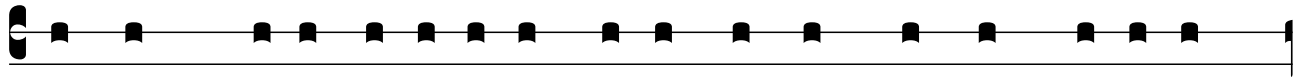
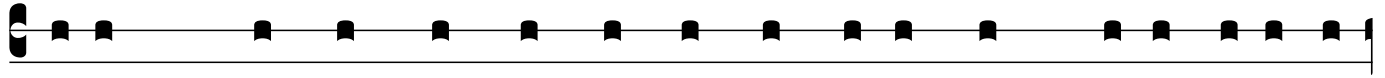


Daniel 6:1-23

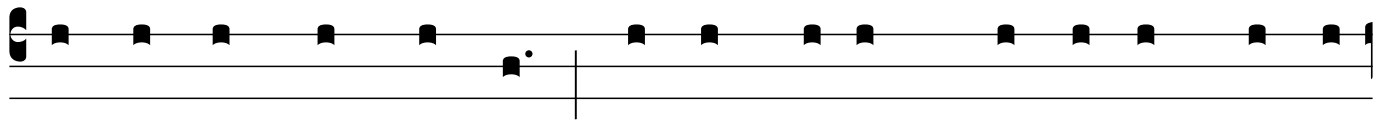
Vigil for the Eve of All Saints' Day 2a



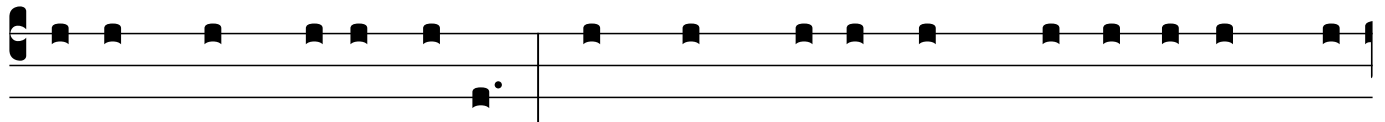
It pleased Darius to set o-ver the kingdom one hundred twenty satraps,



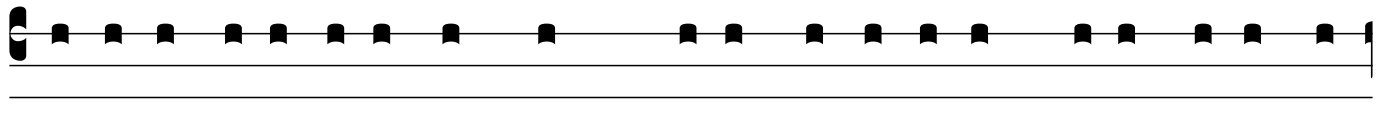
stationed throughout the whole kingdom, and o-ver them three admin-istra-



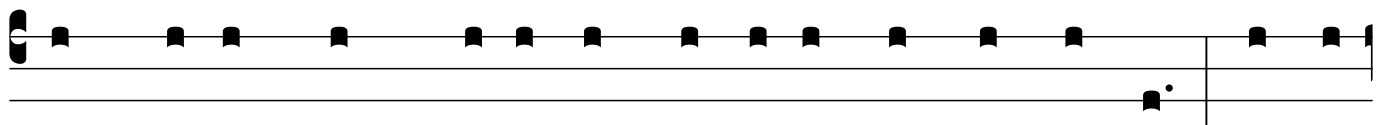
tors, one of whom was Daniel; to these the satraps gave account, so that



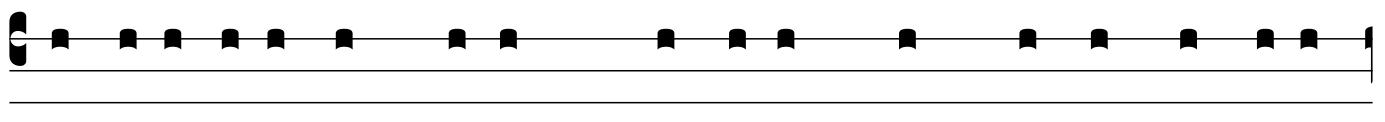
the king might suffer no loss. Soon Daniel dis-tinguished himself a-bove the



