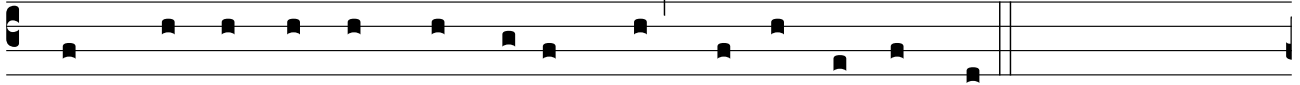
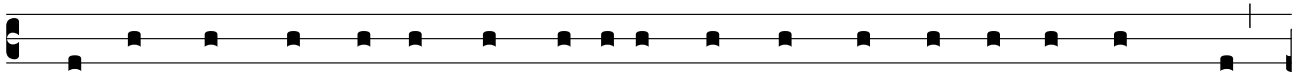


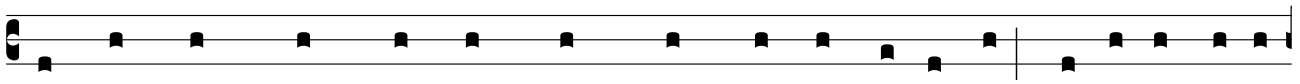
# THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK

*Mark 14:1-15:47*

*N.* The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark



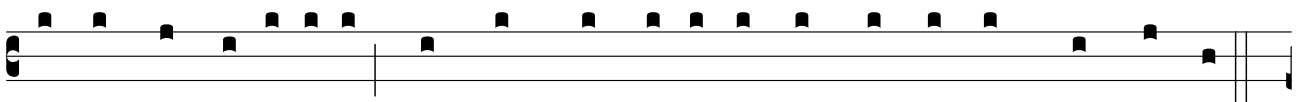
*N.* It was two days before the Passover and the feast of Unleavened Bread,



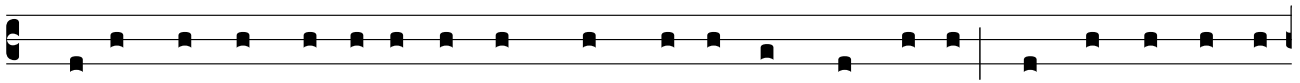
and the chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus



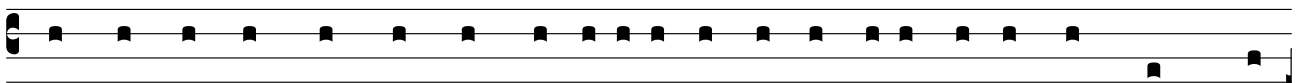
by some trick and have him put to death. For they said, *S.* It must not be



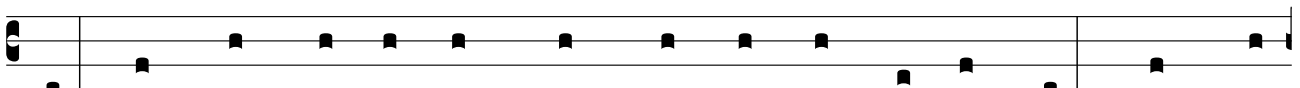
during the festivities, or there will be a disturbance among the people.



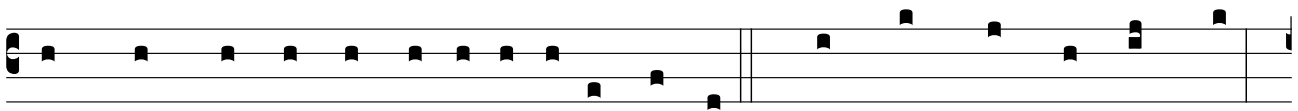
*N.* Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper; he was at dinner



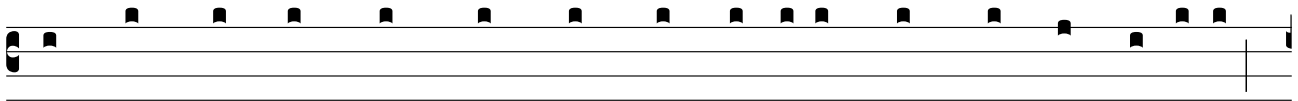
when a woman came in with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, pure



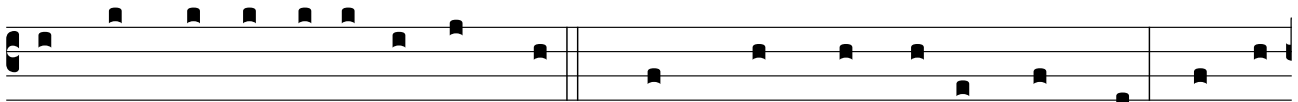
nard. She broke the jar and poured the ointment on his head. Some who



were there said to one another indignantly, *S.* Why this waste of ointment?



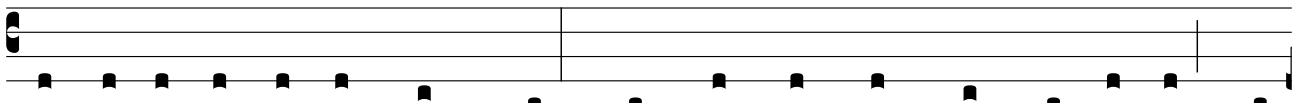
Ointment like this could have been sold for over three hundred denarii



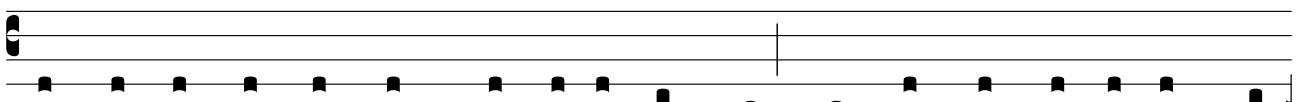
and the money given to the poor. *N.* and they were angry with her. But Je-



sus said, ✠ Leave her alone. Why are you upsetting her? What she has done



for me is one of the good works. You have the poor with you always, and



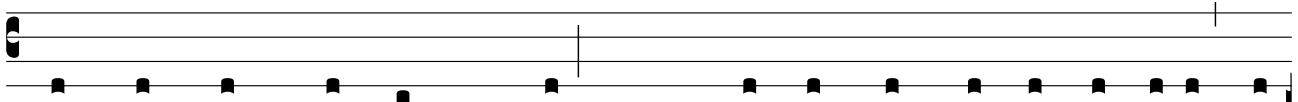
you can be kind to them whenever you wish, but you will not always have



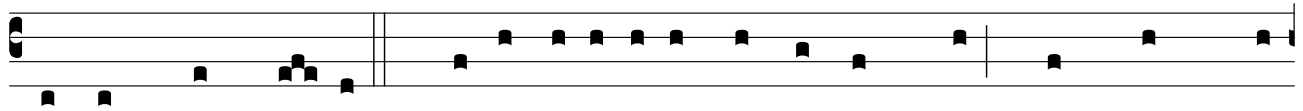
me. She has done what was in her power to do: she has anointed my body



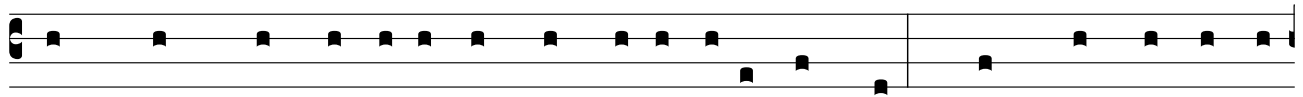
beforehand for its burial. I tell you solemnly, wherever throughout all the



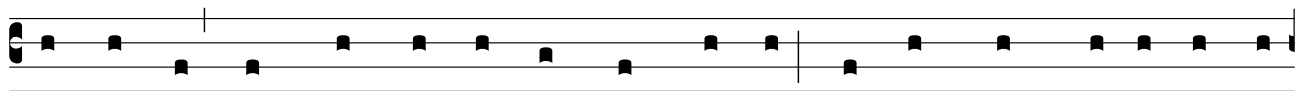
world the Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told also, in



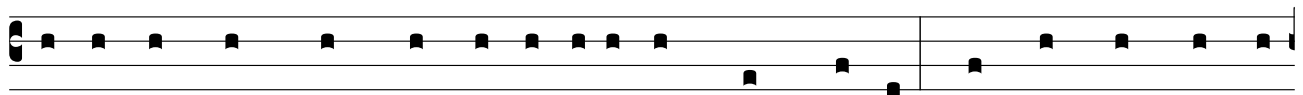
remembrance of her. *N.* Judas Iscar-i-ot, one of the Twelve, approached the



chief priests with an offer to hand Jesus over to them. They were delighted



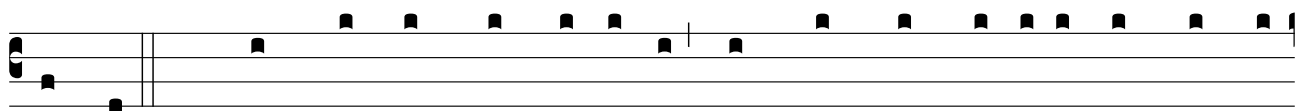
to hear it, and promised to give him money; and he looked for a way of



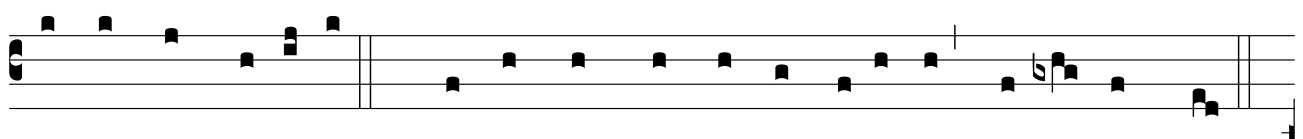
betraying him when the opportunity should occur. On the first day of



