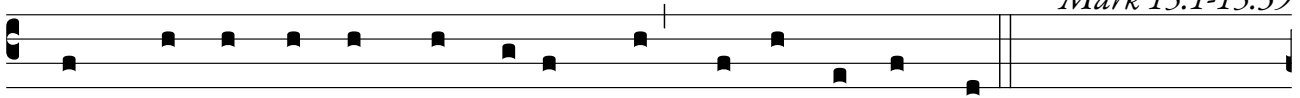


THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO MARK (SHORTER FORM)

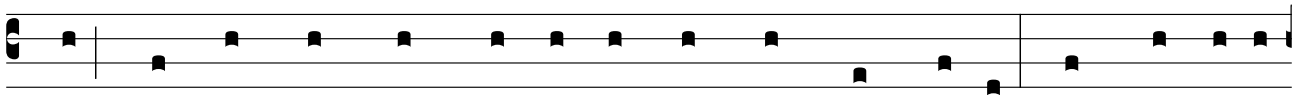
Mark 15:1-15:39



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



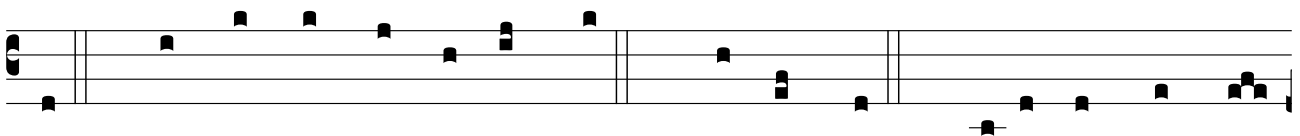
N. First thing in the morning, the chief priests together with the elders and



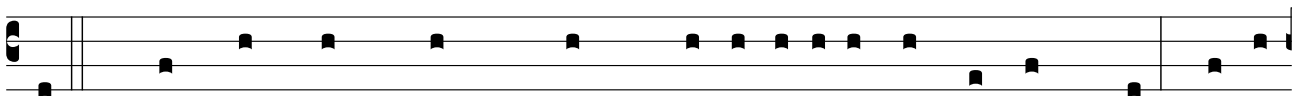
scribes, in short the whole Sanhedrin, had their plan ready. They had Jesus



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



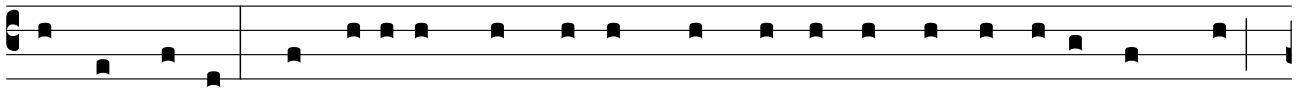
it. *N.* And the chief priests brought many accusations against him. Pilate



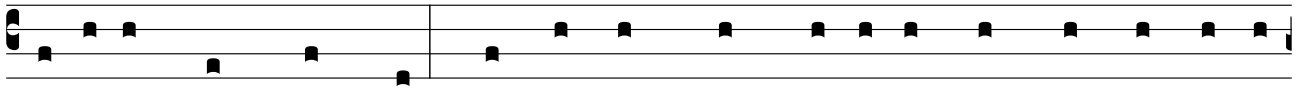
questioned him again: *S.* Have you no reply at all? See how many accusations



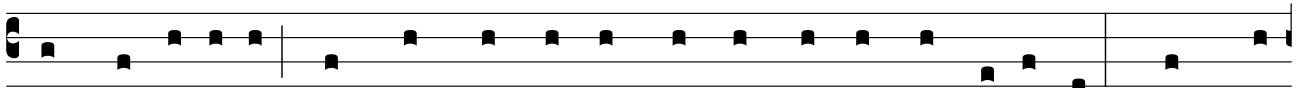
they are bringing against you! *N.* But, to Pilate's amazement, Jesus made no



