for my feet, and turned me back.



He has left me des-o-late, in mis-er-y all day long.



Good Friday

AT MATINS

FIRST NOCTURN

FIRST READING: LAMENTATIONS

A reading from the Lamentations of Jer-emi-ah the Proph-et.

HETH. The LORD was bent on destroy-ing the wall of daughter Zi-on:

He stretched out the measur-ing line; * did not hes-i-tate to devour,

Brought grief on rampart and wall till both succumbed.

TETH.

Her gates sank into the ground; he smashed her bars to bits.

Her king and her princes are among the nations; instruction is wanting,

E-ven her prophets do not obtain any vision from the LORD.

JOD.

The elders of daughter Zi- on sit si-lently on the ground;

They cast dust on their heads and dress in sackcloth;

The young women of Je-ru-sa-lem bow their heads to the ground.

CAPH .

My eyes are spent with tears, my stomach churns;

* My bile is poured out on the ground at the bro-kenness of the daughter of my people,

As children and infants col-lapse in the streets of the town.

Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa-lem, re-turn to the LORD your God.

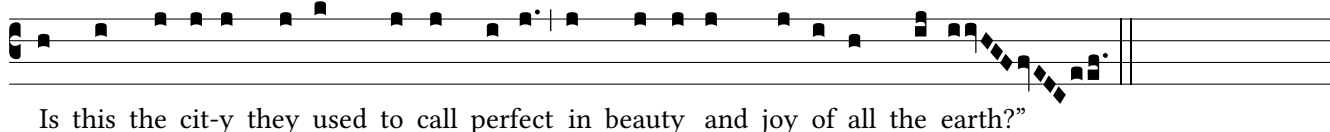
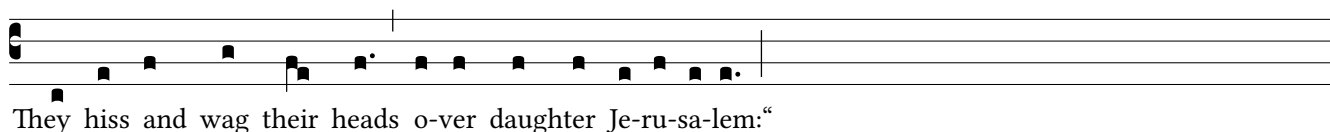
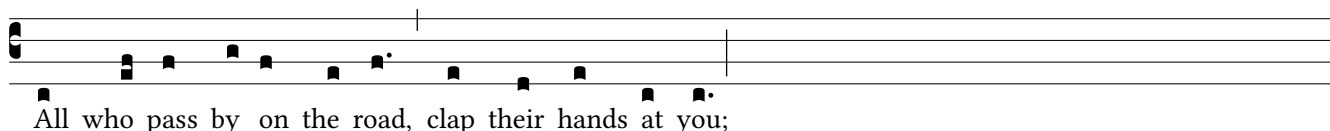
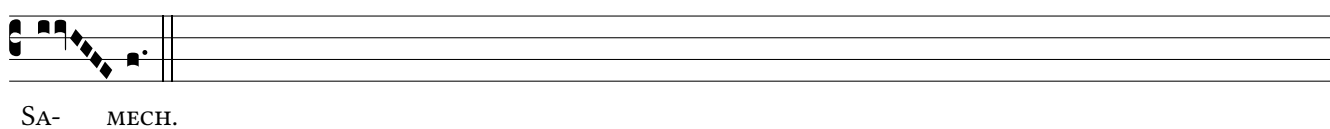
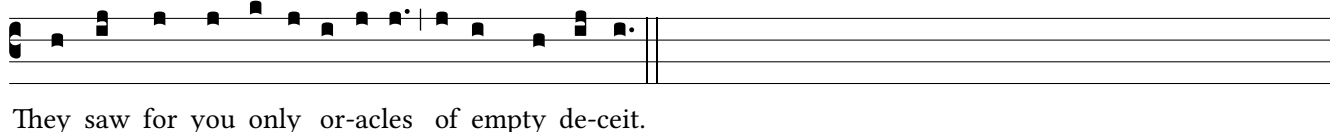
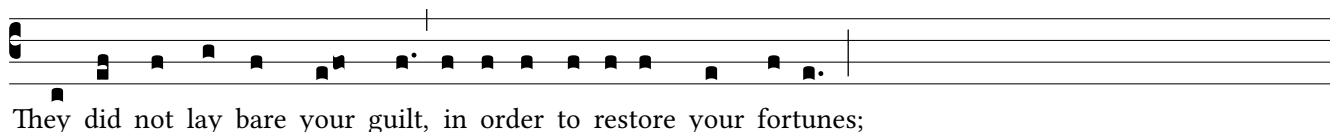
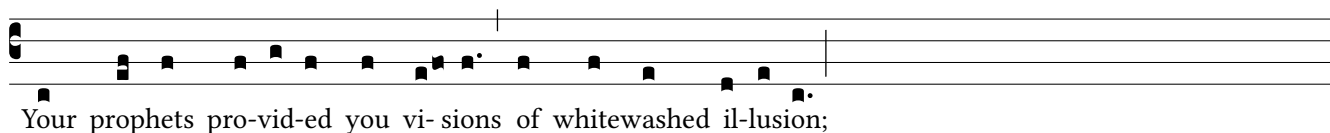
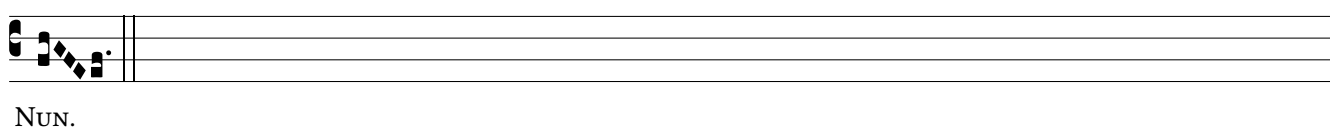
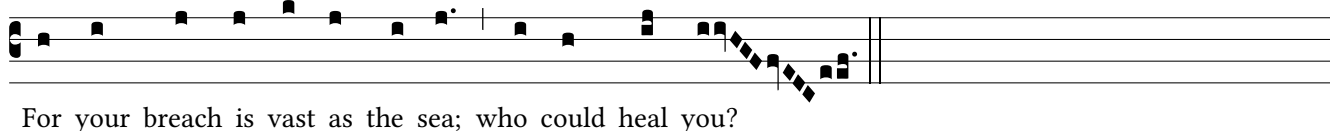
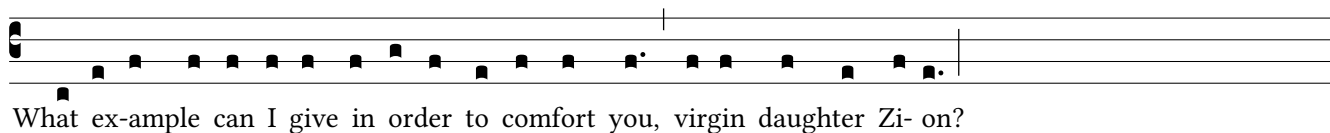
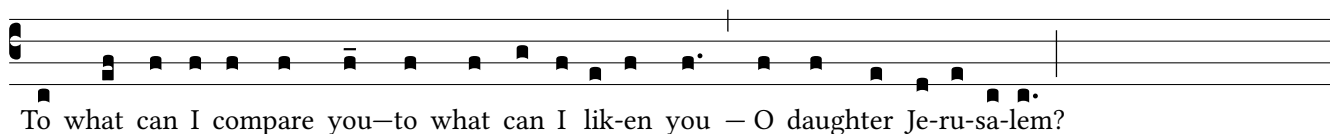
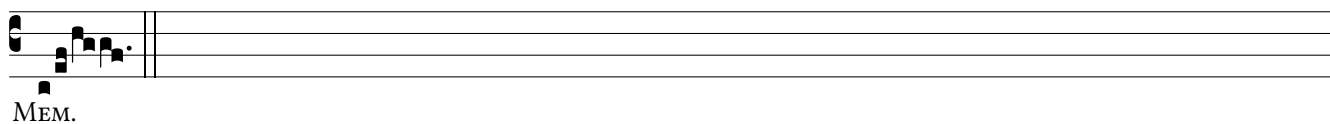
SECOND READING: LAMENTATIONS

L AMED.

