

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ

According to Mark

Mark 14: 32—15: 47

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.,

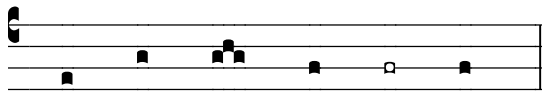


but they képt shóut-ing.

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 ff- et.

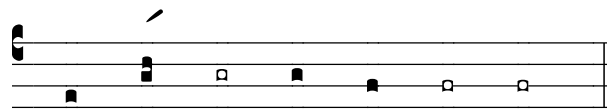
Unstressed Latin syllables can bear this musical weight because every Latin syllable includes a true vowel sound. Many unstressed English syllable do not. Consequently some English texts cannot be sung to this formula without distortion. Therefore, I have reconfigured these formulas so that musical and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



Jé- sus án- swered



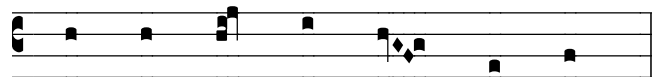
séc- ond tíme and práyed.



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

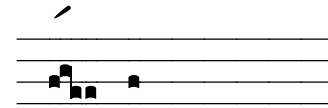
Since unstressed English syllables (for the reason previously cited) cannot bear the musical weight that this formula would sometimes place upon them, I have redesigned this formula, also, to align the musical and verbal accents.



tóp to



shóok and the



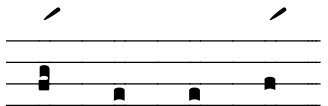
bót- tom



rócks were split



Zéb - e dee



héwn in the rók

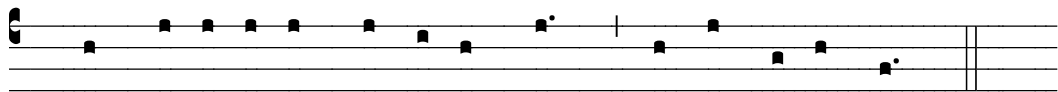


Gód's Són

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark

Mark 14: 32—15: 47

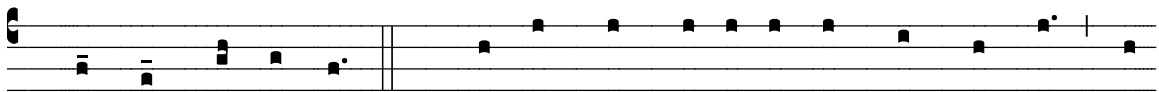
The New Revised Standard Version Text
Set to Traditional Chant by Bruce E. Ford, 2006



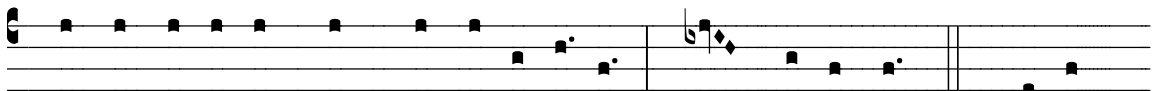
C. The Pas-sion of our Lord Je-sus Christ, ac-cord-ing to Mark.



They wént to a pláce called Geth-sém-a-ne; and Je-sus said to his dis-ci-ples,



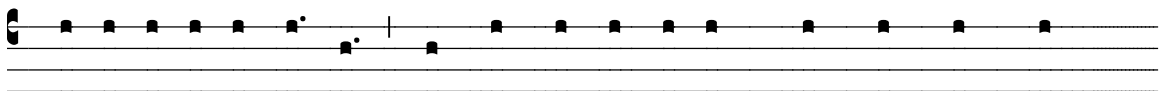
✠ “Sít hère whíle I pray.” **C.** He took with him Pe-ter and James and John, and



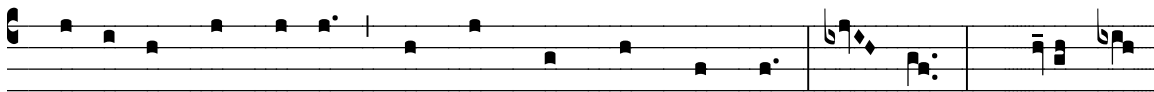
be-gan to be dis-tressed and ag-i-tat-ed. And said to them, ✠ “I am



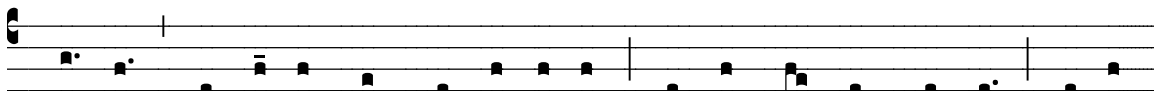
deep-ly grieved, e-ven to death; re-main here, and keep a-wake.” **C.** And



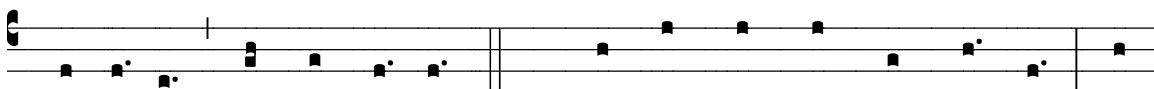
go-ing a lit-tle far-ther, he threw him-self on the ground and prayed that,



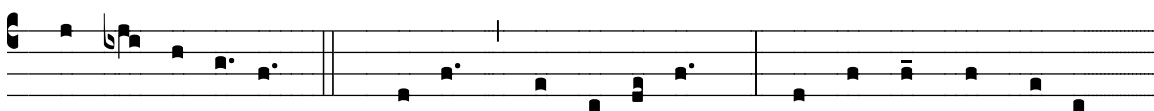
if it were pos- si- ble, the hour might pass from him. He said, ✠ “Ab-ba,



