

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.,

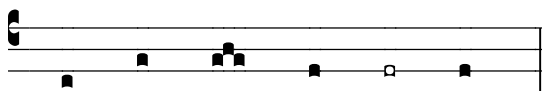


but they képt shóut-ing.

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.

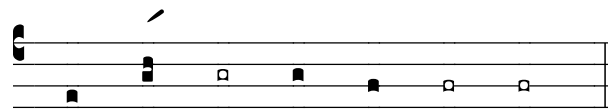
Unstressed Latin syllables can bear this musical weight because every Latin syllable includes a true vowel sound. Many unstressed English syllable do not. Consequently some English texts cannot be sung to this formula without distortion. Therefore, I have reconfigured these formulas so that musical and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



Jé- sus **án-** swered



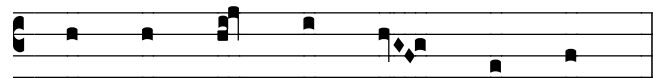
séc- ond **tíme** and **práyed.**



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

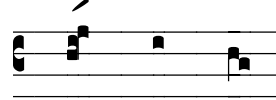


pó- si- tus **fú-** e- rat
sáb- ba- tum **il-** lu- **scé-** bat
é- rat **cór-** pus **é-** ius

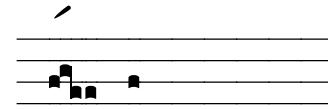
Since unstressed English syllables (for the reason previously cited) cannot bear the musical weight that this formula would sometimes place upon them, I have redesigned this formula, also, to align the musical and verbal accents.



tóp to



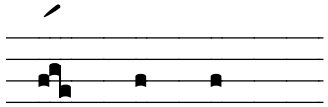
shóok and the



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

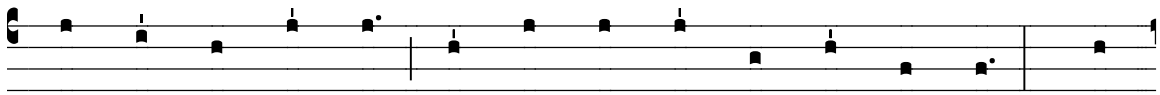
Traditional Chant Adapted to English words
Bruce E. Ford, 2007



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



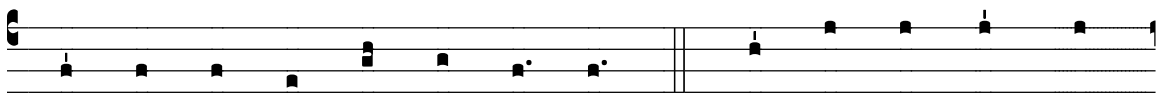
Luke. [Jé- sus came óut and wént, ás was his cú- tom, to



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



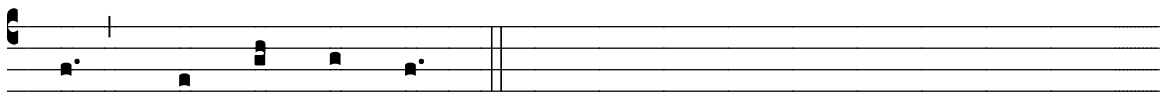
cóme in- to the tíme of trí- al.” C. Thén he with- dréw from



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



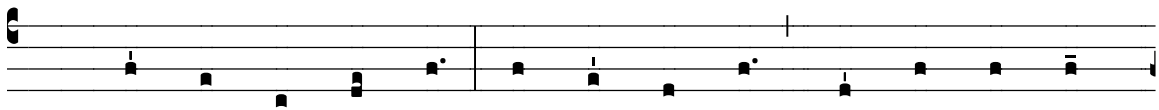
will, but yóurs be dóne.”



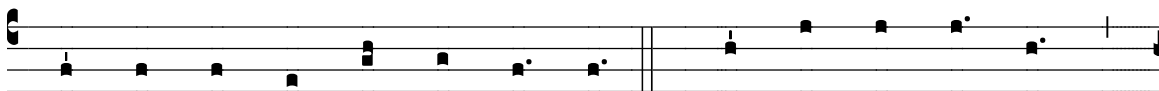
C. Whén he got úp from práyer, he cáme to the dis- cí- ples and



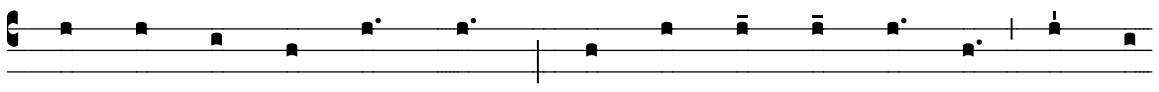
fóund them sléep- ing be- cáuse of gríef, and he sáid to them,



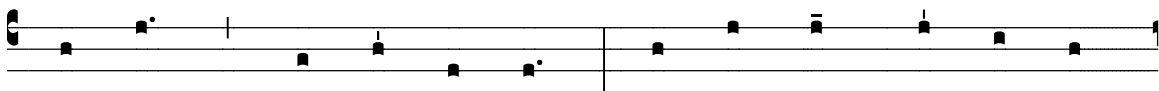
✠ “Whý are you sléep- ing? Get úp and práy, thát you may nót



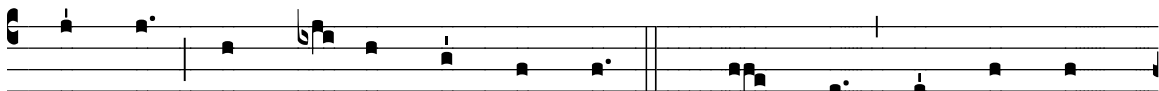
cóme in- to the tíme of trí- al.” C. Whíle he was spéak- ing,



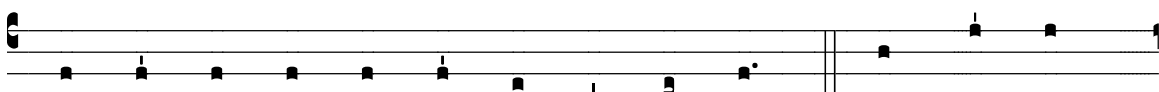
súd- den- ly a crowd came, and the óne cálléd Jú- das, óne of



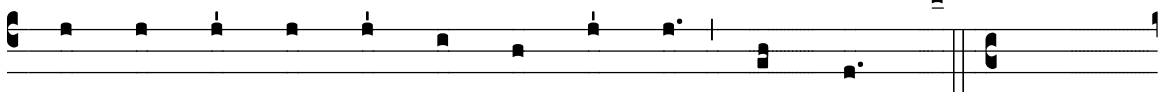
the twélve, was léad- ing them. He ap- próached Jé- sus to



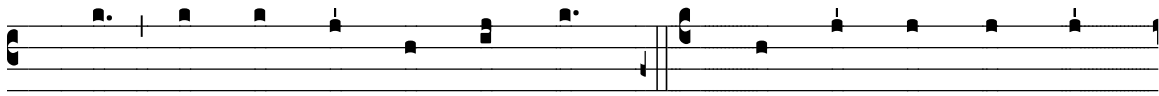
kíss him; but Jé- sus sáid o him, ✠ “Ju- das, is it with



