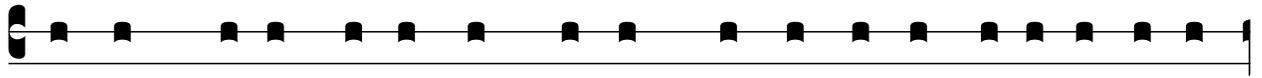


Hebrews 3:1-4:13

New Year's Eve 7b



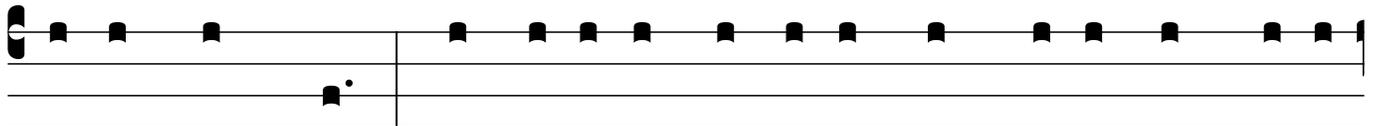
T herefore, ho-ly brothers and sis-ters, partners in a heavenly call-ing,



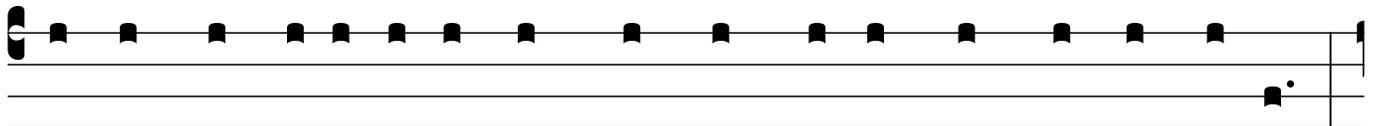
consid-er Je-sus, the a-postle and high priest of our confession, who was



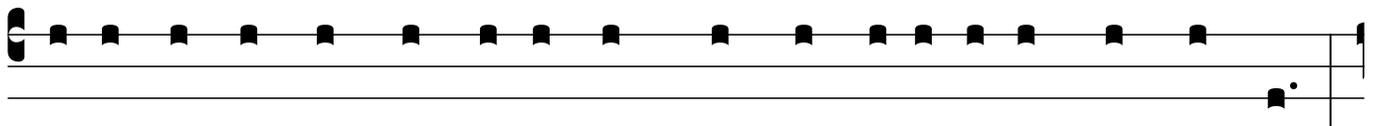
faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Mo-ses also “was faithful



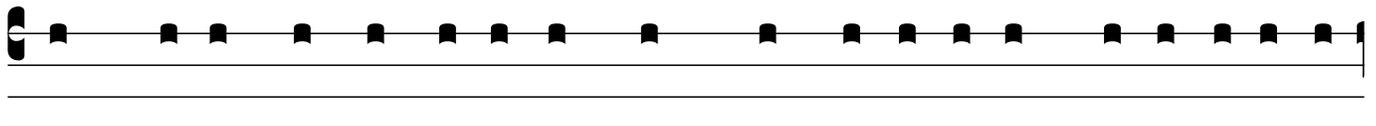
in all God’s house.” Yet Je-sus is worthy of more glo-ry than Mo-ses,



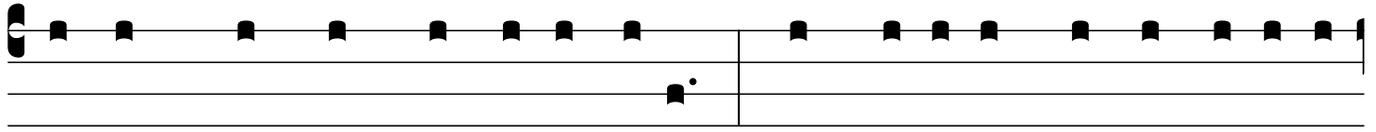
just as the builder of a house has more hon-or than the house it-self.



