

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

According to Luke

Luke 22: 39—23: 56

The Text of the New Revised Standard Version

Set to Traditional Chant by

Bruce E. Ford

FOREWORD

Few specimens of fully-notated chant recitatives from the Middle Ages survive; but those that do indicate that medieval musicians applied the formulas to the texts somewhat more flexibly than the rules given in twentieth-century chant books permit.

Recitative formulas hold little interest except as vehicles for texts. Therefore, if a particular formula distorts a particular text, the formula ought to be modified.

In this setting of the English text I have sometimes placed two (normally-separate) notes over a single syllable to facilitate smooth rendering of the text where two accented syllables occur in succession, e.g.,

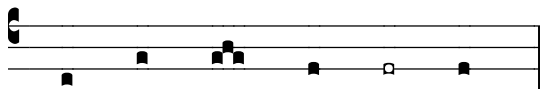


but they képt shóut-ing.

The formula by which the Chronista recitative leads into the Christus recitative and, the formula by which the Christus recitative returns to the Chronista recitative, both place a three-note group over an unstressed syllable:



re- spón-dit Jé- sus



sed tú- a fí- et.

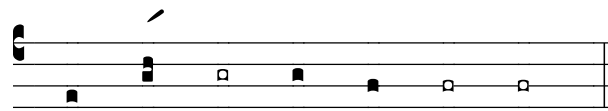
Unstressed Latin syllables can bear this musical weight because every Latin syllable includes a true vowel sound. Many unstressed English syllable do not. Consequently some English texts cannot be sung to this formula without distortion. Therefore, I have reconfigured these formulas so that musical and verbal accents will always coincide:



Jé- sus **án-** swered



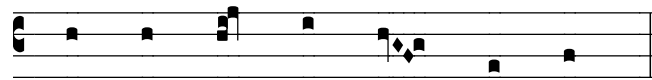
séc- ond **tíme** and **práyed.**



the **tíme** of **trí-** al.
the **flésh** is **wéak**

The final cadence of the special tone traditionally associated with the concluding verses of the Passion (the Planctus) is cursive—indifferent to textual accentuation:

5 4 3 2 1

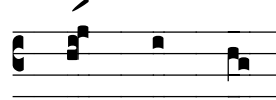


pó- si- tus fú- e- rat
sáb- ba- tum il- lu- scé- bat
é- rat cór- pus é- ius

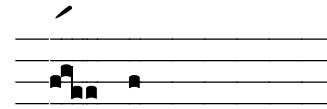
Since unstressed English syllables (for the reason previously cited) cannot bear the musical weight that this formula would sometimes place upon them, I have redesigned this formula, also, to align the musical and verbal accents.



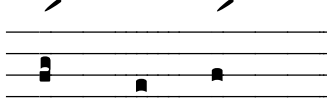
tóp to



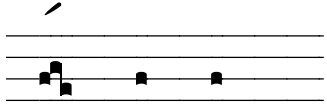
shóok and the



bót- tom



rócks were splít



Zéb - e dee



héwn in the rók



Gód's Són

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke

Luke 22: 39—23:56

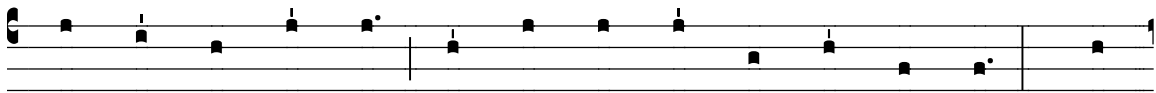
Traditional Chant Adapted to English words
Bruce E. Ford, 2007



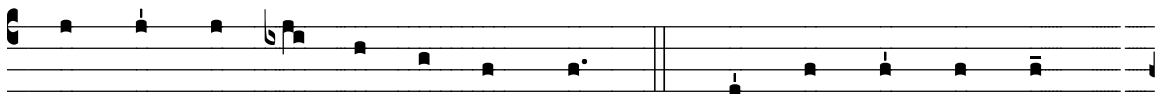
C. The Pás- sion of our Lórd Jé- sus Christ ac- córd- ing to



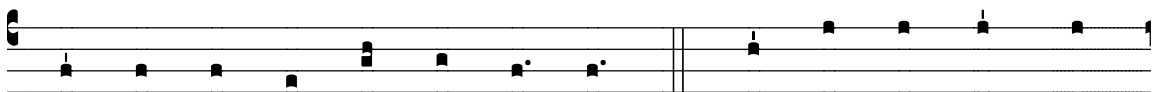
Luke. [Jé- sus came óut and wént, ás was his cú- tom, to



the Móunt of Ól- ives; and his dis- cí- ples fól- lowed him. When



he réached the place, he sáid to them, ☩ “Práy that yóu may nót



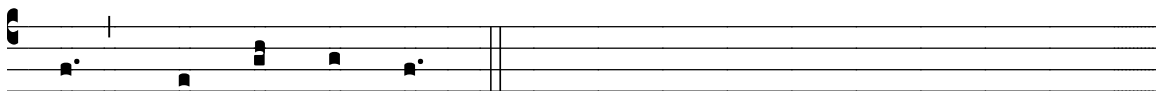
cóme in- to the tíme of trí- al.” C. Thén he with- dréw from



them a- bóut a stóne’s thrów, knélt dówn, and práyed, ☩ “Fa- ther,



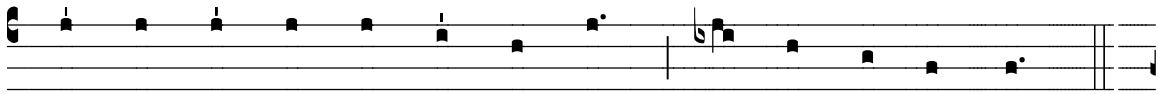
if yóu are wíll- ing, re- móve thís cúp from me; yet nót mý



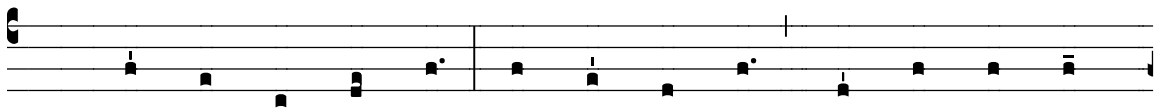
will, but yóurs be dóne.”



