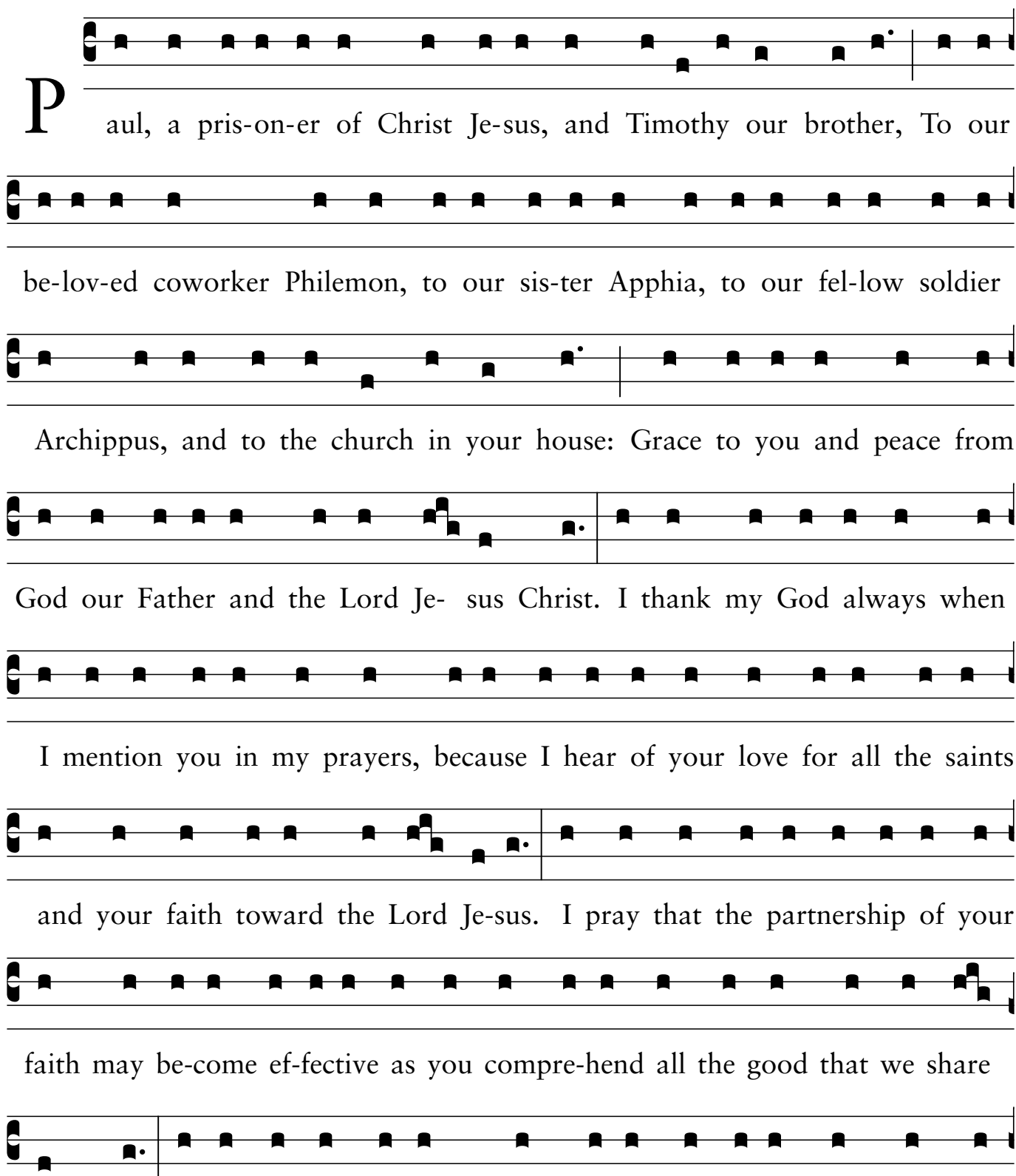


Philemon 1-21

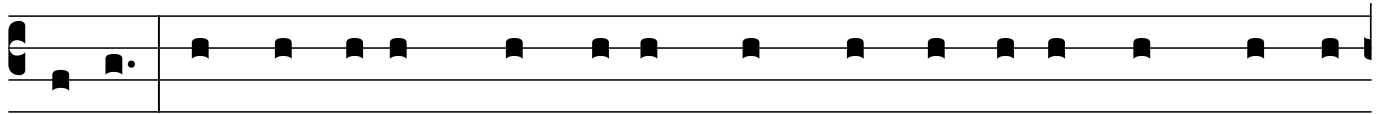
Proper 18



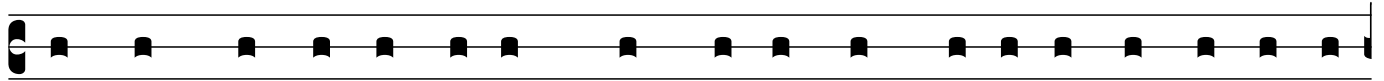
Paul, a pris-on-er of Christ Je-sus, and Timothy our brother, To our
be-lov-ed coworker Philemon, to our sis-ter Apphia, to our fel-low soldier
Archippus, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from
God our Father and the Lord Je- sus Christ. I thank my God always when
I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints
and your faith toward the Lord Je-sus. I pray that the partnership of your
faith may be-come ef-fective as you compre-hend all the good that we share