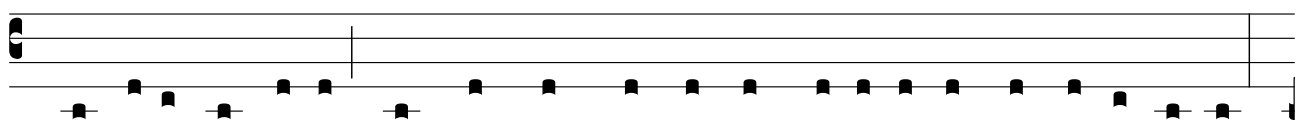
Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb was sacrificed, his disciples said



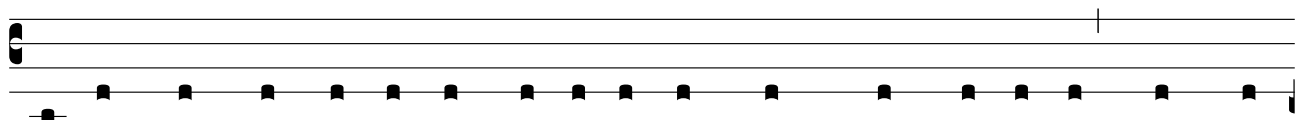
to him, *S.* Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you



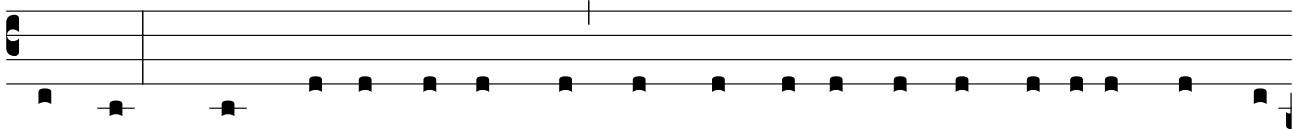
to eat the passover? *N.* So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them,



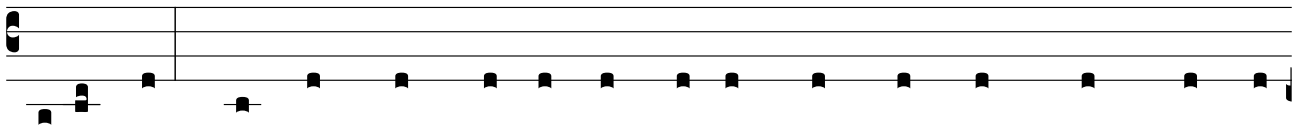
† Go into the city and you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water.



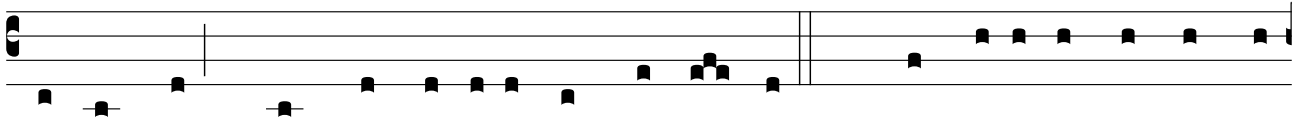
Follow him, and say to the owner of the house which he enters, 'The Mas-



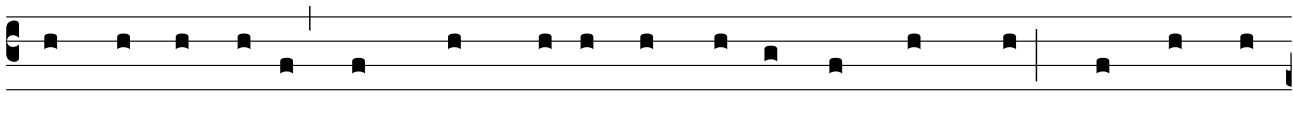
ter says: "Where is my dining room in which I can eat the passover with my



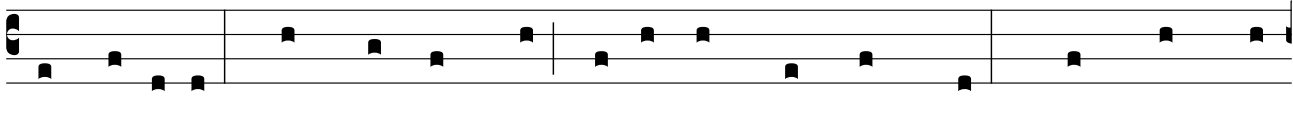
disciples?" He will show you a large upper room furnished with couches,



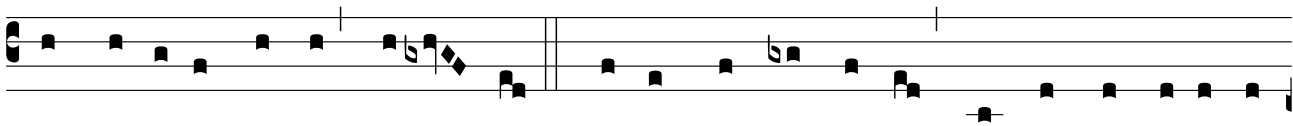
all prepared. Make the preparations for us there. *N*. The disciples set out and



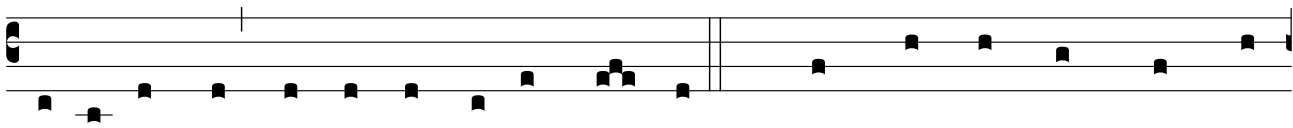
went to the cit-y and found everything as he had told them, and prepared



the Passover. When evening came he arrived with the Twelve. And while they




were at table eating, Jesus said, ✠ I tell you solemnly, one of you is about



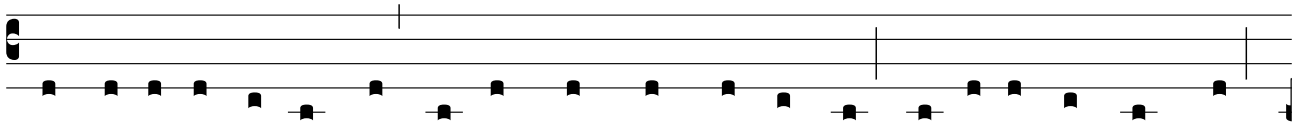
to betray me, one of you eating with me. *N*. They were distressed and asked



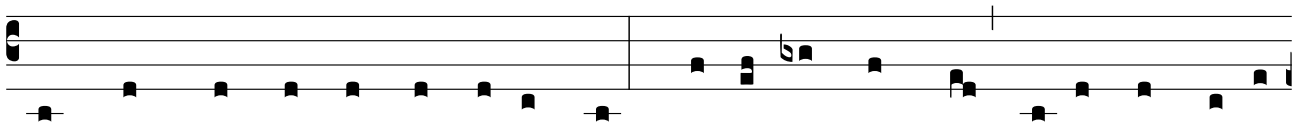
him, one after another, *S*. Not I, surely? *N*. He said to them, ✠ It is one of



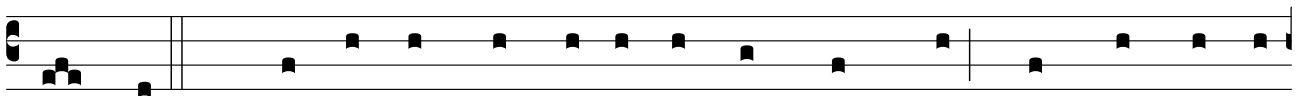
the Twelve, one who is dipping into the same dish with me. Yes, the Son of



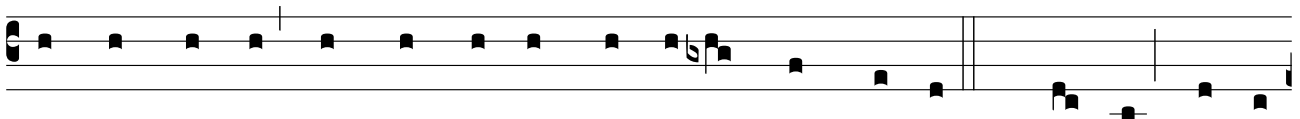
Man is going to his fate, as the scriptures say he will, but a-las for that man



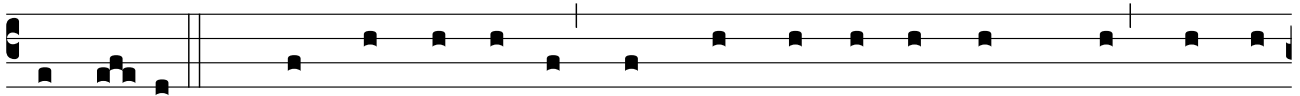
by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! Better for that man if he had never



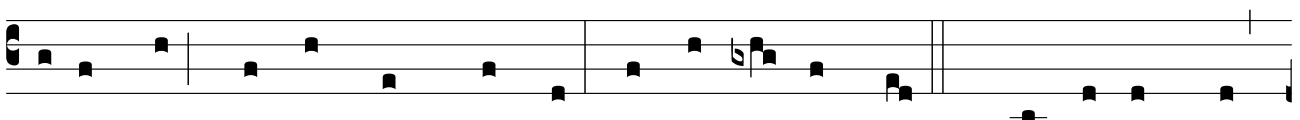
been born! *N.* And as they were eating he took some bread, and when he had



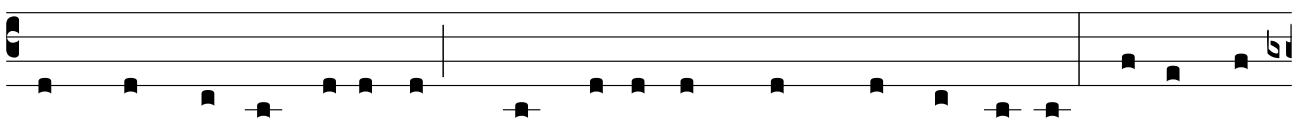
said the blessing he broke it and gave it to them, saying: ✠ Take it: this is