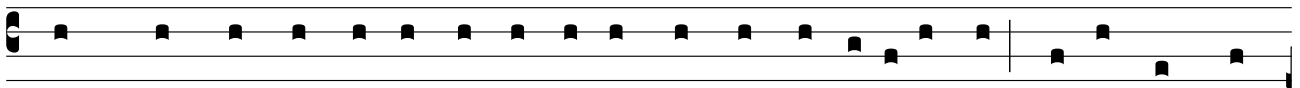
further reply. At festival time Pilate used to release a prisoner for them,



anyone they asked for. Now a man called Barabbas was then in prison



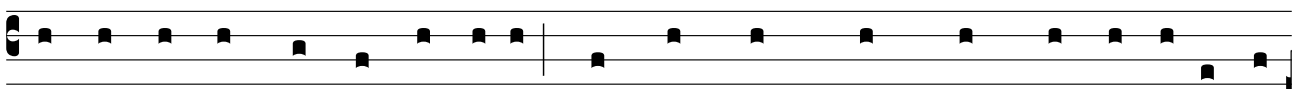
with the rioters who had committed murder during the uprising. When the



crowd went up and began to ask Pilate the customary favour, Pilate answered



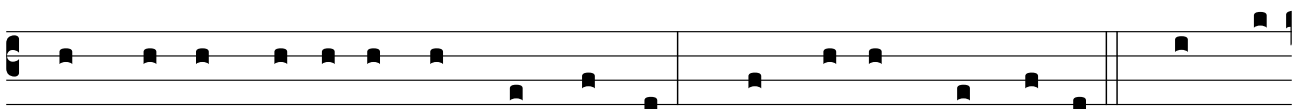
them *S*. Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews? *N*. For he



realised it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over.



The chief priests, however, had incited the crowd to demand that he



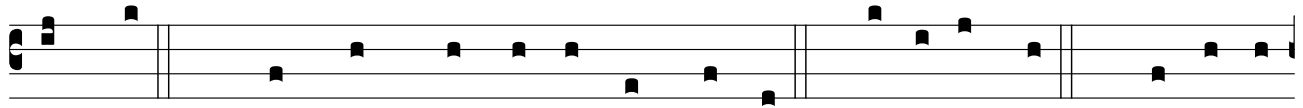
should release Barabbas for them instead. Then Pilate spoke again: *S*. But in



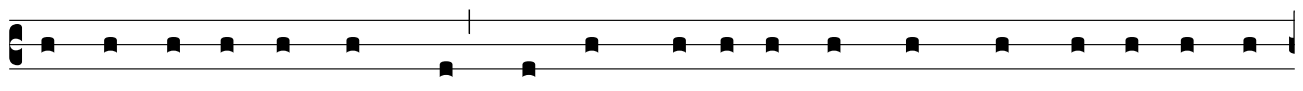
that case, what am I to do with the man you call king of the Jews? *N*. They



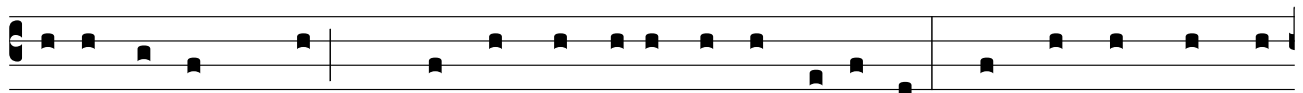
shouted back, *S.* Cruci-fy him! *N.* Pilate asked them, *S.* Why? What harm has



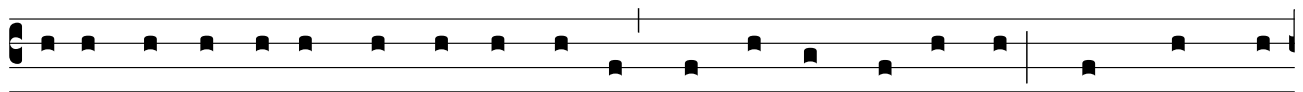
he done? *N.* But they shouted all the louder, *S.* Cruci-fy him! *N.* So Pilate,



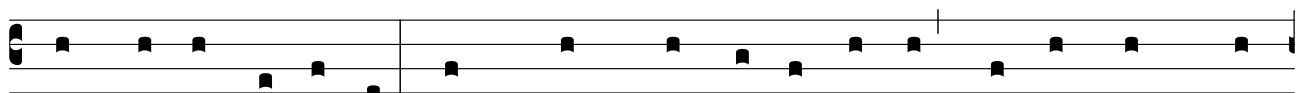
anxious to placate the crowd, released Barabbas for them and, having ordered



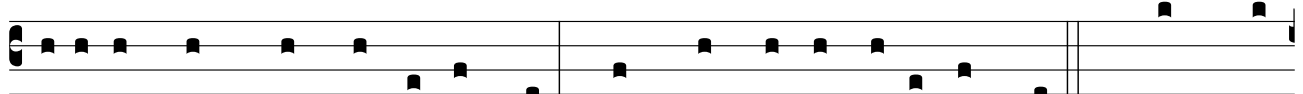
Jesus to be scourged, handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led him