C. Whén he got úp from práyer, he cáme to the dis- cí- ples and



fóund them sléep- ing be- cáuse of gríef, and he sáid to them,



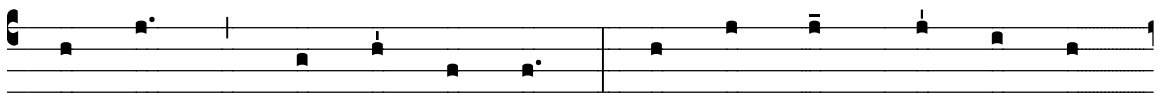
☒ “Whý are you sléep- ing? Get úp and práy, thát you may nó



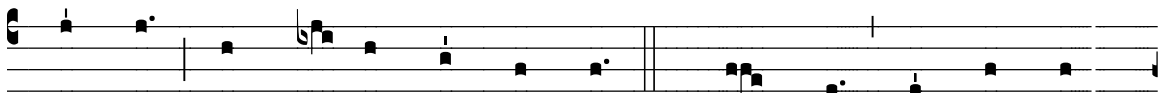
cóme in- to the tíme of trí- al.” C. Whíle he was spéak- ing,



súd- den- ly a crowd came, and the óne cálléd Jú- das, óne of



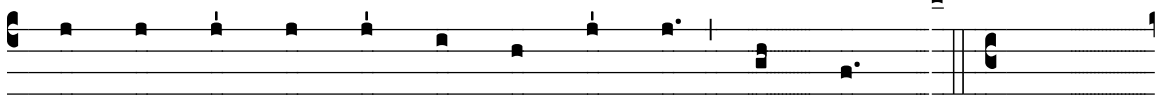
the twélve, was léad- ing them. He ap- próached Jé- sus to



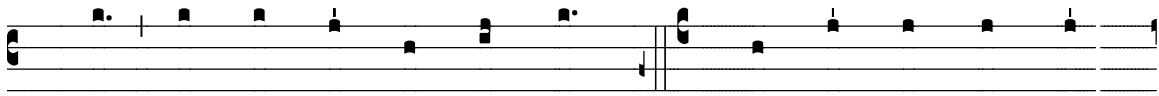
kíss him; but Jé- sus sáid o him, ☒ “Ju- das, is it with



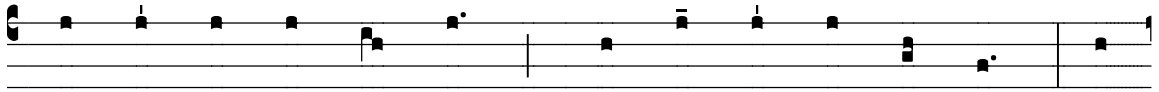
a kíss thát you be- tráy the Són of Man?” C. Whén thóse who



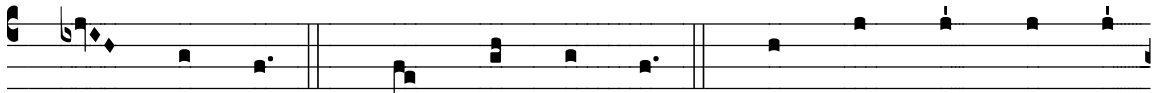
were a- róund him sáw what was cóm- ing, they ásked,



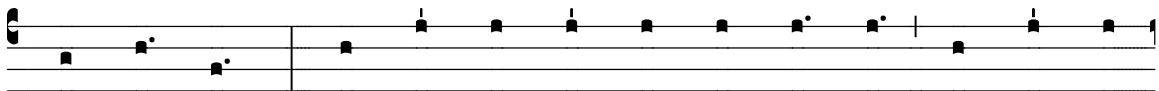
S. Lórd, should we stríke with the swórd?" C. Then óne of them strúck



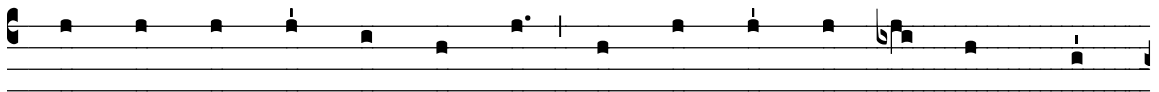
the sláve of the hígh príest and cút óff his ríght éar. But



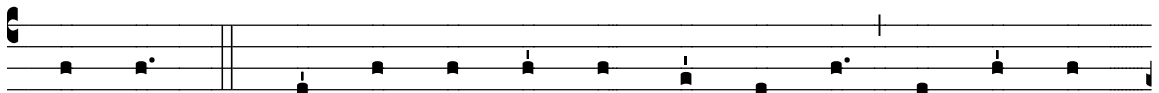
Jé- sus said, ✠ "Nó móre of thís!" C. And he touched his éar



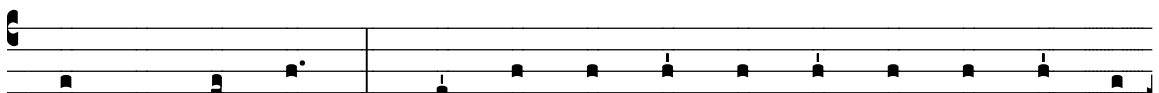
and healed him. Then Jé- sus said to the chief priests, the of- fic-



ers of the tém- ple po- líce, and the él- ders who had cóme



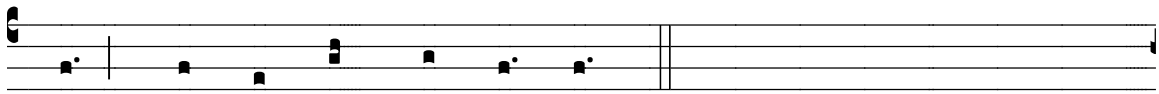
fór him. ✠ "Háve you come óut with swórds and clúbs as íf I



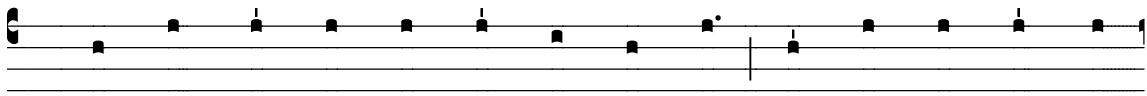
were a bán- dit? Whén I was wíth you dáy af- ter dáy in



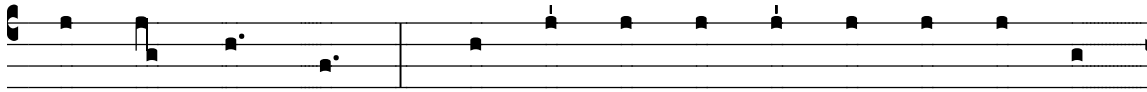
the tém- ple, you did nót láy hánds on me. But thís is your



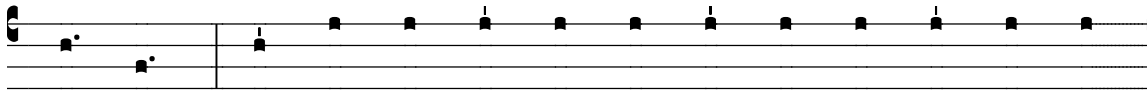
hóur, and the pow'r of dark-ness!"



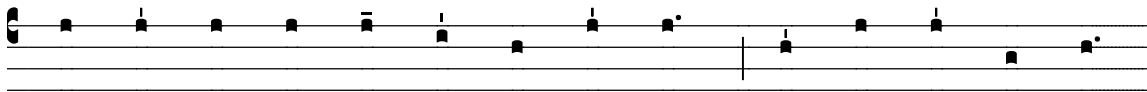
C. Then they séized him and léd him a- wáy, bríng- ing him ín- to



the hígh príest's house. But Pé- ter was fól- low- ing at a



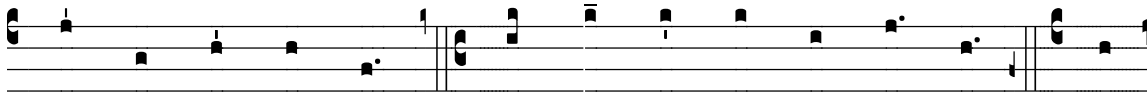
dís- tance. Whén they had kíndled a fíre in the míd- dle of