in Christ. I have indeed re-ceived much joy and encouragement from your



love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my



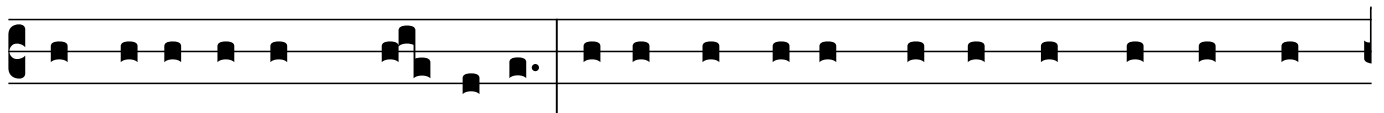
brother. For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to



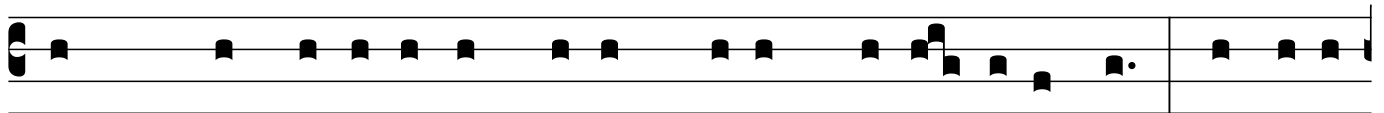
command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on



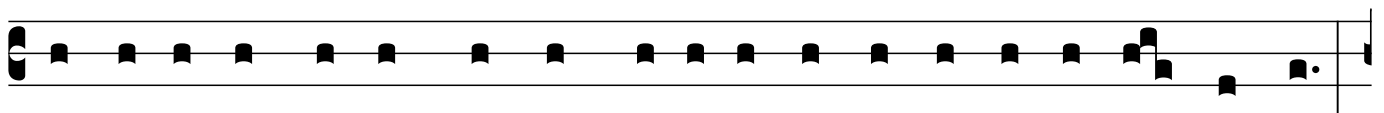
the ba-sis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as



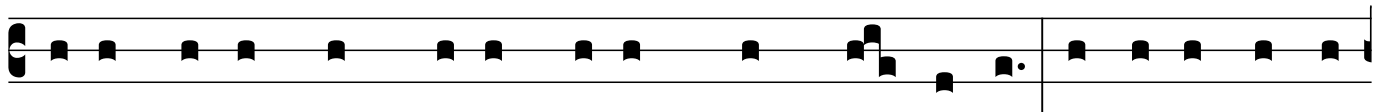
a pris-on-er of Christ Je-sus. I am appeal-ing to you for my child, Ones-



