

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew

for tenor, bass (Christus), and baritone (Evangelist) clergy parts
and three-part chorus

a setting of the Gospel appointed for Palm Sunday in Year A
following the text of
Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States

by Royce Nickel
2014

The part of the Evangelist belongs to the deacon; but where clergy are unavailable to sing all the solo parts, these may be entrusted to singers chosen from the choir; the bass part of Christus should, if at all possible, be sung by the priest.

The Gospel for Palm Sunday of the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ (Year A)


Evangelist  **The Passion of our Lord Je - sus Christ accord - ing to Matthew.**


 **One of the Twelve, who was called Judas Is - cariot, went to the chief priests and said,**

Tenor  **What are you willing to give me if I hand him o - ver to you? They paid him thirty**

 **pieces of silver, and from that time on he looked for an opportunity to hand him over.**

 **On the first day of the Feast of Unleav - ened Bread, the disciples approached**

Ev.  **Jesus and said,**

S  **Where do you want us to pre - pare for you to eat the Pass - o - ver?**

A  **Where do you want us to pre - pare for you to eat the Pass - o - ver?**

B  **Where do you want us to pre - pare for you to eat the Pass - o - ver?**

Text: Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition,
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Evangelist Bass

He — said, Go in- to the city to a certain man and tell him, "The teach-er says,

My ap-pointed time draws near; in your house I shall celebrate the Passover

Evangelist

with my dis-ciples." The disciples then did as Jesus had ordered, and pre-pared the Passover.

When it was evening, he reclined at the table with the Twelve. And while they were

Bass

eat-ing, he said, Amen, I say to you, one of you will be - tray me.

Evangelist

Deep - ly distressed at this, they began to say to him one after an- other,

Ev.

He said in re - ply,

S

Sop. div.

Sure - ly it is not — I, Lord?

A

Sure - ly it is not — I, — Lord?

B

Sure - ly it is not — I, Lord?

until the day when I drink it with you new in the king-dom of my Father.

Evangelist

Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them,

Bass

This night all of you will have your faith in me shaken, for it is written: *I will strike*

the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be dis-persed; but af-ter I have been raised up,

Evangelist Tenor

I shall go be-fore you to Gal-i-lee. Peter said to him in re-ply, Though all may have

Evangelist Bass

their faith in you shaken, mine will nev-er be. Jesus said to him, Amen, I say to you,

Evangelist

this very night before the cock crows, you will de-ny me three times. Peter said to him,

Tenor Evangelist

E-ven though I should have to die with you, I will not de-ny you. And all

the disci-ples spoke likewise. Then Jesus came with them to a place called Geth-semame,

Bass Evangelist

and he said to his dis-ciples, Sit here while I go over there and pray. He took along Peter

and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and dis-tress. Then he said to them,

Bass

My soul is sorrowful even to death. Re-main here and keep watch with me.

Evangelist Bass

He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, My Father, if it is possible,

Evangelist

let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will. When he returned to his dis-ciples

Bass

he found them a - sleep. He said to Peter, So you could not keep watch with me


for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing,

Evangelist Bass


but the flesh is weak. With-drawing a second time, he prayed a - gain, My Father,

if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done!

Evangelist

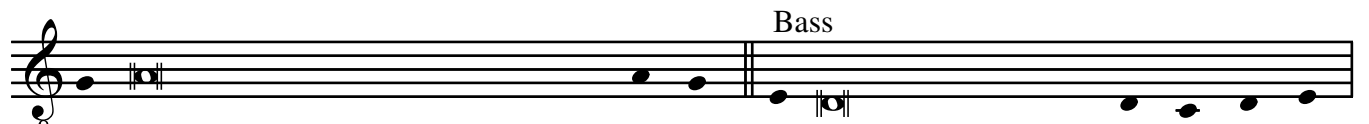


Then he returned once more and found them a- sleep, for they could not keep their eyes open.



He left them and withdrew again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing a- gain.

Bass




Then he returned to his disciples and said to them, Are you still sleeping and tak- ing your rest?

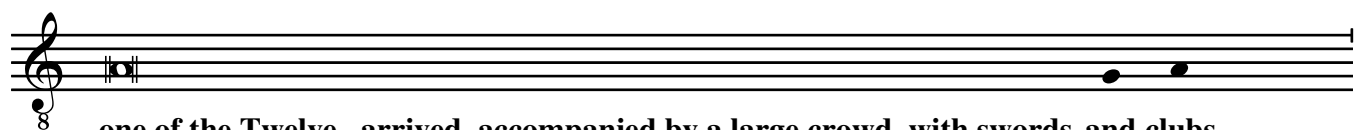


Behold, the hour is at hand when the Son of Man is to be handed over to sinners.

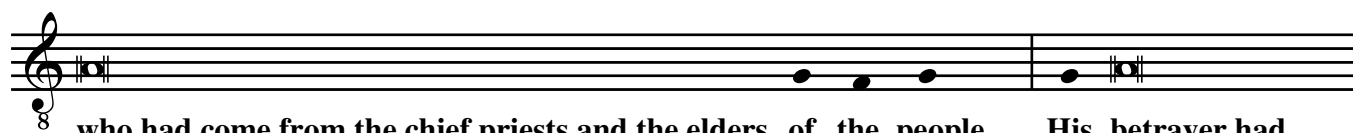
Evangelist



Get up, let us go. Look, my be- tray- er is at hand. While he was still speaking, Judas,

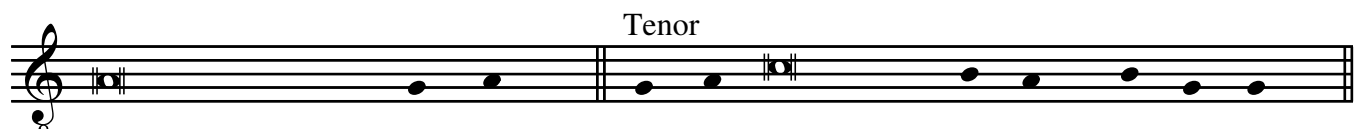


one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a large crowd, with swords and clubs,



who had come from the chief priests and the elders of the people. His betrayer had

Tenor



arranged a sign with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; ar- rest him."