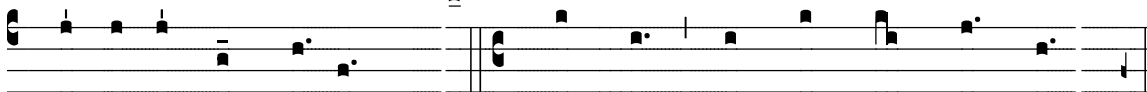
the cóurt-yard and sát dówn to- géth- er, Pé- ter sát a- móng



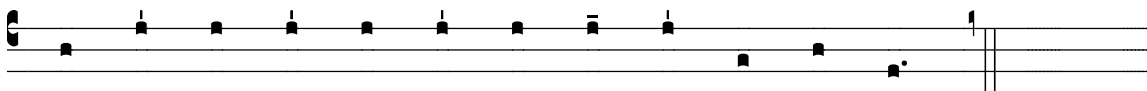
them. Thén a sér- vant girl, sée- ing him in the fíre- líght,



stared at him and said, **S.** "Thís mán ál- so was wíth him." **C.** But



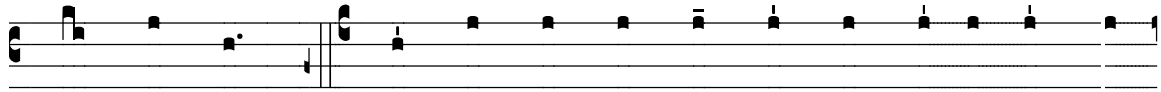
hé de- níed it, sáy ing **S.** "Wó- man, I do nótknów him."



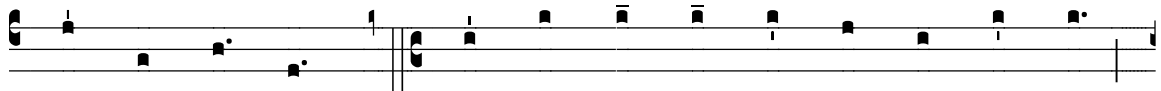
C. A lít- tle lát- er sóme- one élse sée- ing him, said,



S. "Yóu ál- so are óne of them. C. But Pé- ter said, S. "Mán,



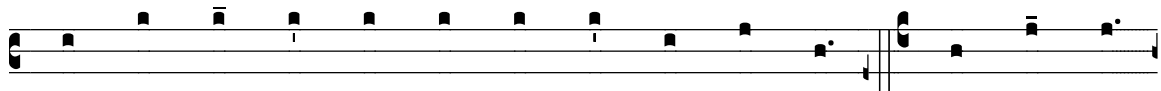
I am nótl" C. Then a- bout an hóur lát- er stíll an- óth- er



képt in- síst- ing, S. "Sure- ly thís mán ál- so was wíth him;



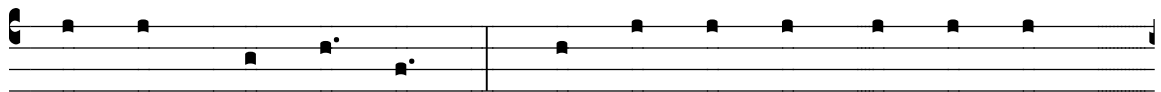
for hé is a Gál- i- lé- an. C. But Pé- ter said, S. "Man,



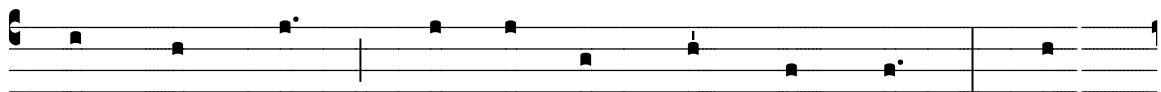
I do nótl knów what you are tálk- ing a- bót." C. At thát mó-



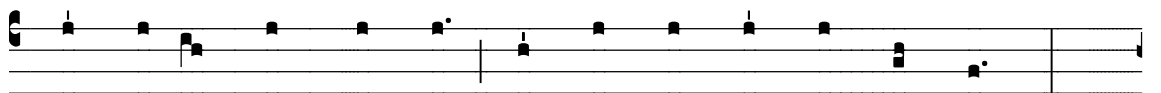
ment, wíle they were stíll spéak- ing, the cóck crówed. The Lórd túrned



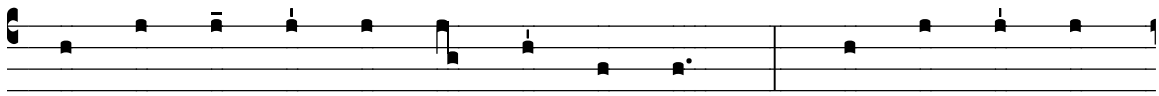
and lóoked at Pé- ter. Thén he re- mém-bered the wórd



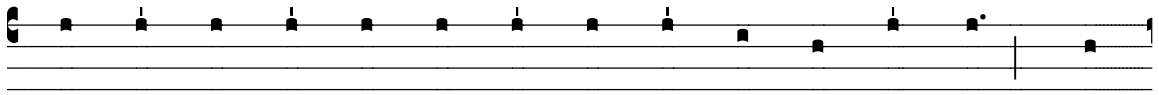
of the Lórd, how he had sáid to him, "Be-



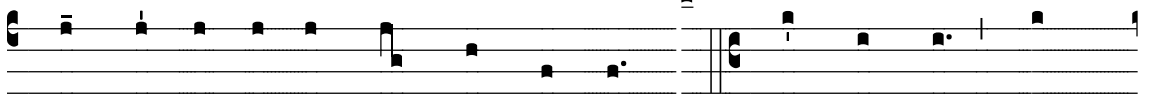
fóre the cóck cróws to- dáy, yóu will de- ný me thrée tímes."



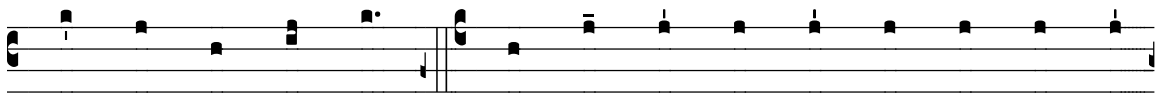
And he wént out and wépt bít- ter- ly. Now the mén who



were hól- ing Jé- sus be- gán to móck him and béat him; they



blínd-fóld- ed him and képt ásk- ing him, **S.** “Próph- e- sy! Whó



is it that strúck you?” They képt heap- ing má- ny oth- er ín-



sults on him. When dáy cáme, the as- sém- bly of the él- ders



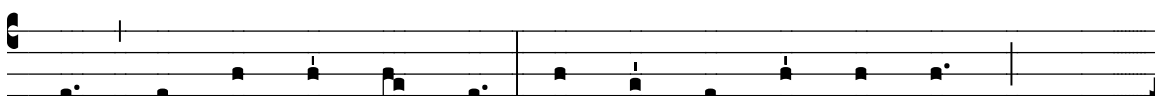
of the péo- ple, both chief príests and scríbes, gáth-ered to- géth- er,



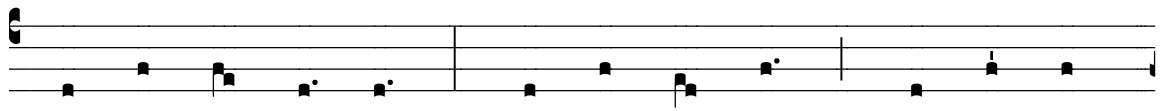
and they bróught him to their cóun- cil. They said, **S.** “If yóu are



