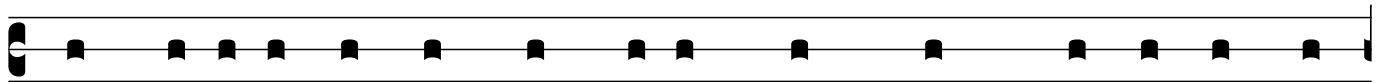


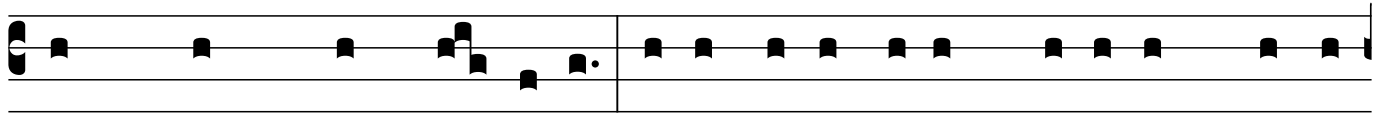
1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Epiphany 3

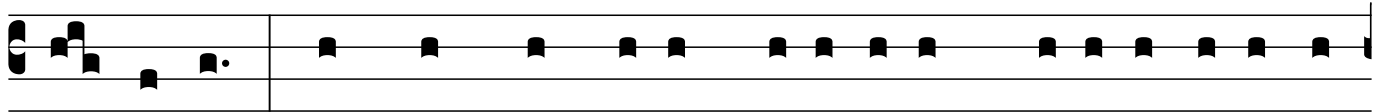
Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Any one who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, but any one who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for



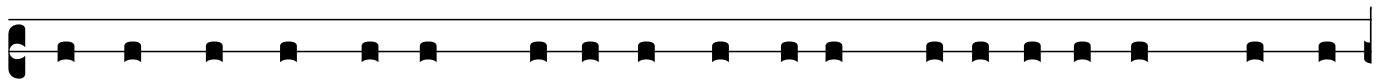
whom we exist, and one Lord, Je-sus Christ, through whom are all things



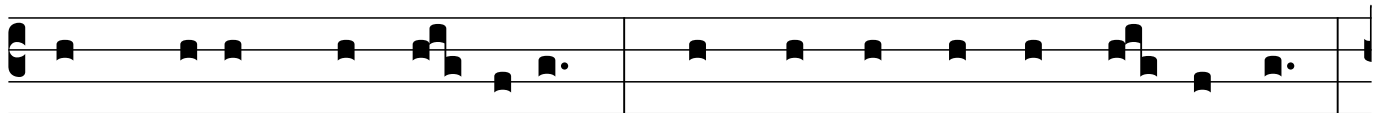
and through whom we exist. It is not every-one, howev-er, who has



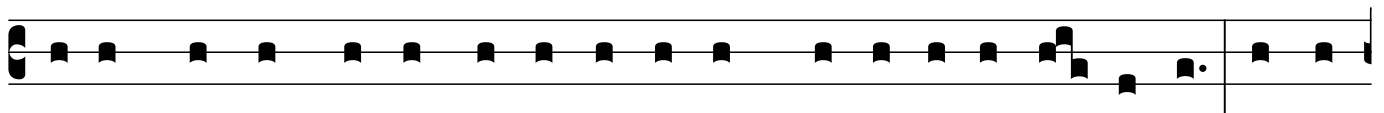
this knowledge. Since some have be-come so accustomed to i-dols until now,



they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an i-dol, and their con-



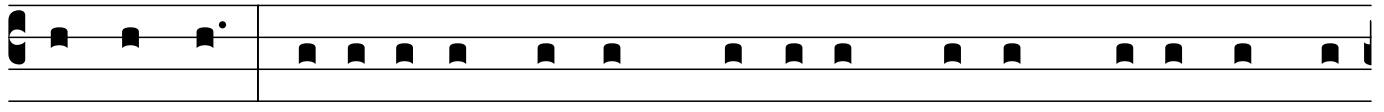
science, be- ing weak, is de- filed. "Food will not bring us close to God."