Fa-ther, for yóu áll things are pos-si-ble; re-móve this cúp from me; yet, not



what I want, but what you want.” **C.** He came and found them sleep-ing; and



he said to Pe-ter, ✠ “Si-mon, are you a-sleep? Could you nó t kée p a-wake



one hour? Keep a-wake and pray that you may nó t có me in-to the time of



tri- al; the spir-it in-deed is will-ing, but the flesh is weak.” **C.** And a-gain



he went a- way and prayed, say-ing the same words. And ónce mó re he came and



found them sleep-ing, for their eyes were ve-ry hea-vy; and they did not know what



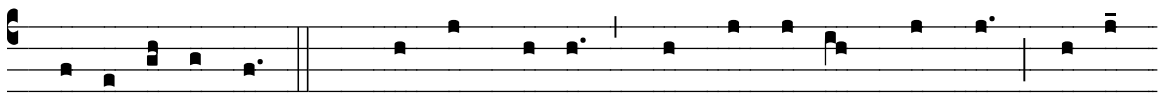
to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, ✠ “Are you still sleep-



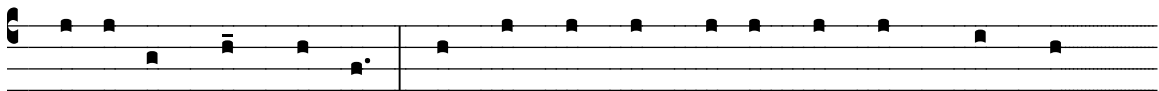
ing and tak-ing your rest? E-nough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is



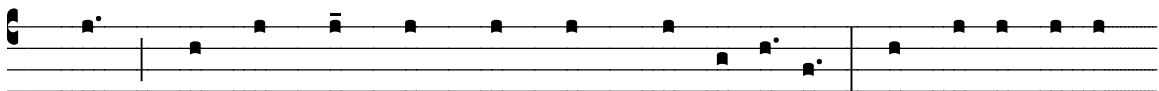
be-trayed in-to the hánds of sin-ners. Get up, let us be go-ing. See, my be-



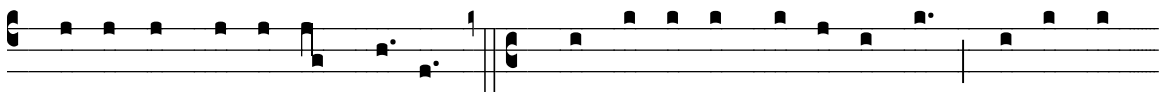
tray-er is at hand.” **C.** Im-me- diate-ly, while he was stíll spéak-ing, Ju-das,



one of the twelve, ar-rived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and



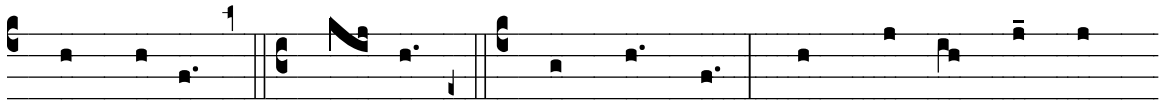
clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the el-ders. Now the be-tray-er



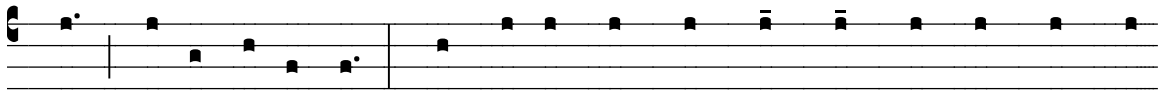
had giv-en them a sígn, sáy-ing, **S.** “The one I will kiss is the man; ar-rest him



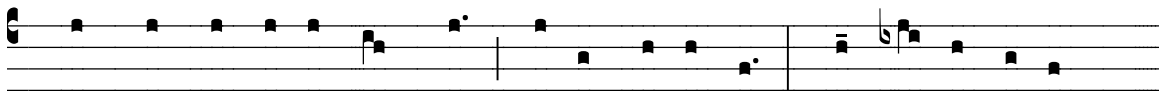
and lead him a-wáy ún-der guard.” **C.** So when he came, he went up to him at



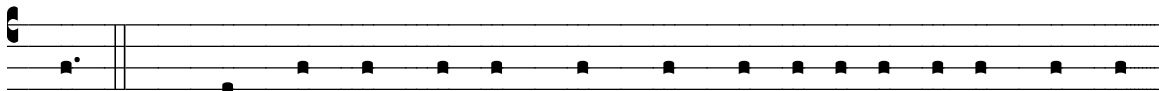
once and said, **S.** “Rab-bi!” **C.** and kissed him. Then they laid hands on



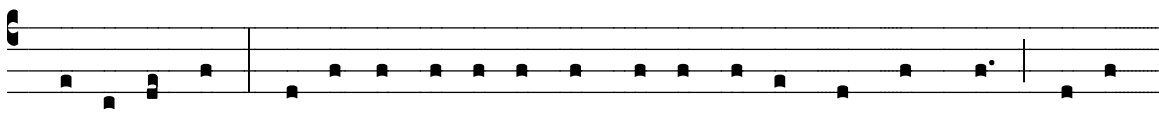
him and ar-rest-ed him. But one of those who stóod néar dréw his sword and