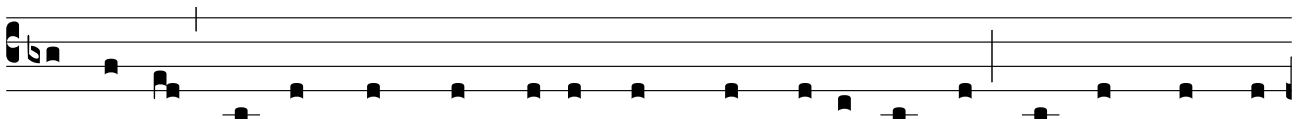
my bo-dy. *N.* Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave



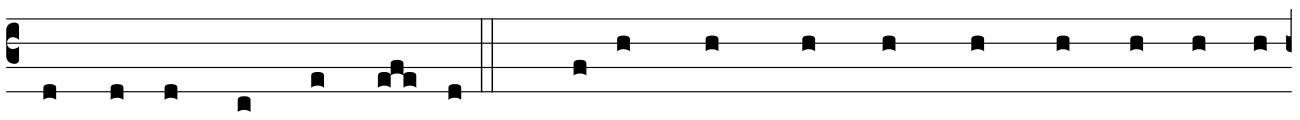
it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, ✠ This is my blood,



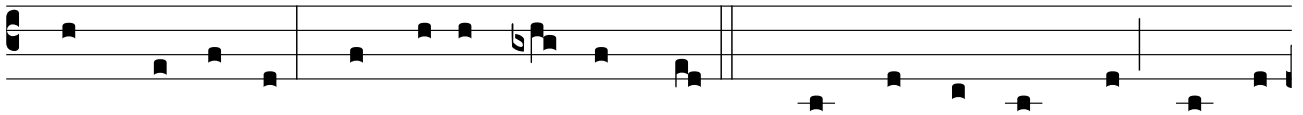
the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you



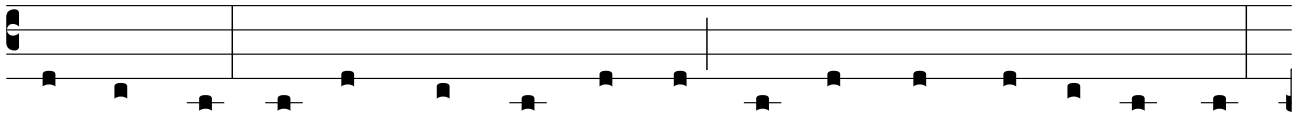
solemnly, I shall not drink an-y more wine until the day I drink the new



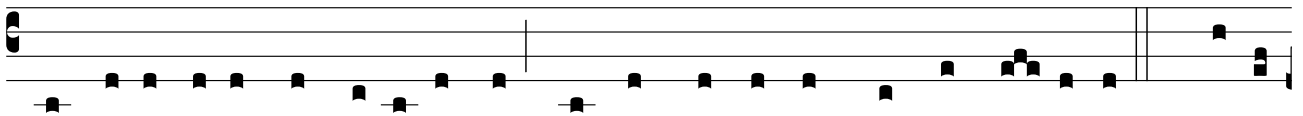
wine in the kingdom of God. *N.* After psalms had been sung they left for the



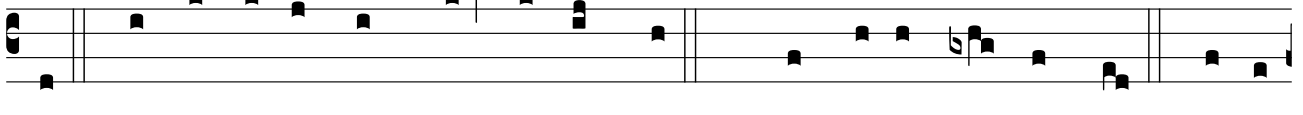
Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, ✠ You will all lose faith, for the



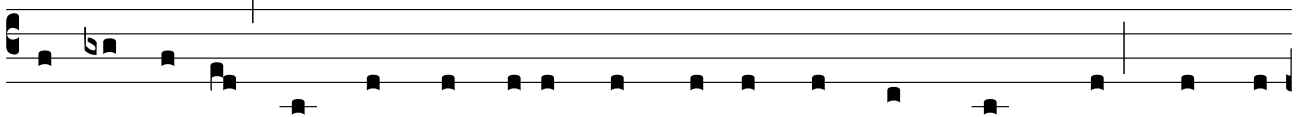
scripture says: 'I shall strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.'



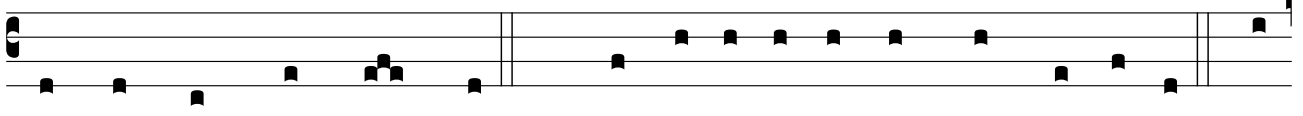
However, after my resurrection I shall go before you to Gal- i-lee. *N.* Peter



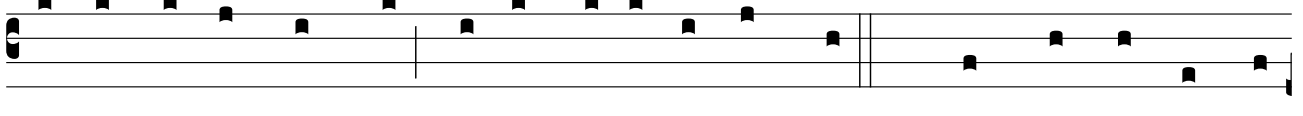
said, *S.* Even if all lose faith, I will not. *N.* And Jesus said to him, ✠ I tell



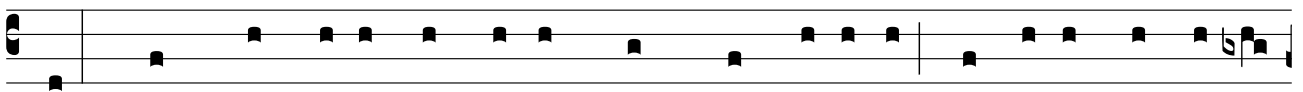
you solemnly, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will



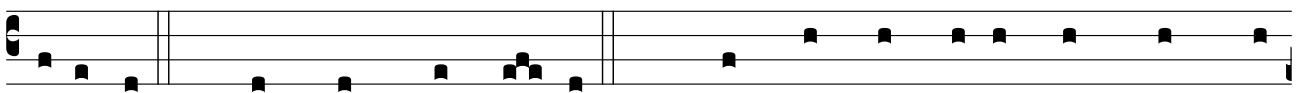
have disowned me three times. *N.* But he repeated still more earnestly, *S.* If



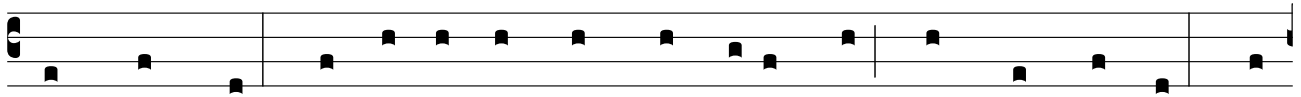
I have to die with you, I will never disown you. *N.* And they all said the



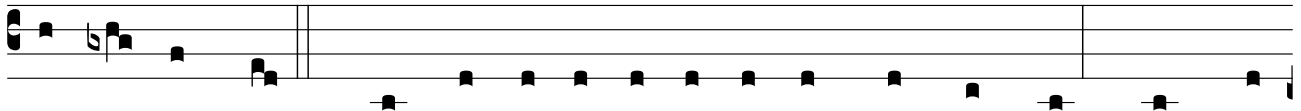
same. They came to a small estate called Gethsema-ne, and Jesus said to his



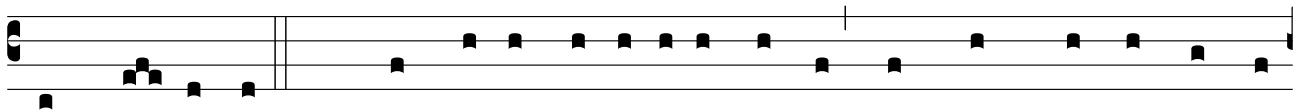
disciples, ✠ Stay here while I pray. *N.* Then he took Peter and James and



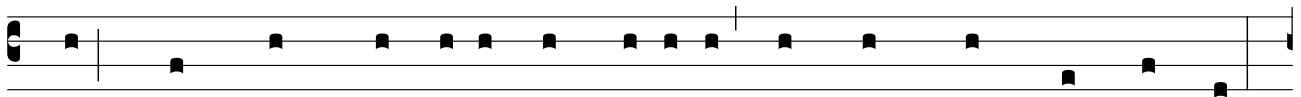
John with him. And a sudden fear came over him, and great distress. And



he said to them, ✝ My soul is sorrowful to the point of death. Wait here,



and keep awake. *N.* And going on a little further he threw himself on the



ground and prayed that, if it were possible, this hour might pass him by.