Evangelist

Tenor

Evangelist



Im- mediately he went over to Jesus and said, Hail, Rab- bi! And he kissed him.

Bass Evangelist

Jesus an- swered him, Friend, do what you have come for. Then stepping forward

they laid hands on Jesus and ar- rested him. And behold, one of those who accompanied Jesus

put his hand to his sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his ear.

Bass

Then Jesus said to him, Put your sword back in - to its sheath, for all who take the sword

will per - ish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father

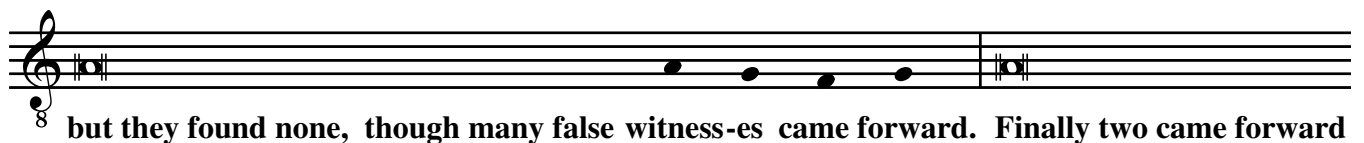
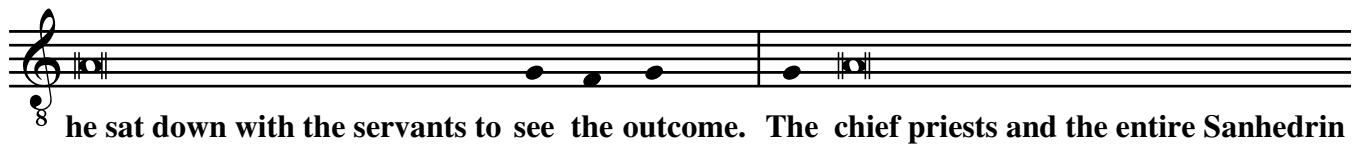
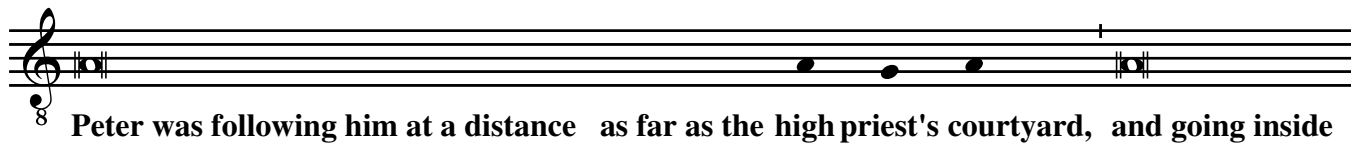
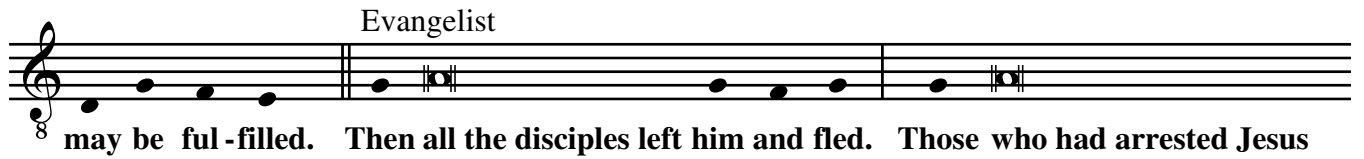
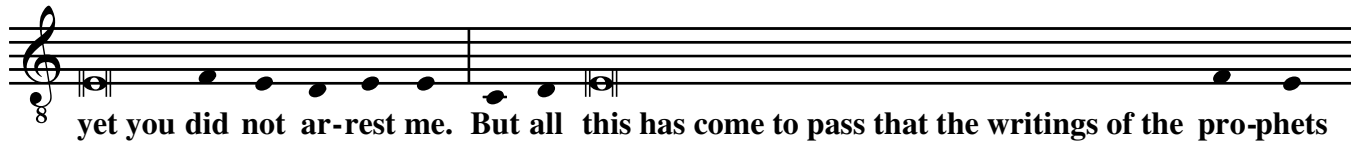
and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve le- gions of angels?

But then how would the Scriptures be ful- filled which say that it must come to pass in this way?

Evangelist Bass

At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, Have you come out as against a robber,

with swords and clubs to seize me? Day af - ter day I sat teaching in the tem- ple area,

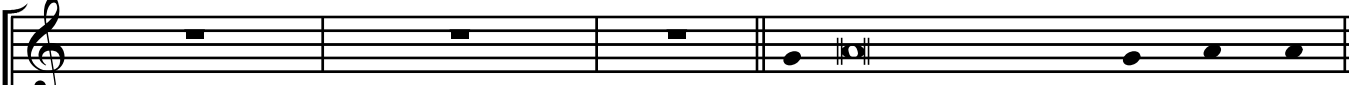



Ev.  who stated,


S  This man said, "I can de-destroy the tem-ple of God


A  This man said, "I can de-destroy the tem-ple of God

B  "I can de-destroy the tem-ple of God

Ev.  The high priest rose and ad-dressed him,


S  and with-in three days re-build it."

A  and with-in three days re - build it."

B  and with-in three days re-build it."