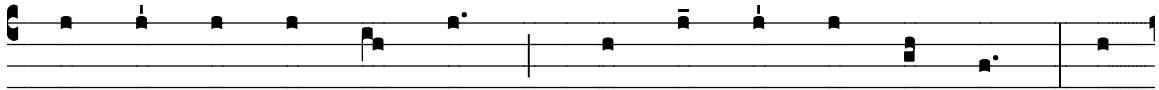
a kíss thát you be- tráy the Són of Man?” C. Whén thóse who



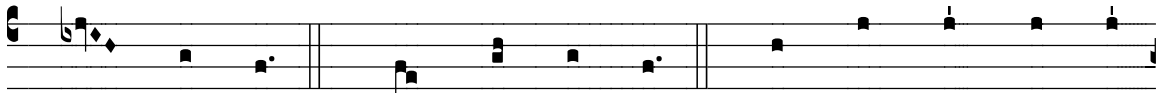
were a- róund him sáw what was cóm- ing, they ásked,



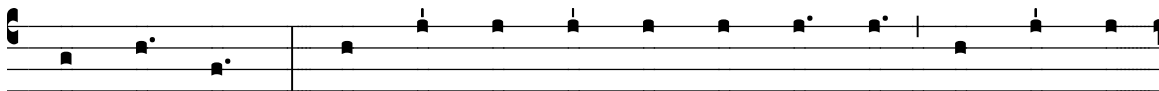
S. Lórd, should we stríke with the swórd?" C. Then óne of them strúck



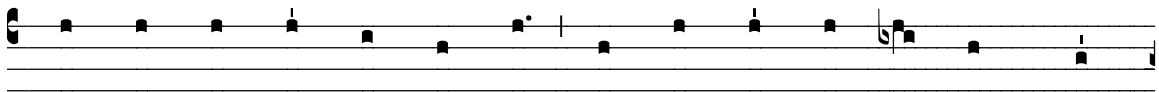
the sláve of the hígh príest and cút óff his ríght éar. But



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



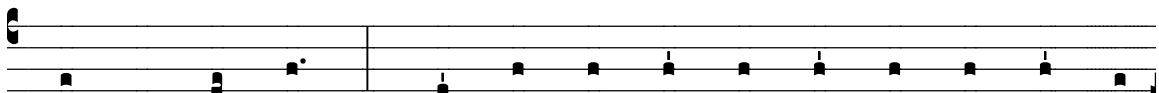
and healed him. Then Jé- sus said to the chief priests, the of- fic-



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



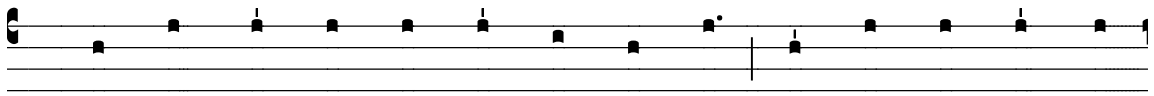
were a bán- dit? Whén I was wíth you dáy af- ter dáy in



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



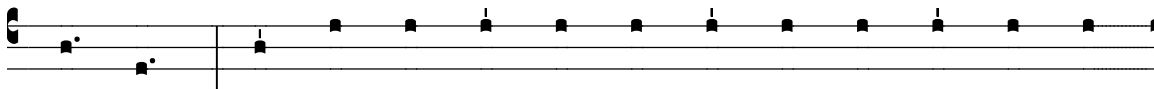
hóur, and the pow'r of dark-ness!"



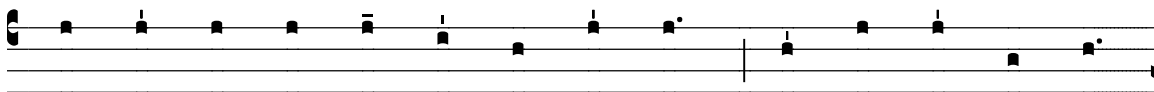
C. Then they séized him and léd him a- wáy, bríng- ing him ín- to



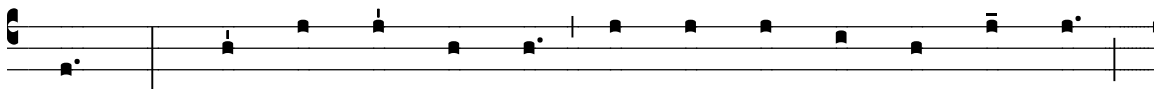
the hígh priest's house. But Pé- ter was fól- low- ing at a



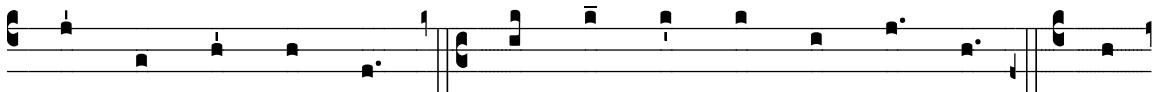
dís- tance. Wén they had kí- dled a fíre in the mí- dle of



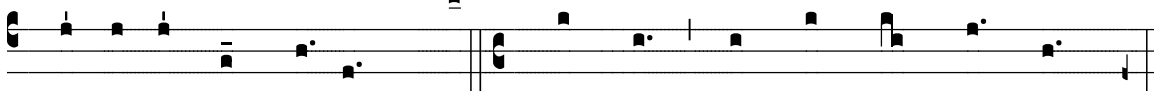
the cóurt- yard and sát dówn to- géth- er, Pé- ter sát a- móng



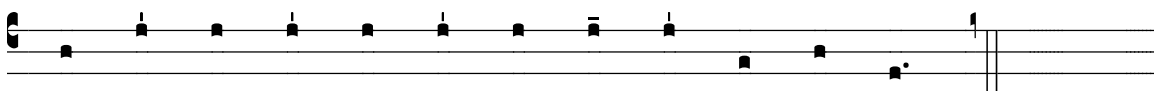
them. Thén a sér- vant girl, sée- ing him in the fíre- líght,



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



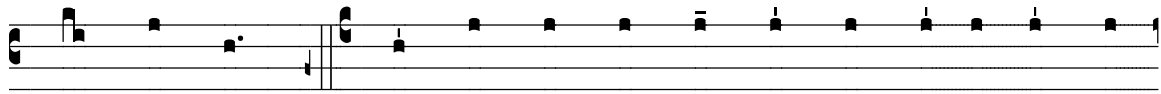
hé de- níed it, sáy ing **S.** "Wó- man, I do nó- t knów him."



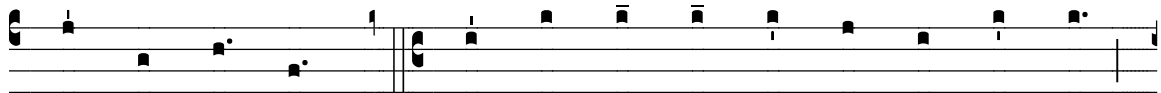
C. A lít- tle lát- er sóme- one élse sée- ing him, said,



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



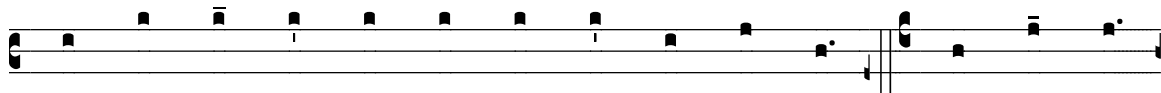
I am nótl" C. Then a- bout an hóur lát- er stíll an- óth- er