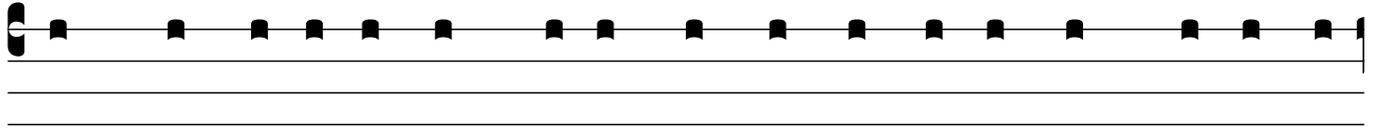
(For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.



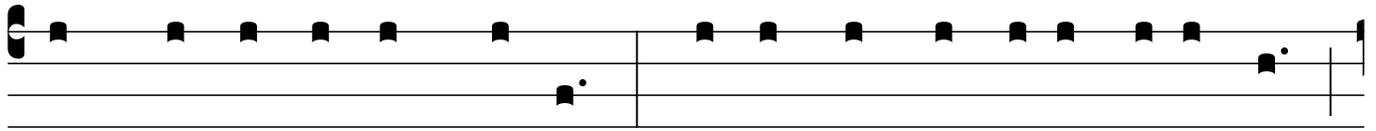
Now Mo-ses was faithful in all God’s house as a servant, to tes-ti-fy to



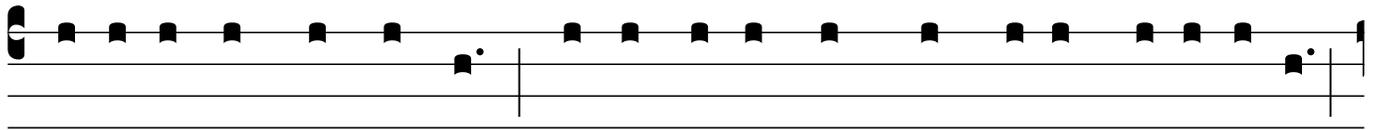
the things that would be spo-ken lat-er. Christ, howev-er, was faithful o-ver



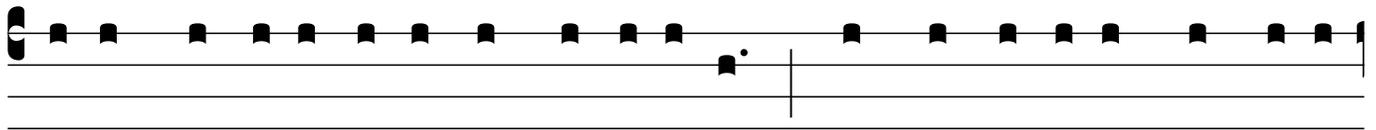
God's house as a son, and we are his house if we hold firm the boldness



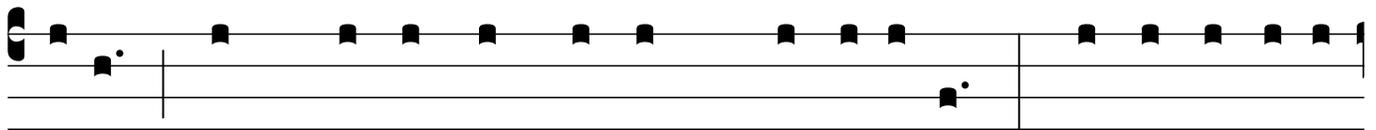
and the pride inspired by hope. Therefore, as the Ho-ly Spir- it says,



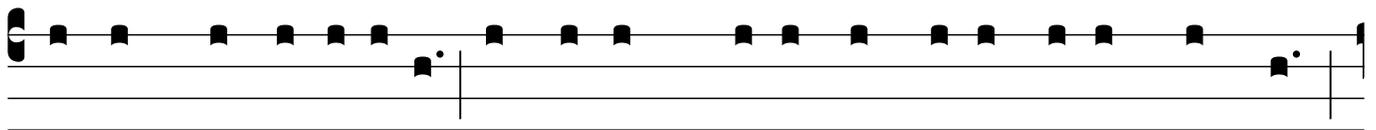
“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the re-bellion,