Tenor  Evangelist 

8 Have you no answer? What are these men testify-ing a-gainst you? But Je - sus was silent.

Tenor 

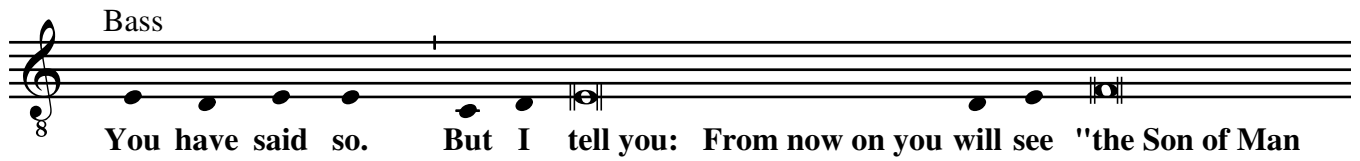
8 Then the high priest said to him, I order you to tell us under oath before the liv-ing God

Evangelist

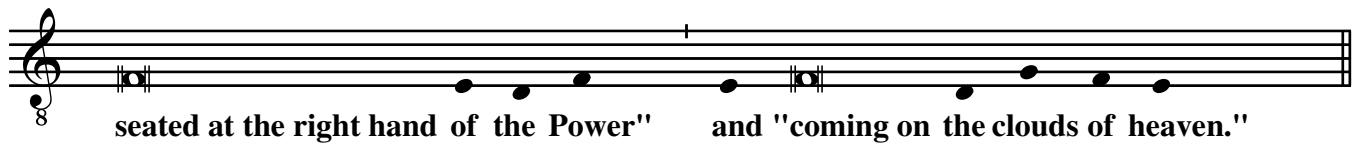


whether you are the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said to him in re- ply,

Bass



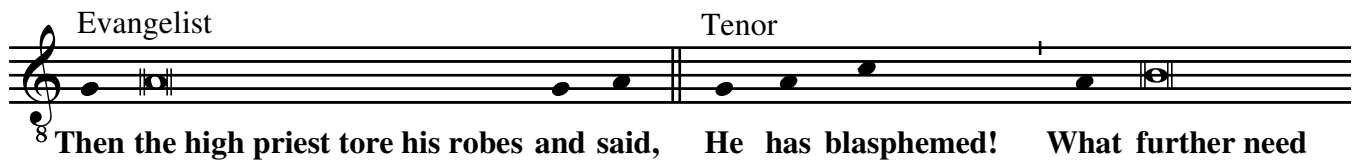
You have said so. But I tell you: From now on you will see "the Son of Man



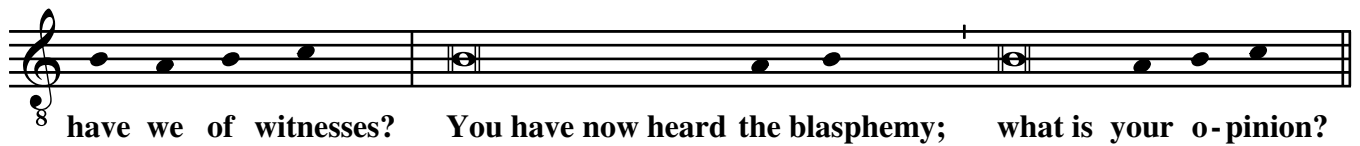
seated at the right hand of the Power" and "coming on the clouds of heaven."

Evangelist

Tenor

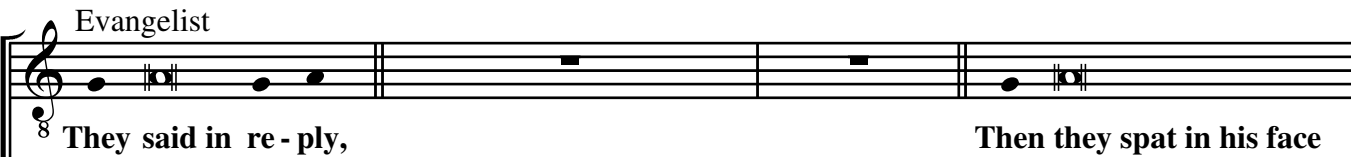


Then the high priest tore his robes and said, He has blasphemed! What further need




have we of witnesses? You have now heard the blasphemy; what is your o- pinion?

Evangelist



They said in re- ply, Then they spat in his face

S



He de - serves to die!

A




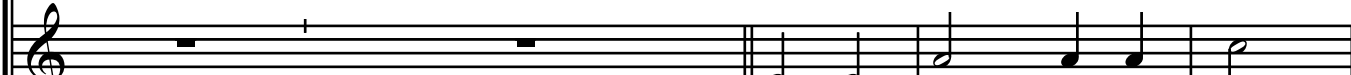
He de - serves to die!

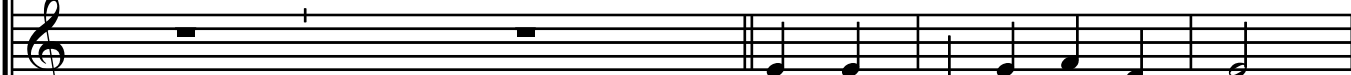
B

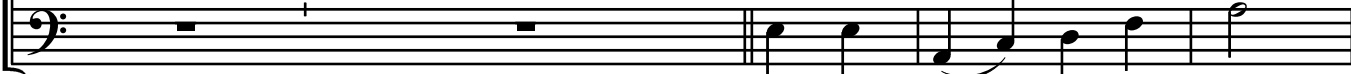


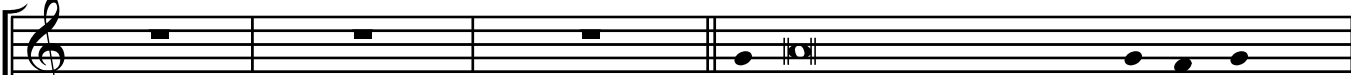
He de - serves to die!