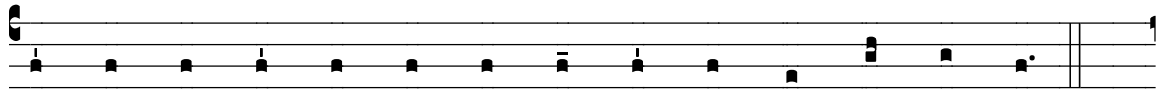
the Mes- sí- ah, téll us.” **C.** Hé re- plíed. **✠** “Íf I téll



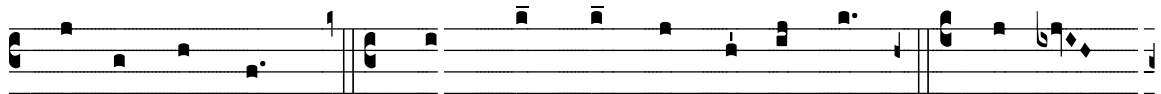
you, you will nót be- líeve; and íf I qué- s- tion you,



you will nót án- swer. But from nów ón the Són of



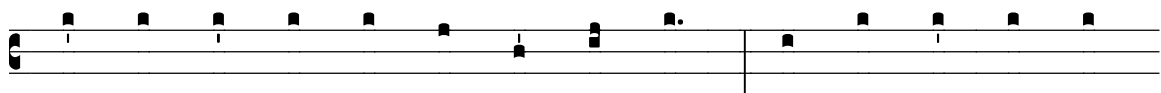
Mán will be séat- ed at the ríght hánd of the pów'r of Gód."



C Áll of them ásked, **S.** "Are yóu, thén, the Són of God?" **C.** He sáid



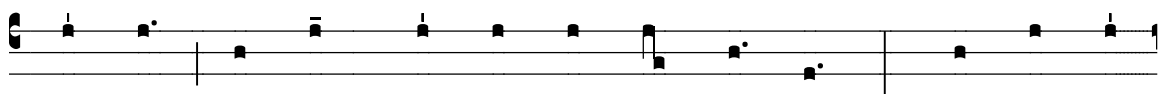
tó them, **✠** "Yóu sáy that I ám." **C.** Thén they sáid **S.** "Whát



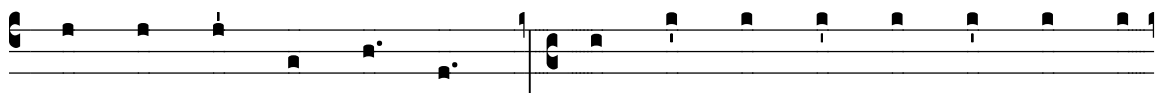
fúr- ther tés- ti- mo- ny dó we nées? We have héard it our-



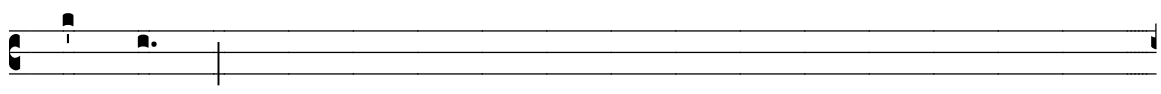
séives fróm his ówn líps] **C.** Thén the as- sém- bly róse as a



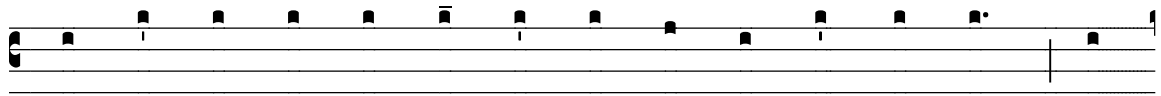
bód- y and bróught Jé- sus be- fóre Pí- late. They be- gán



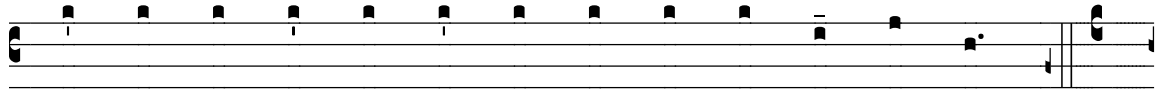
to ac- cúse him, say- ing, **S.** "We fóund this mán per- vért- ing our



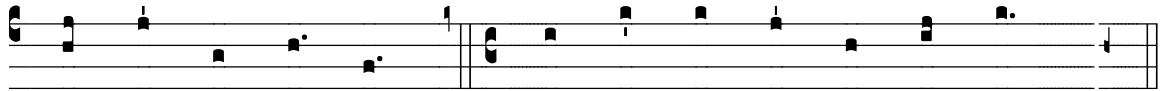
ná- tion,



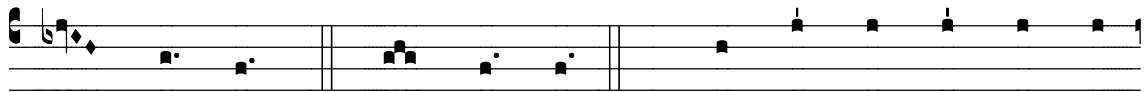
for- bíd- ding us to páy táx- es to the em- per- or, and



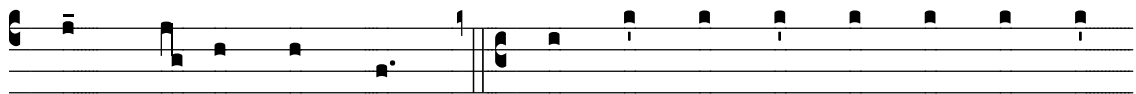
sáy- ing that hé him- sélf is the Mes- sí- ah, a king.”



C. Thén Pí- late asked him, **S.** “Are yóu the kíng of the Jews?”



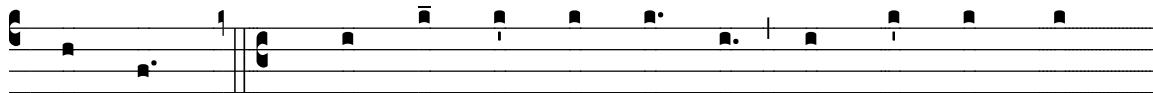
C. He án- swered, **✠** “Yóu sáy so.” **C.** Then Pí- late sáid to the



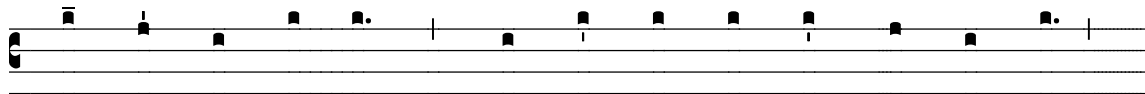
chief priests and the crówds, **S.** “I fínd no bá- sis for an ác-



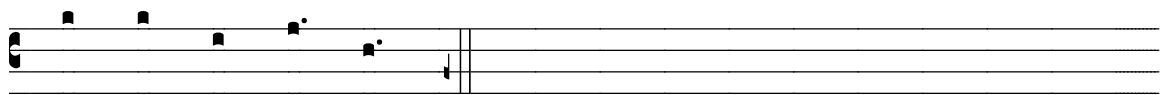
cu- sá- tion a- gáinst thís mán.” **C.** But théy were in- síst- ent



and sáid, **S.** “He stírs úp the péo- ple by préach- ing through-



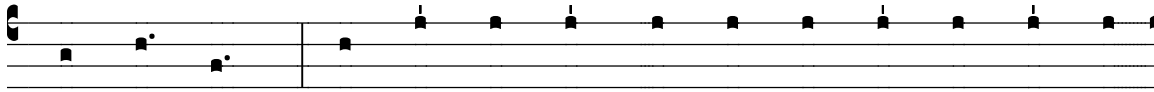
óut áll Ju- dé- a, from Gál- i- lee whére he be- gán,



é- ven to thís pláce.”



