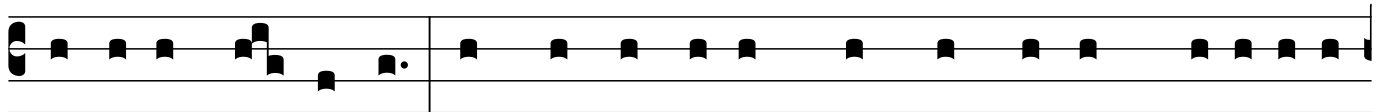


1 Peter 2:1-9

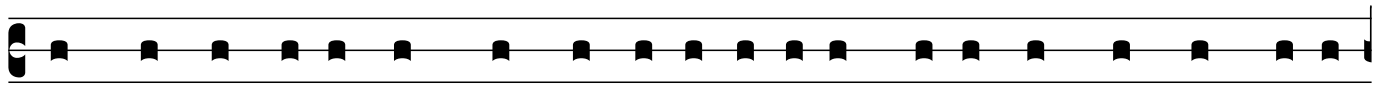
Dedication of a Church



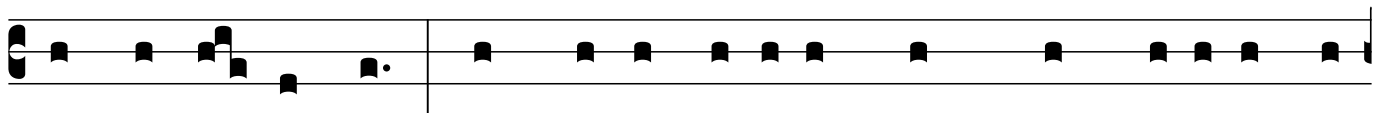
Rid yourselves, therefore, of all mal-ice and all guile, insincer-i-ty,



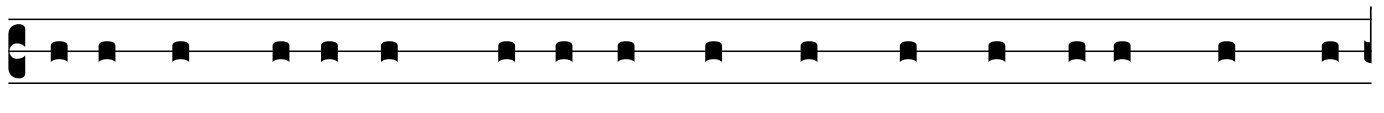
envy, and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spir-it-u-al



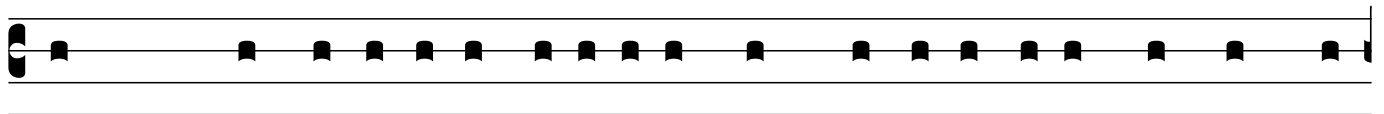
milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted



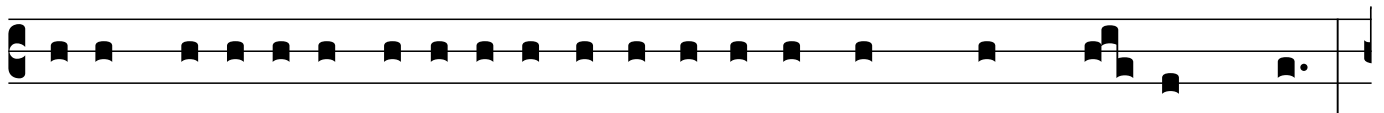
that the Lord is good. Come to him, a liv-ing stone, though re-jected by



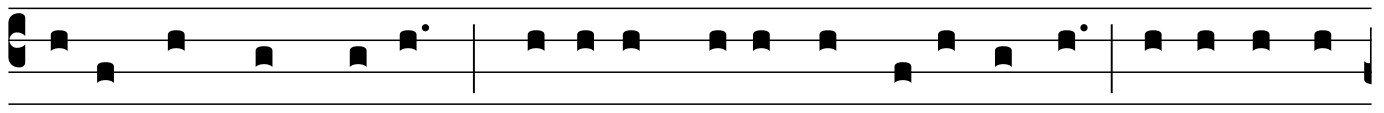
mortals yet cho-sen and precious in God's sight, and like liv-ing stones let