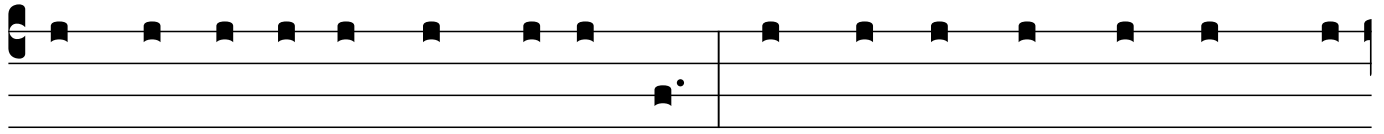
other admin-istra-tors and satraps because an excel-lent spir-it was in him,



and the king planned to appoint him o-ver the whole kingdom. So the



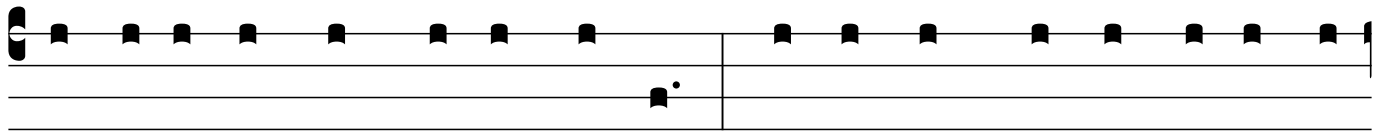
admin-istra-tors and the satraps tried to find grounds for complaint against



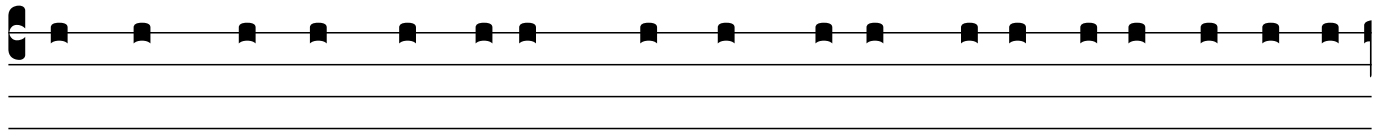
Daniel in connection with the kingdom. But they could find no grounds for



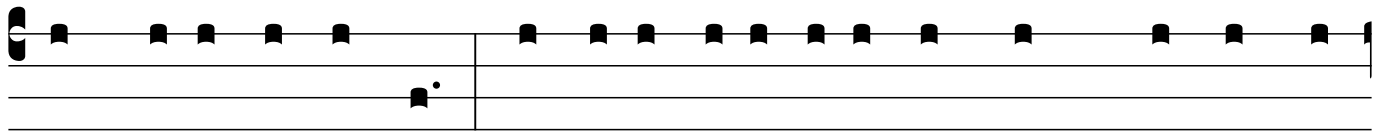
complaint or an-y corruption, because he was faithful, and no negli-gence



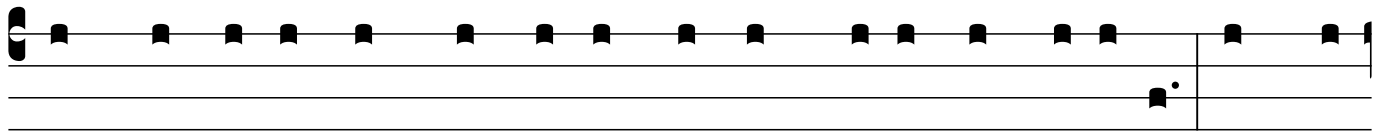
or corruption could be found in him. The men said,“We shall not find an-