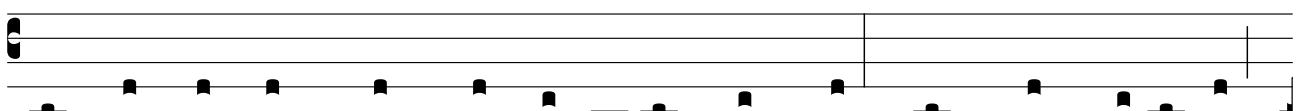
He said: ✝ Ab- ba (Father)! Everything is possible for you. Take this cup



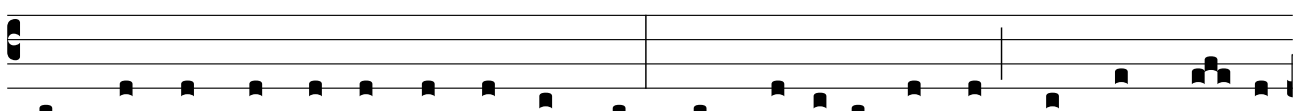
away from me. But let it be as you, not I, would have it. *N.* He came back



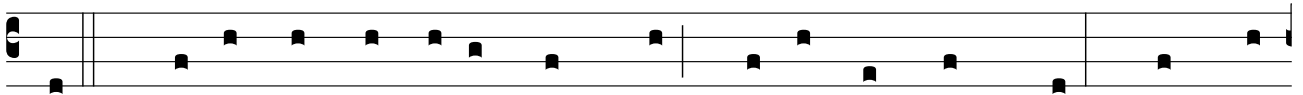
and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, ✝ Simon, are you asleep?



Had you not the strength to keep awake one hour? You should be awake,



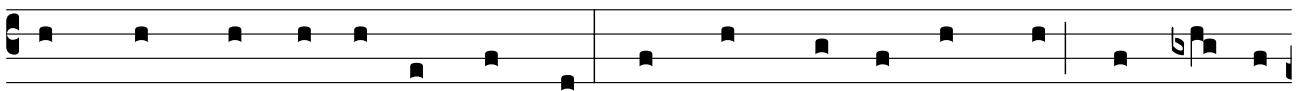
and praying not to be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is



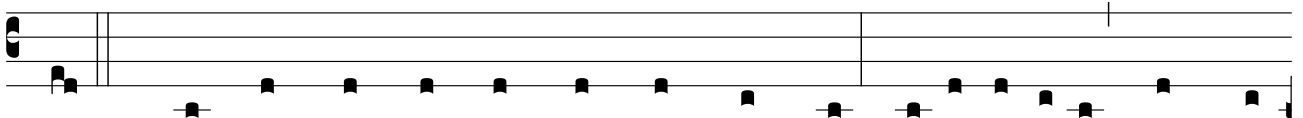
weak. *N*. Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once



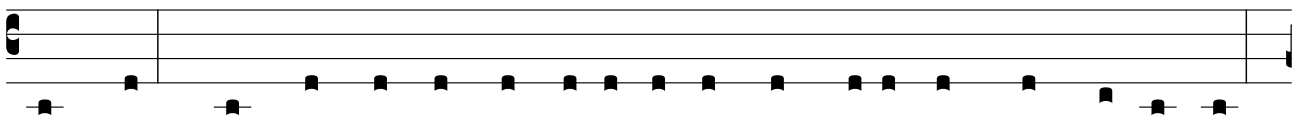
more he came back and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy; and



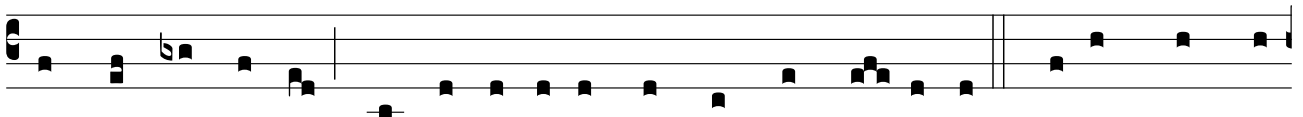
they could find no answer for him. He came back a third time and said to



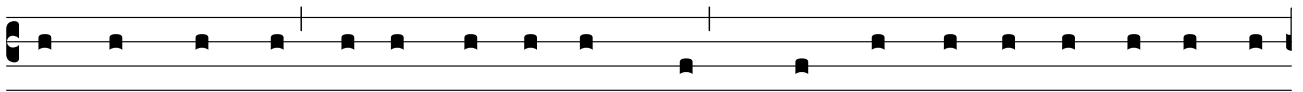
them, ✝ You can sleep on now and take your rest. It is all over. The hour



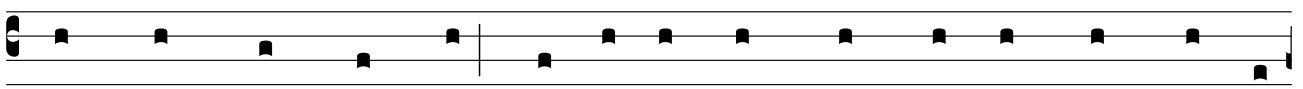
has come. Now the Son of Man is to be betrayed into the hands of sinners.



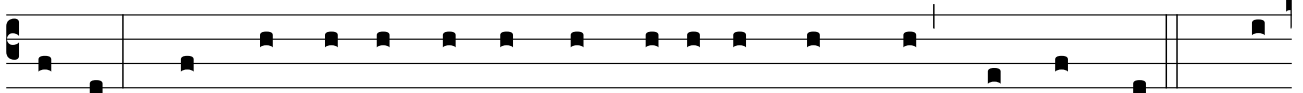
Get up! Let us go! My betrayer is close at hand already. *N*. Even while he



was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up with a number of men

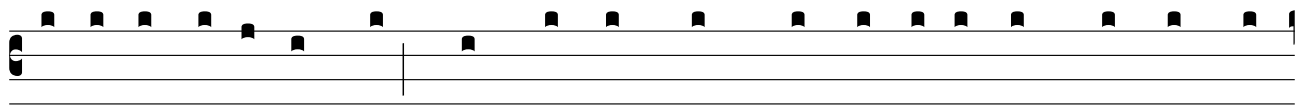


armed with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests and the scribes and the

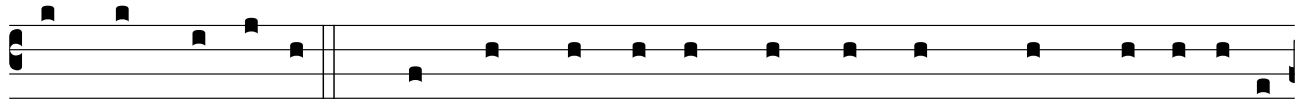


elders. Now the traitor had arranged a signal with them. He had said, *S*. The





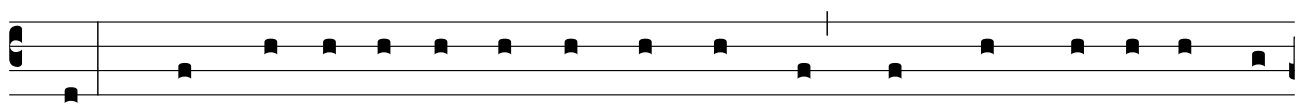
one I kiss he is the man. Take him in charge, and see he is well guarded when



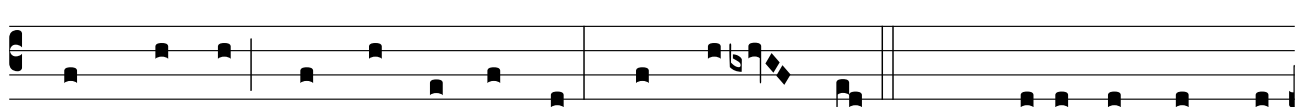
you lead him away. *N.* So when the traitor came, he went straight up to Jesus



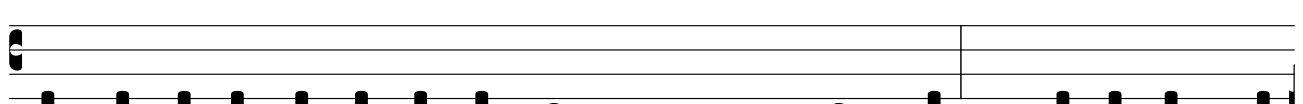
and said, *S.* Rabbi! *N.* and kissed him. The others seized him and took him in



charge. Then one of the bystanders drew his sword and struck out at the high



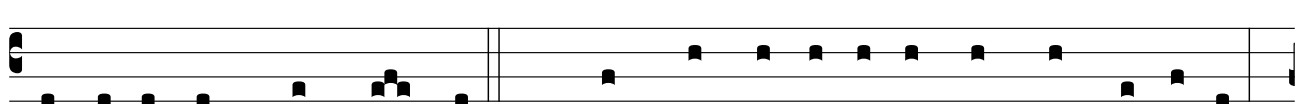
priest's servant, and cut off his ear. Then Jesus spoke: ✠ Am I a brigand, that



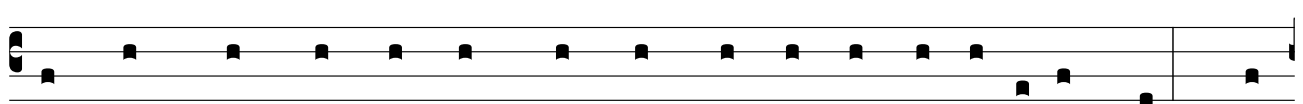
you had to set out to capture me with swords and clubs? I was among you



teaching in the Temple day after day and you never laid hands on me. But



this is to fulfil the scriptures. *N.* And they all deserted him and ran away.



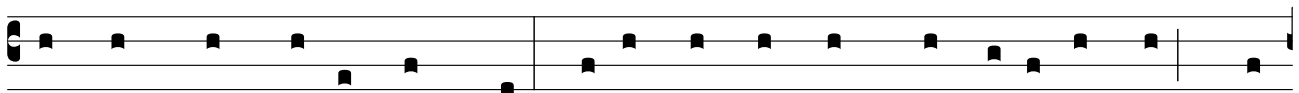
A young man who followed him had nothing on but a linen cloth. They



caught hold of him, but he left the cloth in their hands and ran away naked.