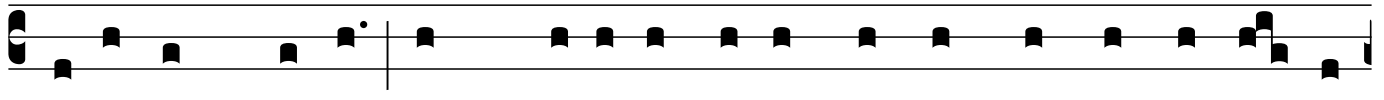
yourselves be built into a spir-it-u-al house, to be a ho-ly priesthood, to



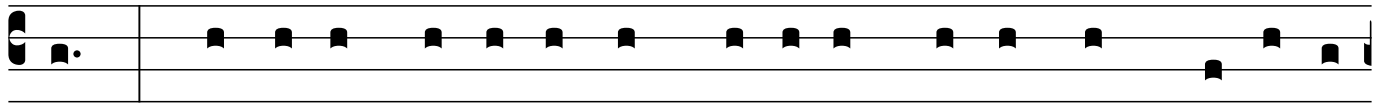
offer spir-it-u-al sacri-fic-es acceptable to God through Je-sus Christ.



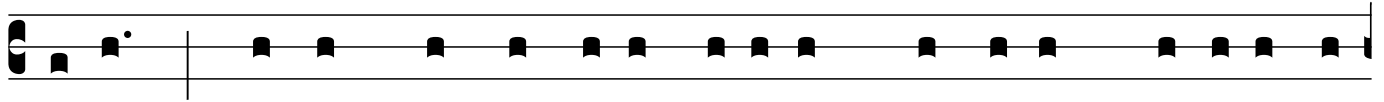
For it stands in scripture: “See, I am lay-ing in Zi-on a stone, a cornerstone



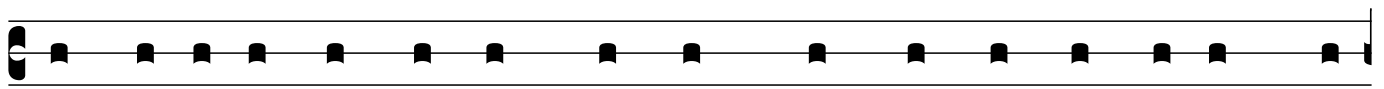
cho-sen and precious, and who- ev-er be-lieves in him will not be put to



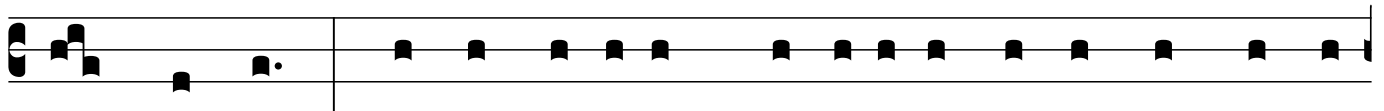
shame.” This hon-or, then, is for you who be-lieve, but for those who do not



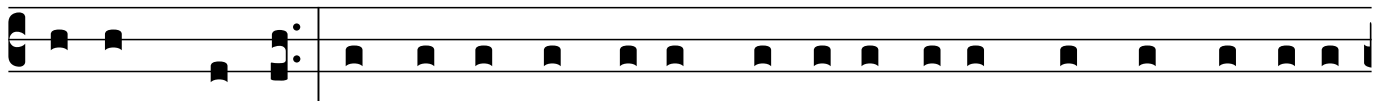
be-lieve, “The stone that the builders re-jected has be-come the ver-y head



of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that



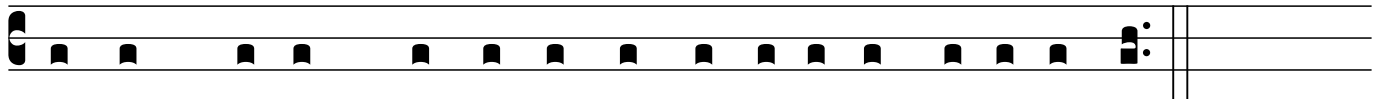
makes them fall.” They stumble because they dis-obey the word, as they were



des-tined to do. But you are a cho-sen people, a roy-al priesthood, a ho-ly



nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excel-lence



of him who called you out of darkness into his marvel-ous light.