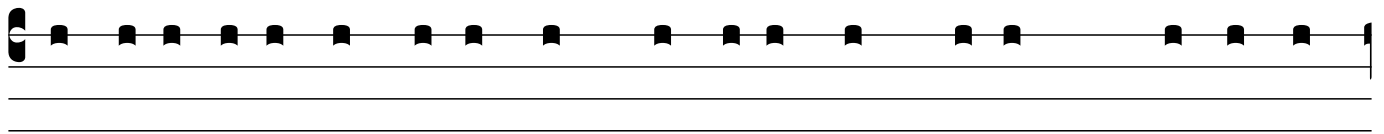
y ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection



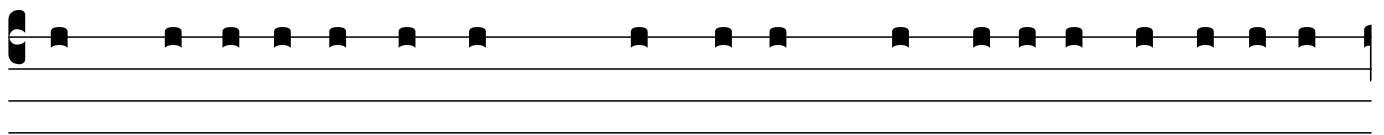
with the law of his God.” So the admin-istra-tors and satraps conspired and



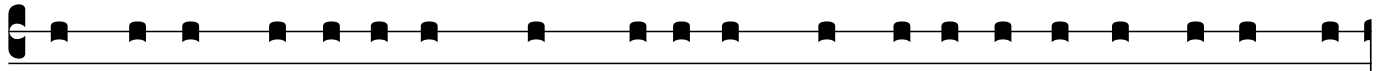
came to the king and said to him,“O King Darius, live for-ev-er! All the



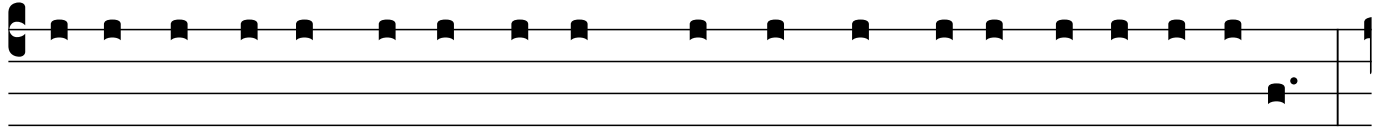
admin-istra-tors of the kingdom, the pre-fects and the satraps, the counselors



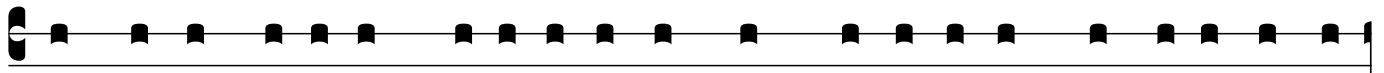
and the gov-ernors are agreed that the king should establish an ordi-nance



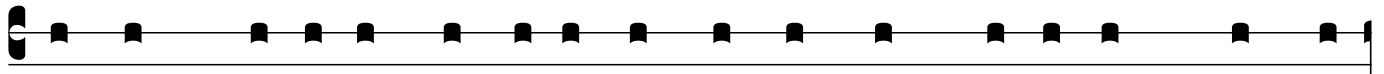
and enforce an interdict, that who- ev-er prays to an-y god or human, for



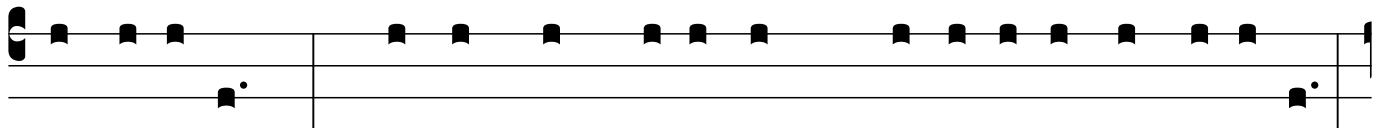
thir-ty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of li- ons.