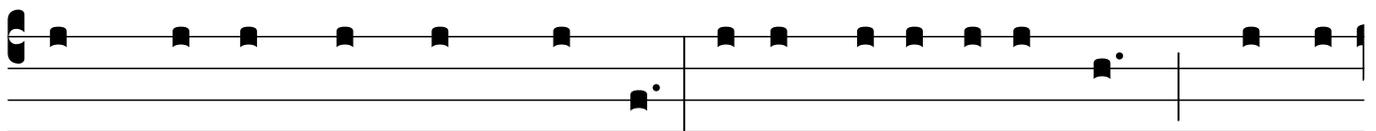
as on the day of test-ing in the wilderness, where your ancestors put me to



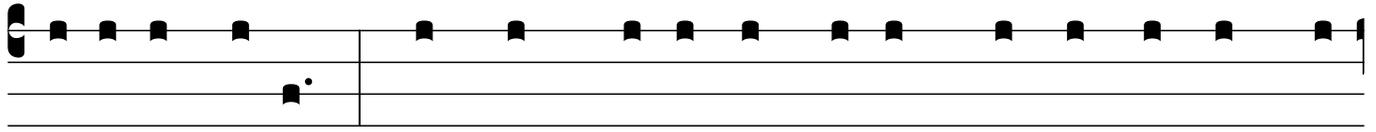
the test, though they had seen my works for forty years. Therefore I was an-



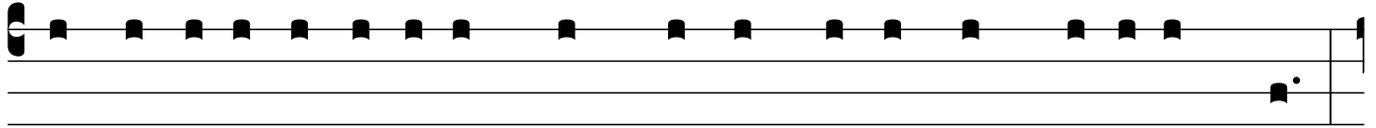
gry with that gen-er-ation, and I said, ‘They always go astray in their hearts,



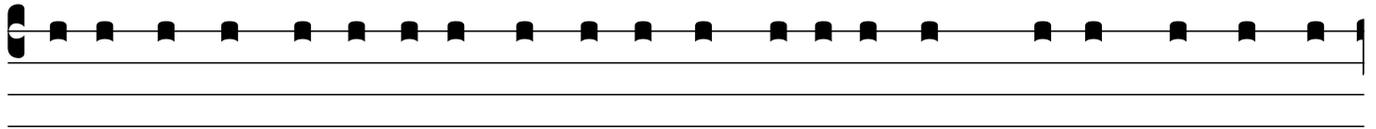
and they have not known my ways.’ As in my anger I swore, ‘They will



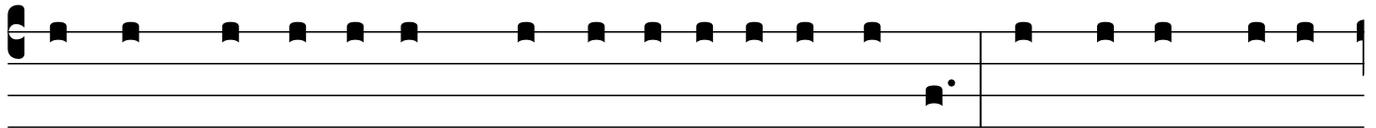
not enter my rest.' ” Take care, brothers and sis-ters, that none of you may



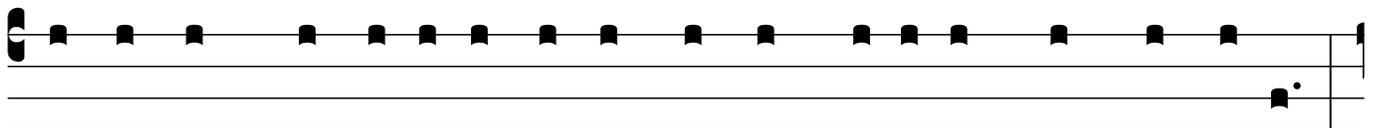
have an e-vil, unbe-liev-ing heart that turns away from the liv-ing God.