They cry out to their mothers, "Where is bread and wine?"

As they faint away like the wounded in the streets of the cit-y,

As their life is poured out in their mothers' arms.



THIRD READING: LAMENTATIONS

A - LEPH. I am one who has known affliction under the rod of God's
anger.

ALEPH. One whom he has driven and forced to walk in darkness, not in light.

ALEPH. Against me alone he turns his hand —a- gain and a-gain all day long.

BETH. He has worn away my flesh and my skin, he has broken my bones.

BETH. He has besieged me all around with poverty and hardship;

BETH. He has left me to dwell in dark places like those long dead.

GHIMEL. He has hemmed me in with no escape, weighed me down with chains.

GHIMEL. Even when I cry for help, he stops my prayer;

GHIMEL. He has hemmed in my ways with fitted stones, and made my paths crooked.

Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa-lem, re- turn to the LORD your God.

Good Friday

AT MATINS

FIRST NOCTURN

FIRST READING: LAMENTATIONS

A reading from the Lamentations of Jer-emi- ah the proph- et.

Heth. The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhaust- ed, his compassion is not spent.

Heth. They are re-newed each morning — great is your faith-ful- ness!

Heth. The LORD is my portion, I tell my-self, therefore I will hope in him.

Teth. The LORD is good to those who trust in him, to the one that seeks him.

Teth. It is good to hope in si-lence for the LORD's de- liv-er-ance.

Teth. It is good for a person, when young, to bear the yoke.

Jod. To sit a-lone and in si- lence, when its weight lies heav- y,

Jod. To put one's mouth in the dust — there may yet be hope.



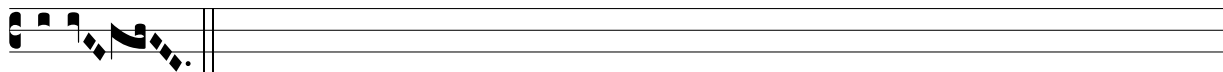
Jod. To offer one's cheek to be struck, to be filled with dis- grace.



Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa-lem, re-turn to the LORD your God.

SECOND READING: LAMENTATIONS

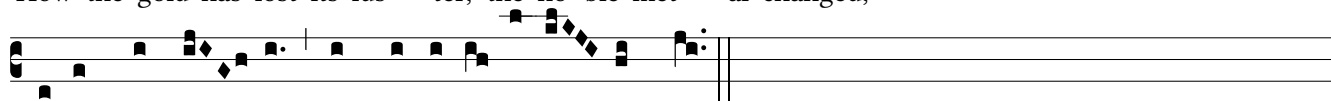
A



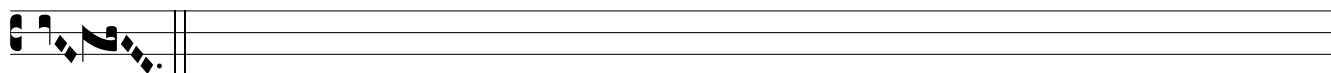
-LEPH .



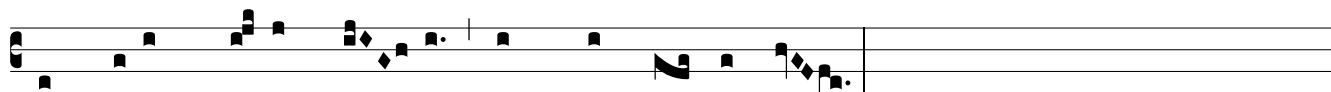
How the gold has lost its lus- ter, the no-ble met- al changed;



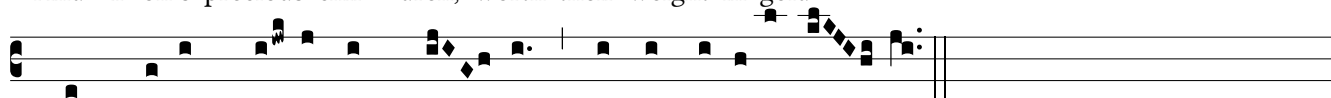
Jewels lie scat- tered at the corner of eve- ry street.