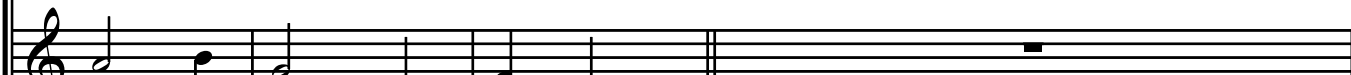
Ev.  8 and struck him, while some slapped him, saying,

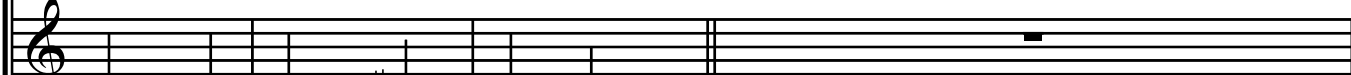
S  Pro - phe - sy for us, Christ:


A  Pro - phe - sy — for us, Christ:

B  Pro - phe - sy — for us, Christ:

Ev.  8 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard.

S  who is it that struck you?

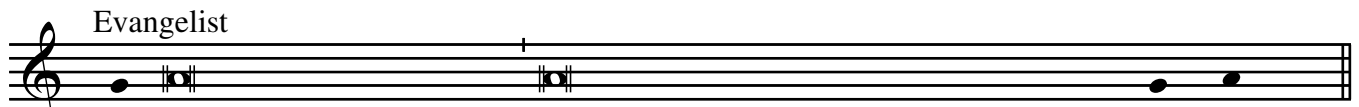
A  who is it that struck you?

B  who is it that struck you?

 Tenor
8 One of the maids came over to him and said, You too were with Jesus the Gal - i - lean.

 Evangelist Tenor
8 But he denied it in front of every-one, saying, I do not know what you are talking about!

Evangelist



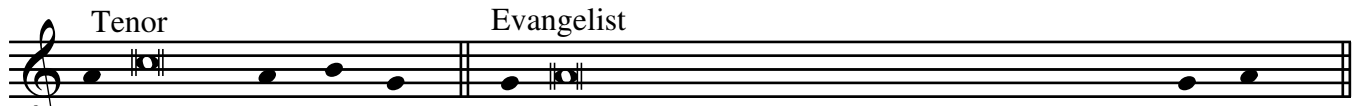
8 As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there,

Tenor Evangelist



8 This man was with Jesus the Naz-o-rean. Again he denied it with an oath,

Tenor Evangelist



8 I do not know the man! A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter,

S
A
B



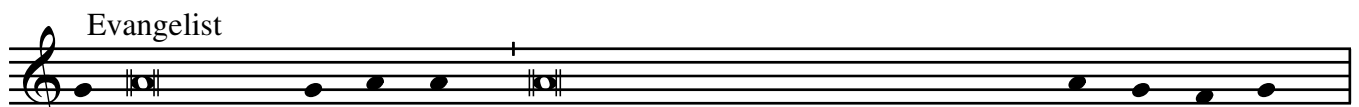
Sure - ly you too are one of them; e - ven your speech gives you a - way.
Sure - ly you too are one of them; e - ven your speech gives you a - way.
Sure - ly you too are one of them; e - ven your speech gives you a - way.

Evangelist Tenor




8 At that he began to curse and to swear, I do not know the man.

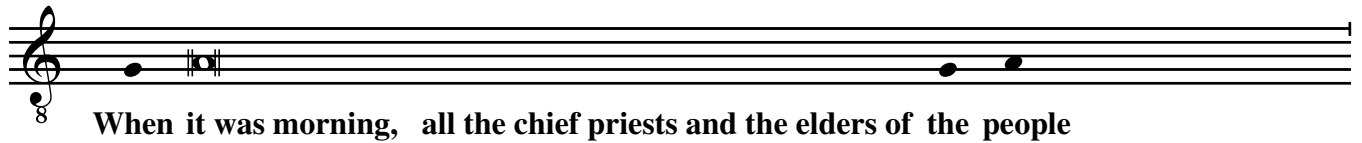
Evangelist



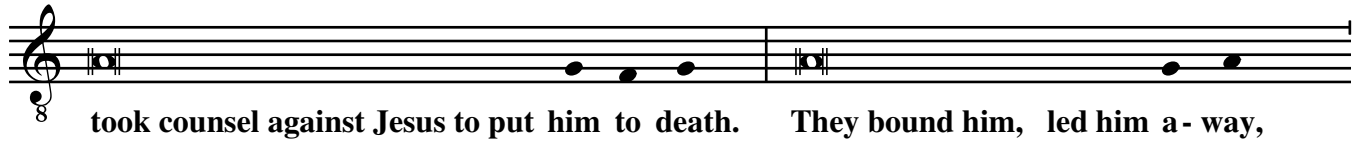
8 And immediately a cock crowed. Then Peter remembered the word that Je - sus had spoken:



8 "Be-fore the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.



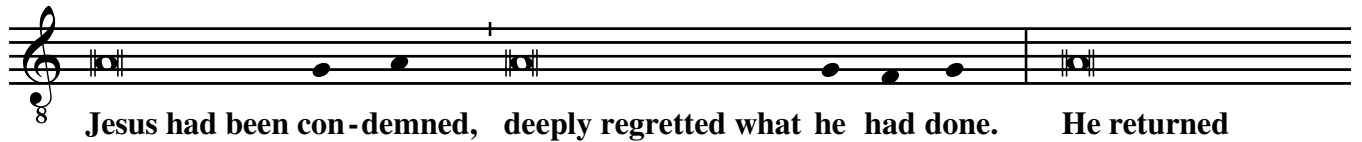
When it was morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people