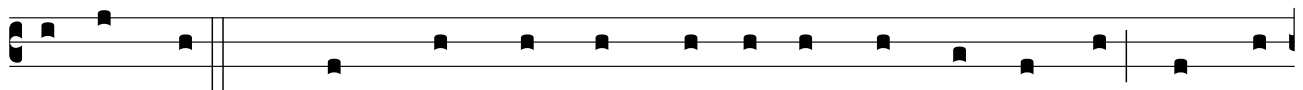
away to the inner part of the palace, that is, the Praetorium, and called the



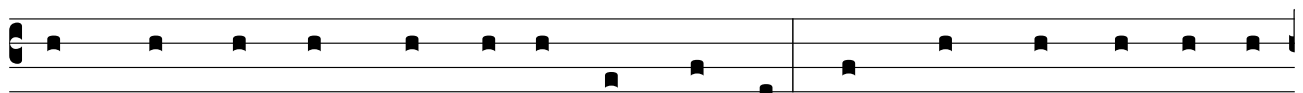
whole cohort together. They dressed him up in purple, twisted some thorns



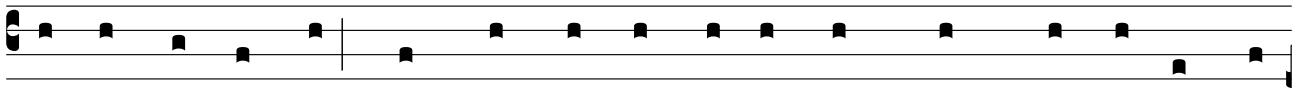
into a crown and put it on him. And they began saluting him, *S.* Hail, king



of the Jews! *N.* They struck his head with a reed and spat on him; and they



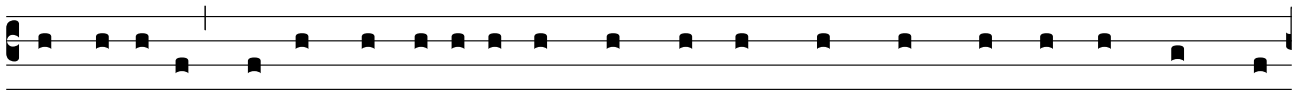
went down on their knees to do him homage. And when they had finished



making fun of him, they took off the purple and dressed him in his own



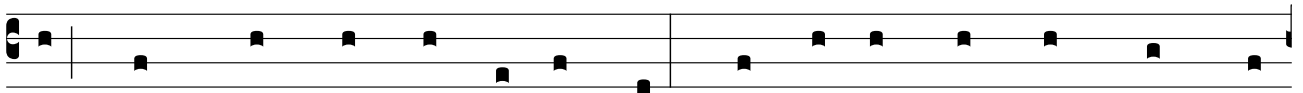
clothes. They led him out to cruci-fy him: they enlisted a passer-by, Simon



of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the



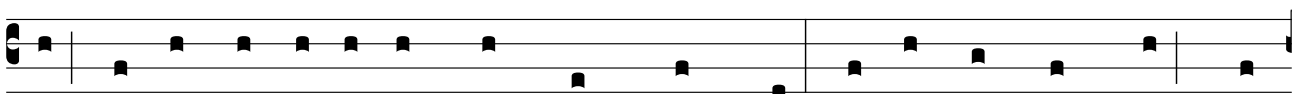
country, to carry his cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgo-



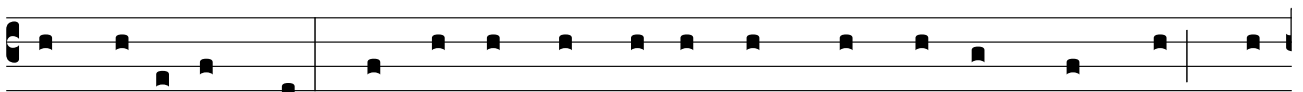
tha, which means the place of the skull. They offered him wine mixed with



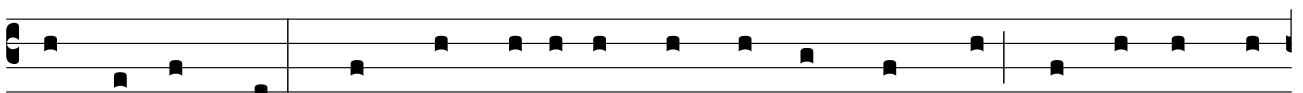
myrrh, but he refused it. Then they crucified him, and shared out his cloth-