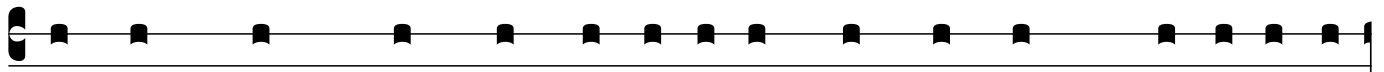
Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the doc-ument, so that it cannot



be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which can-



not be re-voked.” Therefore King Darius signed the doc-ument and interdict.



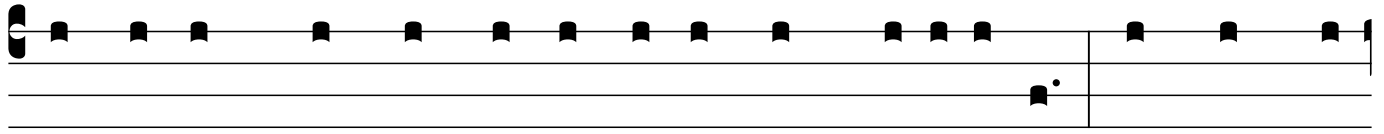
Although Daniel knew that the doc-ument had been signed, he continued



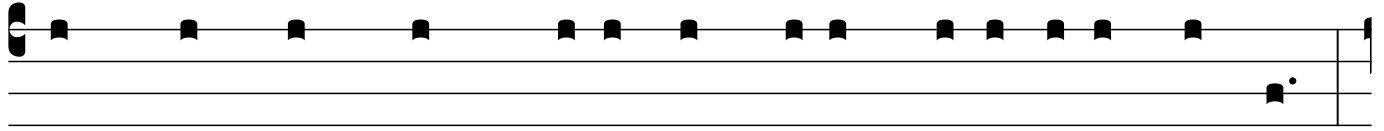
to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room o-pen toward



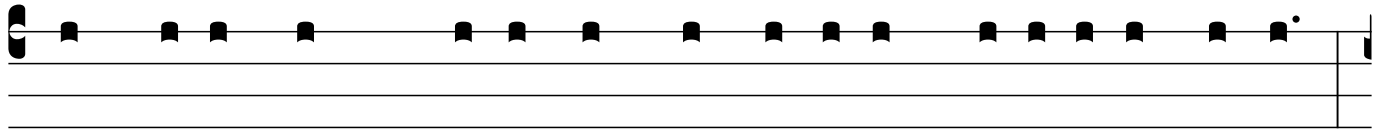
Je-ru-sa-lem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to



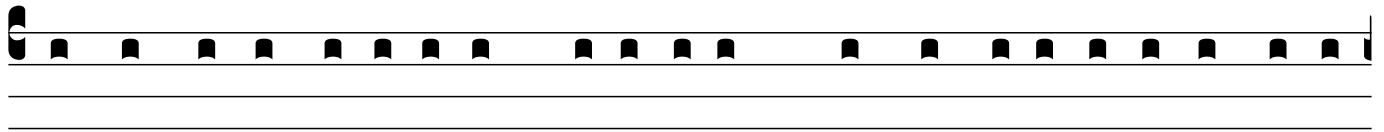
his God and praise him, just as he had done pre-viously. Then those men



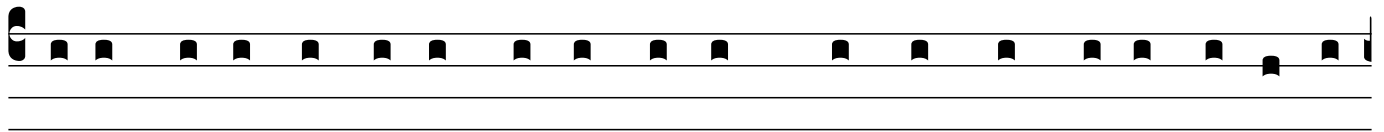
watched and found Daniel pray-ing and seeking mercy be-fore his God.



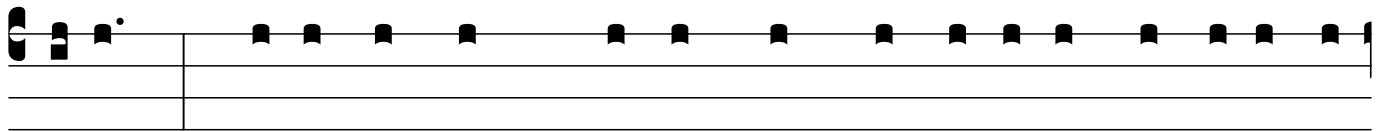
Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict,“O king!