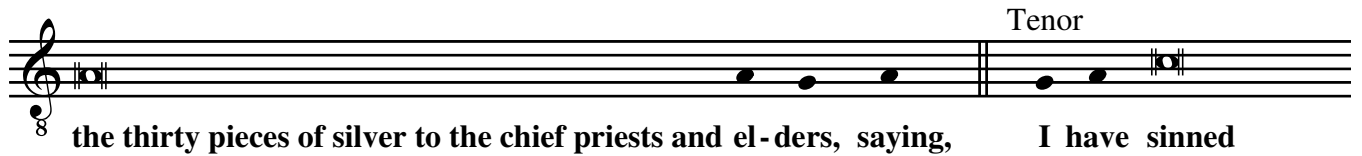
took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. They bound him, led him a-way,



and handed him over to Pi-late, the governor. Then Judas, his betrayer, seeing that



Jesus had been con-demned, deeply regretted what he had done. He returned



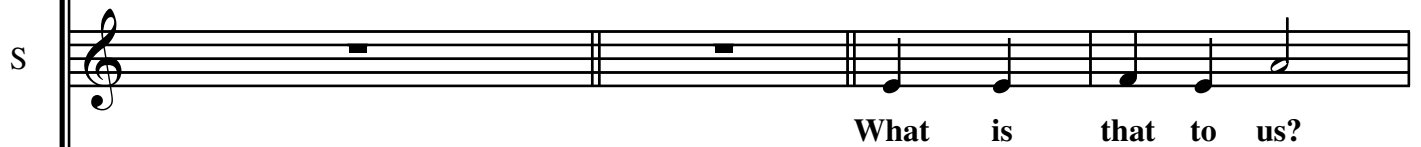
the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and el-ders, saying, I have sinned

Tenor

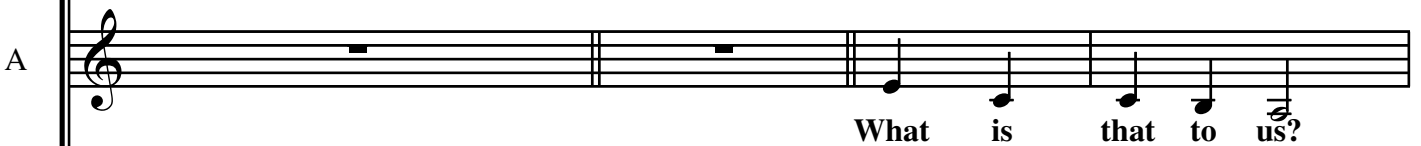


in betraying in - no - cent blood. They said,

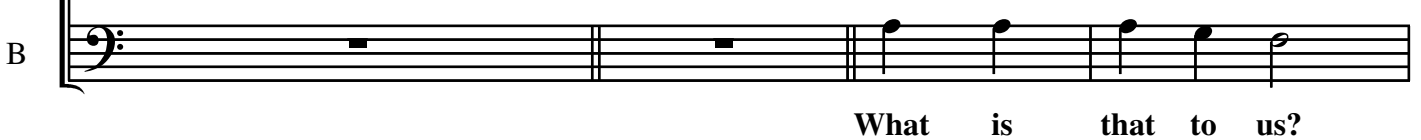
Evangelist




S What is that to us?



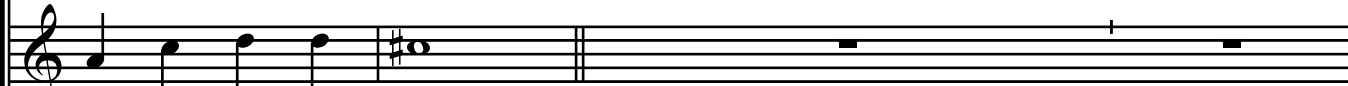
A What is that to us?

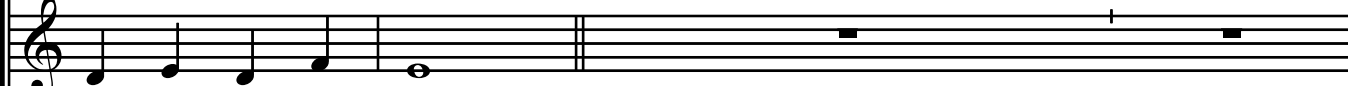


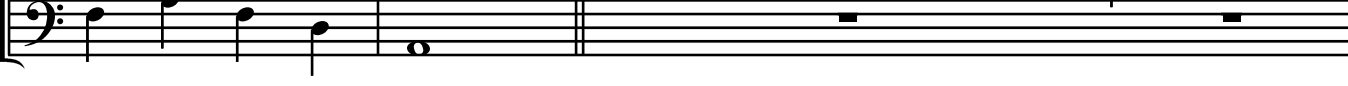
B What is that to us?

Ev.  8

Flinging the money into the temple, he departed

S  Look to it your - self.

A  Look to it your - self.

B  Look to it your - self.


 8

and went off and hanged himself. The chief priests gathered up the money, but said,

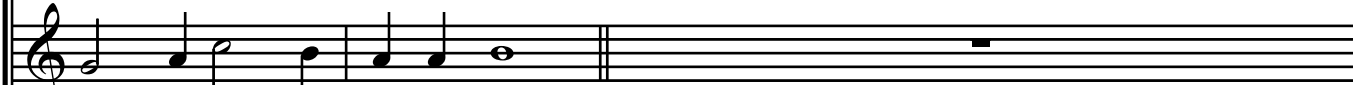
S  It is not law - ful to de-pos - it this in the tem-ple trea-sur - y,

A  It is not law - ful to de-pos - it this in the tem-ple trea-sur - y,

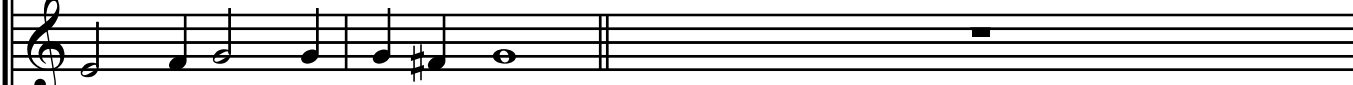
B  It is not law - ful to de-pos - it this in the tem-ple trea-sur - y,