C. When Pí- late héard this, he ásked whéth- er the mán was a Gal-



i- lé- an. And when he léarned that he was ún- der Hér- od's



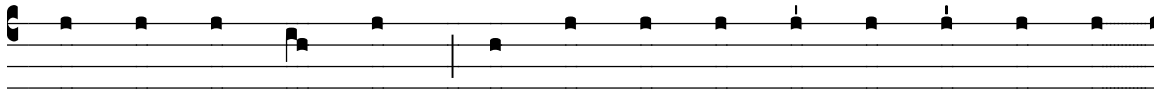
jur- is- díc- tion, he sent him off to Her- od, whó was him-



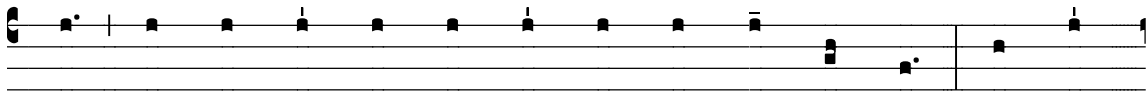
sélf in Je- rú- sa- lem at thát tíme. When Hér- od sáv Jé-



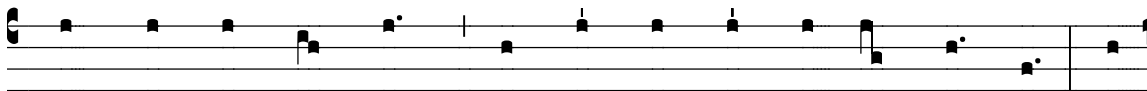
sus, he was vér- y glád, for hé had been wánt- ing to sée



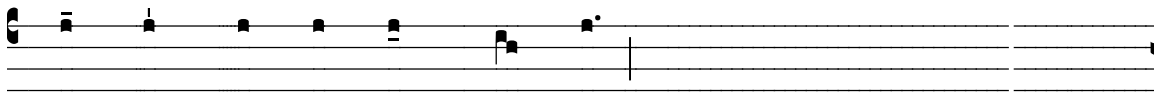
him for a lóng tíme, be- cause he had séen and héard a- bout



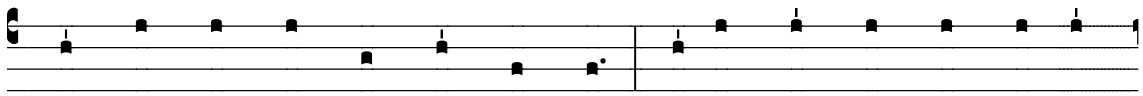
him and was hóp- ing to sée him per- fórm sóme sígn. He qués-



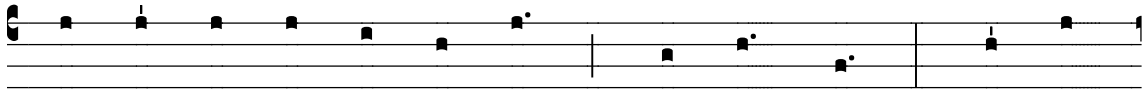
tioned him at sóme léngth, but Jé- sus gáve him nó án- swer. The



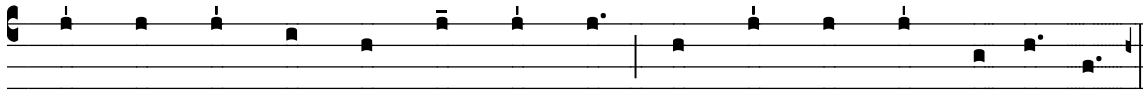
chíef príests and the scríbes stóod bý,



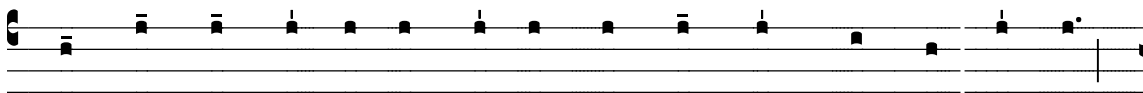
vé- he- ment- ly ac- cús- ing him. E- ven Hér- od with his sól-



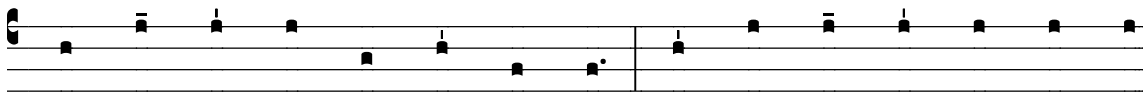
diers tréat- ed him with con- témt and mócked him; then he



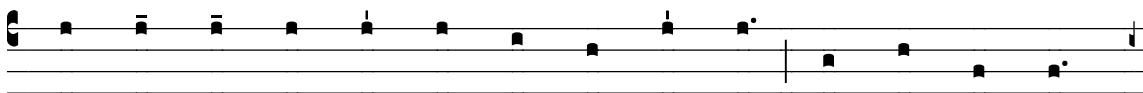
pút an él- e- gant róbe ón him, and sént him bák to Pí- late.



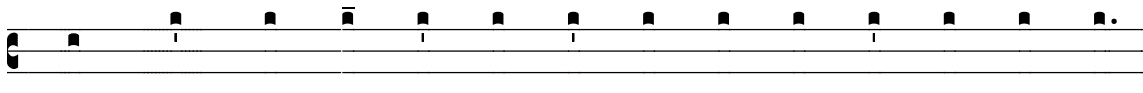
Thát sáme dáy Hér- od and Pí late be- cáme friends with each óth- er;



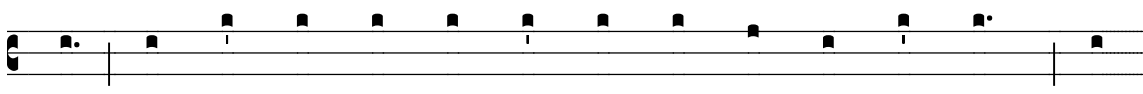
be- fóre théy had been én- e- mies. Pí- late thén cálléd to- geth- er



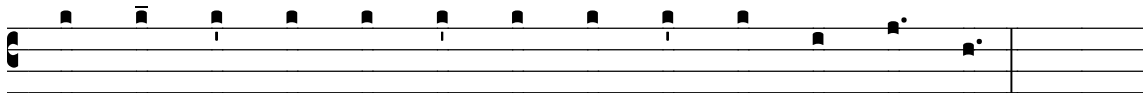
the chíef príests, the léad- ers, and the péo- ple, and sáid to them,



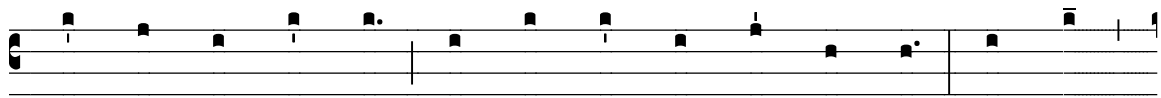
S. “You bróught me thís mán as óne who was per- vért- ing the péo-



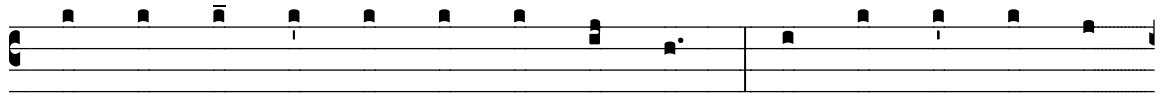
ple; and hére I have ex- ám- ined him in your prés- ence and



have nót fóund him gúilt- y of your chár- ges a- gáinst him.