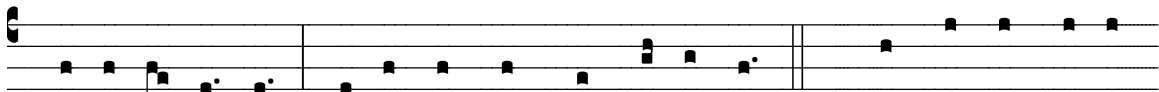
struck the slave of the hích príest, cut-ting off his ear. Then Je- sus said to



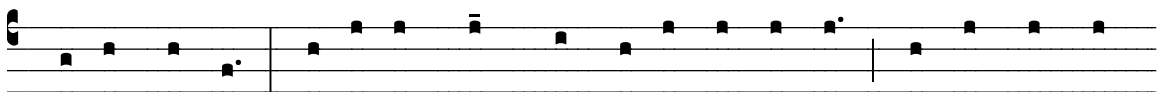
them, ✠ “Have you come out with swords and clubs to ar-rest me as though I



were a ban-dit? Day af-ter day I was with you in the tem-ple teach-ing, and you



did not ar- rest me. But let the scrip-tures be ful-filled.” **C.** All of them de-sert-



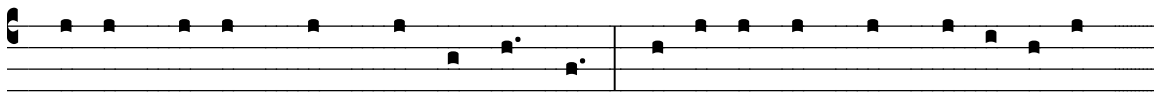
ed him and fled. A cer-tain yóung mán was fol-low-ing him, wear-ing noth-ing



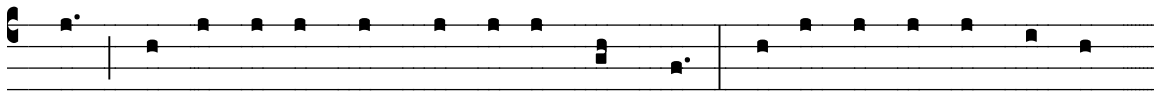
but a lin-en cloth. They caught hold of him, but he left the lin-en cloth and



rán óff ná-ked. They tóok Jé-sus to the high príest; and all the chíef príests, the



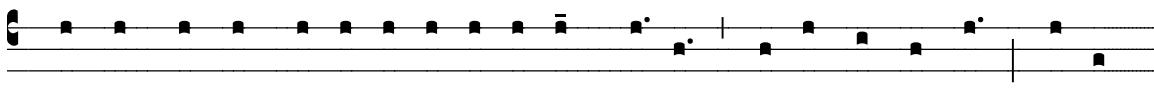
el-ders, and the scribes were as-sem-bled. Pe-ter had fol-lowed him at a dis-



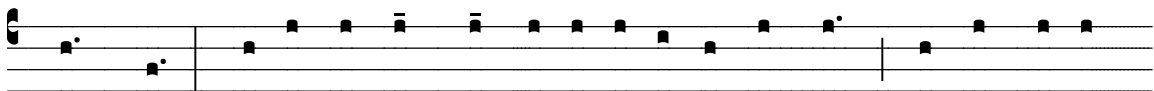
tance, right in-to the court-yard of the high priest; and he was sit-ting with the



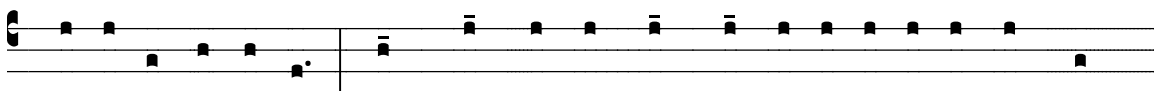
guards, warm-ing him-self at the fire. Now the ch-ief pri-ests and the wh-ole coun-



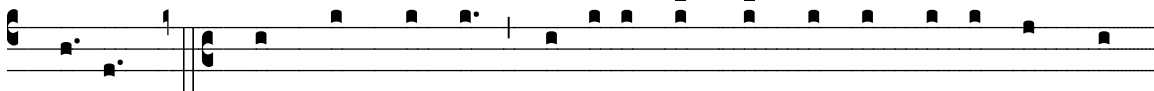
cil were look-ing for tes-ti-mo-ny a-gainst Jé-sus to put him to death; but they



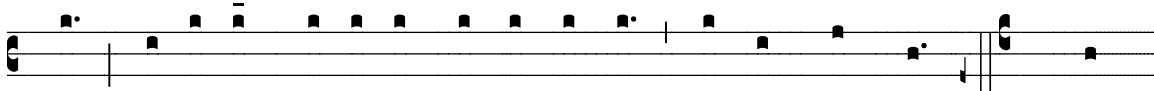
found none. For ma-ny gáve fálse tés-ti-mo-ny a-gainst him, and their tes-ti-



mo-ny did not a-gree. Sóme stóod úp and gáve fálse tés-ti-mo-ny a-gainst him,



say-ing, **S.** “We heard him say, ‘I will de-str-óy thís t-ém-ple that is made with



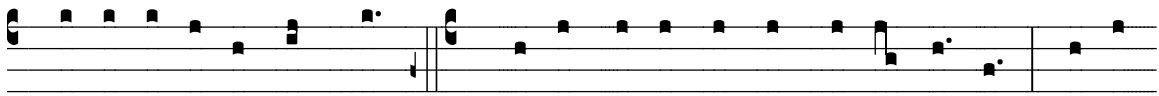
hands, and in three days I will build an-oth-er, not made with hands.” **C.** But



e- ven on this point their tes-ti-mo-ny did not a-gree. Then the hígh pri-est stóod