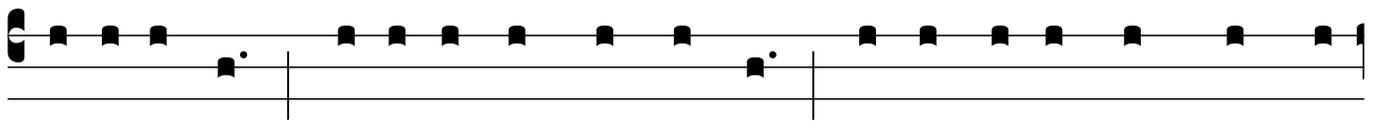
But exhort one an-other every day, as long as it is called “today,” so that none



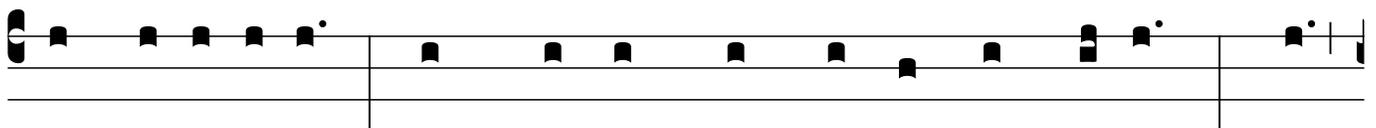
of you may be hardened by the de-ceitfulness of sin. For we have be-come



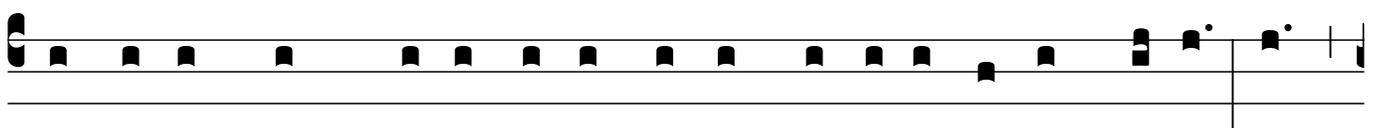
partners of Christ, if only we hold our first confi-dence firm to the end.



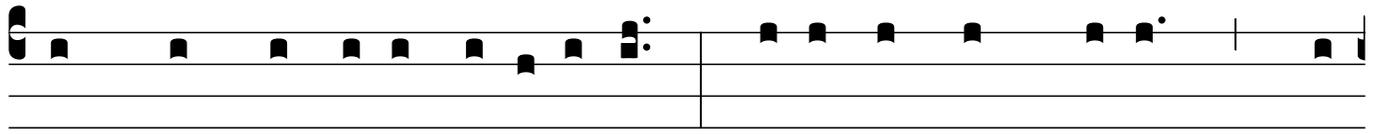
As it is said, “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as



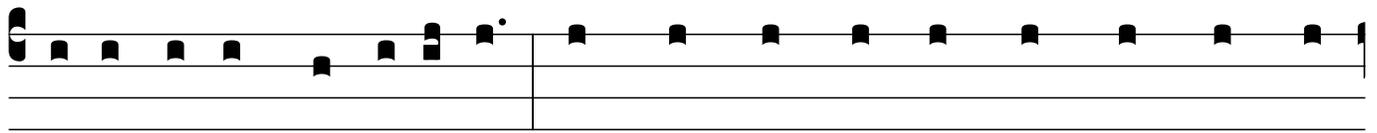
in the re-bellion.” Now who were they who heard and re-belled? Was



