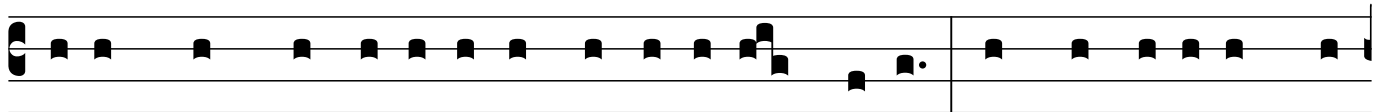


Romans 8:18-27

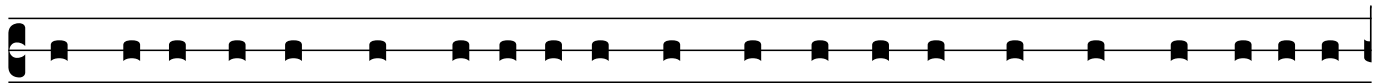
At Confirmation



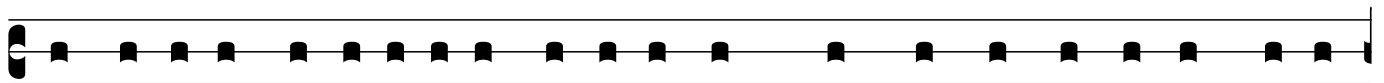
I consid-er that the suffer-ings of this pre-sent time are not worth com-



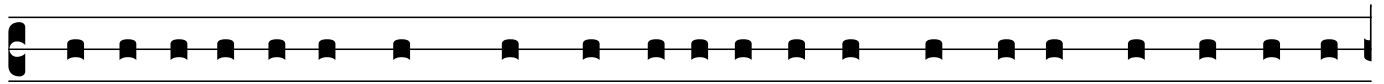
par-ing with the glo-ry about to be revealed to us. For the cre-ation waits



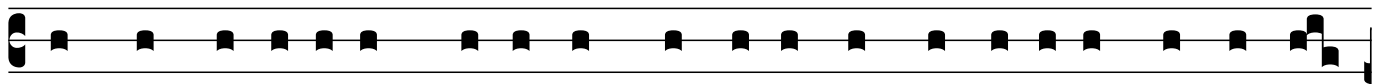
with eager longing for the reveal-ing of the children of God, for the cre-ation



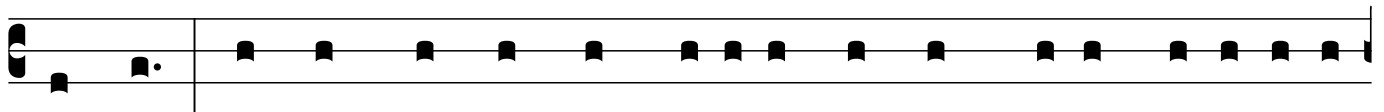
was subjected to fu-til-i-ty, not of its own will, but by the will of the one



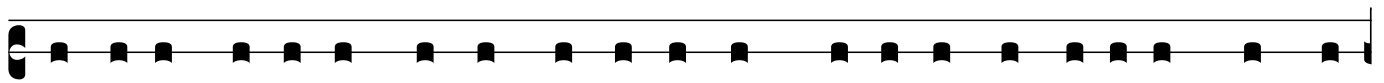
who subjected it, in hope that the cre-ation it-self will be set free from its en-



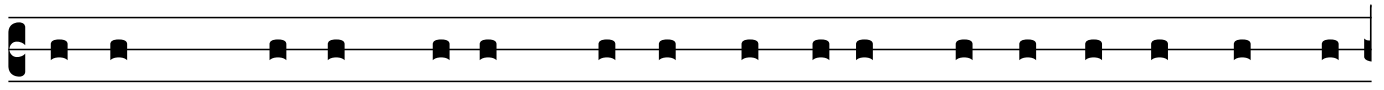
slavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glo-ry of the children