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



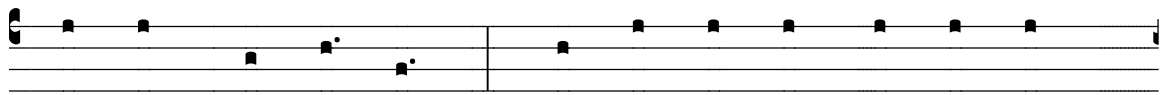
for hé is a Gál- i- lé- an. C. But Pé- ter said, S. "Man,



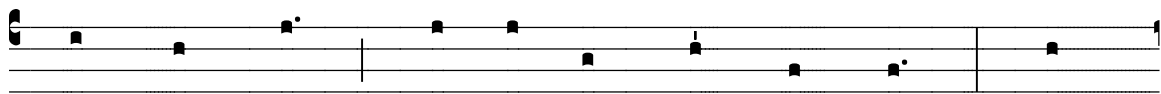
I do nótl knów what you are tálk- ing a- bót." C. At thát mó-



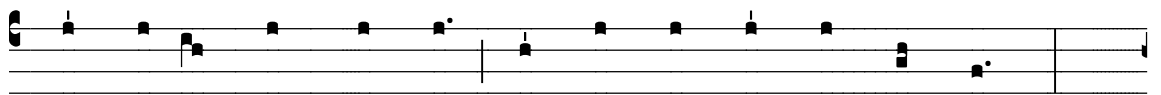
ment, wíle they were stíll spéak- ing, the cóck crówed. The Lórd túrned



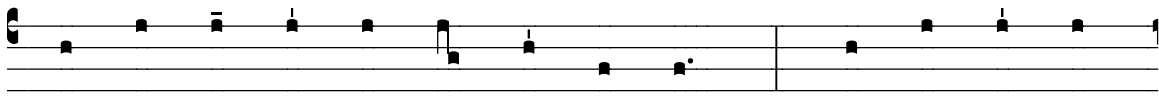
and lóoked at Pé- ter. Thén he re- mém-bered the wórd



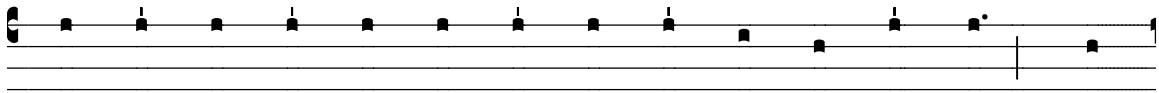
of the Lórd, how he had sáid to him, "Be-



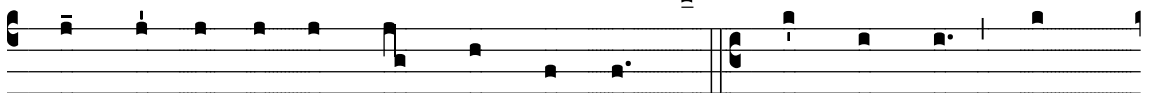
fóre the cóck cróws to- dáy, yóu will de- ný me thrée tímes."



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



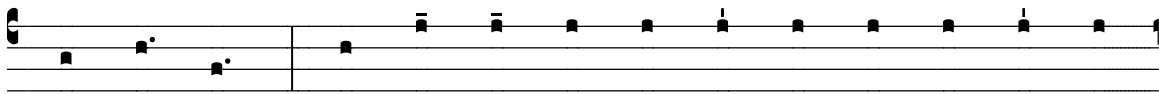
were hól- ing Jé- sus be- gán to móck him and béat him; they



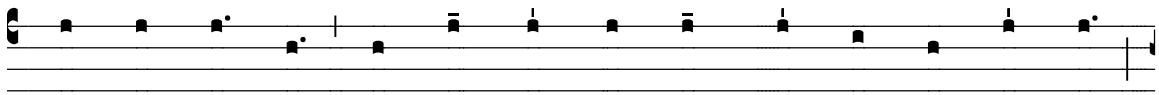
blínd-fóld- ed him and képt ásk- ing him, **S.** “Próph- e- sy! Whó



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



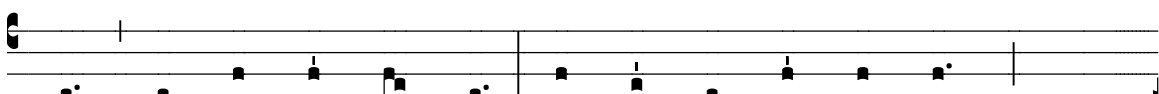
of the péo- ple, both chief príests and scríbes, gáth-ered to- géth- er,



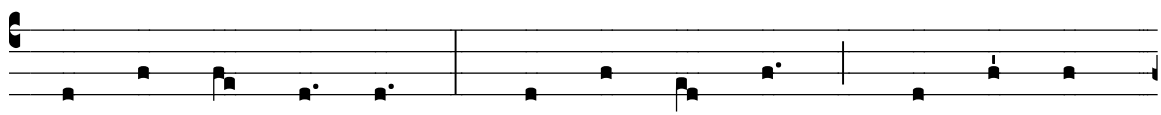
and they bróught him to their cóun- cil. They said, **S.** “If yóu are



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



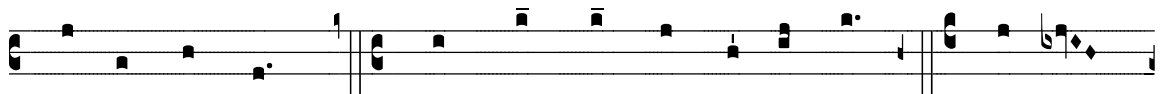
you, you will nó- t be- líeve; and íf I qué- s- tion you,



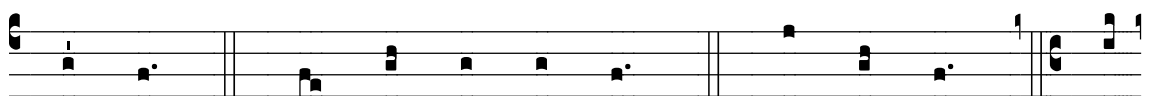
you will nót án- swer. But from nów ón the Són of



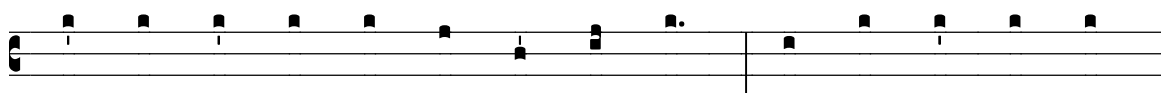
Mán will be séat- ed at the ríght hánd of the pów'r of Gód.”



