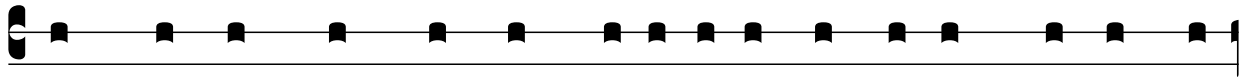
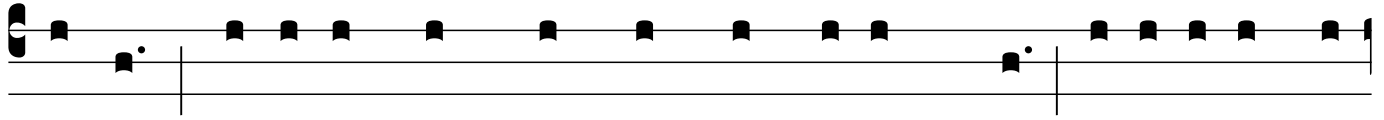


1 Maccabees 2:49-64

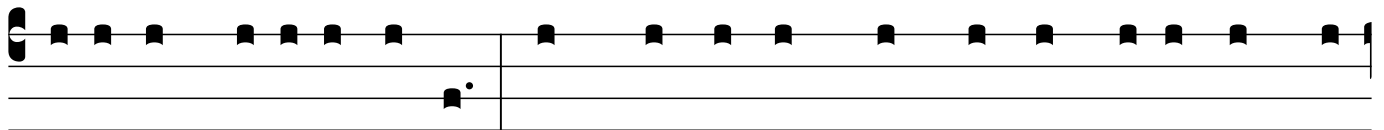
Vigil for the Eve of All Saints' Day 3



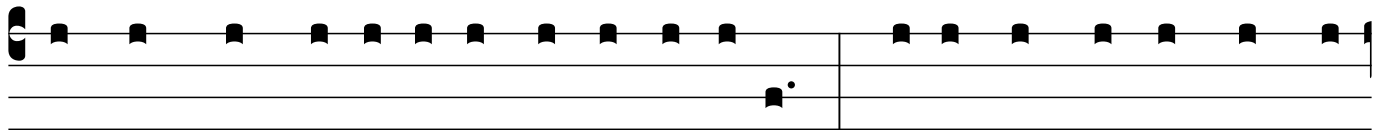
Now the days drew near for Mattathias to die, and he said to



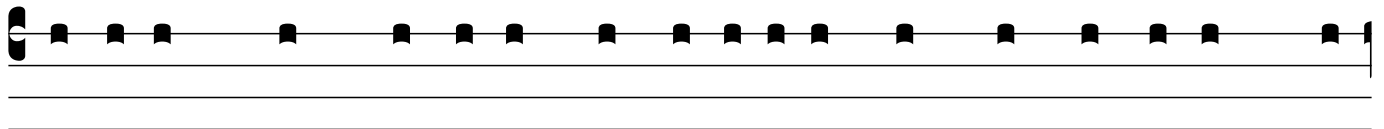
his sons: “Arrogance and scorn have now become strong; it is a time of



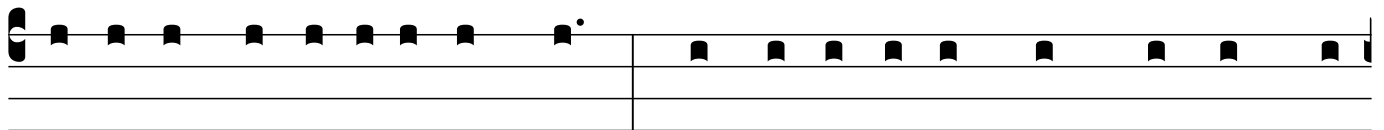
ruin and furious anger. Now, my children, show zeal for the law and give