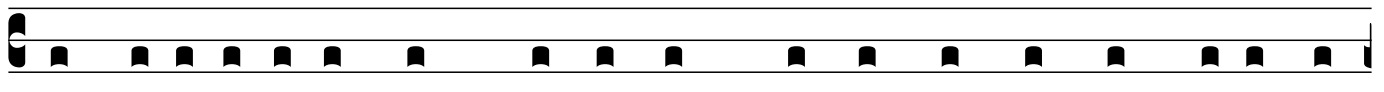
We are no worse off if we do not eat and no bet-ter off if we do. But take



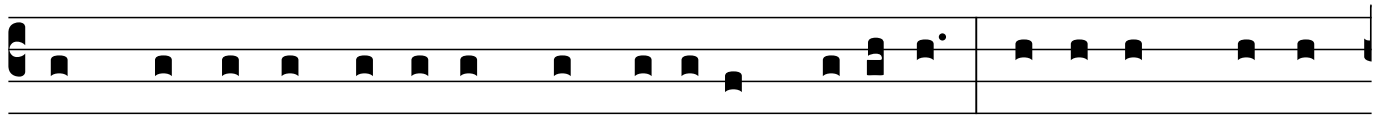
care that this lib-erty of yours does not somehow be-come a stumbl- ing block



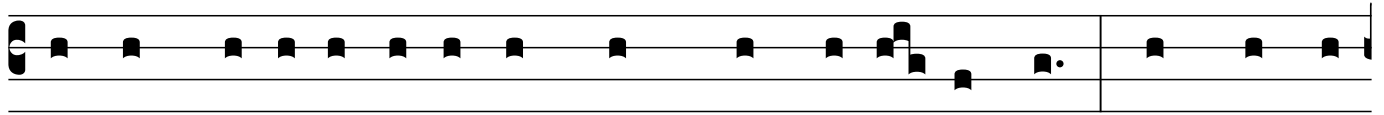
to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eat- ing in the



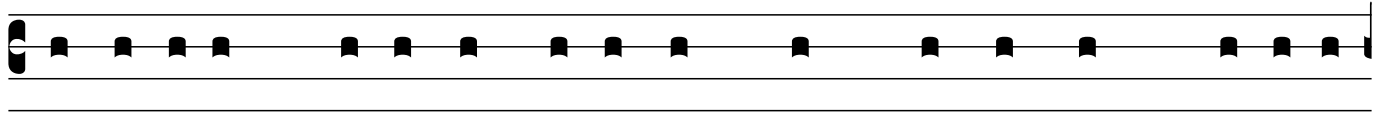
temple of an i-dol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encour-



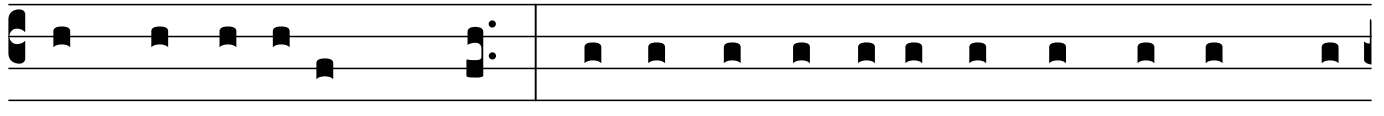
aged to the point of eat-ing food sacri- ficed to i-dols? So by your knowledge



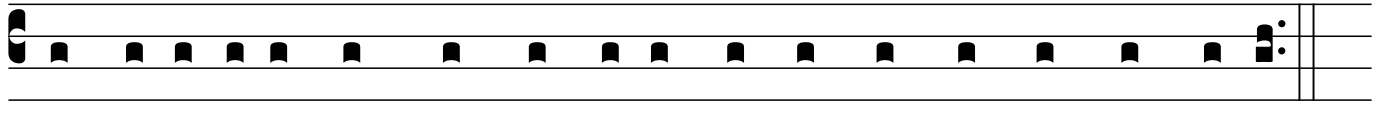
the weak brother or sis-ter for whom Christ died is destroyed. But when you



thus sin against brothers and sis-ters and wound their conscience when it is



weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I



will nev-er again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.