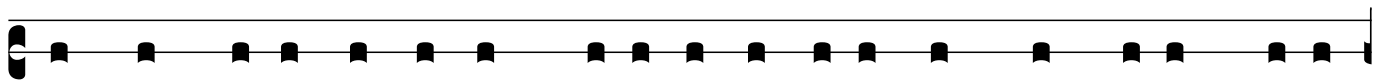
imus, whose father I have be-come dur-ing my impris-onment. Formerly



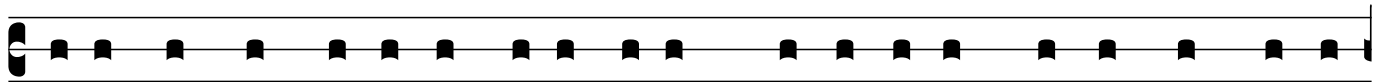
he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.



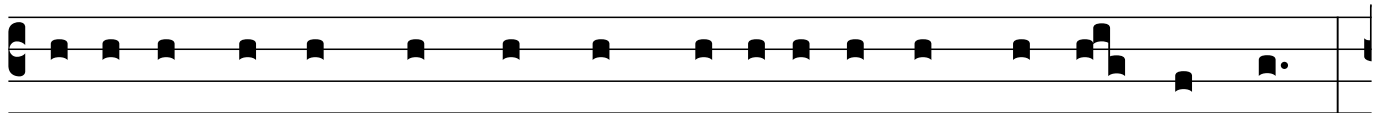
I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep



him with me so that he might min-is-ter to me in your place dur-ing my im-



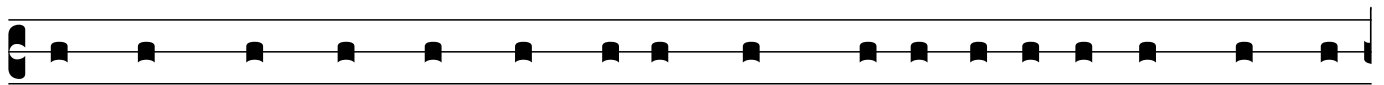
pris-onment for the gospel, but I pre-ferred to do nothing without your consent



in order that your good deed might be vol-untary and not something forced.



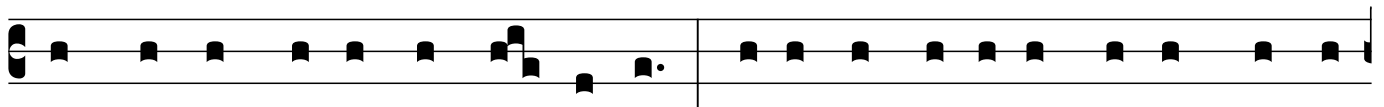
Perhaps this is the reason he was sep-a-rat-ed from you for a while, so that



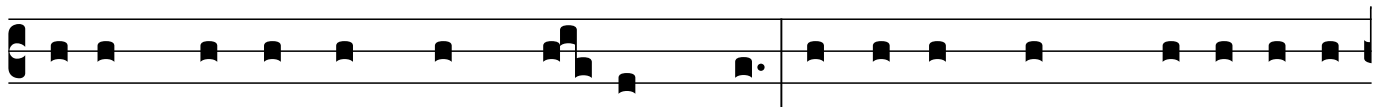
you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more



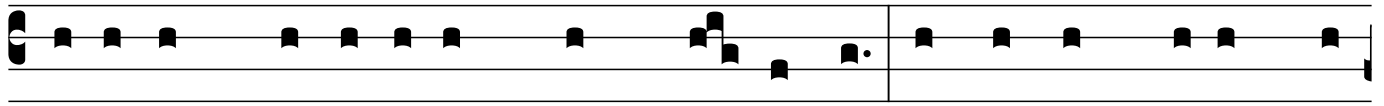
than a slave, a be-lov-ed brother—especial-ly to me but how much more to