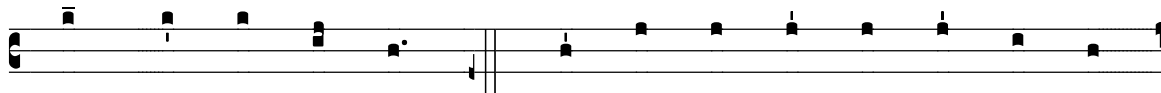
C Áll of them ásked, **S.** “Are yóu, thén, the Són of God?” **C.** He sáid



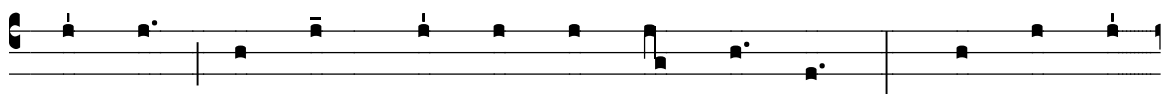
tó them, **✠** “Yóu sáy that I ám.” **C.** Thén they sáid **S.** “Whát



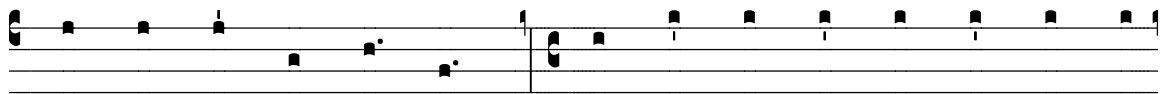
fúr- ther tés- ti- mo- ny dó we nées? We have héard it our-



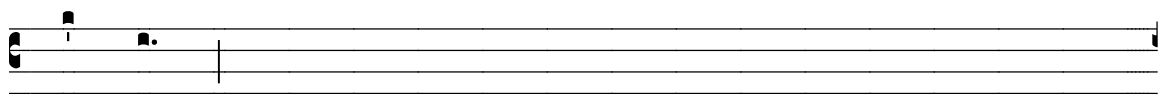
séives fróm his ówn líps] **C.** Thén the as- sém- bly róse as a



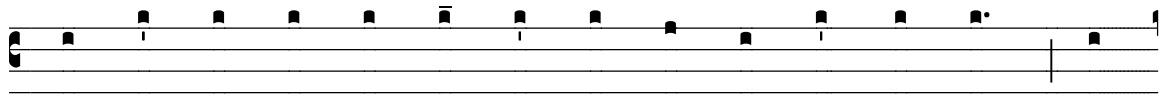
bód- y and bróught Jé- sus be- fóre Pí- late. They be- gán



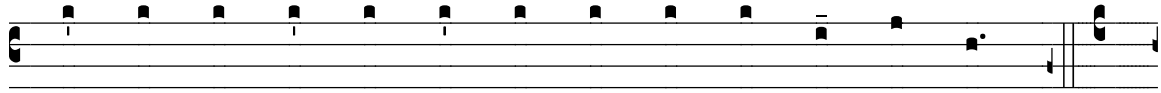
to ac- cúse him, say- ing, **S.** “We fóund this mán per- vért- ing our



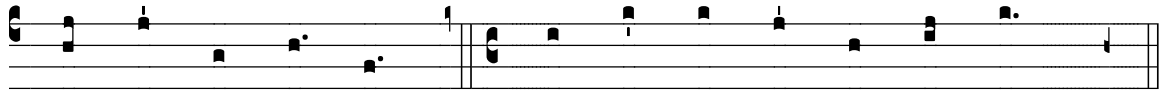
ná- tion,



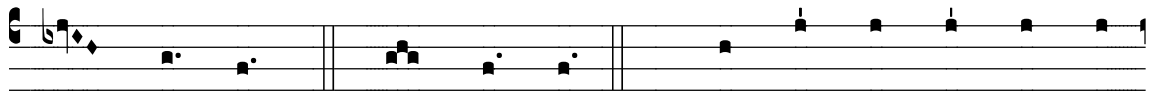
for- bíd- ding us to páy táx- es to the em- per- or, and



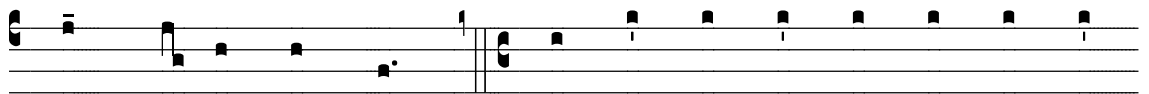
sáy- ing that hé him- sélf is the Mes- sí- ah, a king.”



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



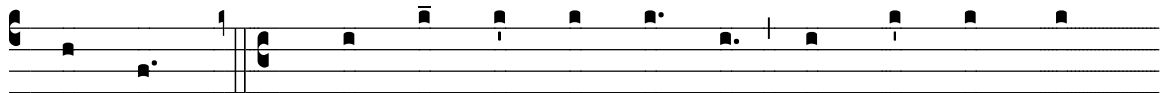
C. He án- swered, **H** “Yóu sáy so.” **C.** Then Pí- late sáid to the



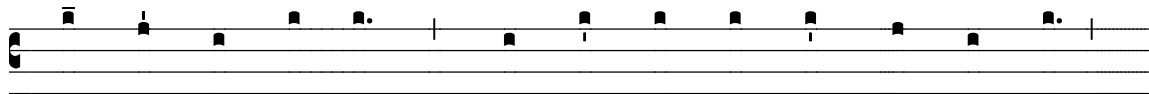
chief priests and the crówds, **S.** “I fínd no bá- sis for an ác-



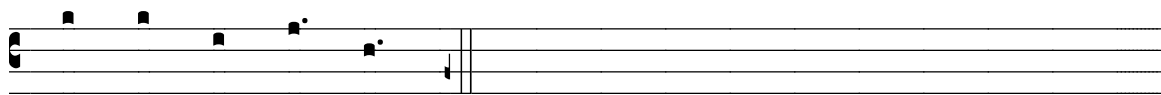
cu- sá- tion a- gáinst thís mán.” **C.** But théy were in- síst- ent



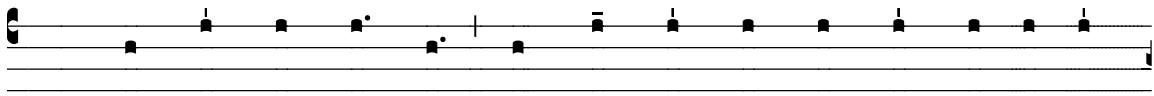
and sáid, **S.** “He stírs úp the péo- ple by préach- ing through-



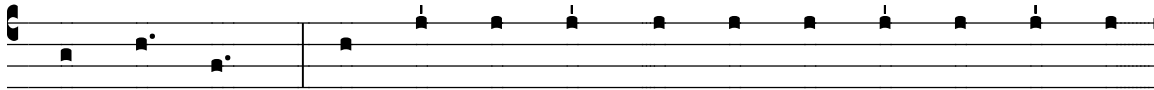
óut áll Ju- dé- a, from Gál- i- lee whére he be- gán,



é- ven to thís pláce.”



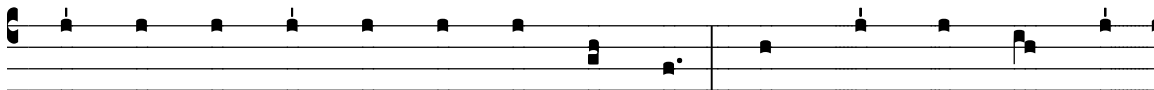
C. When Pí- late héard this, he ásked whéth- er the mán was a Gal-



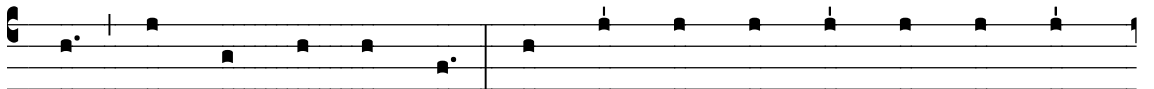
i- lé- an. And when he léarned that he was ún- der Hér- od's