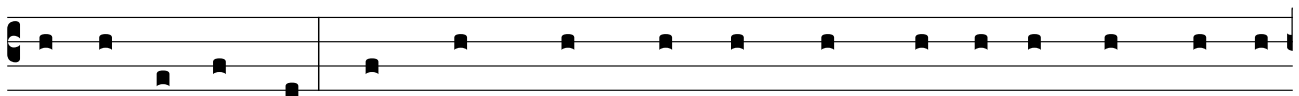
They led Jesus off to the high priest; and all the chief priests and the elders



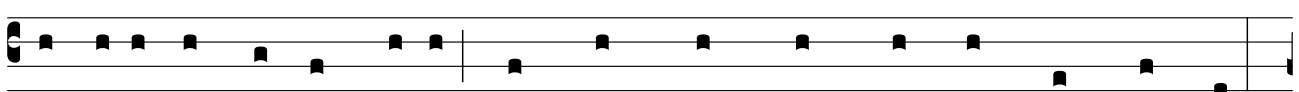
and the scribes assembled there. Peter had followed him at a distance, right



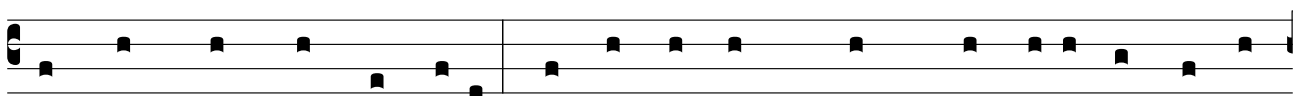
into the high priest's palace, and was sitting with the attendants warming



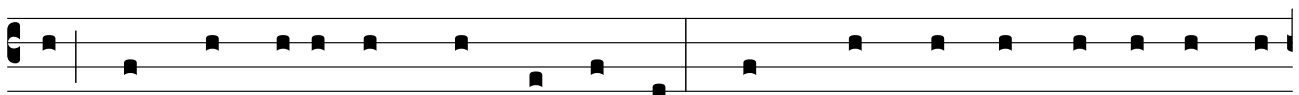
himself at the fire. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking



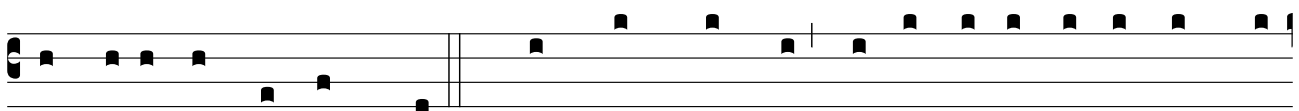
for ev-idence against Jesus on which they might pass the death sentence.



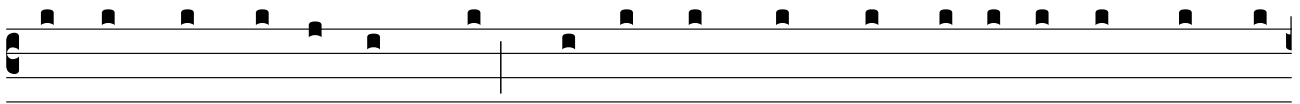
But they could not find any. Several, indeed, brought false ev-idence against



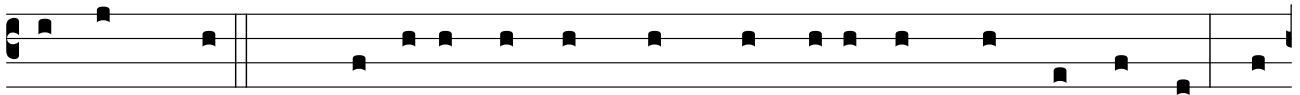
him, but their ev-idence was conflicting. Some stood up and submitted this



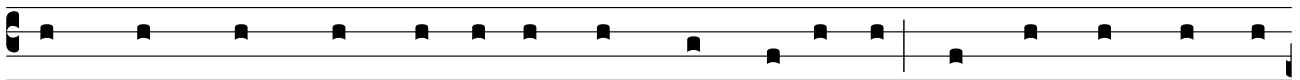
false ev-idence against him, S. We heard him say, 'I am going to destroy this



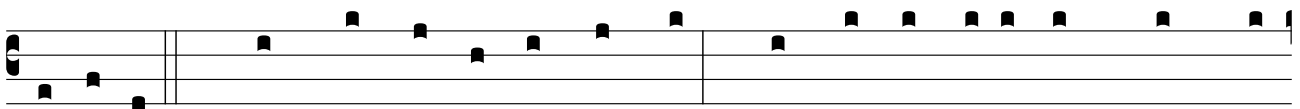
Temple made by human hands, and in three days build another, not made by



human hands.' *N.* But even on this point their ev-idence was conflicting. The



high priest then stood up before the whole assembly and put this question



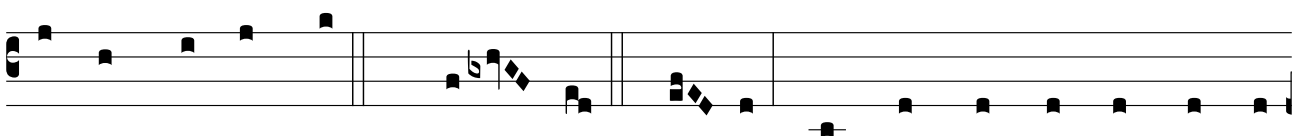
to Jesus, *S.* Have you no answer to that? What is this ev-idence these men



are bringing against you? *N.* But he was silent and made no answer at all.



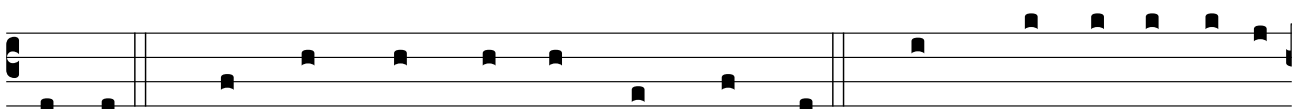
The high priest put a second question to him, *S.* Are you the Christ, the Son



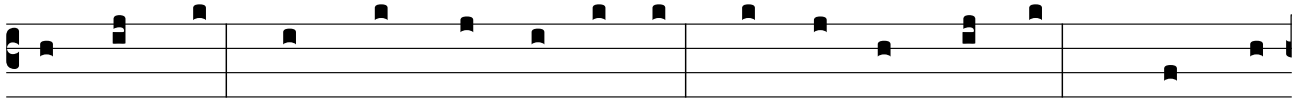
of the Blessed One? *N.* Jesus said, ✠ I am, and you will see the Son of



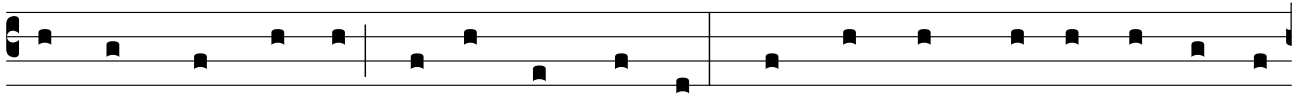
Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of



heaven. *N.* The high priest tore his robes, and said: *S.* What need of witnesses



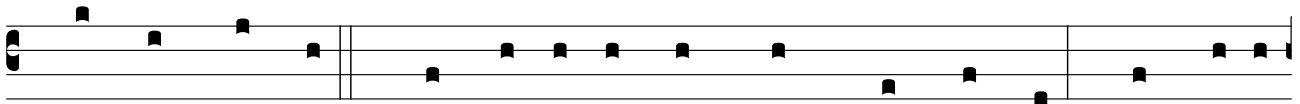
have we now? You heard the blasphemy. What is your finding? *N.* And they



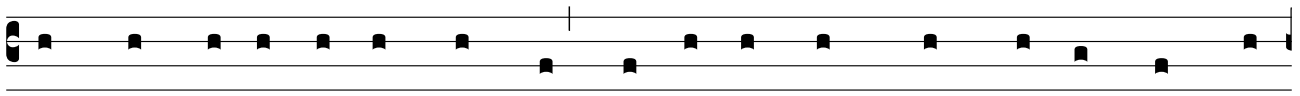
all gave their verdict: he deserved to die. Some of them started spitting at



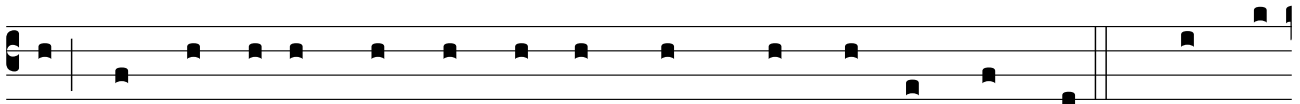
him and, blindfolding him, began hitting him with their fists and shouting,



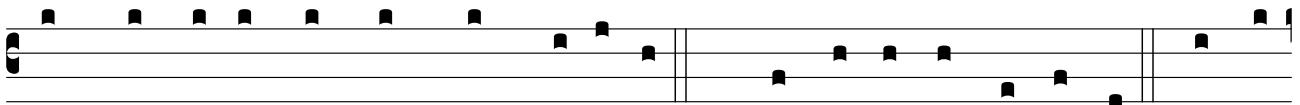
*S.* Play the prophet! *N.* And the attendants rained blows on him. While Peter



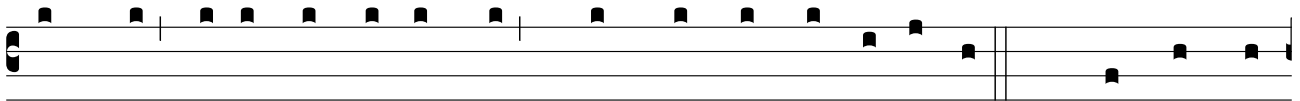
was down below in the courtyard, one of the high priest's servant-girls came



