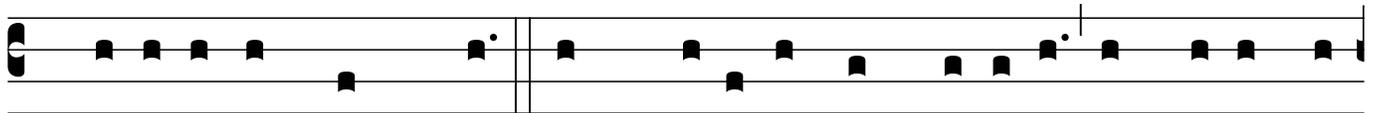


# Matthew 19:3-12

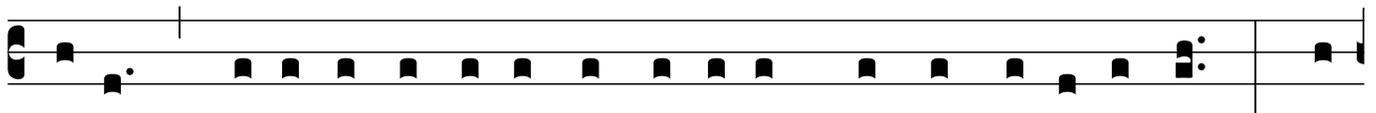
*Setting Apart for a Religious Vocation*

**W**

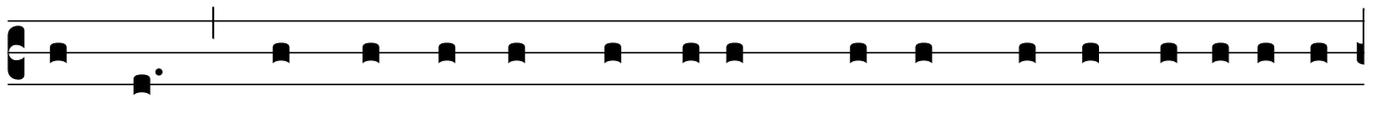
The Ho-ly Gospel of our Lord Je-sus Christ according to Matthew.



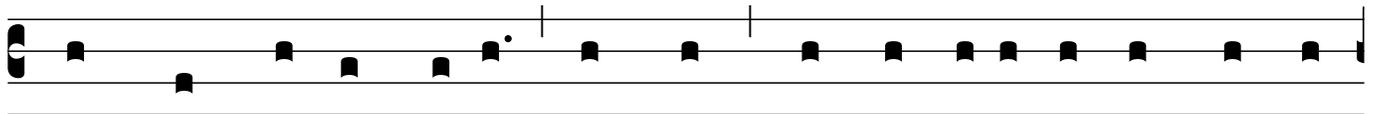
*R* *Glo-ry to you, Lord Christ.* Some Phar-i-sees came to Je-sus, and to test him



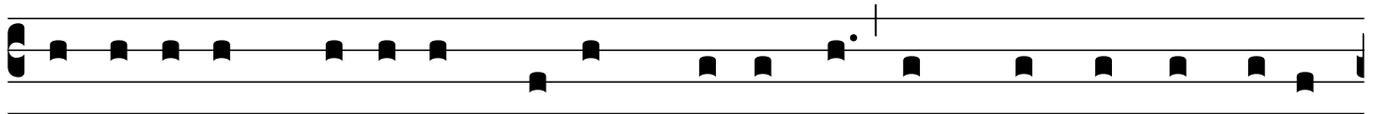
they asked, ‘Is it lawful for a man to di-voce his wife for an-y cause?’ He



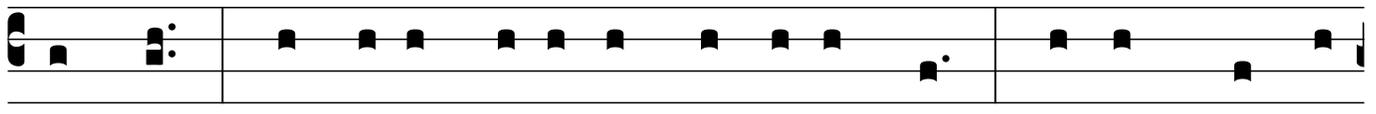
answered, ‘Have you not read that the one who made them at the be-ginning