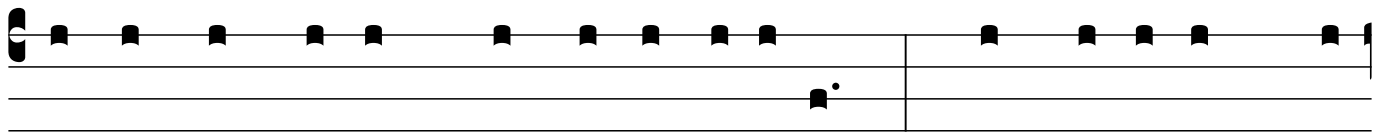
Did you not sign an interdict, that an-y- one who prays to an-y god or human,



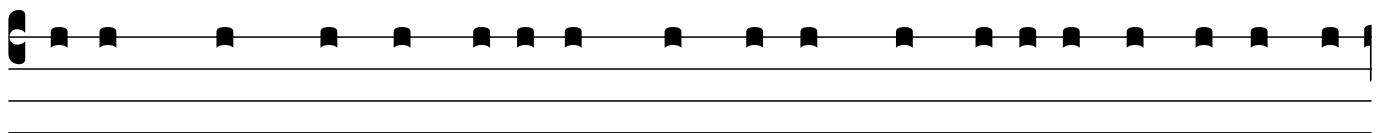
within thir-ty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the den of



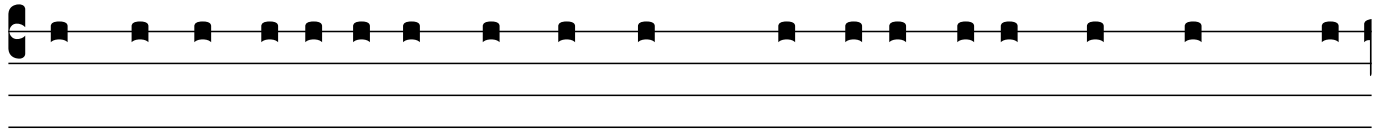
li- ons?” The king answered,“The thing stands fast, according to the law of



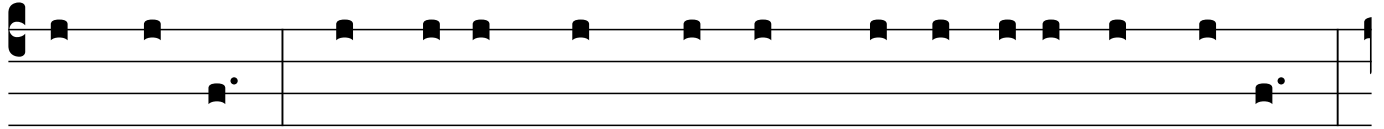
the Medes and Persians, which cannot be re-voked.” Then they responded to



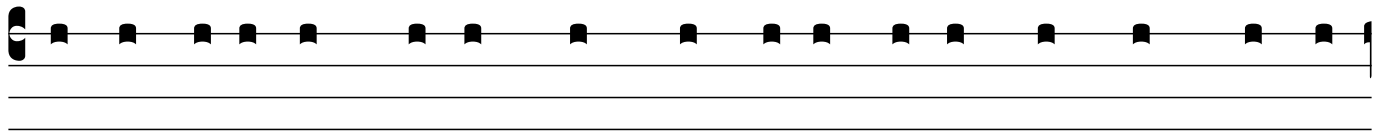
the king,“Daniel, one of the ex-iles from Ju-dah, pays no attention to you, O