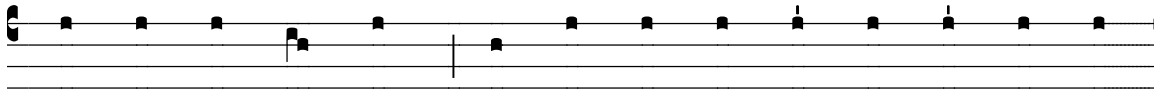
jur- is- díc- tion, he sent him off to Her- od, whó was him-



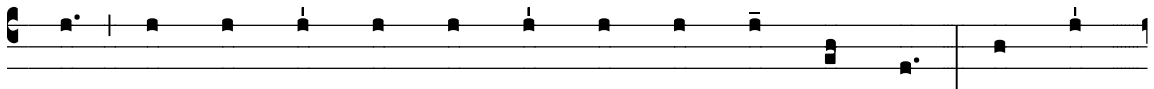
sélf in Je- rú- sa- lem at thát tíme. When Hér- od sáv Jé-



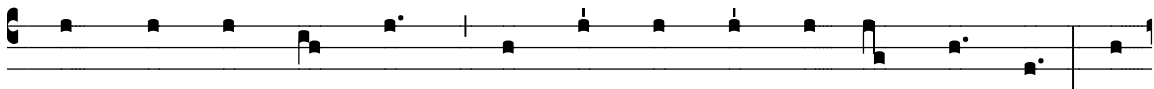
sus, he was vér- y glád, for hé had been wánt- ing to sée



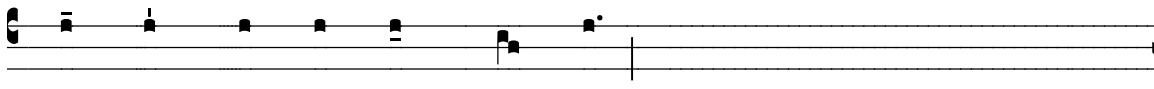
him for a lóng tíme, be- cause he had séen and héard a- bout



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



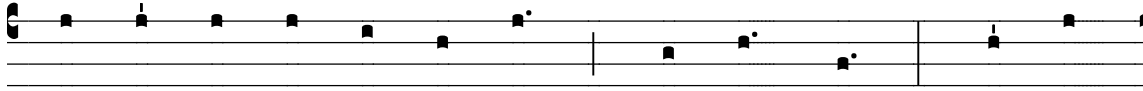
tioned him at sóme léngth, but Jé- sus gáve him nó án- swer. The



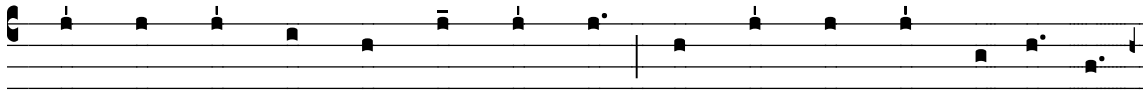
chíef príests and the scríbes stóod bý,



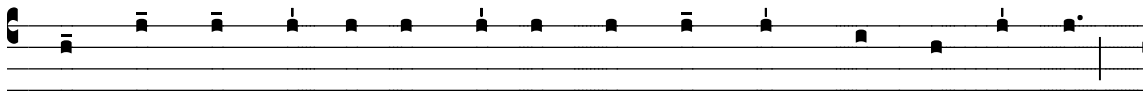
vé- he- ment- ly ac- cús- ing him. E- ven Hér- od with his sól-



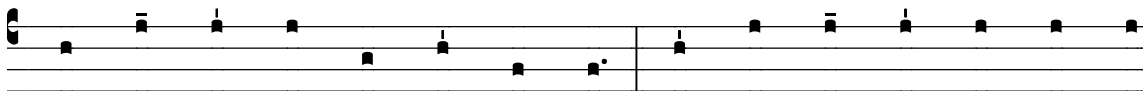
diers tréat- ed him with con- témp- t and mócked him; then he



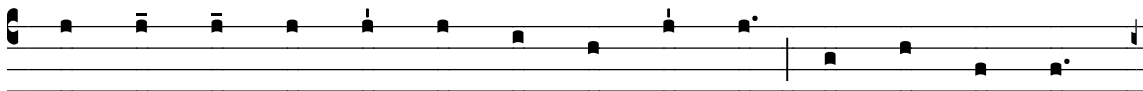
pút an él- e- gant róbe ón him, and sént him báck to Pí- late.



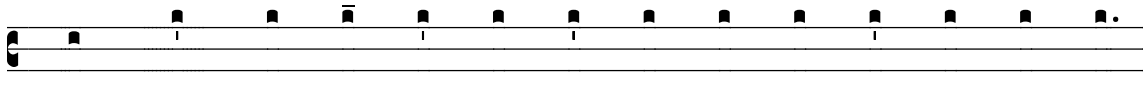
Thát sáme dáy Hér- od and Pí late be- cáme friends with each óth- er;



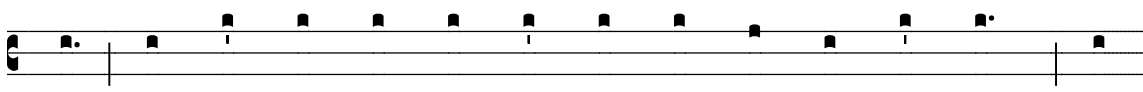
be- fóre théy had been én- e- mies. Pí- late thén cálléd to- geth- er



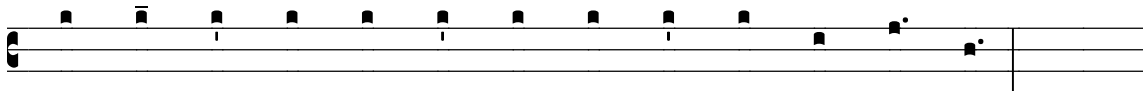
the chíef príests, the léad- ers, and the péo- ple, and sáid to them,



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



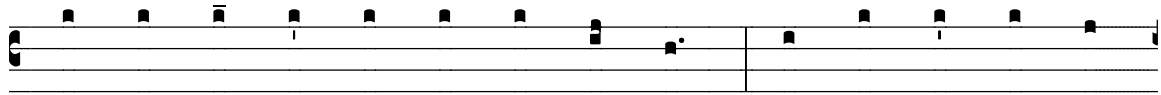
ple; and hére I have ex- ám- ined him in your prés- ence and



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



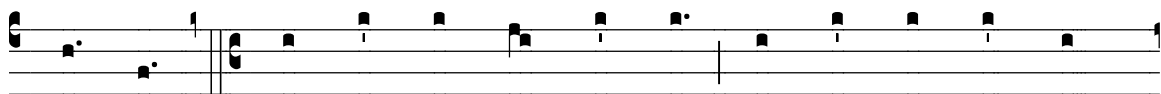
Néi-ther has Hér-od, for he sént him bák to us. In- deed,



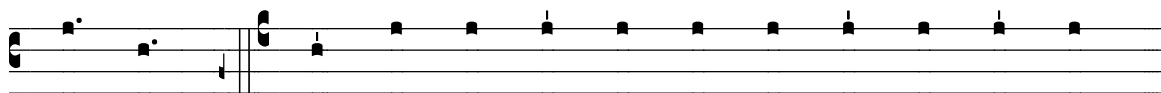
he has dóne nóth- ing to de- sérve déath. I will thére- fore have