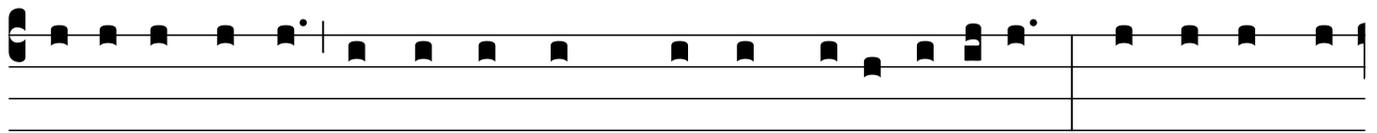
it not all those who left E-gypt under the leadership of Mo-ses? And



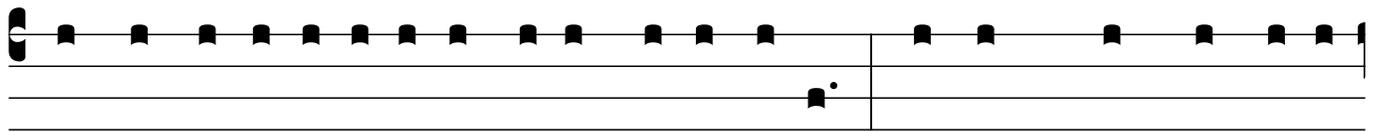
with whom was he angry forty years? Was it not those who sinned, whose



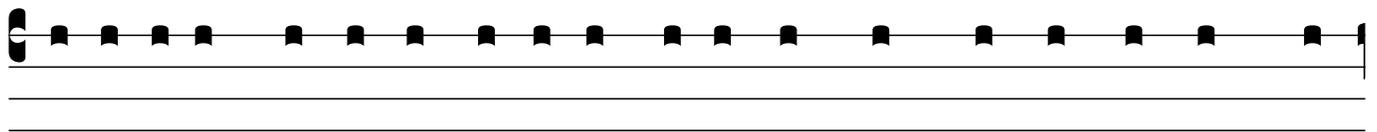
bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did he swear that they would



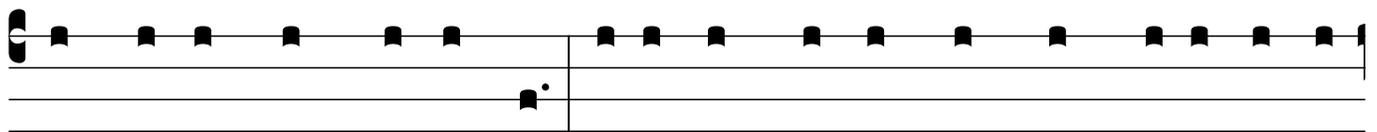
not enter his rest, if not to those who were dis-o-be-di-ent? So we see that



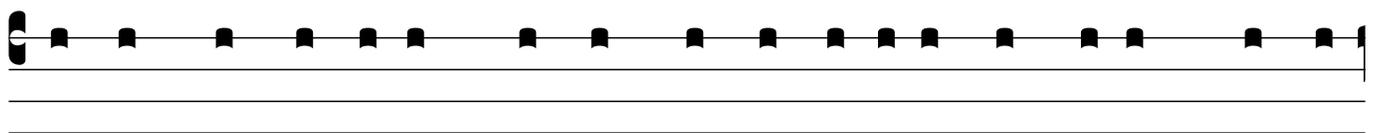
they were un-able to enter because of unbe-lief. Therefore, while the promise



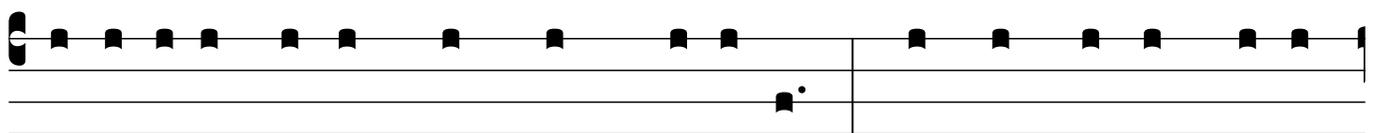
of enter-ing his rest is still o-pen, let us take care that none of you should