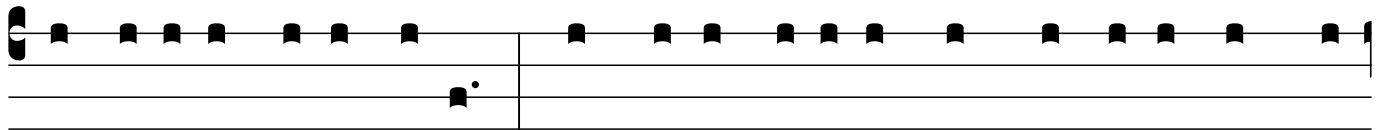
king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is say-ing his prayers three



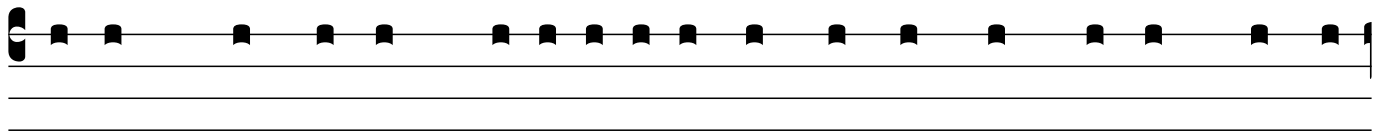
times a day.” When the king heard the charge, he was ver-y much distressed.



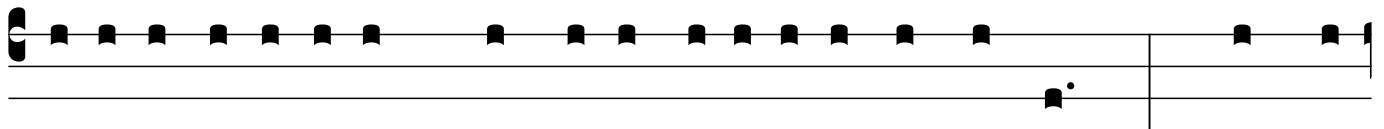
He was de-termined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made



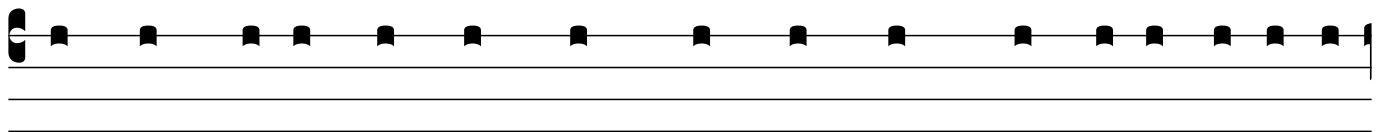
every effort to rescue him. Then the conspir-a-tors came to the king and said



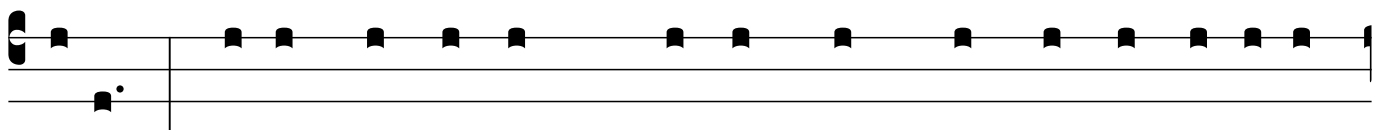
to him, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no



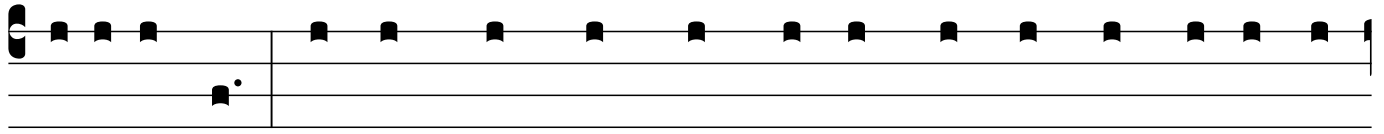
interdict or ordi-nance that the king establishes can be changed.” Then the