Ev.  8

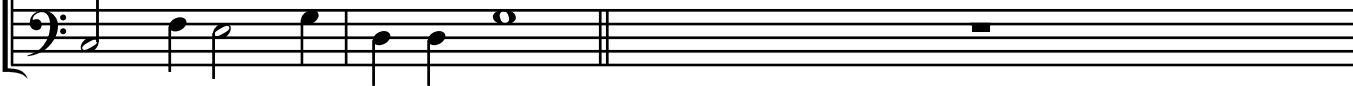
After consultation, they used it to buy the potter's field

S  8

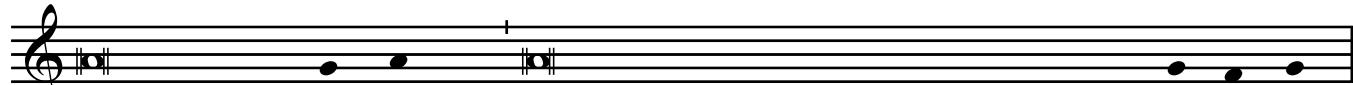
for it is the price of blood.

A  8

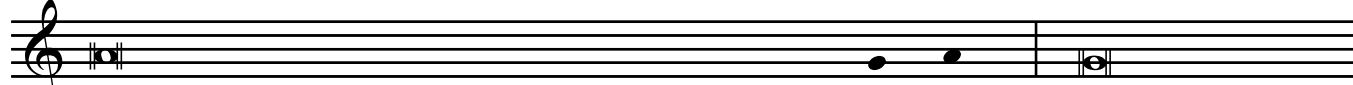
for it is the price of blood.

B  8

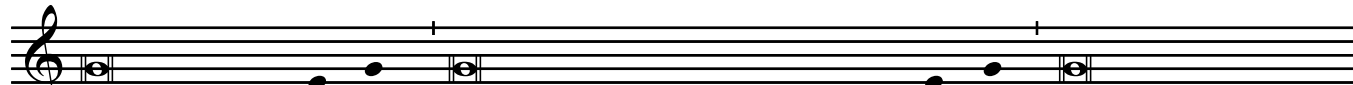
for it is the price of blood.

 8


as a burial place for foreigners. That is why that field even today is called the Field of Blood.

 8


Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet, And they took

 8

the thirty pieces of silver, the value of a man with a price on his head, a price set by some of

 8

the Israelites, and they paid it out for the pot-ter's field just as the Lord had com-manded me.

 8

Tenor

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and he questioned him, Are you the king of the Jews?

Evangelist Bass Evangelist

Jesus said, You say so. And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders,

Tenor

he made no answer. Then Pilate said to him, Do you not hear how many things

Evangelist

they are testify -ing a -gainst you? But he did not answer him one word, so that the governor

was great -ly a -mazed. Now on the occasion of the feast the governor was accustomed

to release to the crowd one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had

a notorious prisoner called Bar -abbas. So when they had assembled, Pilate said to them,

Tenor

Which one do you want me to release to you, Barabbas, or Je - sus called Christ?

Evangelist

For he knew that it was out of envy that they had hand-ed him over. While he was still seated

on the bench, his wife sent him a message, "Have nothing to do with that right-eous man.

8 I suffered much in a dream today be- cause of him. The chief priests and the elders

8 persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas but to de - stroy Jesus. The governor


Tenor Evangelist
8 said to them in re-ply, Which of the two do you want me to re-lease to you? They answered,


Ev. Tenor
8 Pilate said to them, Then what shall I do with Je - sus called Christ?


S
Bar - ab - bas!


A
Bar - ab - bas!

B
Bar - ab - bas!


Ev.  They all said, But he said,


S  Let him be cru - ci - fied!


A  Let him be cru - ci - fied!


B  Let — him be cru - ci - fied!


Tenor Evangelist

 Why? What evil has he done? They only shouted the louder,

Ev.  When Pilate saw that he was

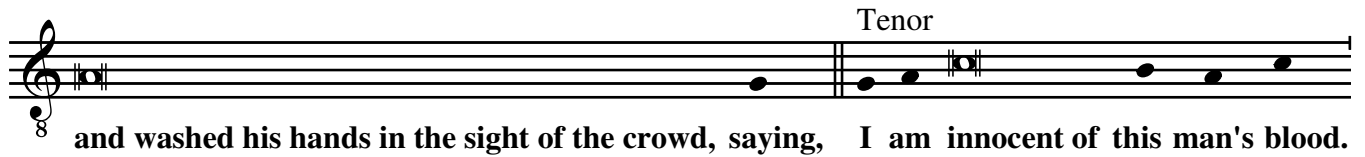
S  Let him be cru - ci - fied!

A  Let him be cru - ci - fied!

B  Let him be cru - ci - fied!

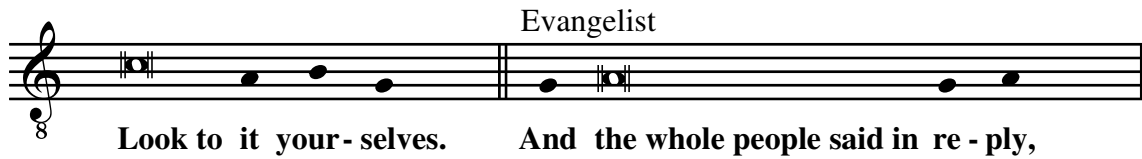
 not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out in - stead, he took water

Tenor

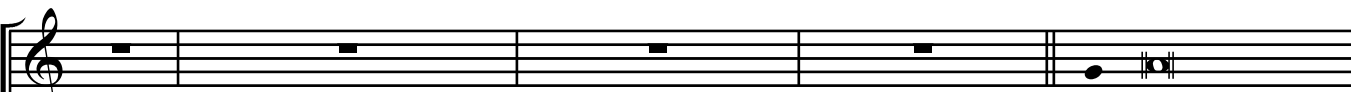



8 and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, I am innocent of this man's blood.