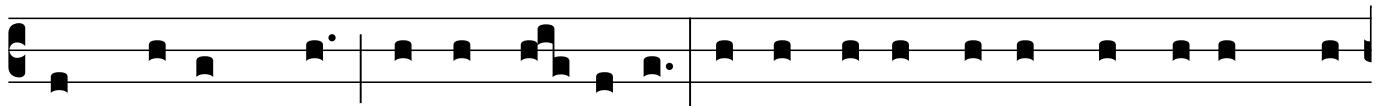
you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you consid-er me your partner,



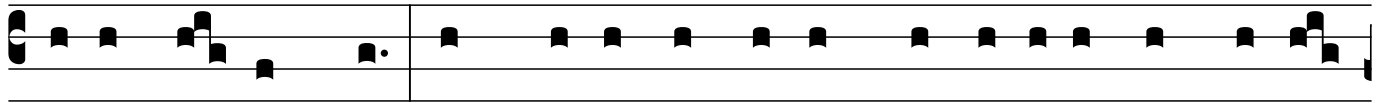
welcome him as you would wel- come me. If he has wronged you in an-y



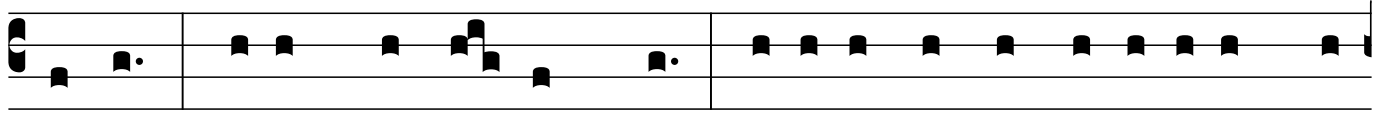
way or owes you an-ything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writ-ing this



with my own hand: I will re- pay it. I say nothing about your owing me



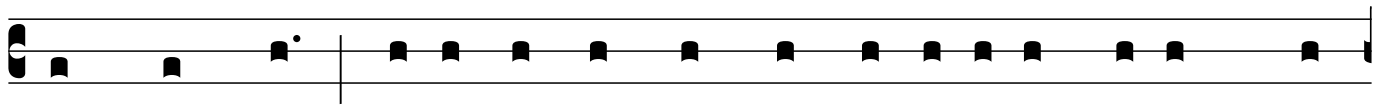
e-ven your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this ben-e-fit from you in



the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confi-dent of your o-be-di- ence, I



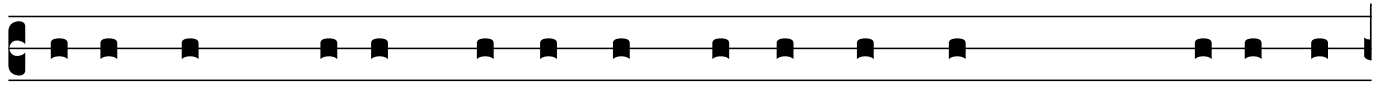
am writ- ing to you, knowing that you will do e-ven more than I ask.



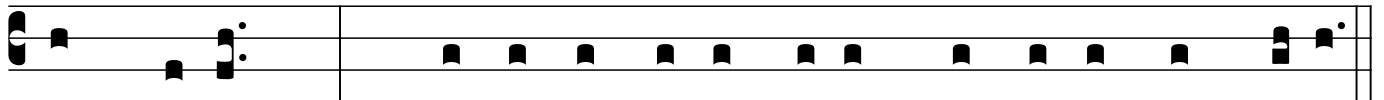
One thing more: pre-prepare a guest room for me, for I am hop- ing through



your prayers to be restored to you. Epaphras, my fel- low pris- on- er in Christ



Je- sus, sends greet- ings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and



Luke, my coworkers. The grace of the Lord Je- sus Christ be with your spir- it.