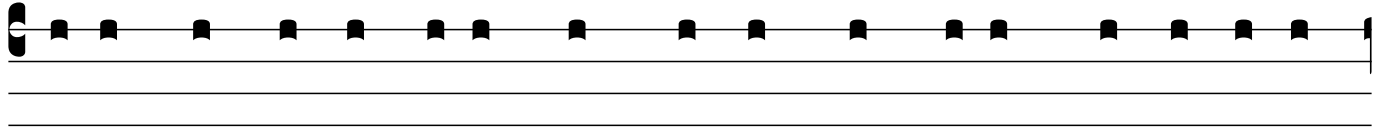
king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of



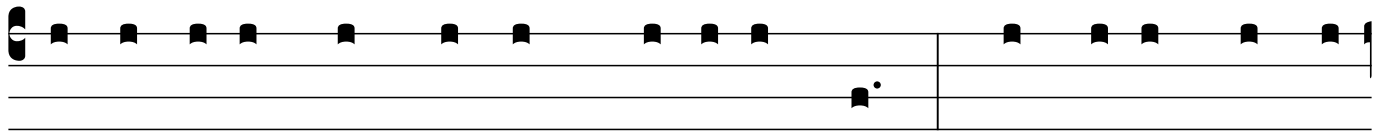
li- ons. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you faithful-ly serve,



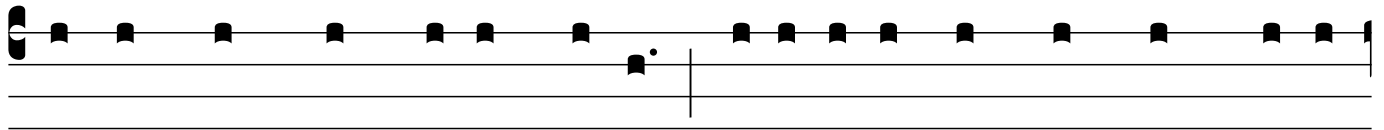
de-liv-er you!" A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and



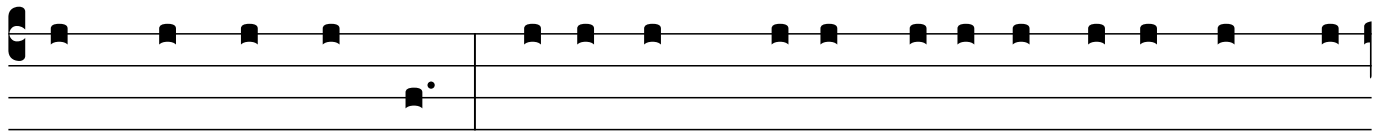
the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet ring of his lords,



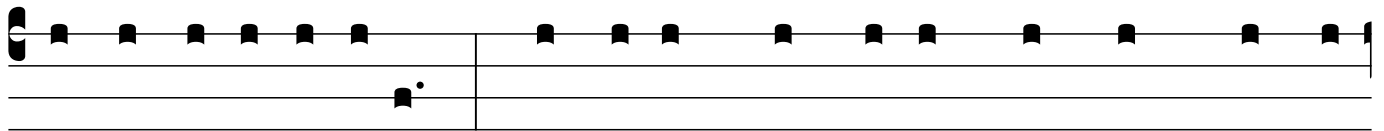
so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to



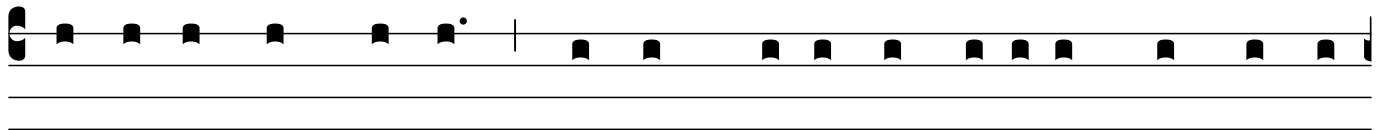
his palace and spent the night fast-ing; no entertainment was brought to him,