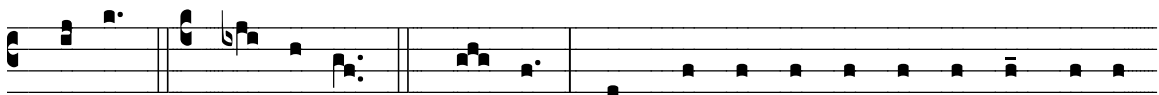
up be-fore them and asked Je-sus, **S.** “Have you no an-swer? What is it that



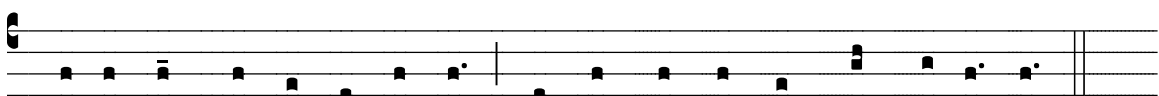
they tes-ti-fy a-against you?” **C.** But he was si-lent and did nót án-swer. A-gain



the high priest asked him, **S.** “Are you the Mes-si-ah, the Son of the Bless-



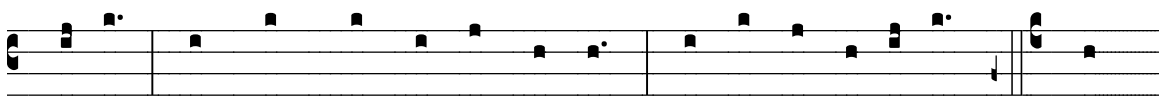
ed One?” **C.** Je- sus said, **✠** “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Mán séat-ed



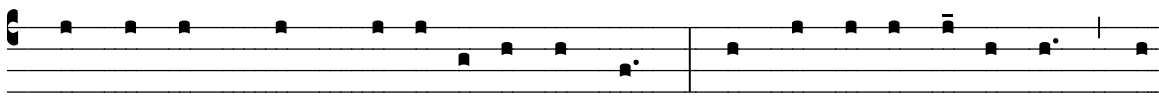
at the ríght hánd of the Pow-er,’ and ‘com-ing with the clouds of hea-ven.’”



C. Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, **S.**, “Why do we still need wit-



ness-es? You have heard his blas-phe-my! What is your de-cis-ion?” **C.** All



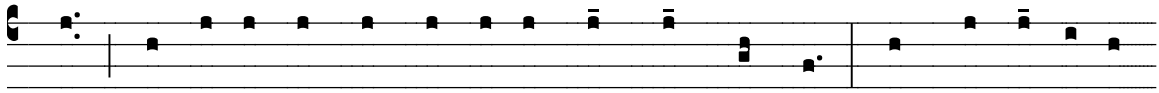
of them con-demned him as de-serv-ing death. Some be-gan to spit on him, to



blind-fold him, and to strike him, say-ing to him, **S.** “Proph-e-sy!” **C.** The



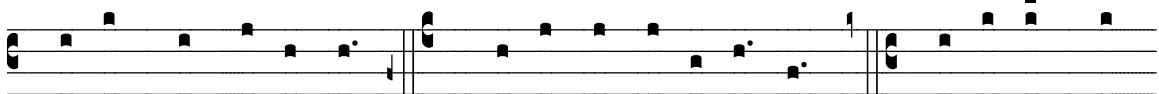
guárds ál-so took him o-ver and beat him. While Pe-ter was be-low in the court-



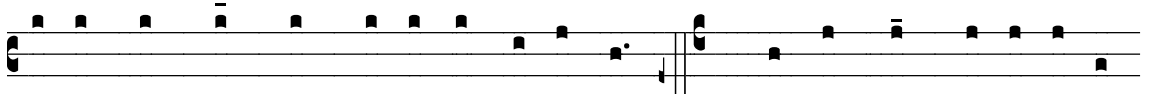
yard, one of the ser-vant-girls of the hígh príest cáme bý. When she sáw Pé-ter



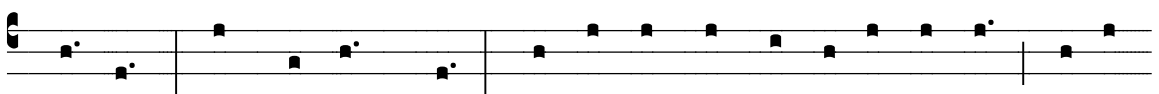
warm-ing him-self, she stared at him and said, **S.** “Yóu ál-so were with Je-sus,



the man from Naz-a-reth.” **C.** But he de-nied it, say-ing, **S.** “I do nó-t knów



or un-der-stánd whát you are talk-ing a- bout.” **C.** And he wént óut in- to the



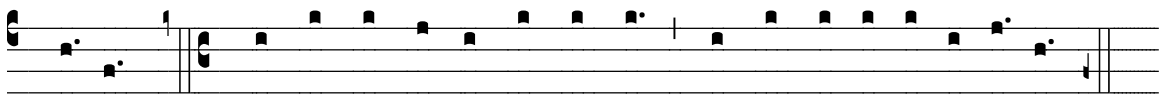
fore-court. Then the cock crowed. And the ser-vant-girl, on see-ing him, be-gan



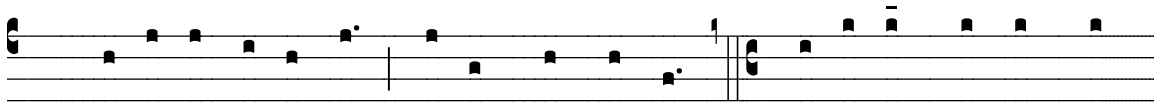
a- gain to say to the by-stand-ers, **S.** “Thís mán is one of them.” **C.** But a-



