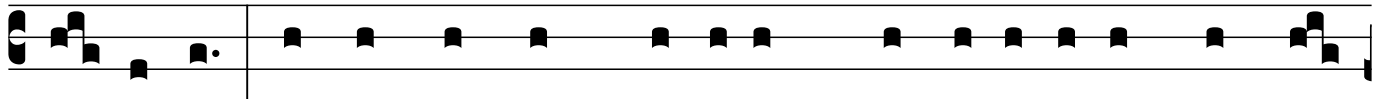


Acts 6:8-7:2a,51c-60

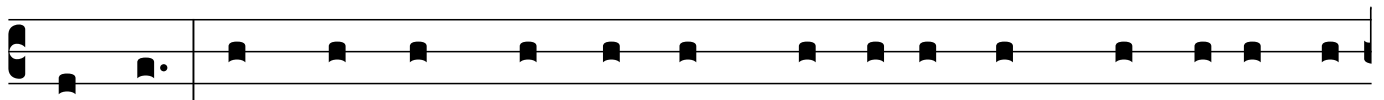
St. Stephen



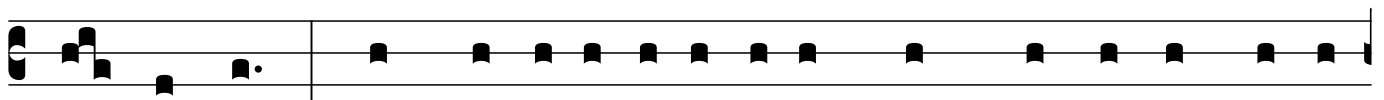
Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among



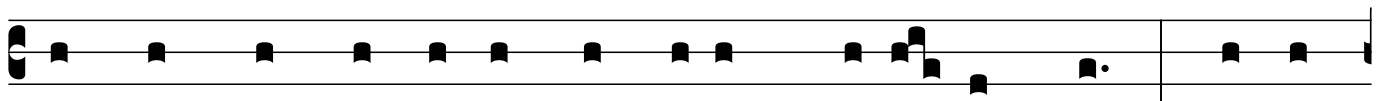
the people. Then some of those who be-longed to the syn-a-gogue of the



Freedmen But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spir-it with



which he spoke. Then they secret-ly insti-gated some men to say,“We have



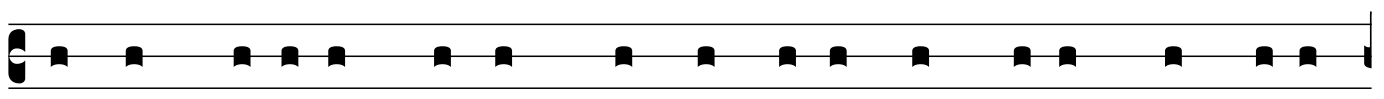
heard him speak blasphemous words against Mo-ses and God.” They stirred



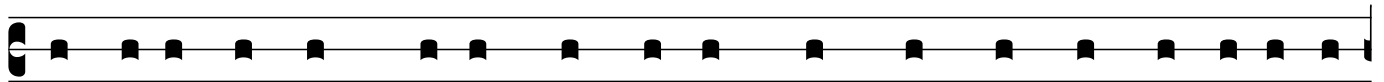
up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly



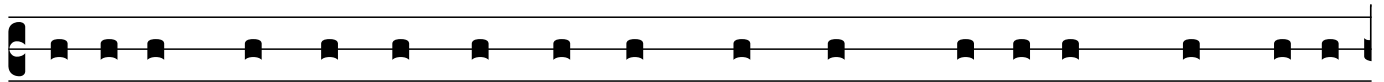
confronted him, seized him, and brought him be-fore the council. They set