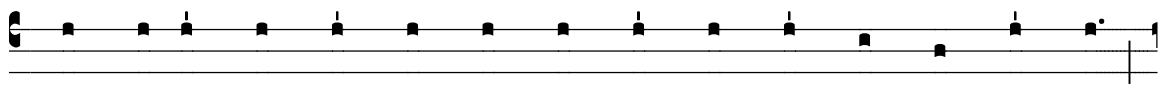
him flogged and re- lease him.” **C.** Then they áll shóut- ed óut to-



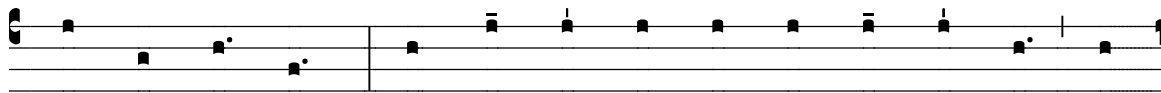
géth- er, **S.** “A- wáy with this fél- low! Re- léase Ba- ráb- bas



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



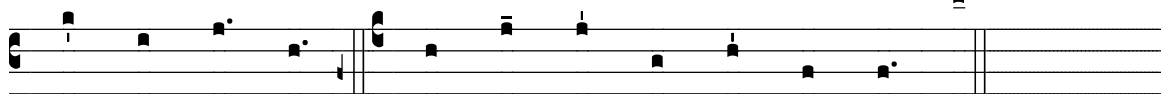
for an ín- sur- réc- tion that had ták- en pláce in the cít- y,



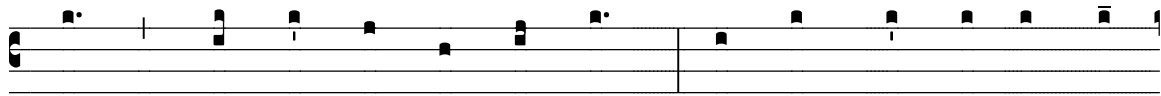
and for múr- der.) Pí- late, wánt- ing to re- léase Jé- sus, ad-



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



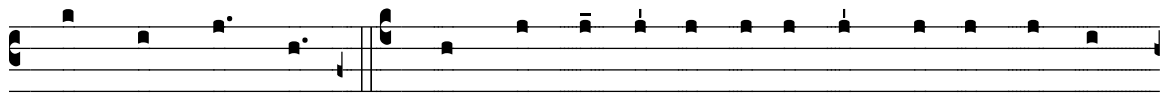
crú- ci- fy him.” A thírđ tíme he sáid to them,



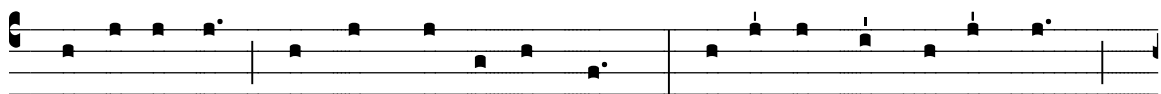
S. Why, what é- vil has he dóne? I have found in him nó



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



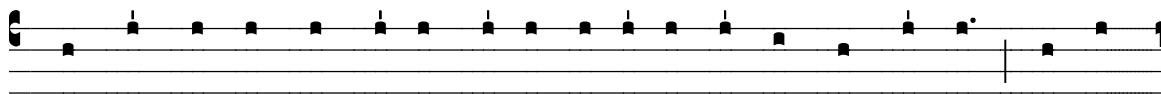
and re- léase him.' C. But they képt úr- gent- ly de- mánd- ing that hé should



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



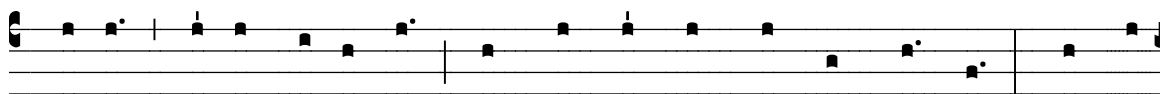
that their de- mánd should be gránt- ed. He re- léased the mán they ásked fór,



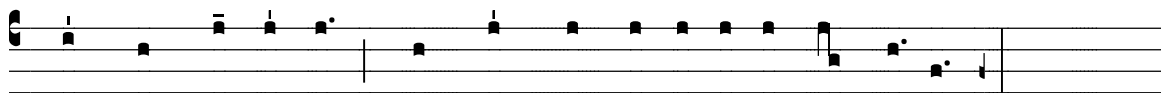
the óne who had been pút in prís- on for ín- sur- réc- tion and múr- der, and he



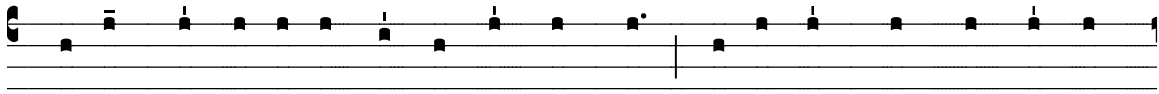
hánd- ed Jé- sus ó- ver ás they wished. As they léd him a- wáy, they seized



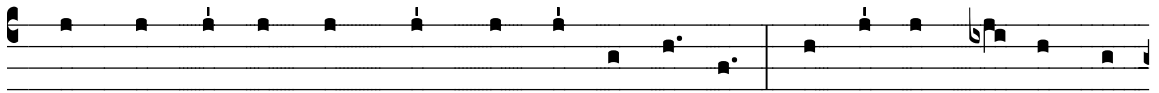
a man, Sí- mon of Cy- réne, who was cóm- ing from the cóun- try, and they



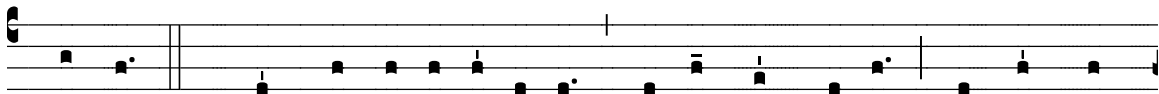
láid the cróss ón him, and máde him cár- ry it be- hínd Jé- sus.



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



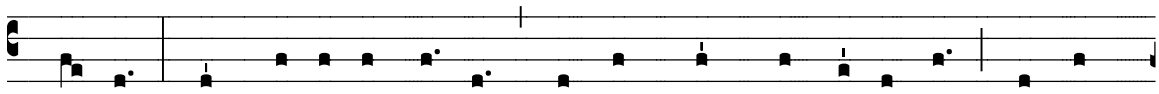
who were béat-ing their bréasts and wáil-ing for him. But Jé-sus túrned to them



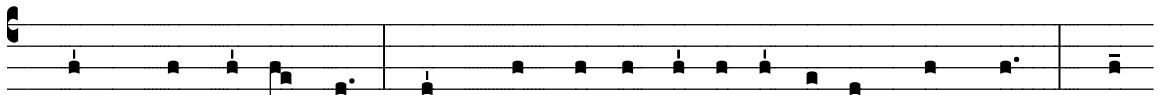
and sáid, ✠ “Dáugh-ters of Je-rú- sa-lem, do nó-t wéep for me, but wéep for



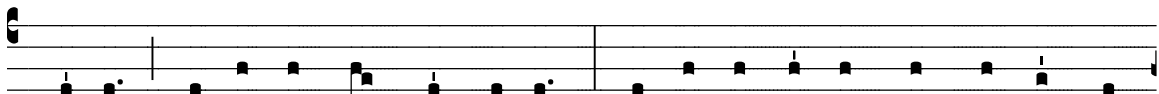
your-sélves and for your chíl-dren. For the dáys are sùre-ly cóm-ing when they