Evangelist




8 Look to it your-selves. And the whole people said in re-ply,

Ev.  Then he released

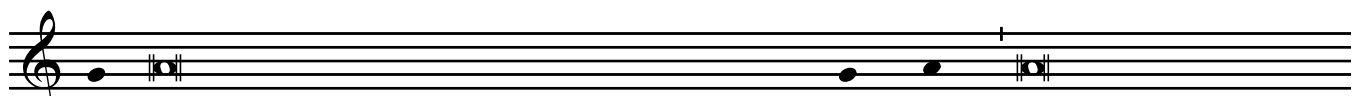
S  His blood be up-on us and up-on our chil - dren.

A  His blood be up-on us and up-on our chil - dren.

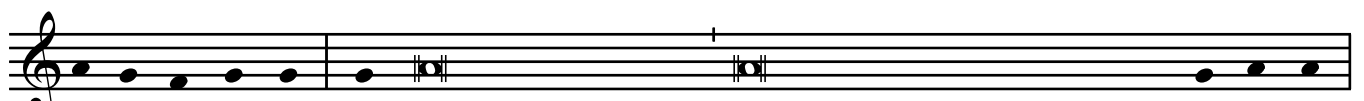
B  His blood be up-on us and up-on our chil - dren.



8 Barabbas to them, but after he had Je - sus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.



8 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the prae-torium and gathered the whole



8 co-hort a-round him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak a-bout him.

8 Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand.

Ev.

8 And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

S

Hail, King of the Jews!

A

Hail, King of the Jews!

B

Hail, King of the Jews!

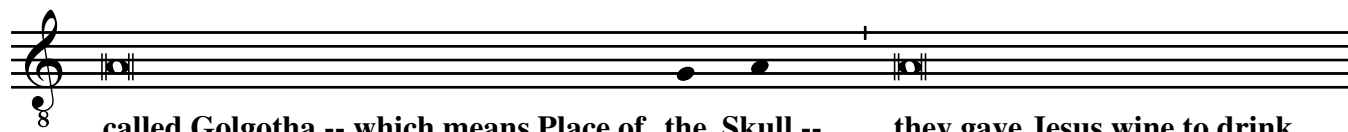
Evangelist

8 They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they

8 had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes,

8 and led him off to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon;

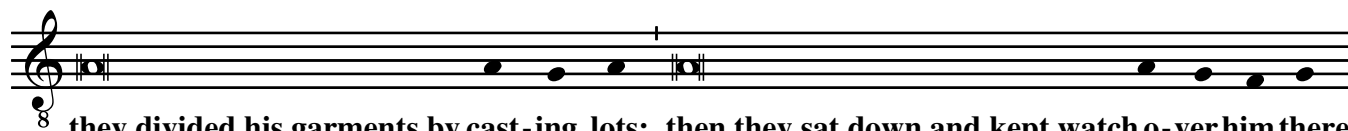
8 this man they pressed into service to carry his cross. And when they came to a place



called Golgotha -- which means Place of the Skull -- , they gave Jesus wine to drink



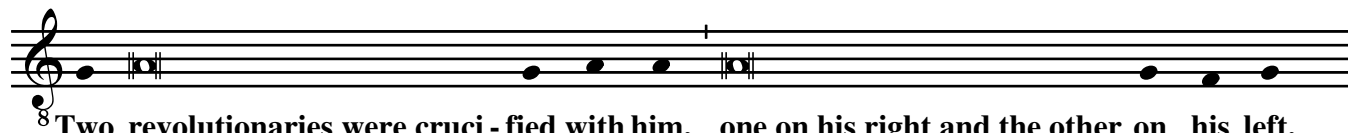
mixed with gall. But when he had tasted it, he re- fused to drink. After they had crucified him,



they divided his garments by cast- ing lots; then they sat down and kept watch o- ver him there.



And they placed over his head the written charge a- gainst him: This is Jesus, King of the Jews.



Two revolutionaries were cruci- fied with him, one on his right and the other on his left.



Those passing by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying,



You who would destroy the tem- ple and re- build it in three days, save ___ your- self,



You who would destroy the tem- ple and re- build it in three days, save ___ your- self,



You who would destroy the tem- ple and re- build it in three days, save ___ your- self,

S if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!

A if you are the Son of God, and come down from the cross!

B if you are the Son of God, and come down from _____ the cross!

Evangelist

Likewise the chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said,

S He saved oth-ers; he can-not save him-self. So he is the king of Is - ra -

A So he is the king of Is - ra -

B

S el! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will be - lieve in

A el! Let him_ come down from the cross now, and we will be - lieve in

B

S
him. He trust - ed in God; let him de-liv-er him now if

A
him. He trust - ed in God; let him de-liv-er him now if

B
He trust - ed in God; let him de-liv-er him now if

S
he wants him. For he said, "I am the Son of God."

A
he wants him. For he said, "I am the Son of God."

B
he wants him. For he said, "I am the Son of God."

Evangelist

The revolutionaries who were cruci-fied with him also kept abusing him in the same way.


From noon onward, darkness came over the whole land until three in the af - ter - noon.


Bass


And about three o'clock Jesus cried out in a loud voice, Eli, eli, lema sa-bach-thani?