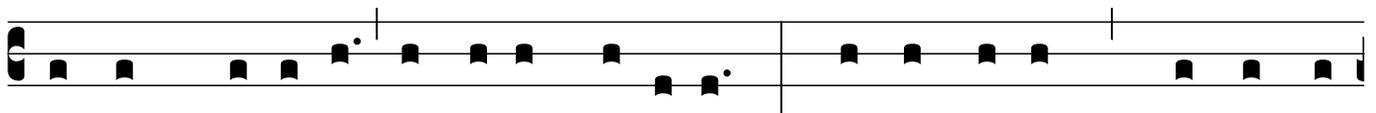
“made them male and female”, and said, “For this reason a man shall leave



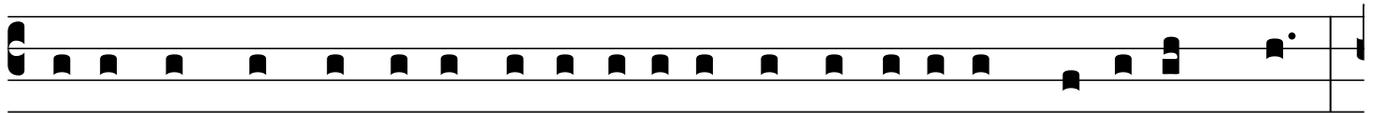
his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall be-come



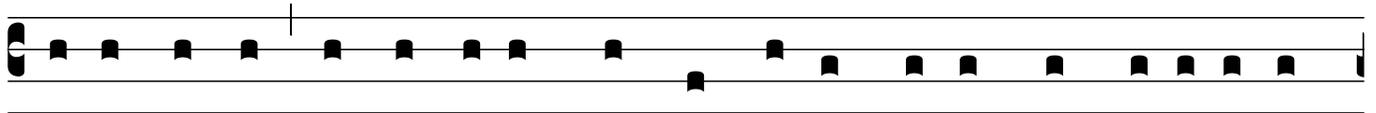
one flesh”? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God



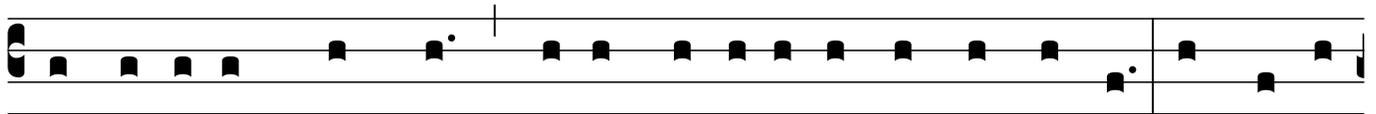
has joined to-gether, let no one sep-a-rate.’ They said to him, ‘Why then did



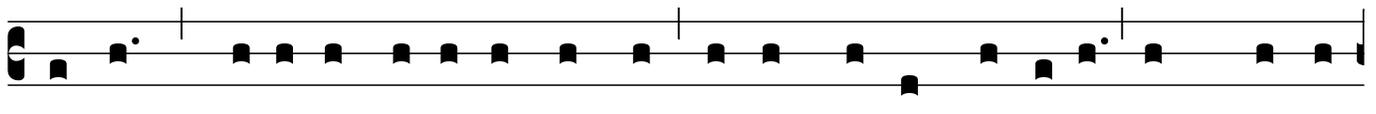
Mo-ses command us to give a cer-tif-i-cate of dismissal and to di-vo-ce her?’



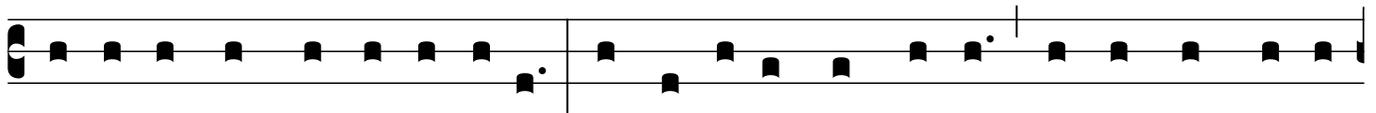
He said to them, ‘It was because you were so hardhearted that Mo-ses al-lowed