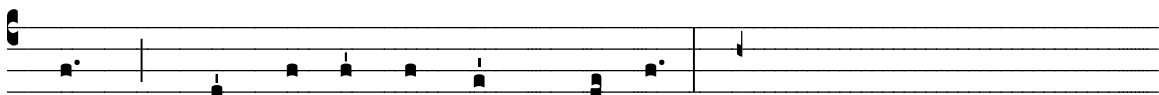
will sáy, ‘Bless-ed are the bár-ren, and the wombs that név-er bóre, and the



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



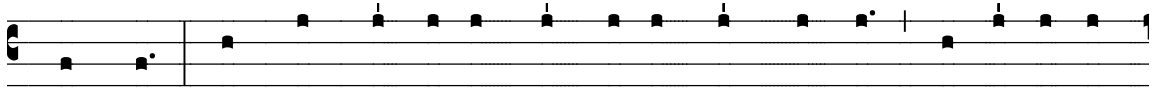
ón us,’ and to the hílls ‘Cóv-er us.’ For if they dó this wén the wóod is



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



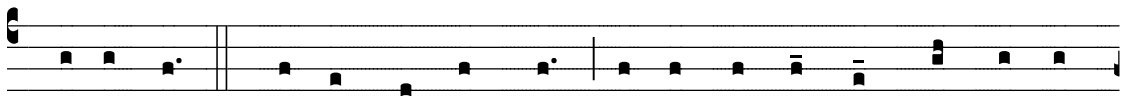
C. Twó oth-ers al- so, who were crim-i-nals, were léd a-wáy to be pút to déath



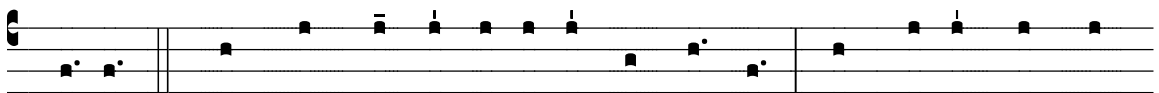
with him. When they cáme to the pláce that is cálléd The Skúll, they crú-ci-fied



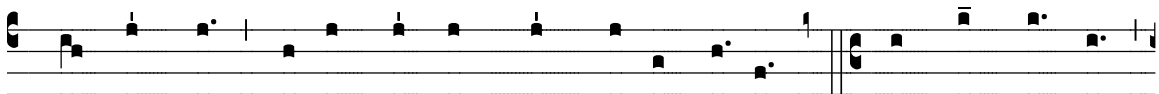
Jé-sus thére with the crím-i-nals, óne on his ríght and óne on his léft. Thén



Jé-sus said, ✠ “Fá-ther, for-gíve them; for they do nótknów wáth they are



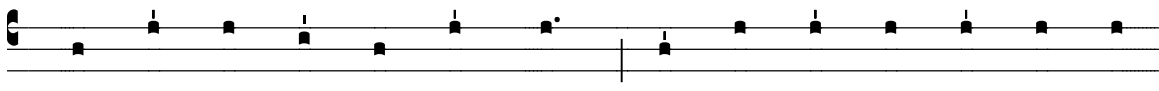
dó-ing.” C. And they cást lots to di-víde his clóth-ing. And the péo-ple stood



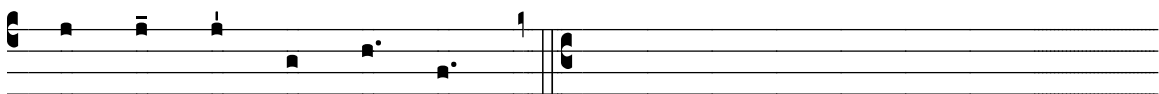
bý, wáth-ing; but the léad-ers scóffed at him, sáy-ing, S. He sáved óth-ers;



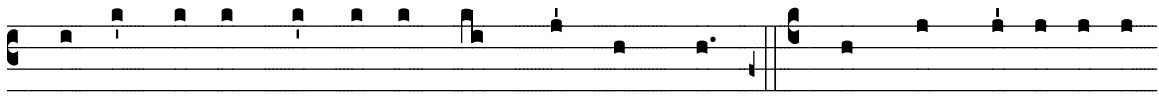
lét him sáve him- sélf if hé is the Mes-sí- ah of Gód, his chós- en one.”



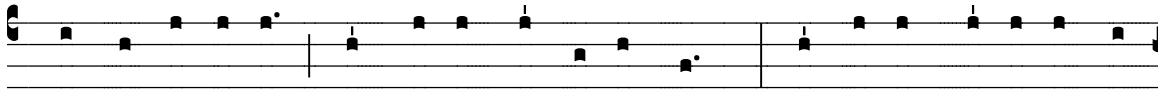
C. The sól- diers ál- so mócked him, cóm- ing úp and óf- fer- ing



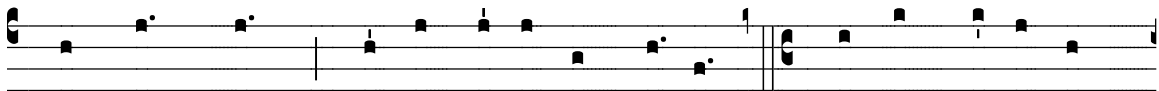
him sóur wíne and sáy- ing,



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



scrip-tion over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the crim-i-nals who



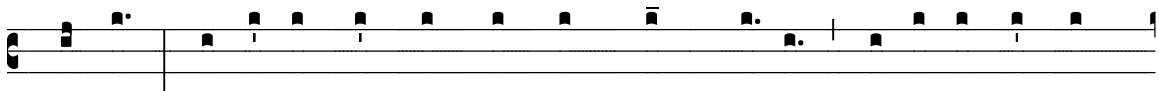
were hanged there kept de-rid-ing him, say-ing . S. "Are you not the Mes-



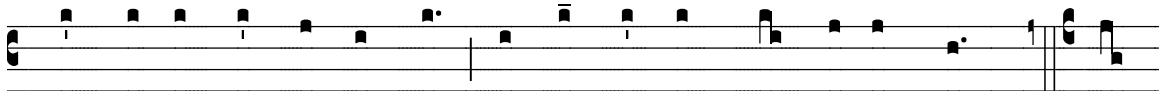
si- ah?" Save your-self and us!" C. But the oth-er re-buked him, say-ing,



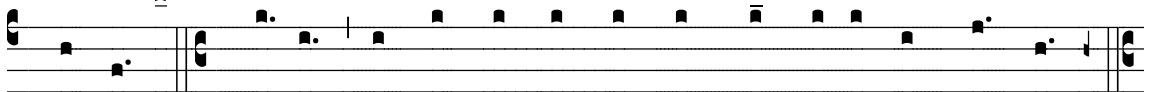
S. "Do you not fear God, since you are un-der the same sen-tence of con-dem-