Evangelist

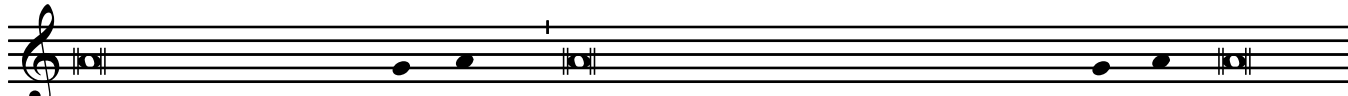
which means, "My God, my God, why have you for-saken me?" Some of the bystanders

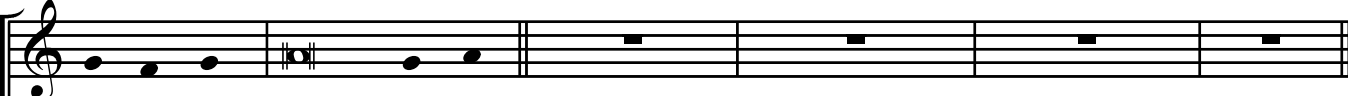
Ev.  who heard it said, Immediately


S  This one is call-ing for E - li - jah.


A  This one is call-ing for E - li - jah.


B  This one is call-ing for E - li - jah.

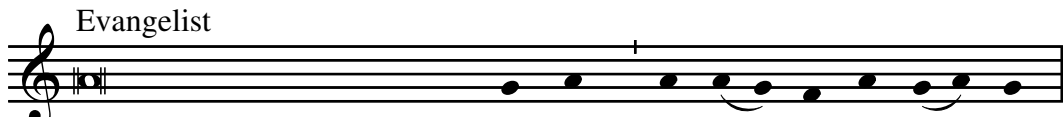
 one of them ran to get a sponge; he soaked it in wine, and putting it on a reed, gave it to


Ev.  him to drink. But the rest said,


S  Wait, let us see if E-li - jah comes to save him.


A  Wait, let us see if E-li - jah comes to save him.

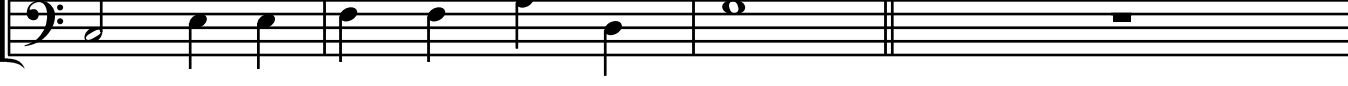
B  Wait, let us see if E-li - jah comes to save him.

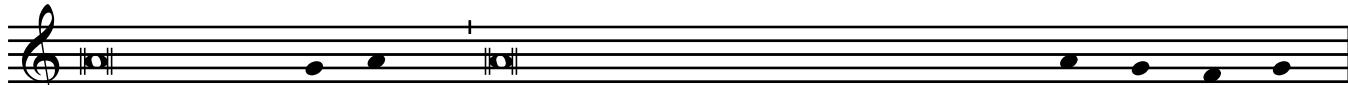
Evangelist  But Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, and gave up his spir - it. *Here all kneel and pause for a short time.*

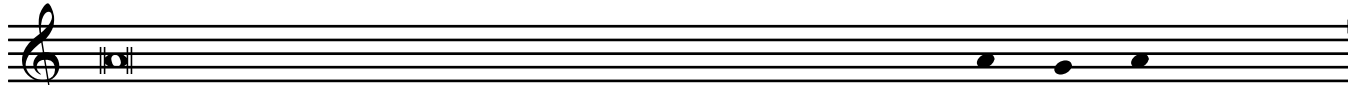
Ev.  There were many women there,

S  Tru - ly, this was the Son of God!

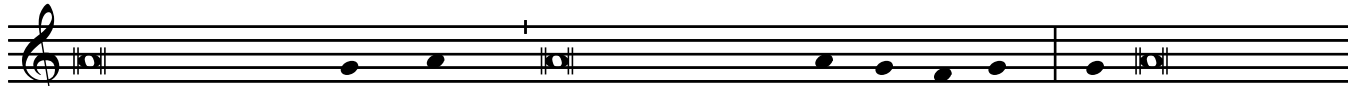
A  Tru - ly, this was the Son of God!

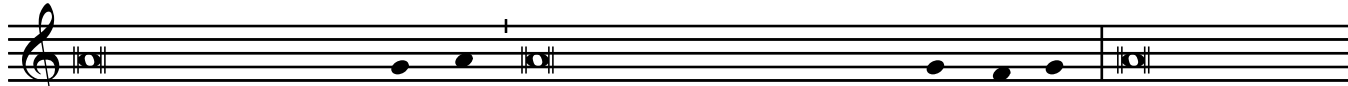
B  Tru - ly, this was the Son of God!

 looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, minister-ing to him.

 Among them were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph,

 and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. When it was evening, there came a rich man

 from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disci-ple of Jesus. He went to Pilate

 and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be hand-ed over. Taking the body,

8 Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock.

8 Then he rolled a huge stone across entrance to the tomb and de-parted.

8 But Mary Magdalene and the other Mary remained sitting there, fac-ing the tomb.

8 The next day, the one following the day of pre-par-ation, the chief priests and the Pharisees

Ev.	 8 gathered before Pi-late and said,
S	
A	 Sir, we re-mem-ber that this im-pos-ter while
B	 Sir, we re-mem-ber that this im-pos-ter while

S
"Af - ter three days I will be raised up."

A
still a - live said, "Af - ter three days I will be raised up."

B
still a - live said, "Af - ter three days I will be raised up."

S
Give or-ders, then, that the grave be se-cured un - til the third day,

A
Give or-ders that the grave be se-cured un - til the third day,

B

S
lest his dis - ci - ples steal him and say to the peo - ple,

A
lest his dis - ci - ples come and steal him and say to the peo - ple,

B

S *p* *f*
 "He has been raised from the dead." This last im-pos-ture would be worse than the first.

A *p* *f*
 "He has been raised from the dead." This last im-pos-ture would be worse than the first.

B *p* *f*
 "He has been raised from the dead." This last im-pos-ture would be worse than the first.

Evangelist Tenor
 Pilate said to them, The guard is yours; go, se - cure it as best you can.

Evangelist
 So they went and secured the tomb by fixing a seal to the stone and set - ting the guard.