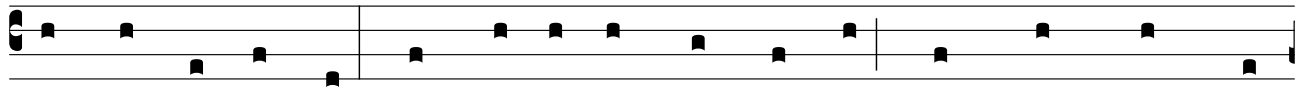
ing, casting lots to decide what each should get. It was the third hour when



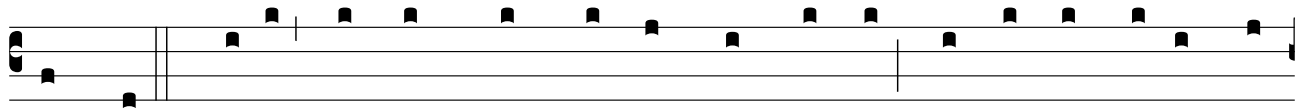
they crucified him. The inscription giving the charge against him read: 'The



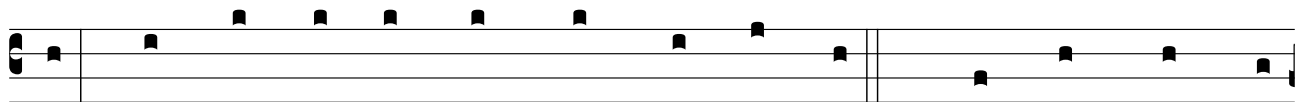
King of the Jews.' And they crucified two robbers with him, one on his right



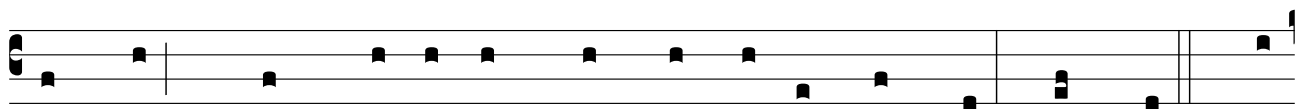
and one on his left. The passers-by jeered at him; they shook their heads



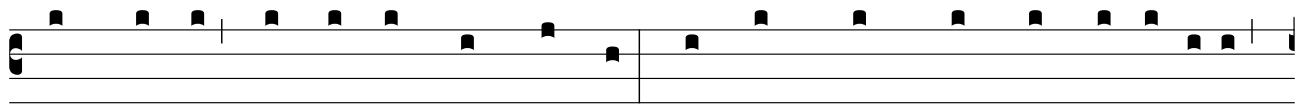
and said, *S.* Aha! So you would destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three



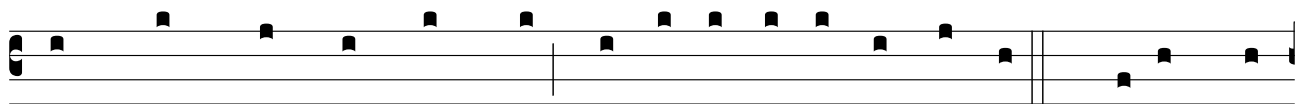
days! Then save yourself: come down from the cross! *N.* The chief priests and



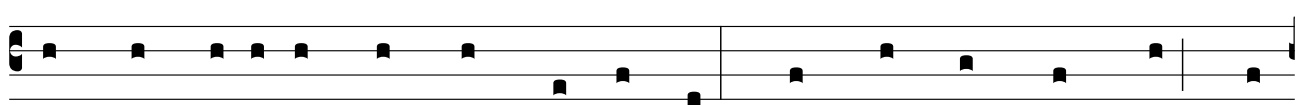
the scribes mocked him among themselves in the same way. They said, *S.* He



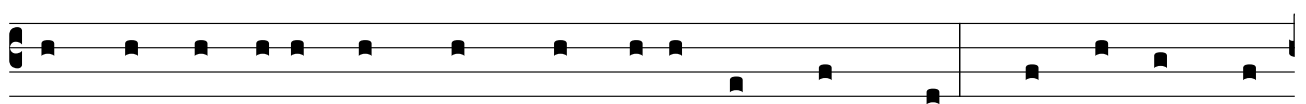
saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the king of Is-rael,