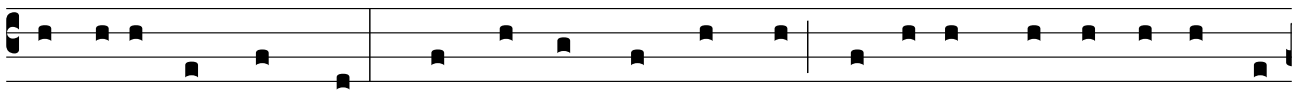
up. She saw Peter warming himself there, stared at him and said, *S.* You too



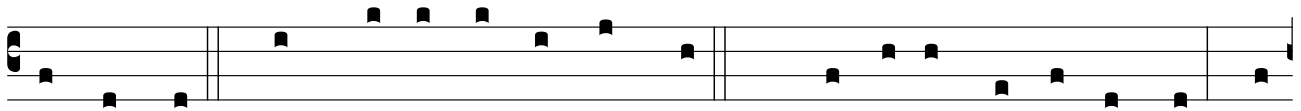
were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth. *N.* But he denied it, saying. *S.* I do



not know, I do not understand, what you are talking about. *N.* And he went



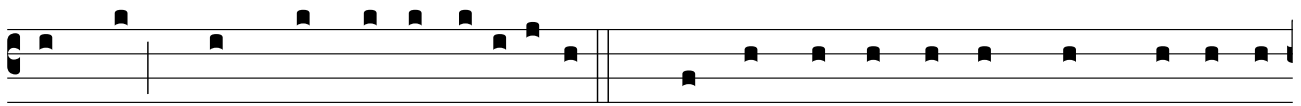
out into the forecourt. The servant-girl saw him and again started telling the



bystanders, *S.* This fellow is one of them. *N.* But again he denied it. A



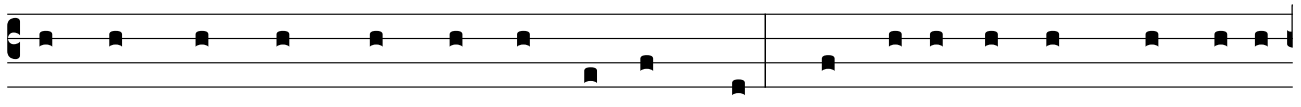
little later the bystanders themselves said to Peter, *S.* You are one of them



for sure! Why, you are a Gali-lean. *N.* But he started calling down curses on



himself and swearing, *S.* I do not know the man you speak of. *N.* At that



moment the cock crew for the second time, and Peter recalled how Jesus



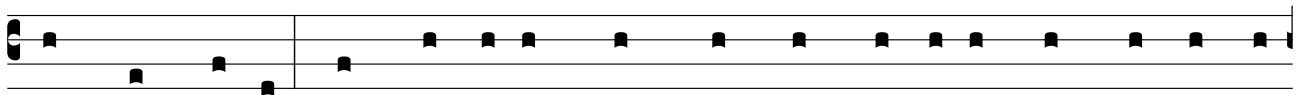
had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will have disowned me



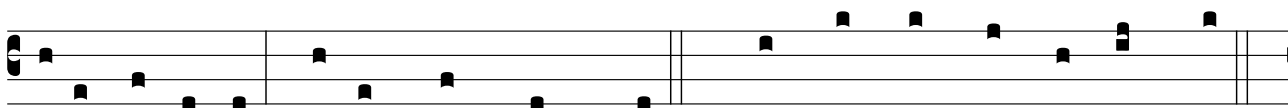
three times.' And he burst into tears. First thing in the morning, the chief



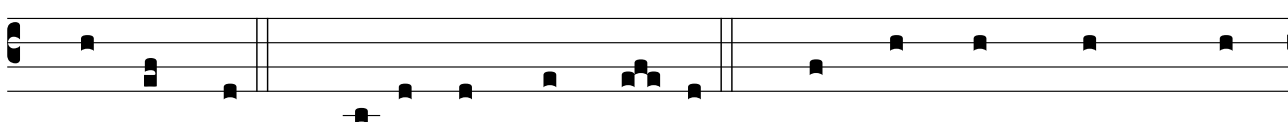
priests together with the elders and scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had



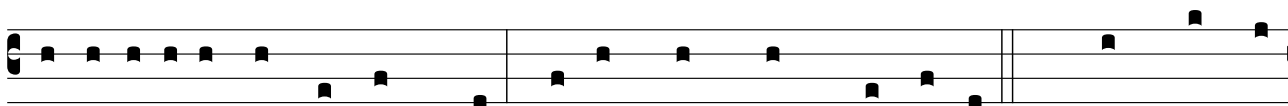
their plan ready. They had Jesus bound and took him away and handed him



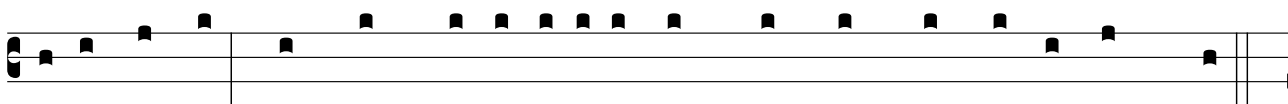
over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him: *S.* Are you the king of the Jews?



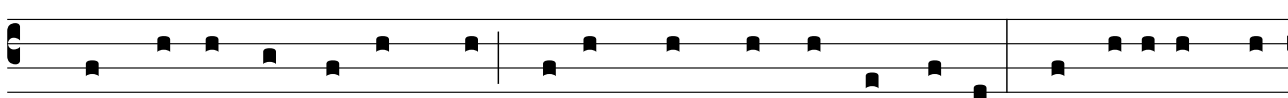
*N.* He answered, ✠ It is you who say it. *N.* And the chief priests brought



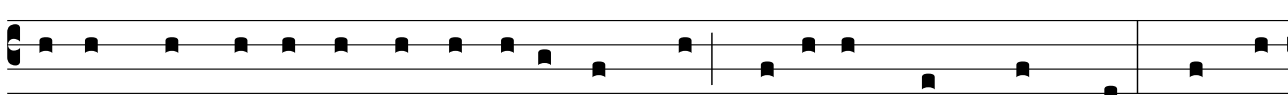
many accusations against him. Pilate questioned him again: *S.* Have you no



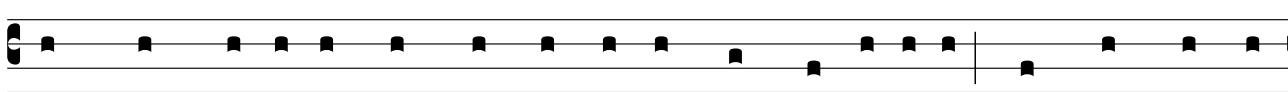
reply at all? See how many accusations they are bringing against you!



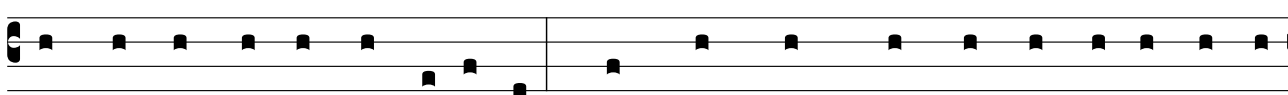
*N.* But, to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no further reply. At festival time



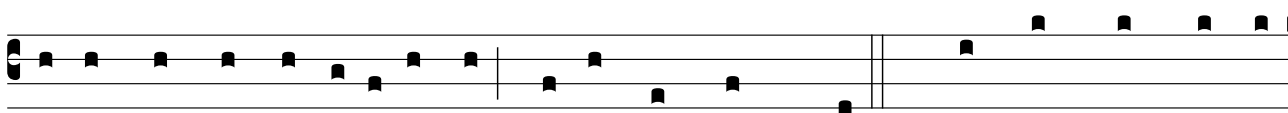
Pilate used to release a prisoner for them, an-yone they asked for. Now a



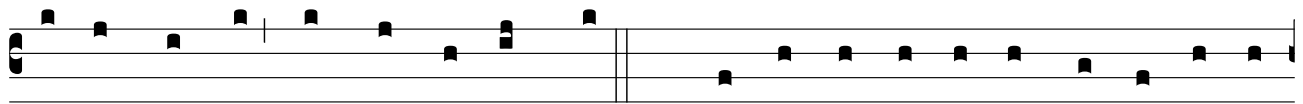
man called Barabbas was then in prison with the ri-oters who had commit-



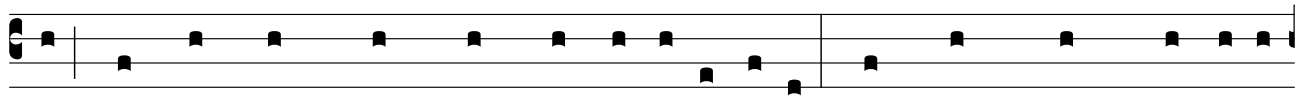
ted murder during the uprising. When the crowd went up and began to ask



Pilate the customar-y favour, Pilate answered them *S.* Do you want me to



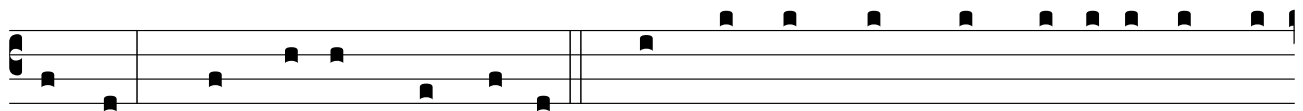
release for you the king of the Jews? *N.* For he realised it was out of jealous-