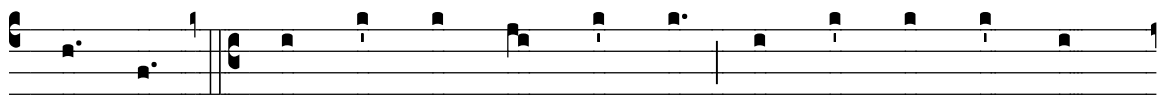
Néi-ther has Hér-od, for he sént him bák to us. In- deed,



he has dóne nóth- ing to de- sérve déath. I will thére- fore have



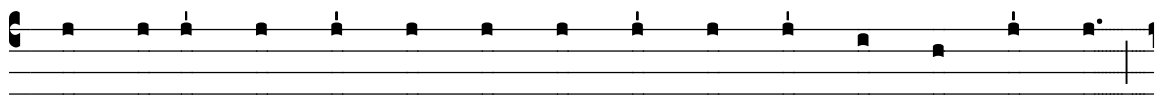
him flogged and re- lease him.” **C.** Then they áll shóut- ed óut to-



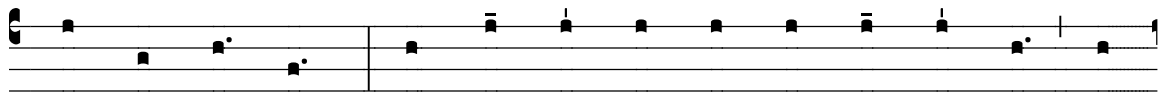
géth- er, **S.** “A- wáy with this fél- low! Re- léase Ba- ráb- bas



for us.” **C.** (This was a mán who had been pút in prís- on



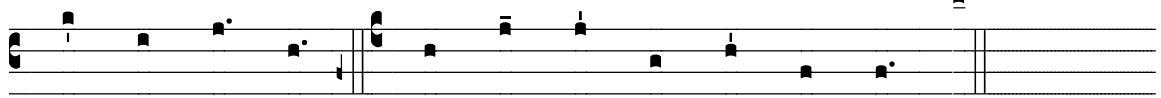
for an ín- sur- réc- tion that had ták- en pláce in the cít- y,



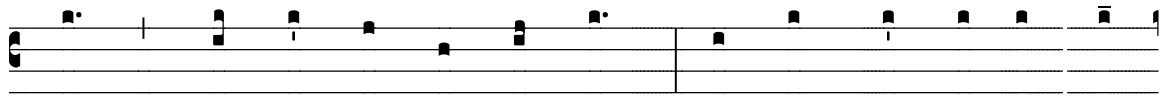
and for múr- der.) Pí- late, wánt- ing to re- léase Jé- sus, ad-



dressed them a- gáin, but they képt shóut- ing, **S.** “Crú- ci- fy,



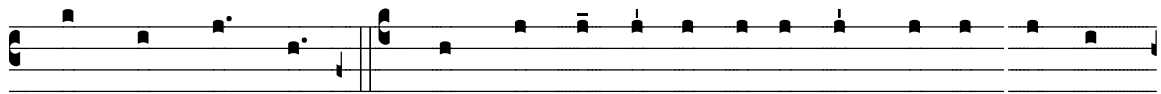
crú- ci- fy him.” A thírđ tíme he sáid to them,



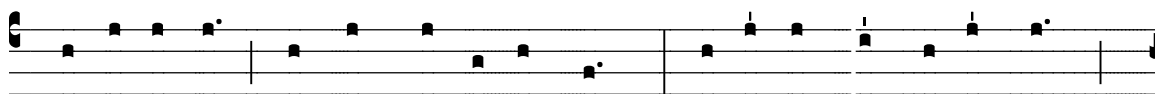
S. Why, what é- vil has he dóne? I have found in him nó



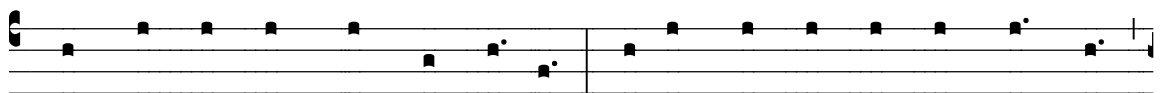
gróund for the sén- tence of déath; I will thére- fore have him flógged



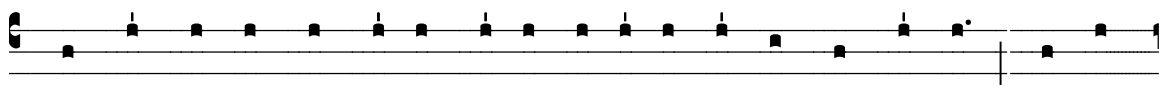
and re- léase him.' C. But they képt úr- gent- ly de- mánd- ing that hé should



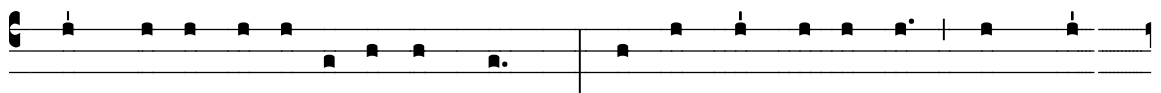
be crú- ci- fied; and their vóic- es pre- váiled. So Pí- late gáve his vér- dict



that their de- mánd should be gránt- ed. He re- léased the mán they ásked fór,



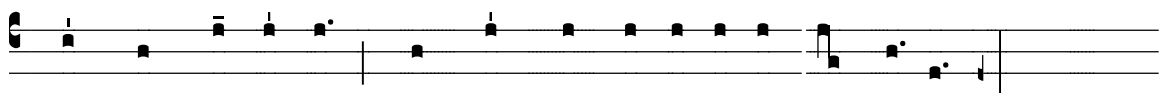
the óne who had been pút in prís- on for ín- sur- réc- tion and múr- der, and he



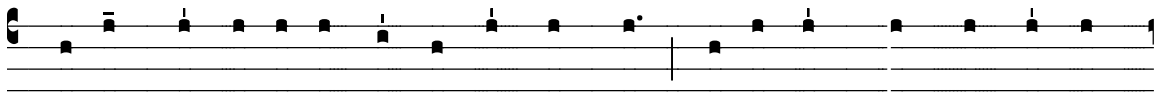
hánd- ed Jé- sus ó- ver ás they wished. As they léd him a- wáy, they seized



a man, Sí- mon of Cy- réne, who was cóm- ing from the cóun- try, and they



láid the cróss ón him, and máde him cár- ry it be- hínd Jé- sus.