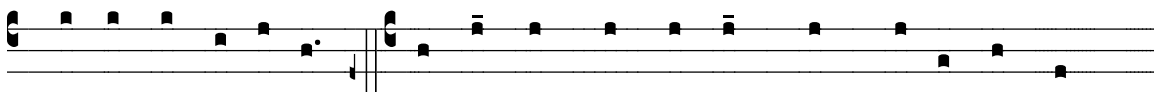
gain he de-nied it. Thén áf-ter a lit- tle while the by-stand-ers a-gáin sáid to



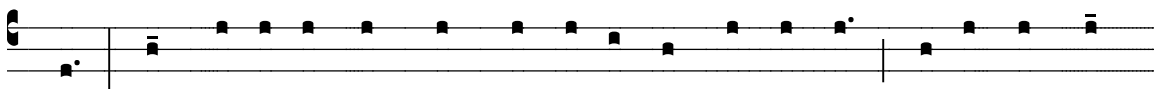
Pe- ter, **S.** “Cer-tain-ly you are one of them; for you are a Gal- i- le- an.”



C. But he be-gan to curse, and he swore an oath, **S.** “I do nót knów this man



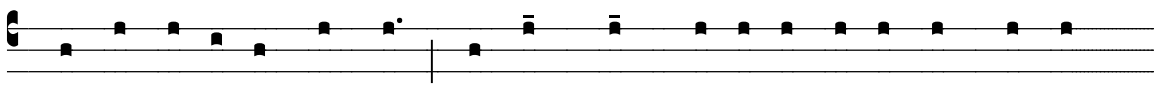
you are talk-ing a-bout.” At thát mó-ment the cóck crówed for the sec-ond



time. Thén Pé-ter re-mem-bered that Je-sus had said to him, “Be-fore the cóck



crows twice, you will de-ny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.]



As soon as it was morn-ing, the chief priests held a con-sul-ta-tion with the



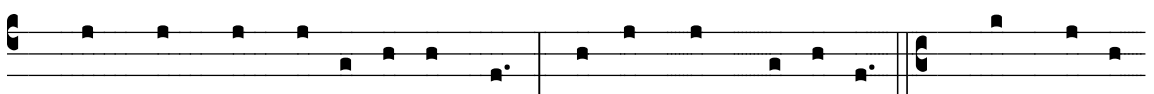
el-ders and scribes and the whole coun-cil. They bóund Jé- sus, led him a-way,



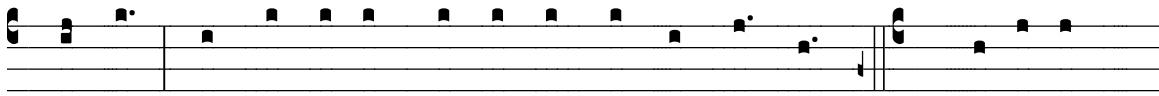
and hand-ed him o-ver to Pi-late. Pi-late asked him, **S.** “Are you the King



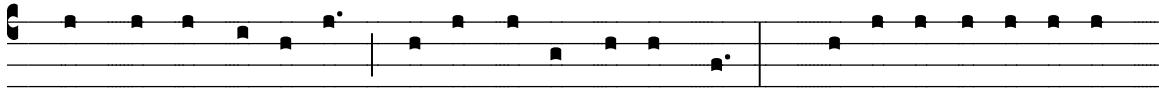
of the Jews?” **C.** He an-swered him, ✠ “You say so.” **C.** Then the chief



priests ac-cused him of ma-ny things. Pi-late asked him a-gain, **S.** “Have you no



an-swer? See how ma-ny charg-es they bring a-gainst you.” **C.** But Je-sus



made no fur-ther re-ply, so that Pi-late was a-mazed. Now at the fes-ti-val he



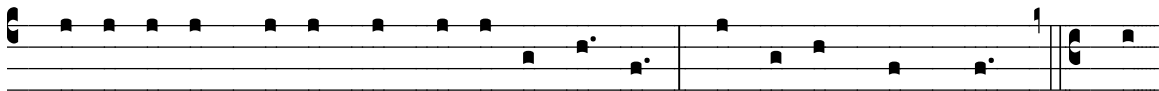
used to re-lease a pris-on-er for them, an- y-one for whom they asked. Now a



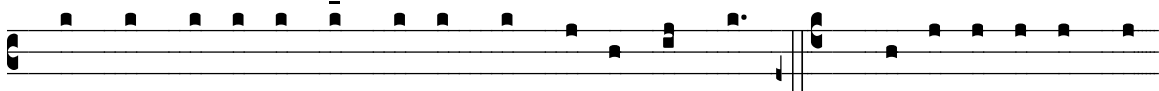
man called Ba-ráb-bas was in pris-on with the reb-els who had com-mit-ted



mur-der dur-ing the in-sur-rec-tion. So the crowd came and be-gan to ask Pi-



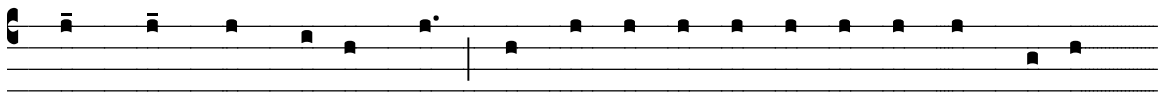
late to do for them ac-cord-ing to his cus-tom. Then he an-swered them, **S.** “Do



you want me to re-lease for you the King of the Jews?” **C.** For he re-al-ized that



it was out of jeal-ous-y that the chief priests had hand-ed him o-ver. But the



chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him re-lease Ba-ráb-bas for them in-