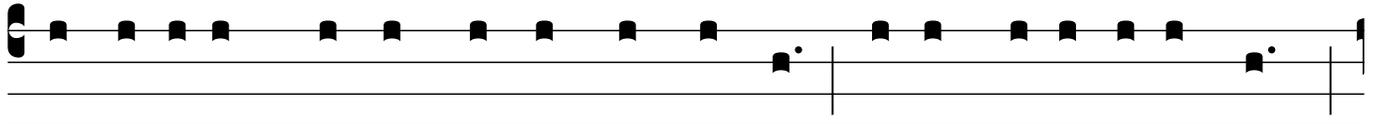
seem to have failed to reach it. For indeed the good news came to us just as



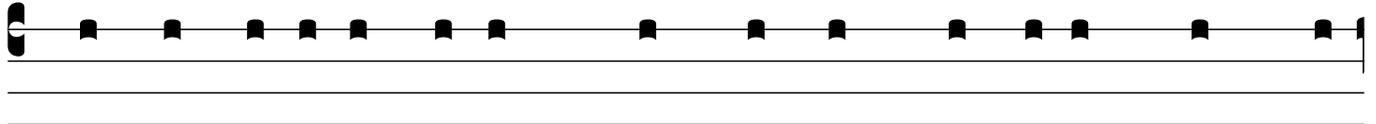
to them, but the message they heard did not ben-e-fit them because they were



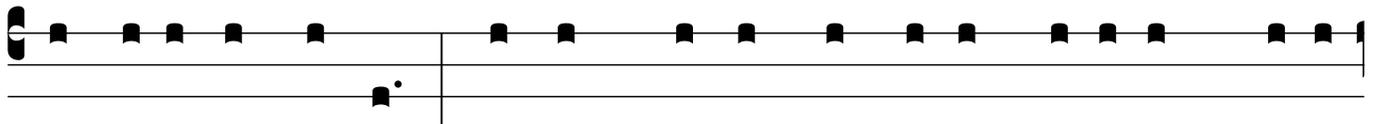
not u-nit-ed by faith with those who lis-tened. For we who have be-lieved



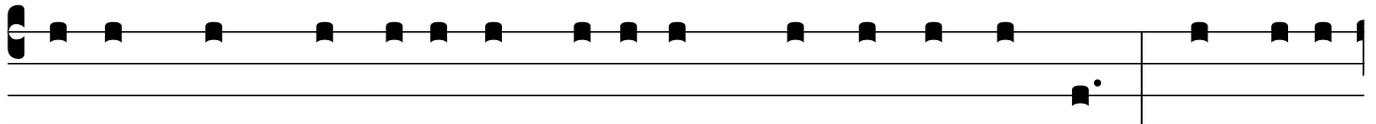
are enter-ing that rest, just as God has said, “As in my anger I swore,



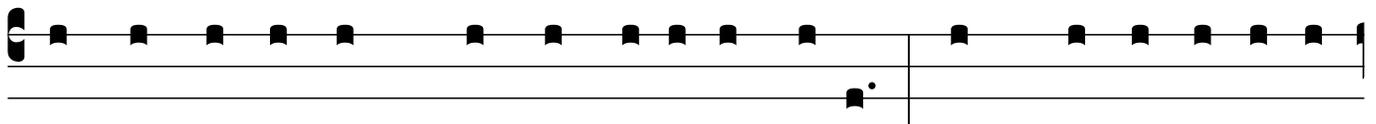
“They shall not enter my rest,” though his works were fin-ished since the



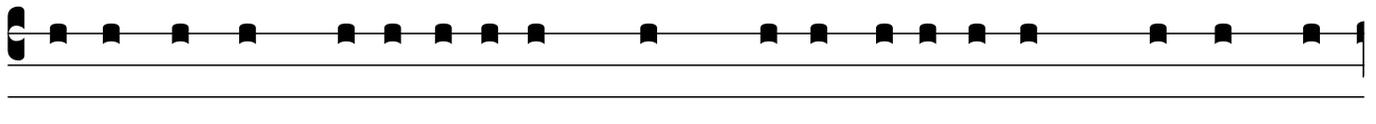
foundation of the world. For somewhere it speaks about the sev-enth day as