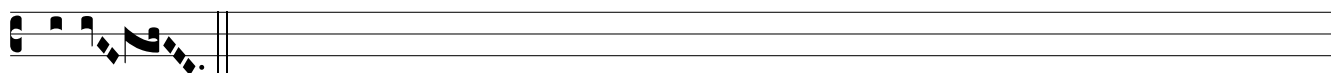
BETH .



And Zi- on's precious chil- dren, worth their weight in gold



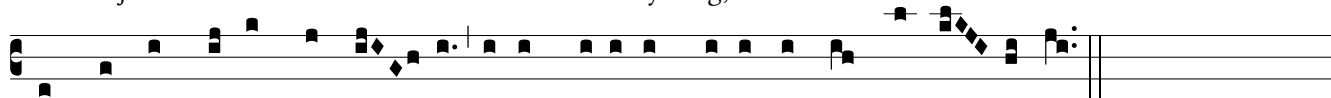
— How they are treat- ed like clay jugs, the work of any pot- ter!



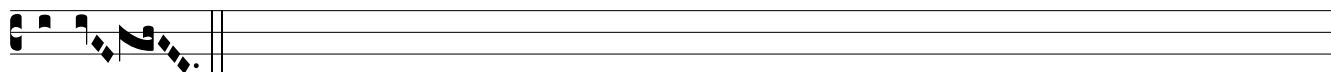
GHIMEL .



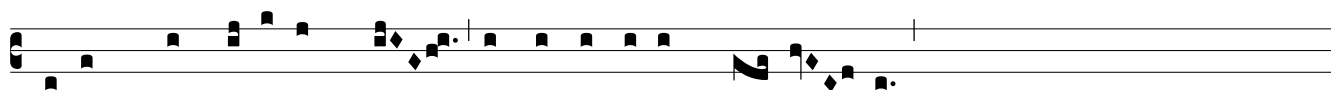
E-ven jackals offer their breasts to nurse their young;



But the daughter of my peo- ple is as cru- el as the ostrich in the wil- derness.



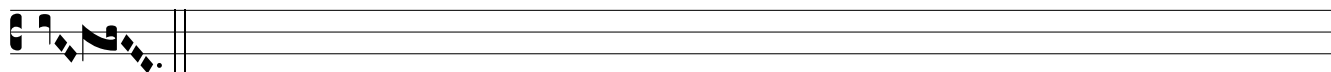
DA-LETH .



The tongue of the infant cleaves to the roof of its mouth in thirst;



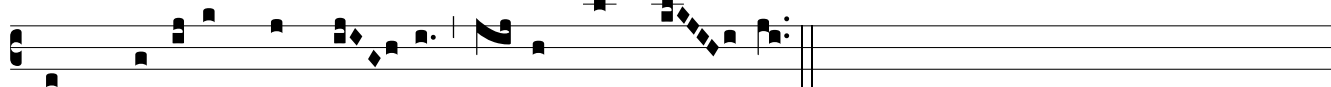
Children beg for bread, but no one gives them a piece.



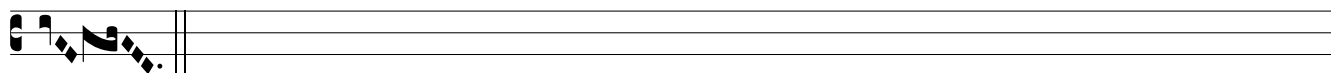
HE .