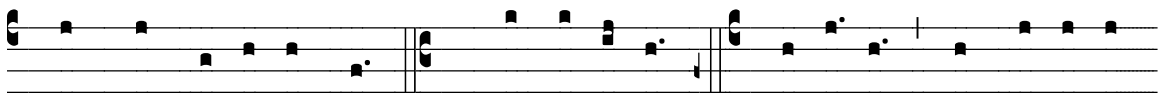
stead. Pi-late spoke to them a-gain, **S.** “Then what do you wish me to do with the



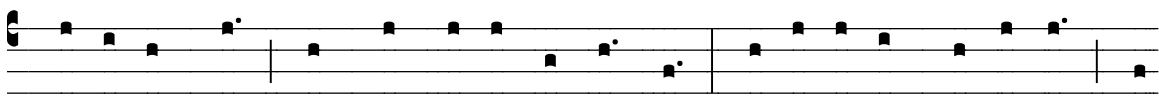
man you call the King of the Jews?” **C.** They shout-ed back, **S.** “Cru-ci-fy



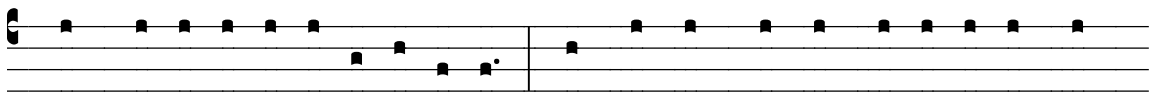
him!” **C.** Pi-late asked them, **S.** “Why, what e-vil has he done?” **C.** But



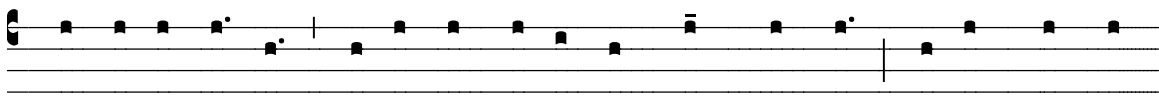
they shout-ed all the more, **S.** “Cru-ci-fy him!” **C.** So Pi-late, wish-ing to sat-



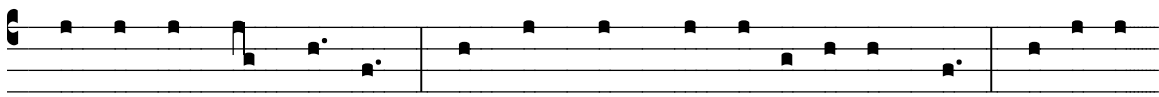
is- fy the crowd, re-leased Ba-ráb-bas for them; and af-ter flogg-ing Je-sus, he



hand-ed him o-ver to be cr-ci- fied. Then the sol-diers led him in-to the court-



yard of the pal-ace (that is, the gov-er-nor’s head-quar-ters); and they called to-



geth-er the whole co-hort. And they clothed him in a pur-ple cloak; and af-ter



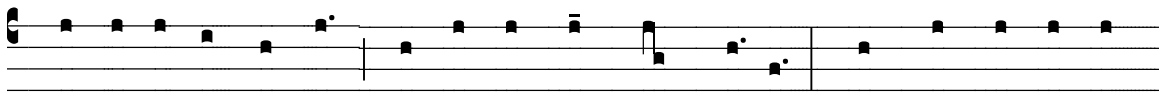
twist-ing some thorns in-to a crown, they put it on him. And they be-gan sa-lut-



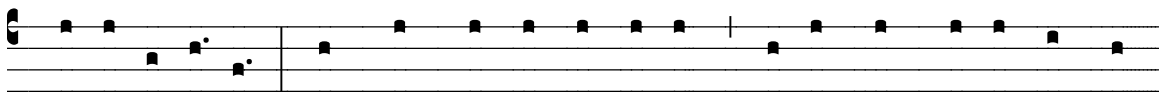
ing him, **S.** “Hail, King of the Jews!” **C.** They struck his head with a reed, spat



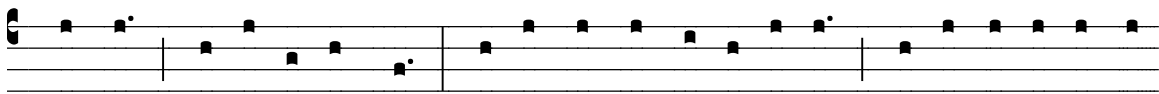
up-on him, and knelt down in hom-age to him. Af-ter mock-ing him, they stripped



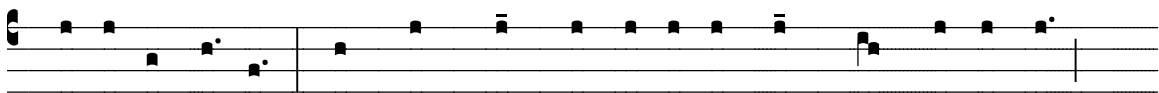
him of the pur-ple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out