A gréat nùm-ber of the péo-ple fól-lowed him, and a-móng them were wó-men



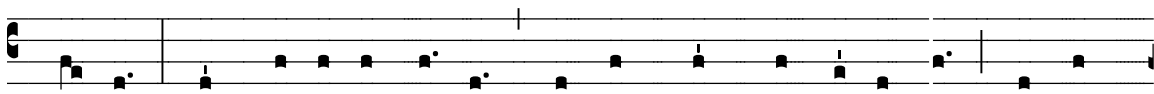
who were béat-ing their bréasts and wáil-ing for him. But Jé-sus túrned to them



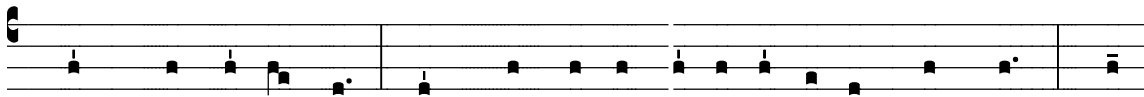
and sáid, ✠ “Dáugh-ters of Je-rú- sa-lem, do nó-t wéep for me, but wéep for



your-sélves and for your chíl-dren. For the dáys are súde-ly cóm-ing when they



will sáy, ‘Bless-ed are the bár-ren, and the wombs that név-er bóre, and the



bréasts that név-er núr-sed. Thén they will be-gín to sáy to the móun-tains, ‘Fáll



ón us,’ and to the hílls ‘Cóv-er us.’ For if they dó this wén the wóod is



gréen, wát will háp-pen wén it is drý?”



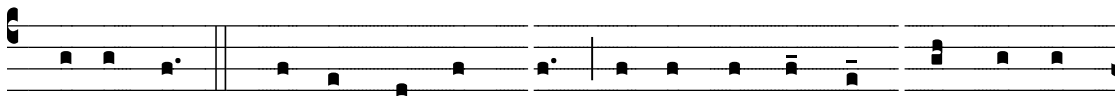
Two oth-ers al- so, who were crim-i-nals, were léd a-wáy to be pút to déath



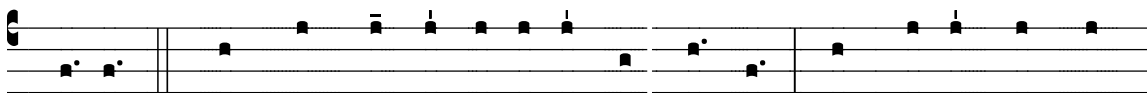
with him. When they cáme to the pláce that is cálléd The Skúll, they crú-ci-fied



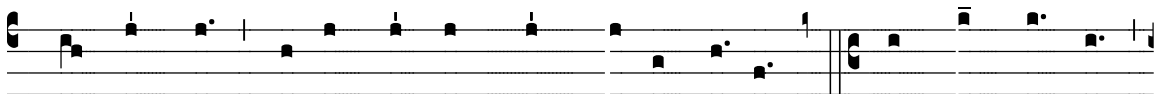
Jé-sus thére wíth the crím-i-nals, óne on his ríght and óne on his léft. Thén



Jé-sus said, ✠ “Fá-ther, for-gíve them; for they do nó-t knów wát they are



dó-ing.” **C.** And they cást lots to di-víde his clóth-ing. And the péo-ple stood



bý, wátch-ing; but the léad-ers scóffed at him, sáy-ing, **S.** He sáved óth-ers;



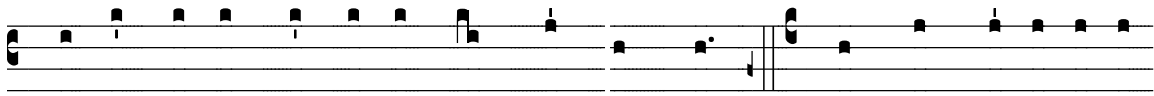
lét him sáve him- sélf if hé is the Mes-sí- ah of Gód, his chós- en one.”



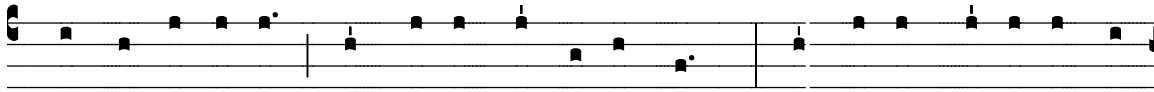
The sól- diers ál- so mócked him, cóm- ing úp and óf- fer- ing



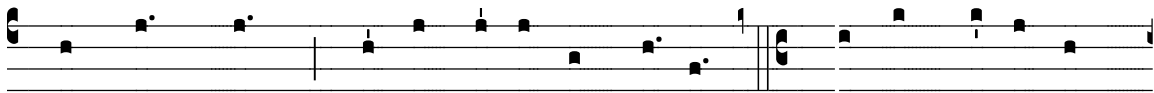
him sóur wíne and sáy- ing,



S. "If you are the King of the Jews, save your-self." C. There was also an in-



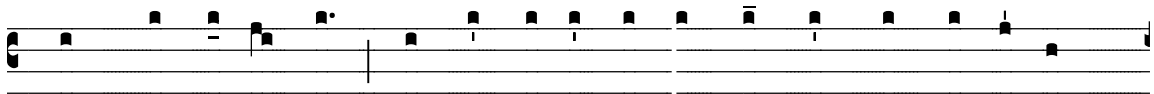
scription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who



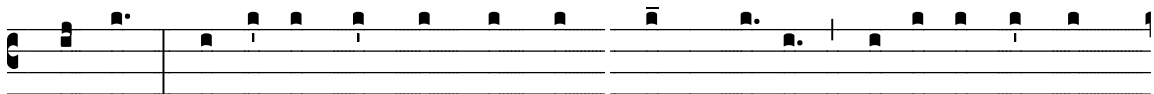
were hanged there kept deriding him, saying. S. "Are you not the Mes-



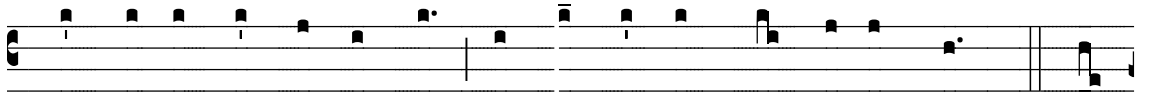
si-ah?" Save yourself and us!" C. But the other rebuked him, saying,



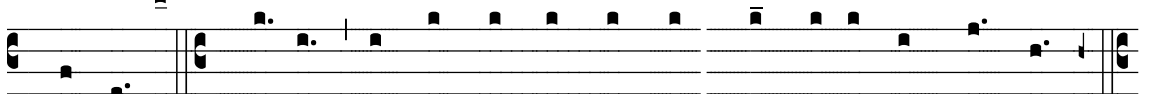
S. "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condem-