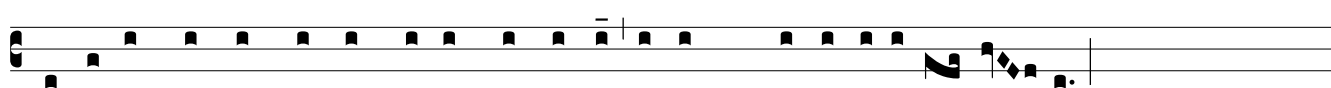
Those who feasted on delicacies are abandoned in the streets;



Those who reclined on crimson now embrace dung heaps.



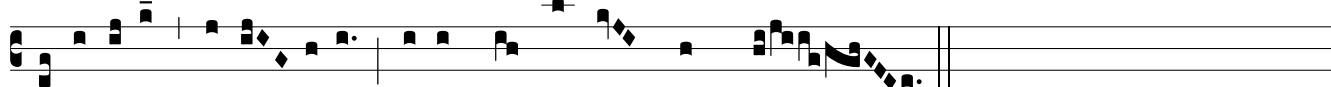
VAU .



The punishment of the daughter of my people surpassed the penalty of Sodom,



Which was overthrown in an instant with no hand laid on it.



Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa-lem, re-turn to the LORD your God.

THIRD READING: LAMENTATIONS


A reading of the prayer of Jer-e-mi-ah the prophet.



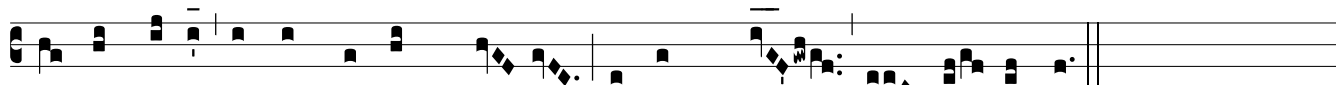
Remember, LORD, what has happened to us, pay attention, and see our disgrace.




Our her-it-age is turned o-ver to stran-gers, our homes, to for- eigners.



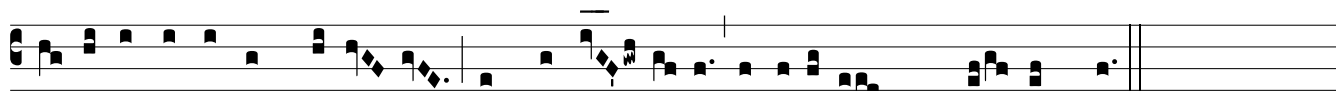
We have be-come orphans, without fa- thers; our moth-ers are like wid-ows.



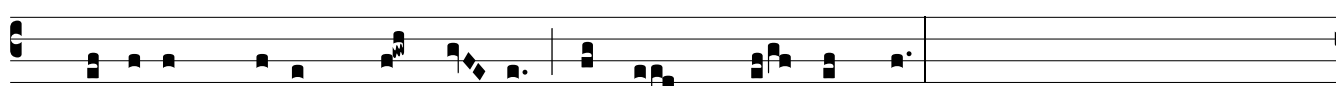
We pay money to drink our own wa- ter, our own wood comes at a price.



With a yoke on our necks, we are driv- en; we are worn out, but al-lowed no rest.



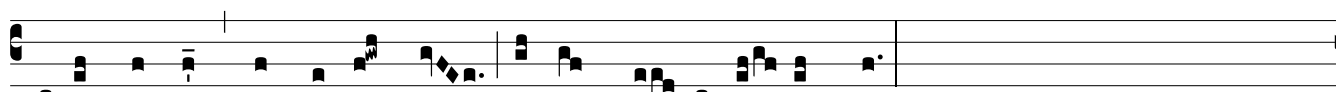
We extended a hand to E- gypt and Assyr- i- a, to sat-isfy our need of bread.




Our ancestors, who sinned, are no more; but now we bear their guilt.




Servants rule o-ver us, with no one to tear us from their hands.



We risk our lives just to get bread, exposed to the de- sert heat;



Our skin heats up like an ov- en, from the sear- ing blasts of fam- ine.



They oppressed the wom-en in Zi- on, young women in the cit- ies of Ju-dah;



Je-ru-sa-lem, Je-ru-sa- lem, re-turn to the LORD your God.