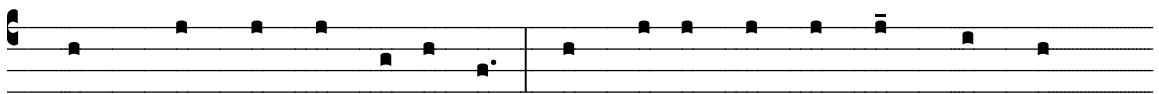
to cru-ci-fy him. They com-pelled a pass-er-by, who was com-ing in from the



coun-try, to car-ry his cross; it was Si-mon of Cy-ré-ne, the fath-er of Al-ex-



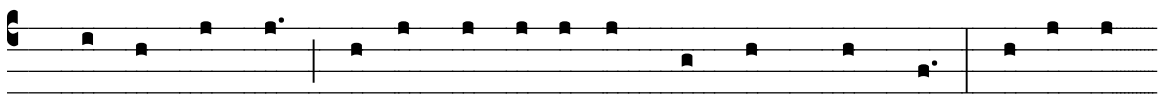
an-der and Ru-fus. Then they brought Je-sus to the place called Gól-go-tha



(which means the place of a skull). And they of-fered him wine mixed with



myrrh; but he did nót táke it. And they cru-ci-fied him, and di-vid-ed his



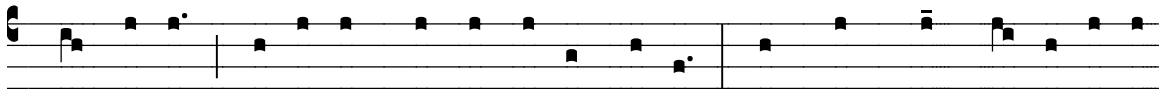
clothes a-mong them, cast-ing lots to de-cide what each should take. It was nine



o'clock in the morn-ing when they cru-ci-fied him. The in-scrip-tion of the



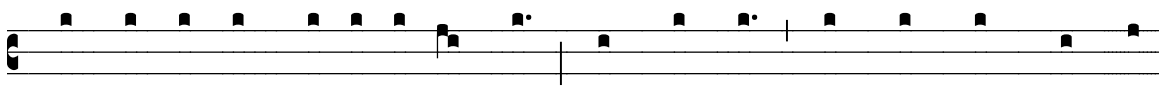
charge a-gainst him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they cru-ci-fied



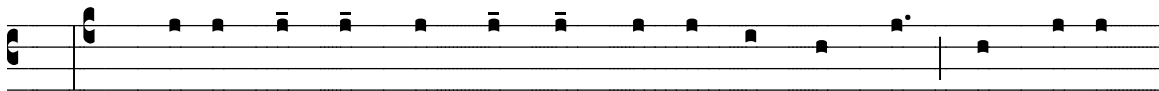
two ban-dits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by de-rid-ed



him, shak-ing their heads and say-ing, **S.** "A-ha! You who would de-stroy



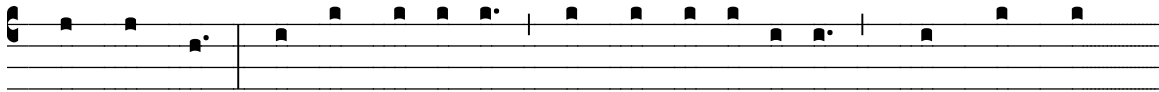
the tem-ple and build it in three days, save your-self, and come down from the



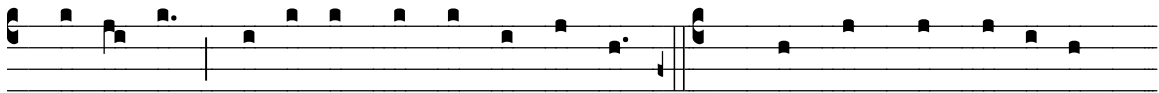
cross!" **C.** In the same way the chief priests, a-long with the scribes, were al-so



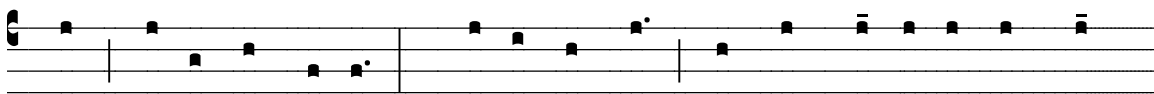
mock-ing him a-mong them-selves and say-ing, **S.** "He saved oth-ers; he can-not



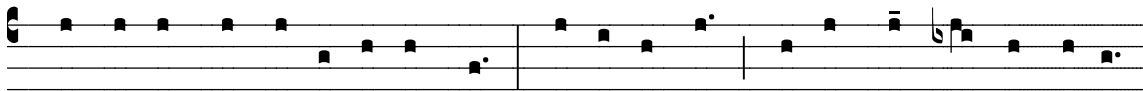
save him-self. Let the Mes-si-ah, the King of Is-ra-el, come down from



the cross now, so that we may see and be-lieve." **C.** Those who were cru-ci-fied



him al-so taunt-ed him. When it was noon, dark-ness came o-ver the whole



land un-til three in the af-ter-noon. At three o'clock Je-sus cried out with a loud



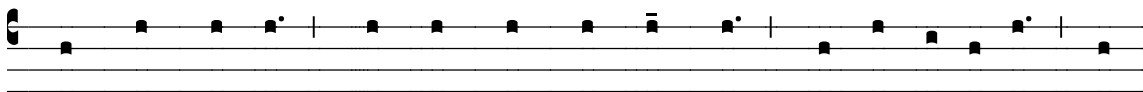
voice, ✠ “E- lo- í, E- lo- í, le-ma sa-bach-tha-ni?” **C.** which means,



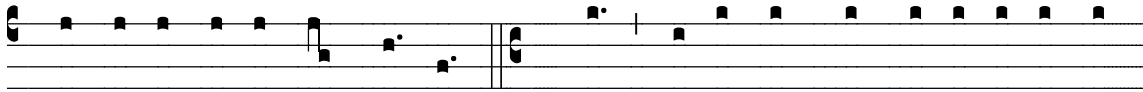
✠ “My God, my God, why have you for-sak-en me?” **C.** When some of the



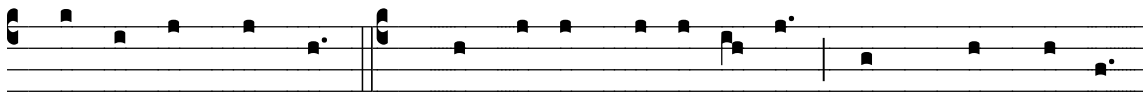
by-stand-ers heard it, they said, **S.** “Lis-ten, he is call-ing for E -li-jah.”



