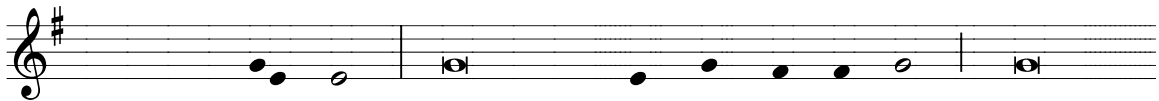


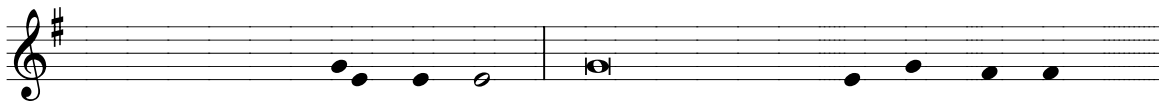
Bethle-hem of Ju- de- a; for so it has been written by the proph- et:



‘An you, Bethlehem, in the land of Ju- dah, are by no means least among



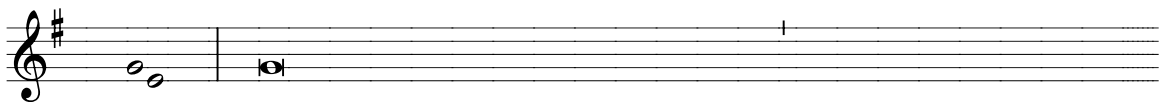
the rulers of Ju- dah; for from you shall come a rul- er, who is to



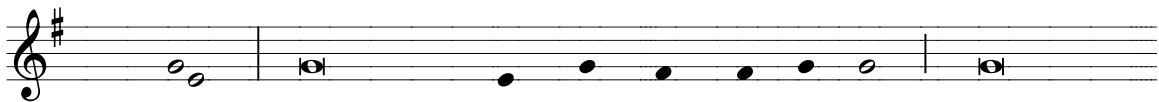
shepherd my people Is- ra- el.’” Then Herod secret-ly called for the



wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had



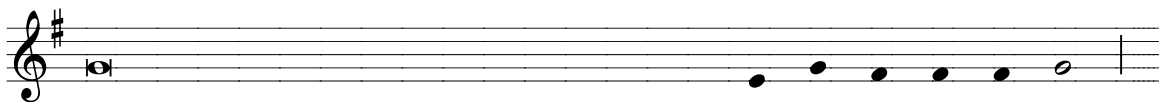
ap- peared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently



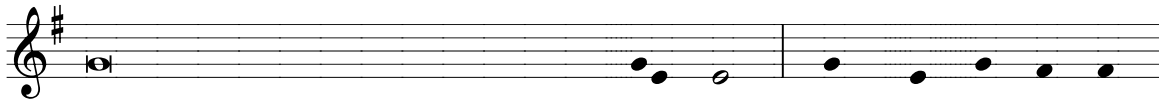
for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I also



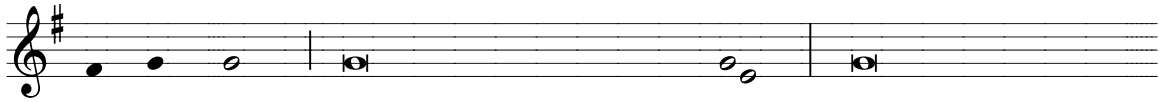
may go and pay him hom- age.” When they had heard the king, they set out;



and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its ris- ing,



until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the



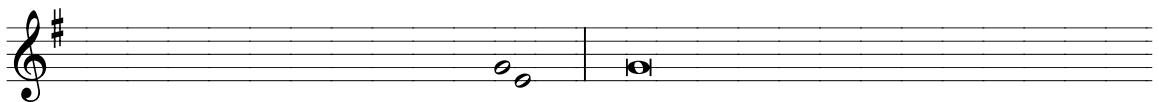
star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house,



they saw the child with Ma- ry his mo- ther; and they knelt down and paid



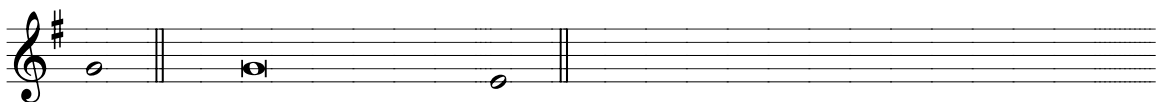
him hom-age. Then, o- pen- ing their trea-sure chests, they offered him



gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not



to return to Her- od, they left for their own coun-try by an- o- ther



road. The Gospel of the Lord.