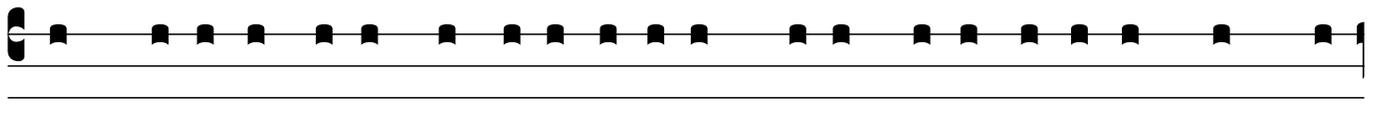
fol-lows, “And God rested on the sev-enth day from all his works.” And again



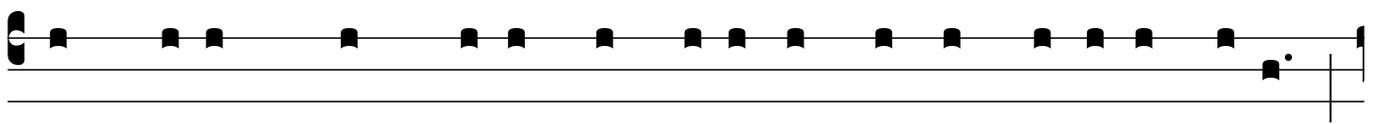
in this place it says, “They shall not enter my rest.” Since therefore it remains



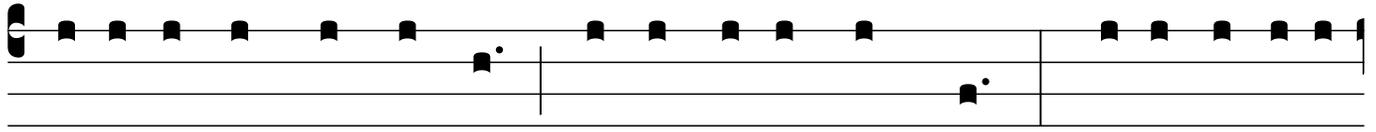
o-pen for some to enter it and those who formerly re-ceived the good news



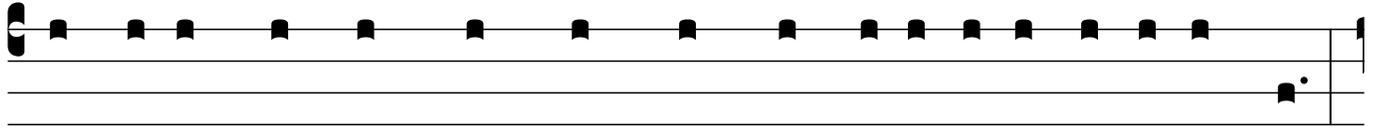
failed to enter because of dis-o-be-di-ence, again he sets a certain day—“to-



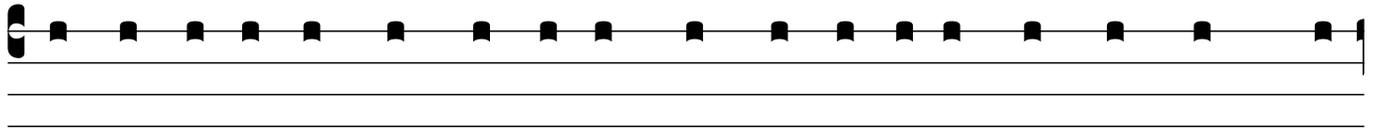
day”—say-ing through Da-vid much lat-er, in the words already quot-ed,



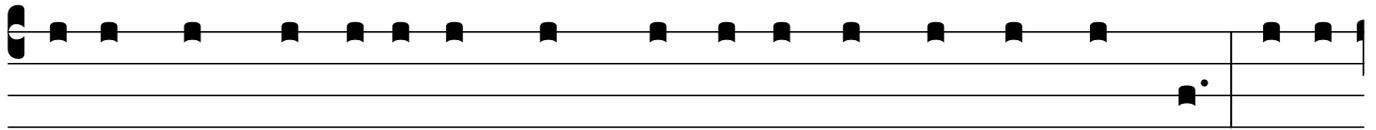
“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” For if Joshu- a



had giv-en them rest, God would not speak lat-er about an-other day.