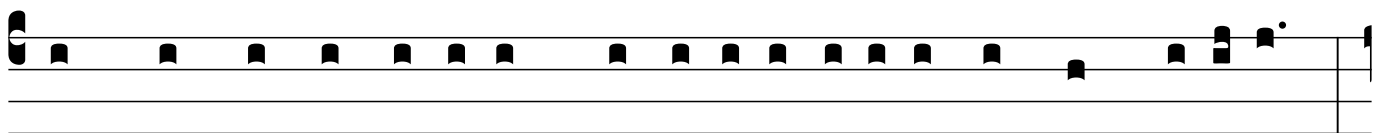
and sleep fled from him. Then at dawn, the king got up and at first light hur-



ried to the den of li- ons. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he



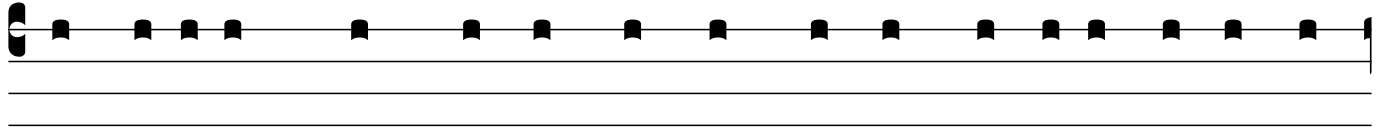
cried out anxiously to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the liv-ing God, has your



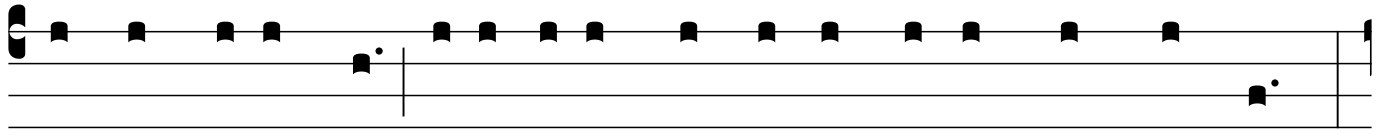
God whom you faith-ful-ly serve been able to de-liv-er you from the li- ons?"



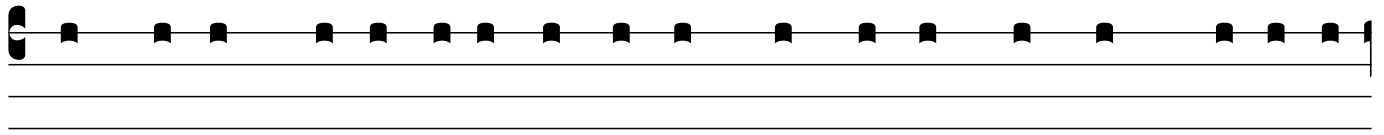
Daniel then said to the king, "O king, live for-ev-er! My God sent his angel and



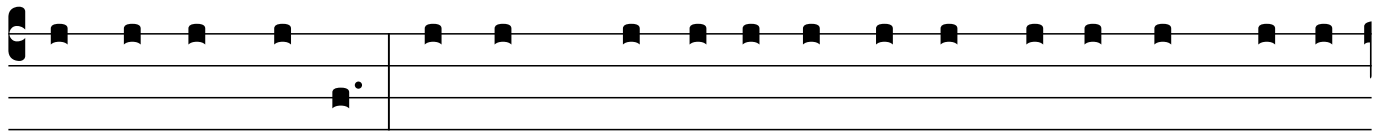
shut the li- ons' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found



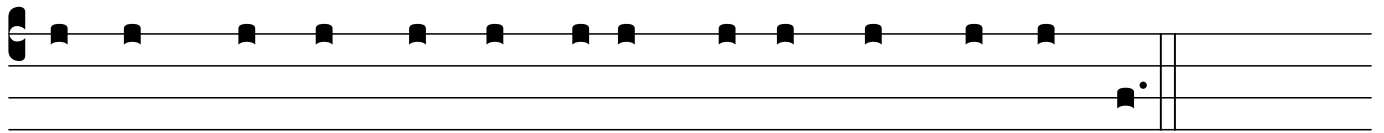
blameless be-fore him; also be-fore you, O king, I have done no wrong."



Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be tak-en



up out of the den. So Daniel was tak-en up out of the den, and no kind



of harm was found on him because he had trusted in his God.