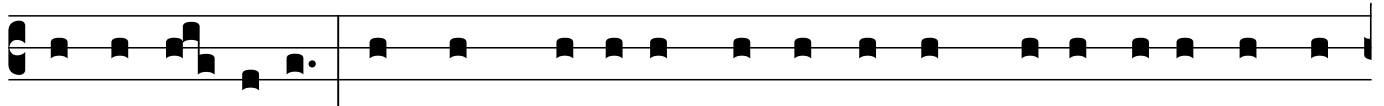
up false witnesses who said,“This man nev-er stops say-ing things against



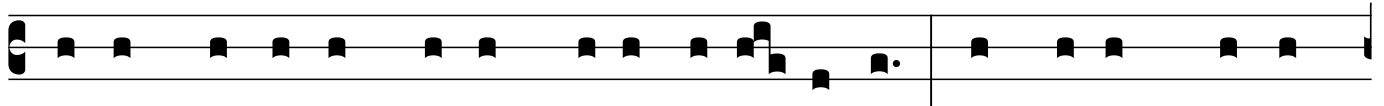
this ho-ly place and the law, for we have heard him say that this Je-sus of



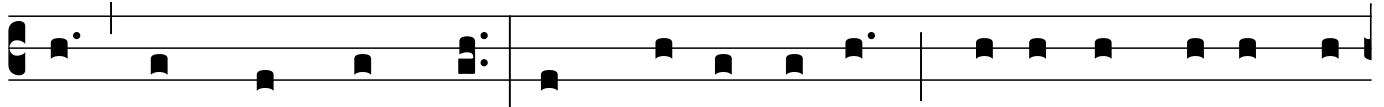
Naz-a-reth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Mo-ses



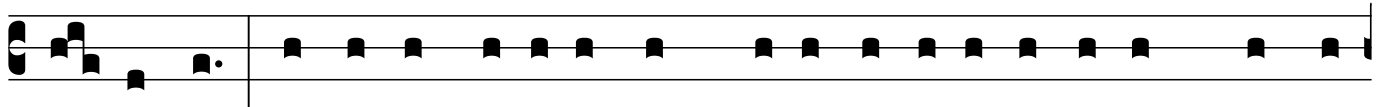
handed on to us.” And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and



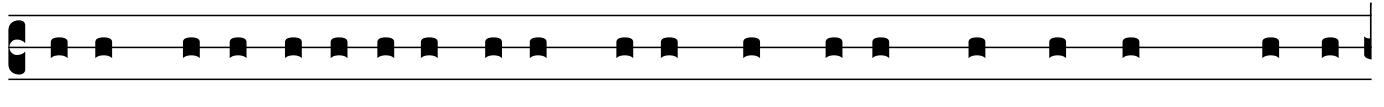
they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. Then the high priest asked



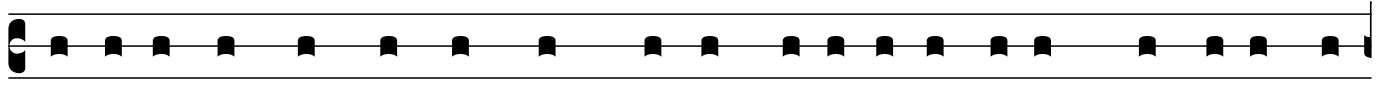
him, “Are these things so?” And Stephen replied: “Brothers and fathers, lis-



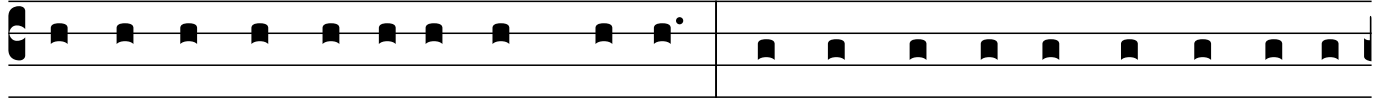
ten to me. The God of glo-ry appeared to our ancestor Abra-ham when he