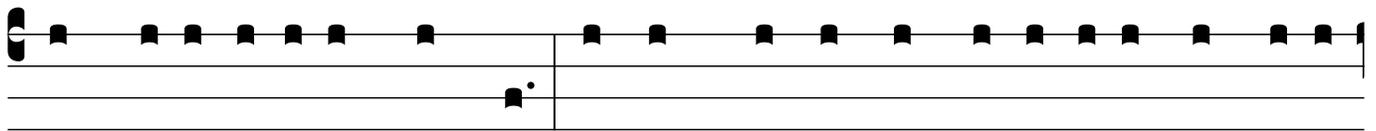
So then, a Sabbath rest still remains for the people of God, for those who



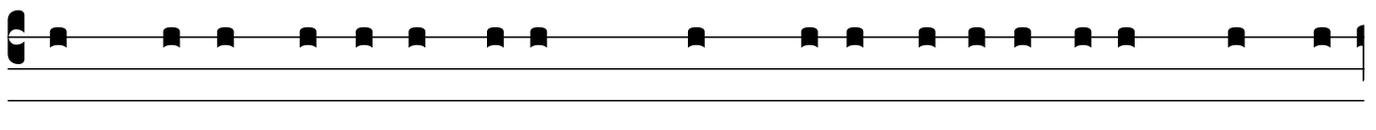
enter God’s rest also rest from their la-bors as God did from his. Let us



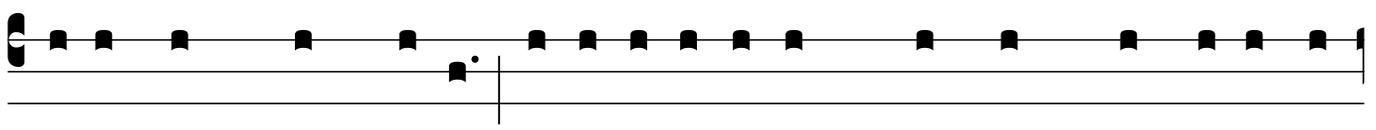
therefore make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one may fall through



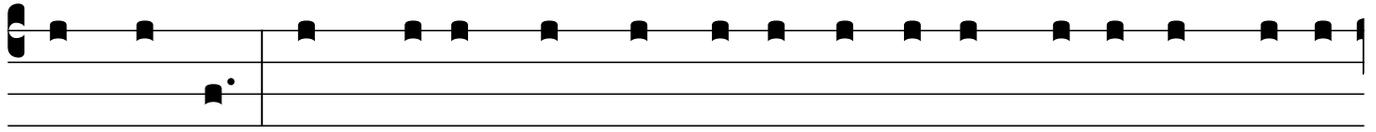
such dis-o-be-di- ence as theirs. Indeed, the word of God is liv-ing and active



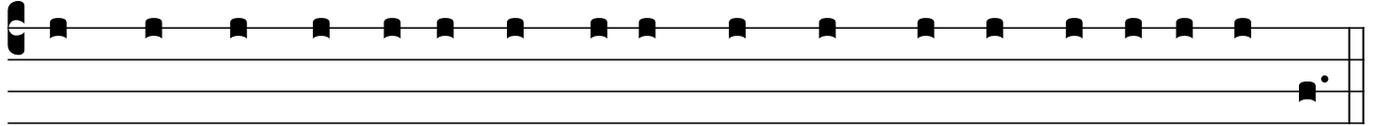
and sharper than an-y two- edged sword, piercing until it di-vides soul from



spir- it, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions



of the heart. And be-fore him no crea-ture is hidden, but all are na-ked



and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.