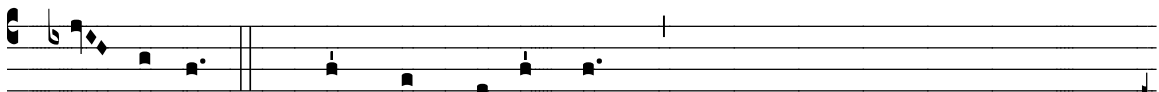
na-tion? And we in-deed have been con-demned just-ly, for we are get-ting



what we de-serve for our deed, but this man has done noth-ing wrong." C. Then



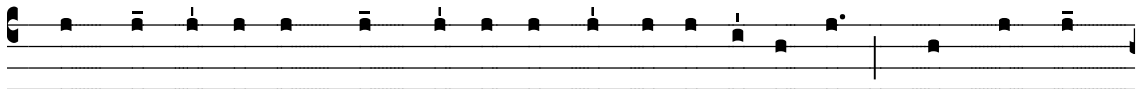
he said, S. "Je-sus, re-mem-ber me when you come in-to your king-dom



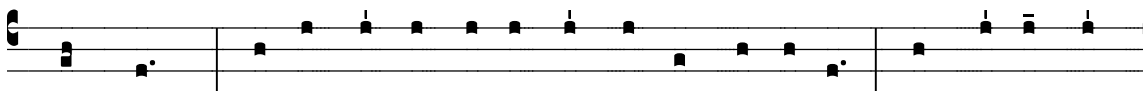
C. He re-plied, Truly, I tell you,



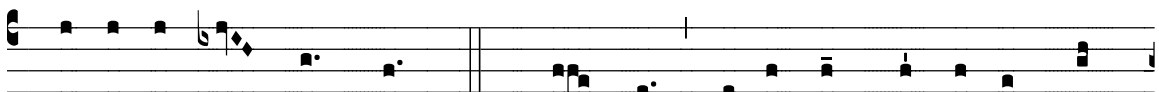
to-dáy you will bé with me in Pár-a-dise. **C.** It was nów a-bóut nóon, and dark-



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-

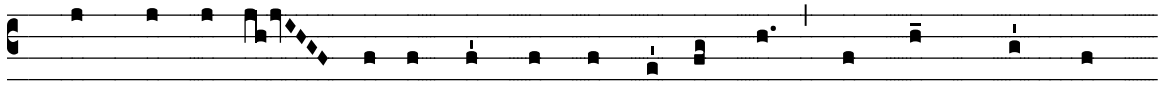


ing with a lóud vóice, sáid, **✠** Fá-ther, in-to yóur hánds I com-ménd



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

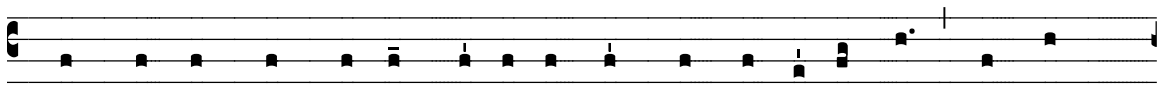
All kneel in silence for a time. Then the Chronista sings the conclusion of the Passion Gospel to the Planctus tone.:



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



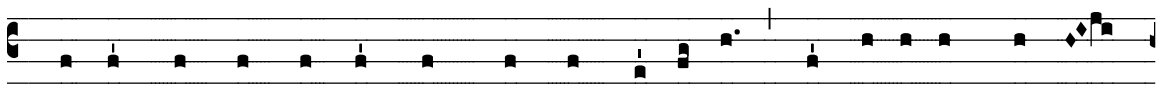
sáid, “Cér-tain-ly this mán was ín-no-cent.” And when áll the crówds who



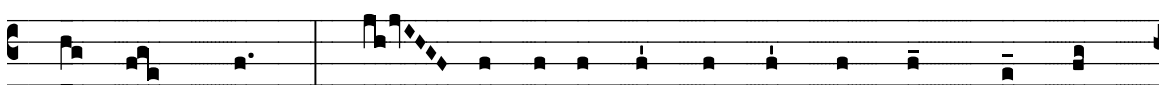
had gáth-ered there for thís spéc-ta-cle sáw what had ták-en pláce, they re-



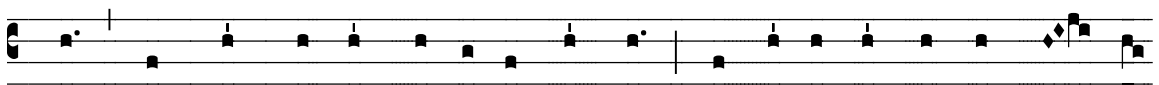
túrned hóme béat-ing their bréasts. But áll his ac-quáint-anc-es, in-clúd-ing



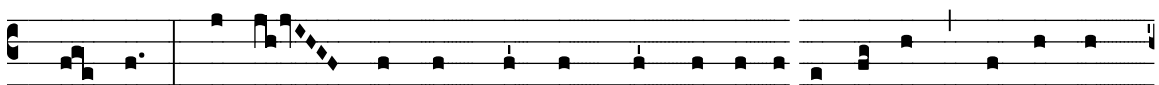
the wó-men who had fól-lowed him from Gál-i-lee, stóod at a dís-tance, wátch-



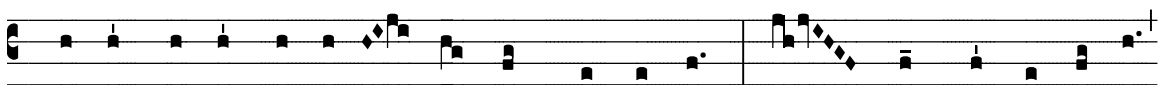
ing thése thín-gs. [Now there was a góod and ríght-eous mán, námed Jó-



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



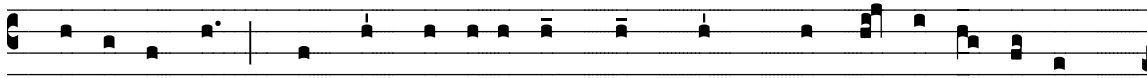
ác-tion He cáme from the Jéw-ish tówn of Ár-i-ma-thé-a and he was



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



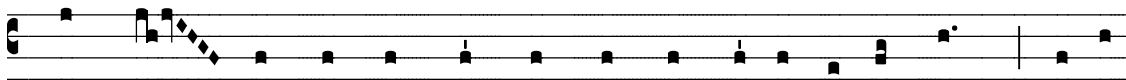
and asked for the bód-y of Jé- sus. Thén he tóok it down wrapped it in



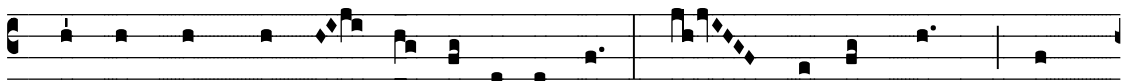
a lín-en clóth and láid him in a róck-héwn tómb where nó one had ev- er



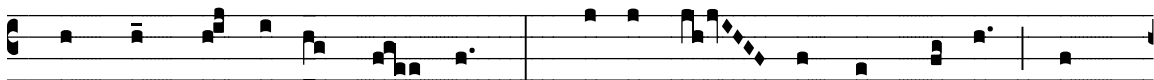
been láid. It was the Prép- a-rá-tion, and the sáb-bath was be- gín- ning



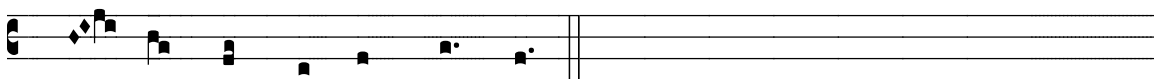
The wó- men who had cóme with him from Gál- i- lee fól-lowed, and they



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.