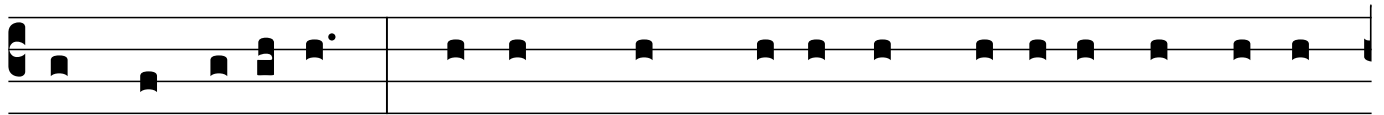
was in Mes-o-po-tami- a, be-fore he lived in Ha-ran, “You stiff-necked people,



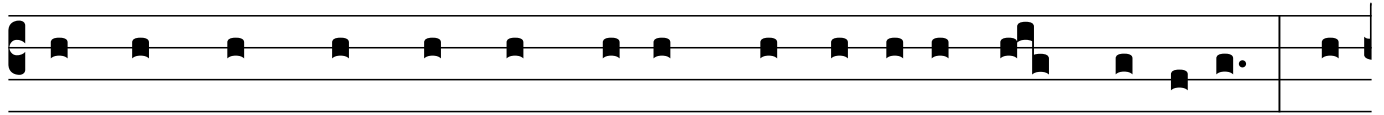
uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for-ev-er oppos-ing the Ho-ly Spir-



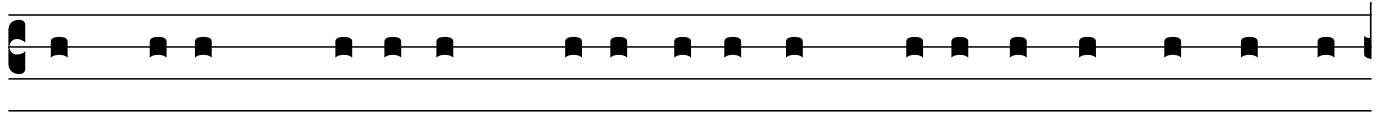
it, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ances-



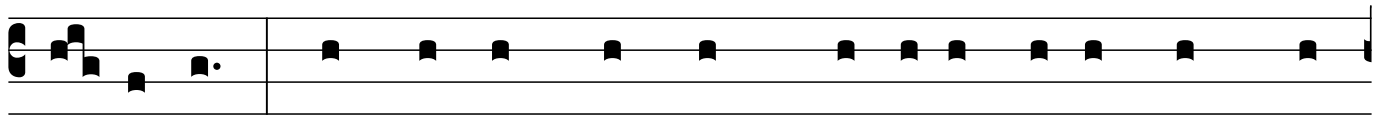
tors not perse-cute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Right-



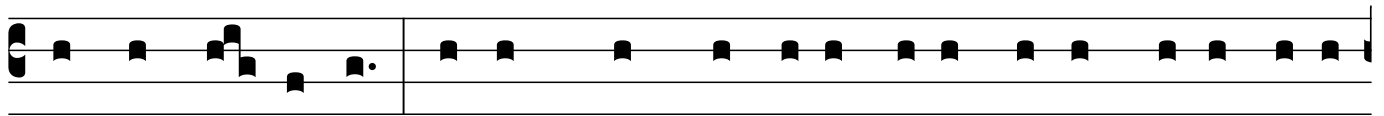
eous One, and now you have be-come his betray-ers and murder-ers. You



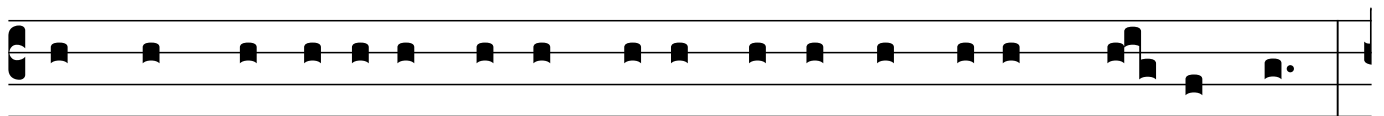
are the ones who re-ceived the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have