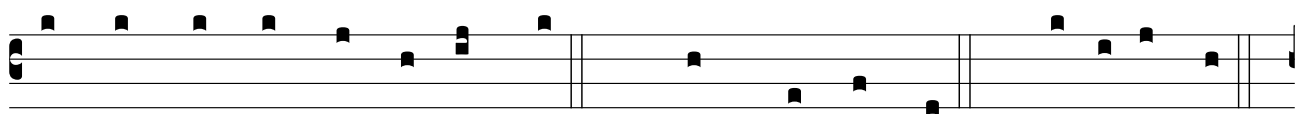
y that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. The chief priests, however,



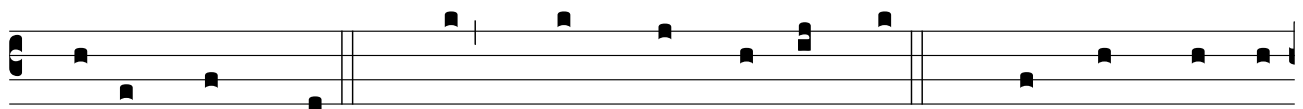
had incited the crowd to demand that he should release Barabbas for them



instead. Then Pilate spoke again: *S.* But in that case, what am I to do with



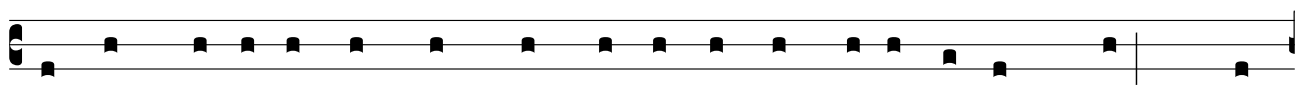
the man you call king of the Jews? *N.* They shouted back, *S.* Cruci-fy him!



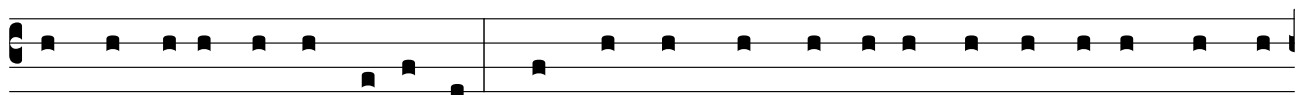
*N.* Pilate asked them, *S.* Why? What harm has he done? *N.* But they shouted



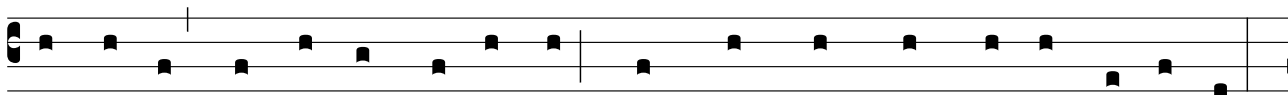
all the louder, *S.* Cruci-fy him! *N.* So Pilate, anxious to placate the crowd,



released Barabbas for them and, having ordered Jesus to be scourged, hand-



ed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him away to the inner part of



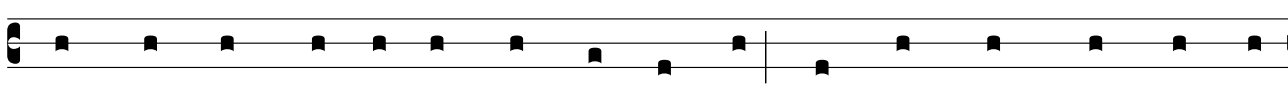
the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the whole cohort together.



They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns into a crown and put



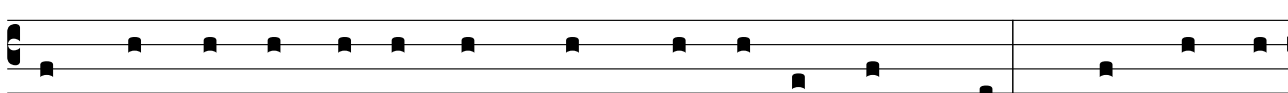
it on him. And they began saluting him, *S.* Hail, king of the Jews! *N.* They



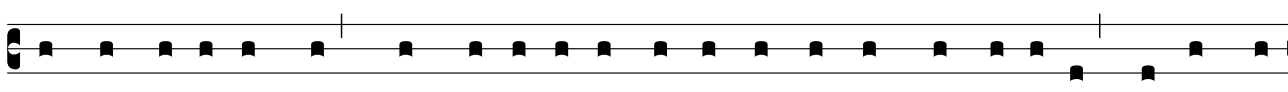
struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they went down on their



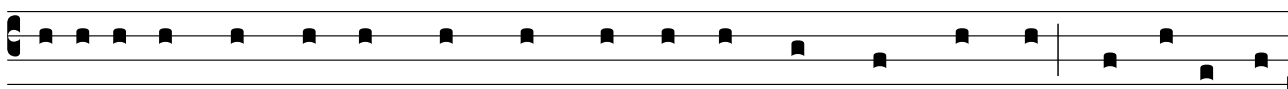
knees to do him homage. And when they had finished making fun of him,



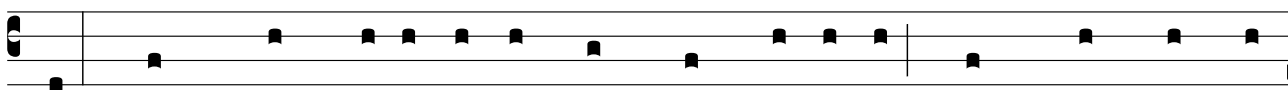
they took off the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. They led him



out to cruci-fy him: they enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of

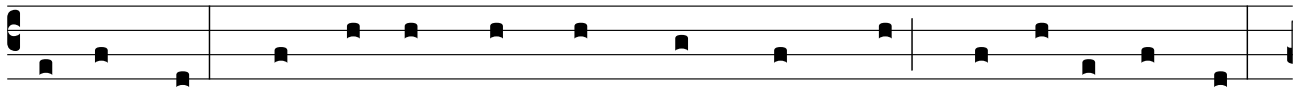


Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his

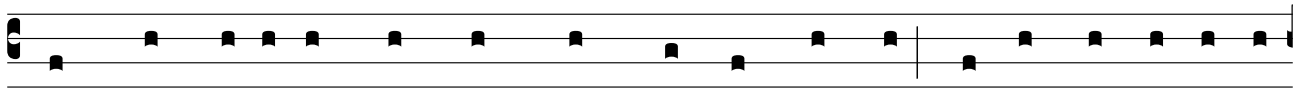


cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means the place

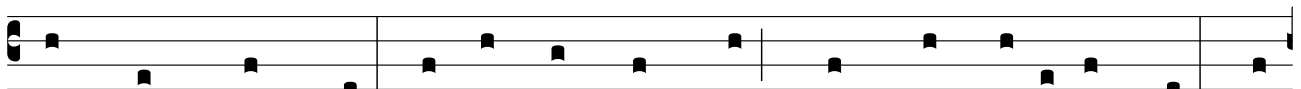




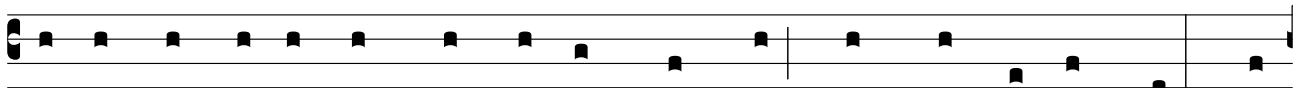
of the skull. They offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he refused it.



Then they crucified him, and shared out his clothing, casting lots to decide



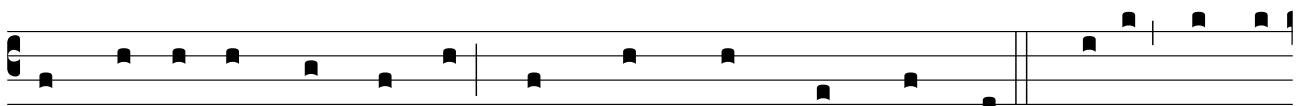
what each should get. It was the third hour when they crucified him. The



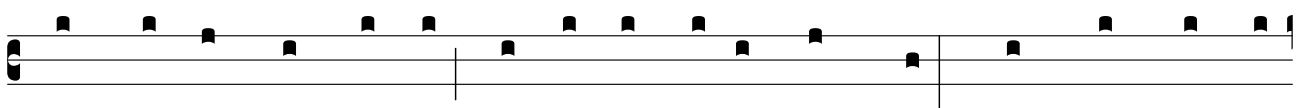
inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The King of the Jews.' And



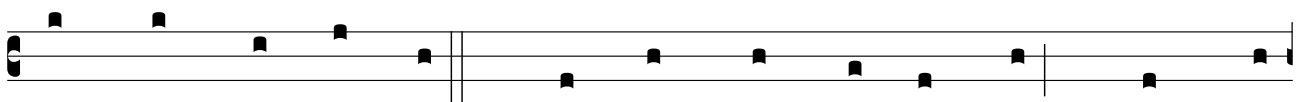
they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right and one on his left.