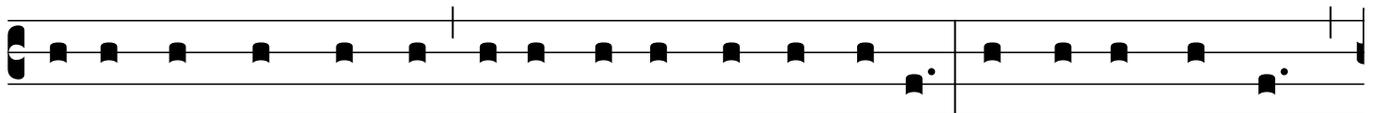
you to di-vo-ce your wives, but at the be-gin-ning it was not so. And I say



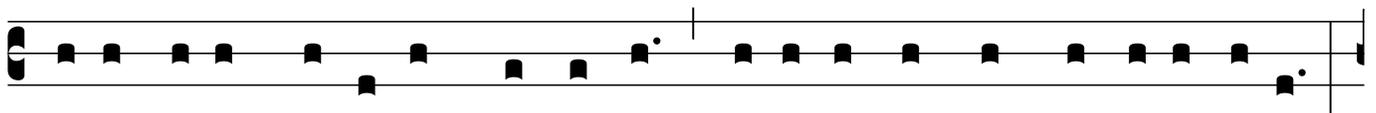
to you, who- ev-er di-vo-ces his wife, except for unchas-ti-ty, and marries



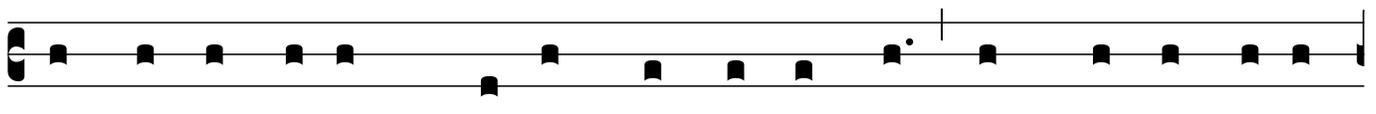
an-o-ther commits a-dul-ter-y.’ His dis-ci-ples said to him, ‘If such is the case



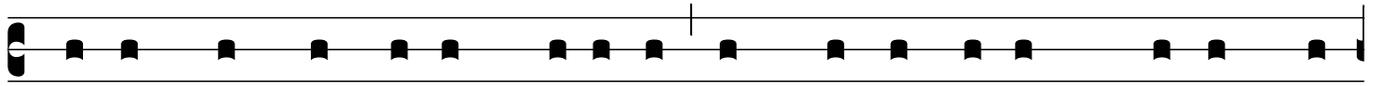
of a man with his wife, it is bet-ter not to marry.’ But he said to them,



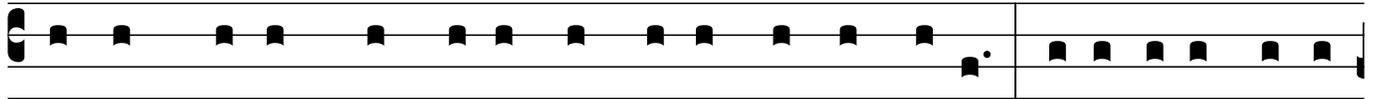
‘Not every- one can accept this teaching, but only those to whom it is giv-en.



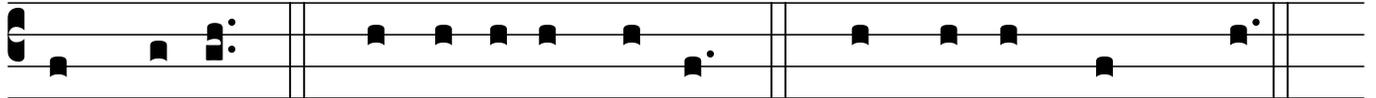
For there are eunuchs who have been so from birth, and there are eunuchs



who have been made eunuchs by others, and there are eunuchs who have made



themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. Let an-y- one accept



this who can.' *℣* The Gospel of the Lord. *℟* *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*