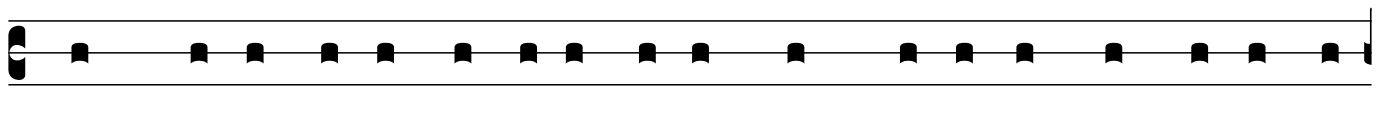
not kept it.” When they heard these things, they be-came enraged and ground



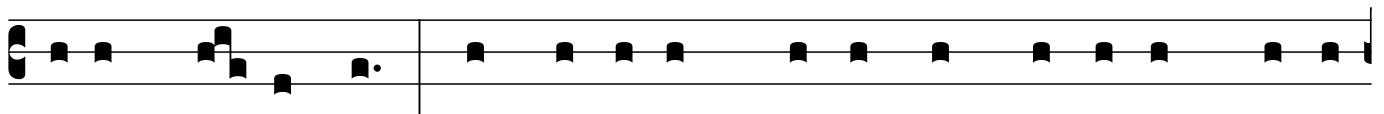
their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Ho-ly Spir-it, he gazed into heaven



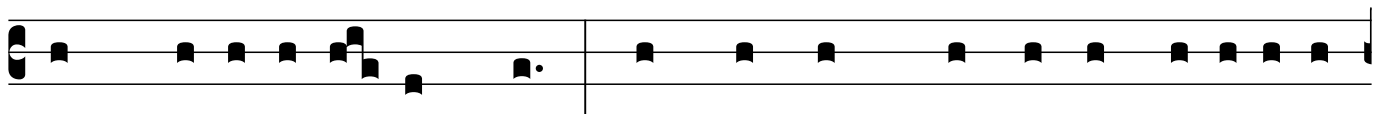
and saw the glo-ry of God and Je-sus standing at the right hand of God.



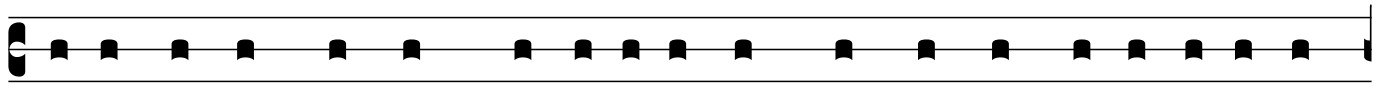
“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens o-pened and the Son of Man standing at



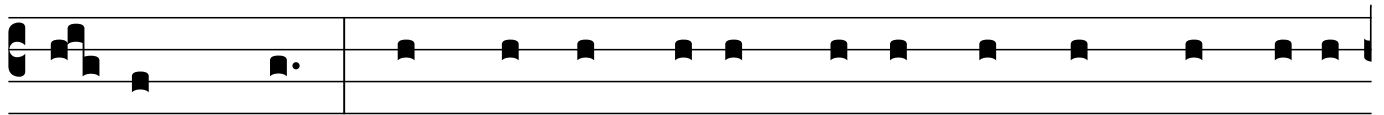
the right hand of God!” But they cov-ered their ears, and with a loud shout all



rushed to-gether a- gainst him. Then they dragged him out of the cit-y and



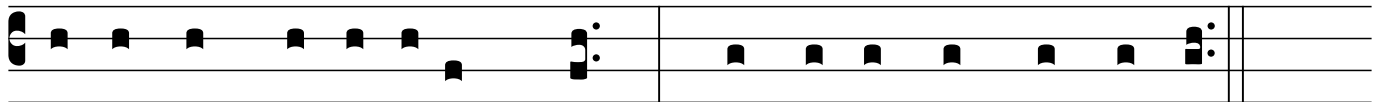
be-gan to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young



man named Saul. While they were ston-ing Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Je-sus,



re-ceive my spir-it." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord,



do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.