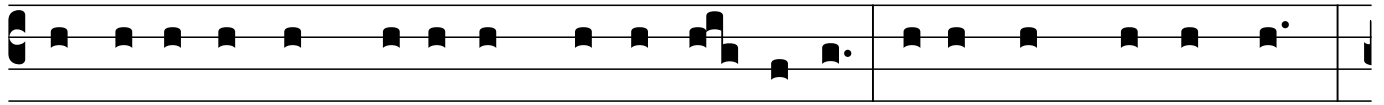
of God. We know that the whole cre-ation has been groaning to-gether as



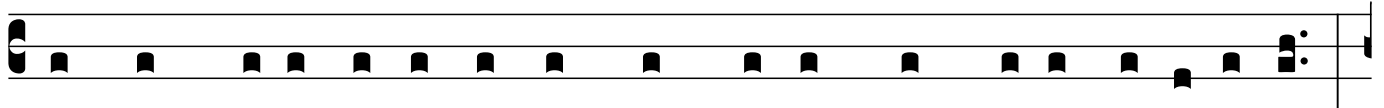
it suffers to-gether the pains of la-bor, and not only the cre-ation, but we



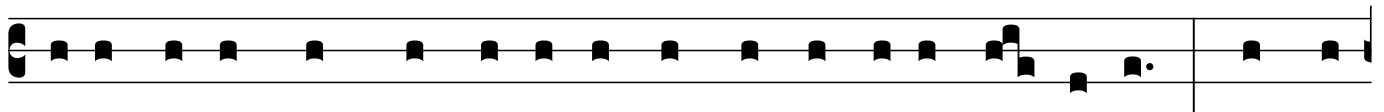
ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spir-it, groan inwardly while we



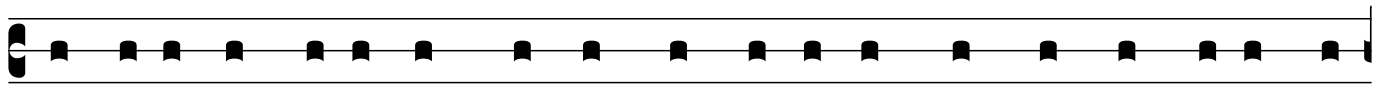
wait for a-doption, the re-demption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved.



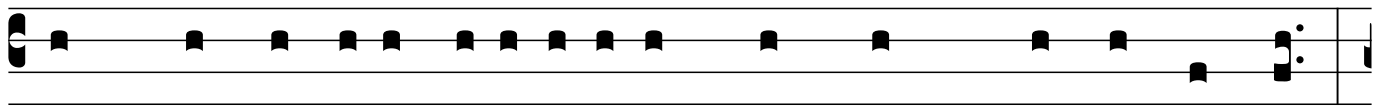
Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees?



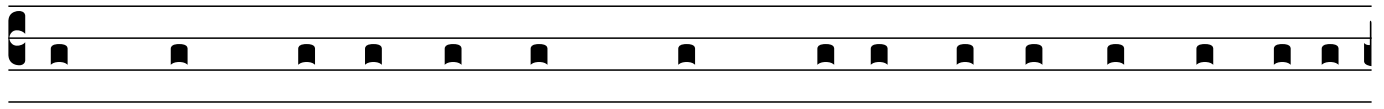
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with pa-tience. Likewise



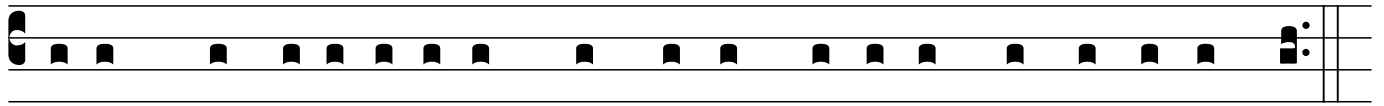
the Spir-it helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we



ought, but that ver-y Spir-it intercedes with groanings too deep for words.



And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spir- it,



because the Spir-it intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.