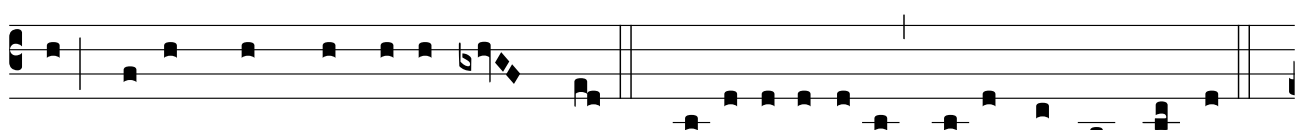
come down from the cross now, for us to see it and believe. *N.* Even those



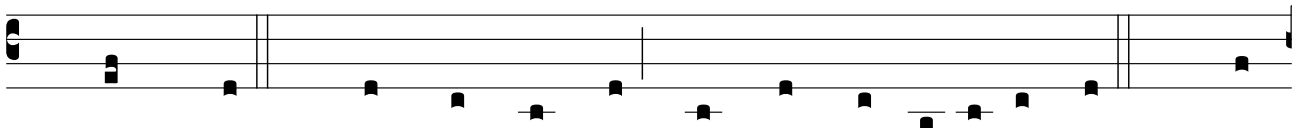
who were crucified with him taunted him. When the sixth hour came there



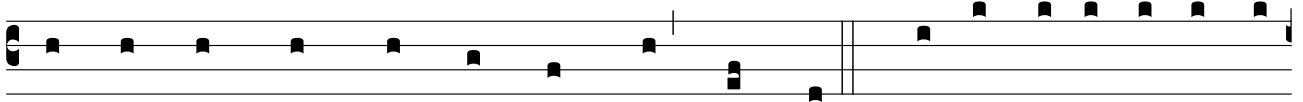
was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth



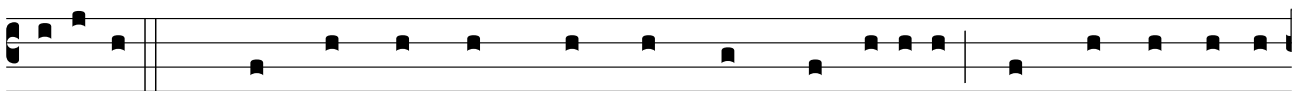
hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ✠ E-lo-i, E-lo-i, lama sabachthani?



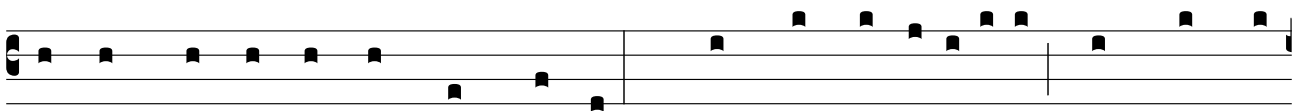
N. which means, ✠ ‘My God, my God, why have you deserted me?’ *N.* When



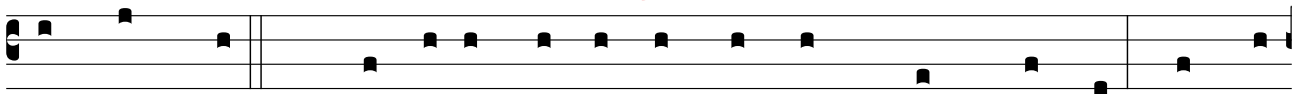
some of those who stood by heard this, they said *S.* Listen, he is calling on



E-lijah. *N.* Someone ran and soaked a sponge in vinegar and, putting it on



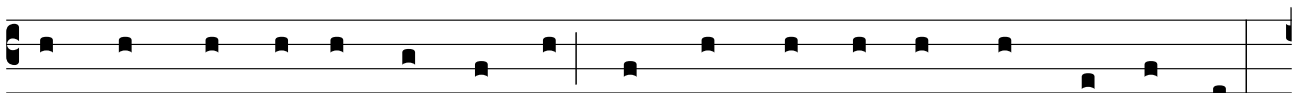
a reed, gave it him to drink, saying: *S.* Wait and see if E-lijah will come to
All kneel and pause a moment.



take him down. *N.* But Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the



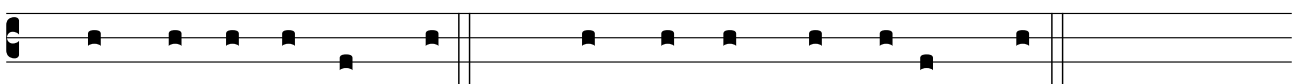
veil of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The centu-
rion,



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