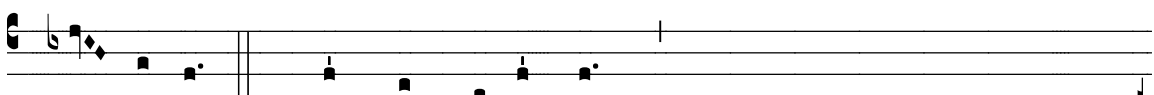
nation? And we indeed have been condemned just-ly, for we are getting



what we deserve for our deed, but this man has done nothing wrong." S. Then



he said, S. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom



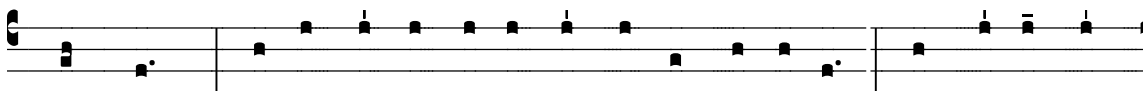
C. He replied, Truly, I tell you,



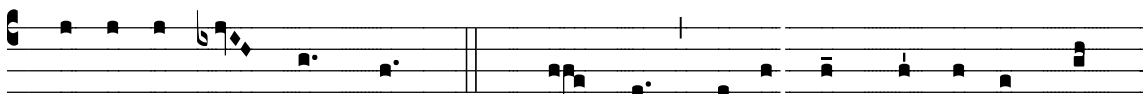
to-dáy you will bé with me in Pár-a-dise. **C.** It was nów a-bóut nóon, and dark-



ness cáme ó-ver the whóle lánd un-til thrée in the áf-ter-nóon, while the sún's



líght fáiled; and the cúr-tain of the tém-ple was tórñ in twó. Then Jé-sus crý-

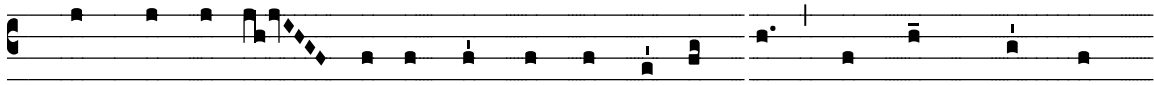


ing with a lóud vóice, sáid, **✠** Fá-ther, in- to yóur hánds I com-ménd



my spír-it. **C.** Hav-ing sáid this, he bréathed his last.

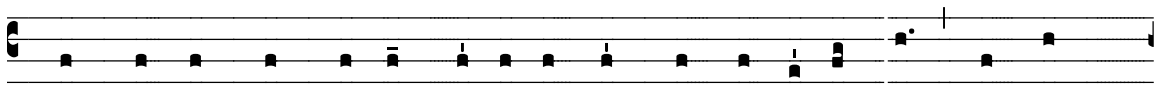
All kneel in silence for a time. Then the Chronista sings the conclusion of the Passion Gospel to the Planctus tone.:



When the cen- tú- ri-on sáw what had ták-en place, he práised Gód and



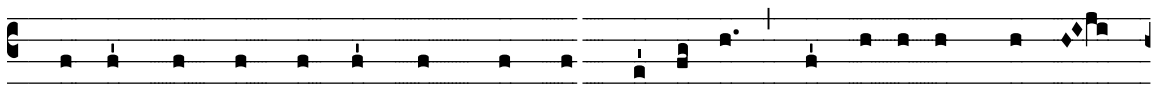
sáid, “Cér-tain-ly this mán was ín-no-cent.” And when áll the crówds who



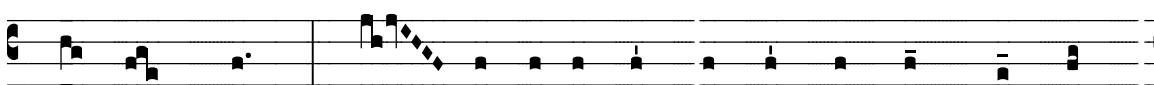
had gáth-ered there for this spéc-ta-cle sáw what had ták-en pláce, they re-



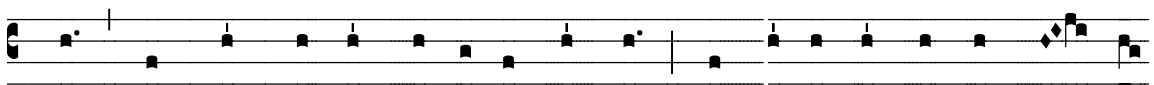
túrned hóme béat-ing their bréasts. But áll his ac-quáint-anc-es, in-clúd-ing



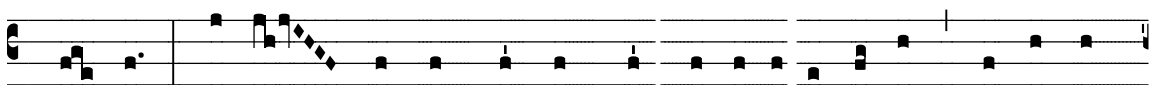
the wó-men who had fól-lowed him from Gál-i-lee, stóod at a dís-tance, wátch-



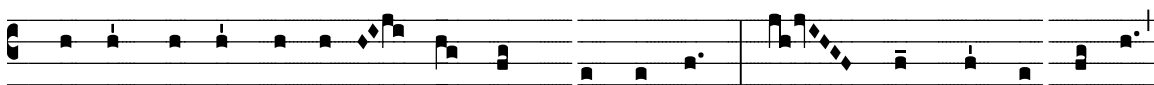
ing thése things. [Now there was a góod and ríght-eous mán, námed Jó-



seph, who, thóugh a mém-ber of the cóun-cil, had nót a-gréed to their plán and



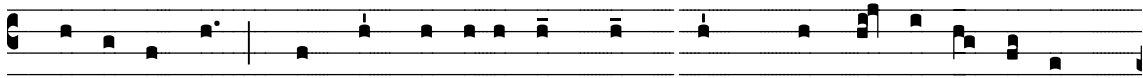
ác-tion He cáme from the Jéw-ish tówn of Ár-i-ma-thé-a and he was



wáit-ing ex-péct-ant-ly for the king-dom of God. This mán wént to Pí-late



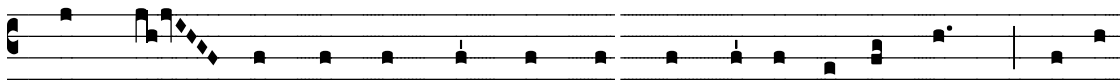
and ásked for the bód-y of Jé- sus. Thén he tóok it down wrapped it in



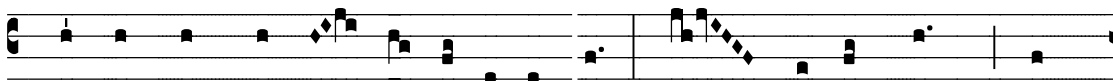
a lín-en clóth and láid him in a róck-héwn tómb where nó one had ev- er



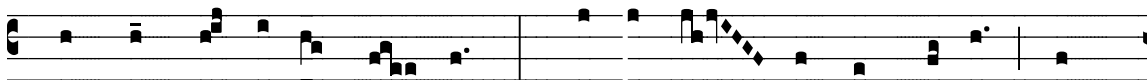
been láid. It was the Prép- a-rá-tion, and the sáb-bath was be- gín- ning



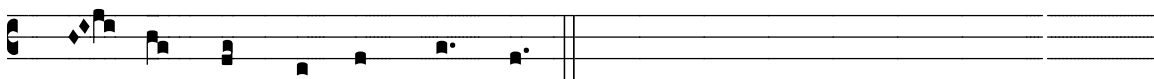
The wó- men who had cóme with him from Gál- i- lee fól- lowed, and they



sáw the tómb and hów his bód-y was láid. Thén they re- túrned and



pre- páred spíc-es and óint-ments. On the sáb- bath they rést-ed ac-



córd- ing to the com- mánd-ment.