C. And some-one ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and



gave it to him to drínk, sáy-ing, **S.** “Wait, let us see wheth-er E- li- jah will

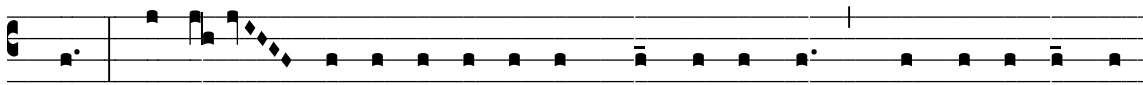


come to take him down.” **C.** Then Je-sus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Here all kneel in silence for a time. Then the Chronista continues in the Planctus tone:



And the cur- tain of the tem- ple was torn in two, from top to bot-



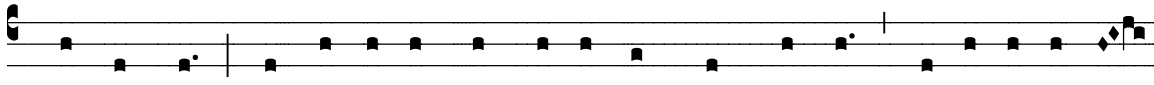
tom. Now when the cen-tu-ri-on, who stood fa-ing him, saw that in this way



he breathed his last, he said, "Tru-ly this man was God's Son!" [There were



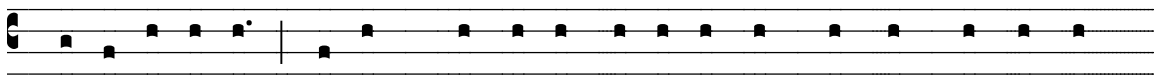
al- so wo-men look-ing on from a dis-tance; a-mong them were Ma-ry



Mag-da-lene, and Ma-ry the moth-er of James the young-er and of Jo-ses, and



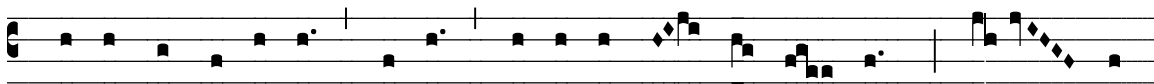
Sa- ló- me. These used to fol-low him and pro-vid-ed for him when he



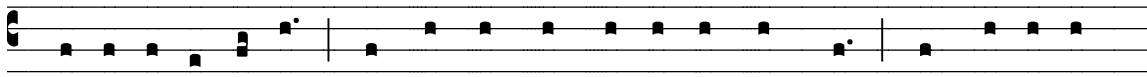
was in Gal-i- lee; and there were ma-ny oth-er wo-men who had come up with



him to Je- ru- sa- lem. When eve- ning had come, and since it was the



day of Prep-a-ra-tion, that is, the day be- fore the sab- bath, Jo- seph



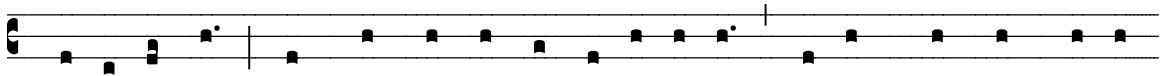
of Ar- i- ma-the-a, a re-spect-ed mem-ber of the coun-cil, who was al-so



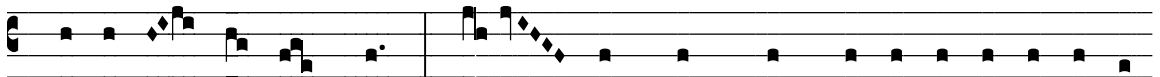
him-self wait-ing ex-pec-tant-ly for the king-dom of God, went bold-ly to Pi-late



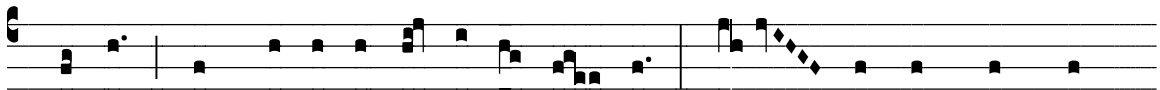
and asked for the bod-y of Je- sus. Then Pi- late won-dered if he were



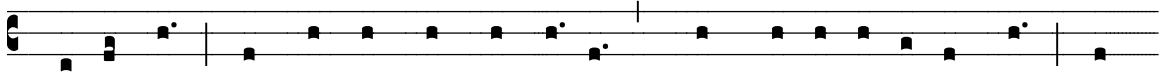
al-rea-dy dead; and sum-mon-ing the cen-tu-ri-on, he asked him wheth-er he



had been dead for some time. When he learned from the cen-tu-ri-on that he



was dead, he grant-ed the bod-y to Jo- seph. Then Jo-seph bought a



lin-en cloth, and tak-ing down the bod-y, wrapped it in the lin-en cloth, and



laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a



stone a-against the door of the tomb. Ma- ry Mag-da-lene and Ma-ry the



moth-er of Jo-ses saw where the body was laid.]