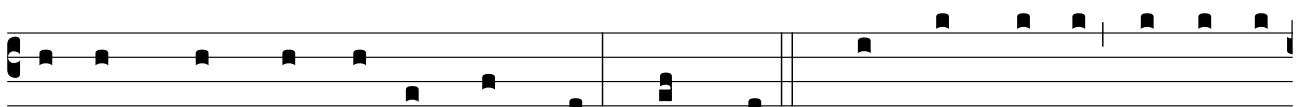
The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads and said, *S.* Aha! So you



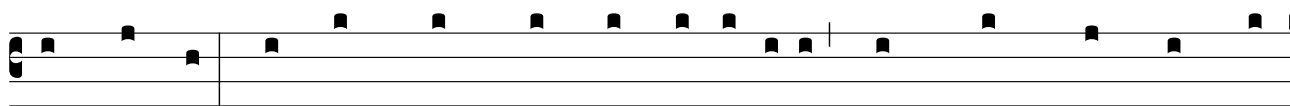
would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Then save yourself:



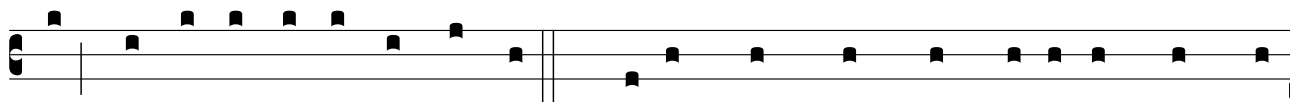
come down from the cross! *N.* The chief priests and the scribes mocked him



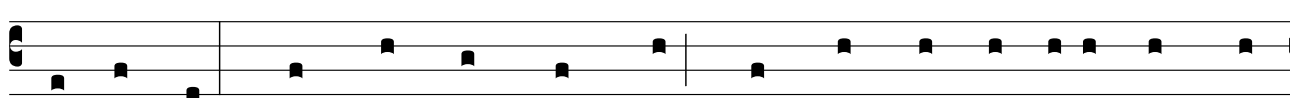
among themselves in the same way. They said, *S.* He saved others; he cannot



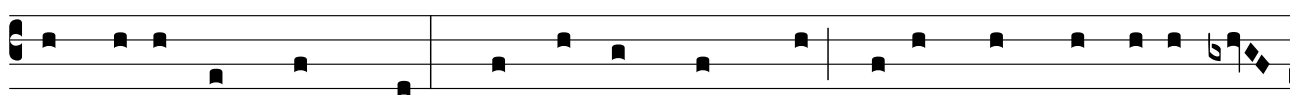
save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Is-rael, come down from the cross



now, for us to see it and believe. *N.* Even those who were crucified with him



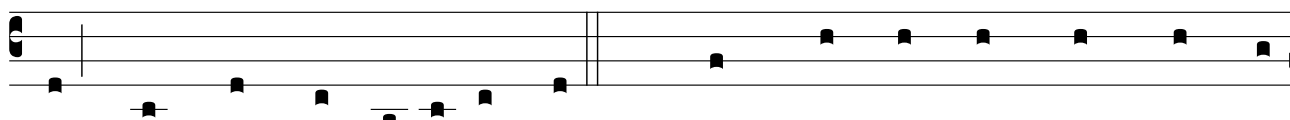
taunted him. When the sixth hour came there was darkness over the whole



land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud



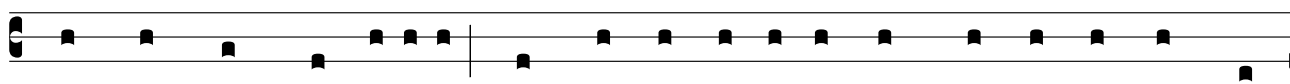
voice, ✠ E-lo-i, E-lo-i, lama sabachthani? *N.* which means, ✠ ‘My God, my



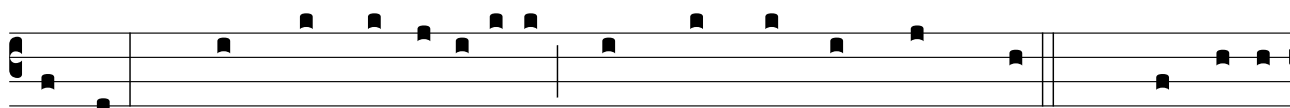
God, why have you deserted me?’ *N.* When some of those who stood by



heard this, they said *S.* Listen, he is calling on E-lijah. *N.* Someone ran and



soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on a reed, gave it him to drink,

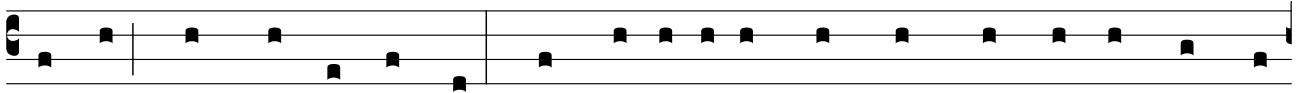


saying: *S.* Wait and see if E-lijah will come to take him down. *N.* But Jesus

*All kneel and pause a moment.*



gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the veil of the Temple was torn



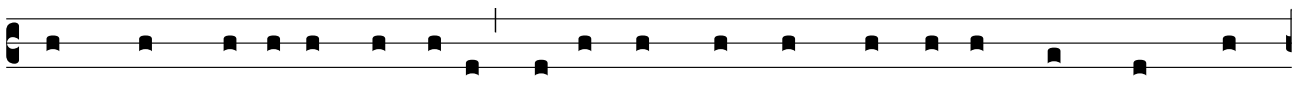
in two from top to bottom. The centu- rion, who was standing in front of



him, had seen how he had died, and he said, *S.* In truth this man was a



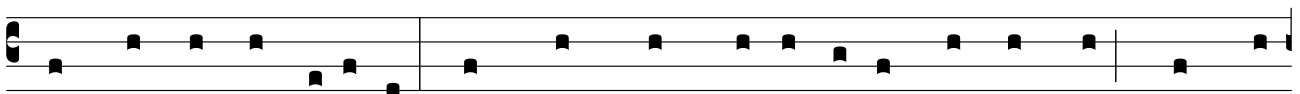
son of God. *N.* There were some women watching from a distance. Among



them were Mary of Magdala, Mary who was the mother of James the young-



er and Joset, and Salome. These used to follow him and look after him



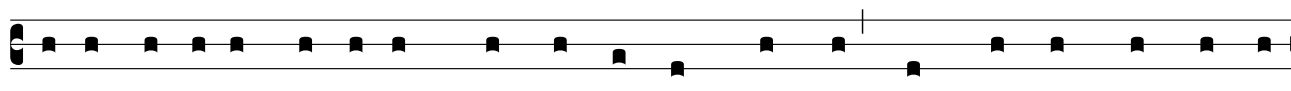
when he was in Gali- lee. And there were many other women there who had



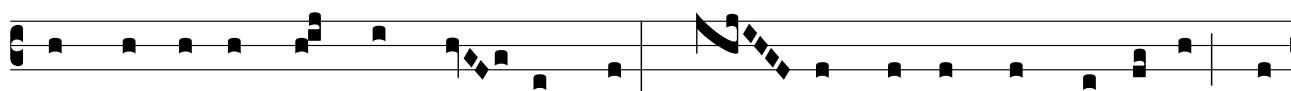
come up to Jeru- salem with him. It was now evening, and since it was



Prepa- ration Day (that is, the vigil of the sabbath), there came Joseph of Ar-



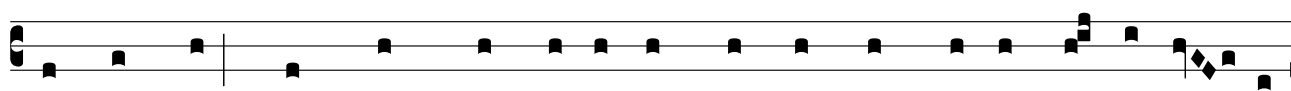
i-mathaea, a prominent member of the Council, who himself lived in the



hope of seeing the kingdom of God, and he boldly went to Pilate and



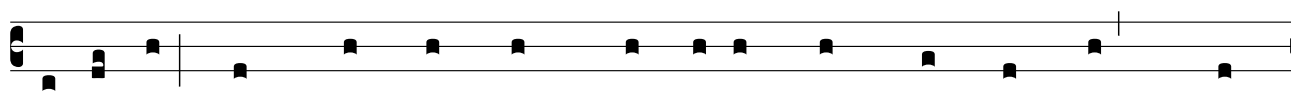
asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate, astonished that he should have



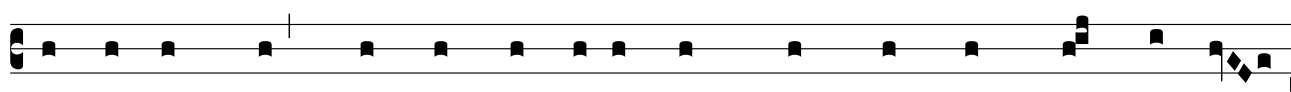
died so soon, summoned the centurion and enquired if he was already



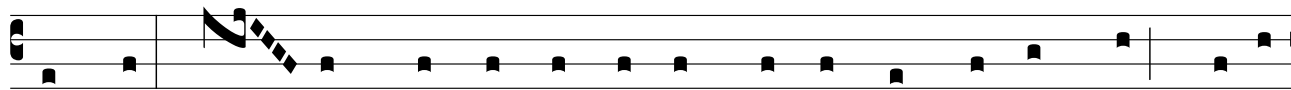
dead. Having been assured of this by the centurion, he granted the corpse



to Joseph who bought a shroud, took Jesus down from the cross, wrapped



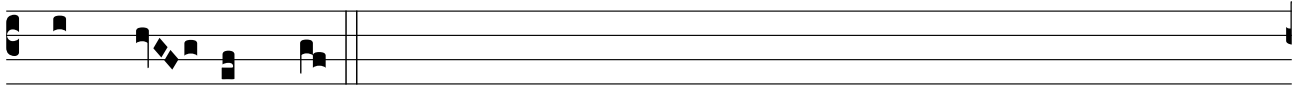
him in the shroud and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of



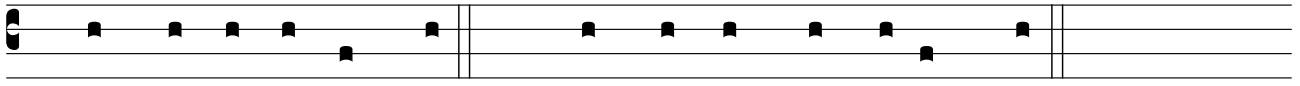
the rock. He then rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary



of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joseph were watching and took note of



where he was laid.



*N.* The Gospel of the Lord. *R.* Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.