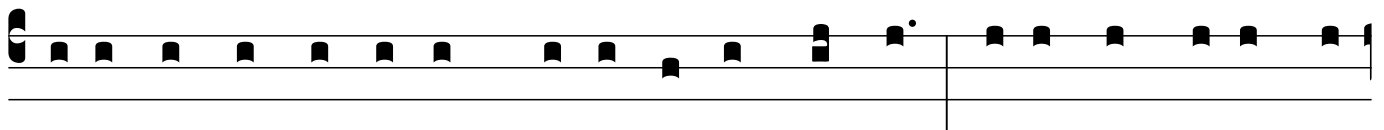
your lives for the covenant of our ancestors. “Remember the deeds of the



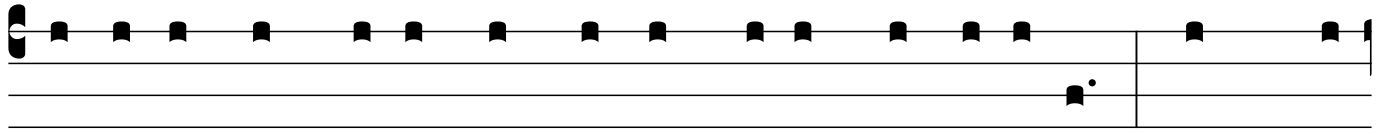
ancestors, which they did in their generations, and you will receive great



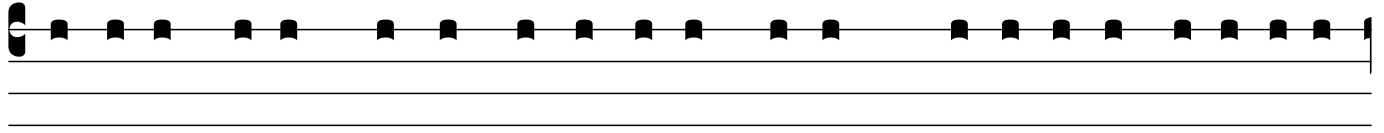
honor and an everlasting name. Was not Abraham found faithful when



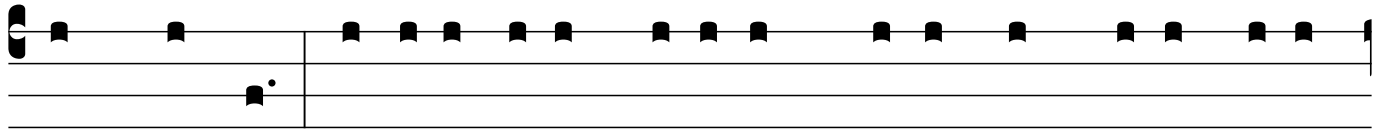
tested, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness? Joseph in the time of



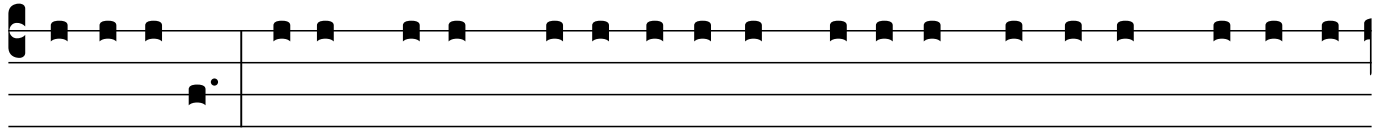
his distress kept the commandment and be-came lord of E-gypt. Phinehas our



ancestor, because he was deeply zealous, re-ceived the cov-e-nant of ev-erlast-



ing priesthood. Joshu- a, because he ful-filled the command, be-came a judge



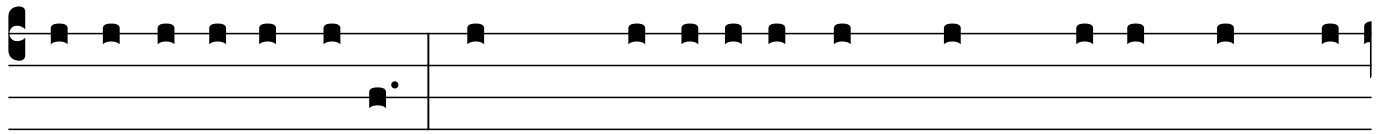
in Isra- el. Ca-leb, because he tes-ti-fied in the assembly, re-ceived an inher-



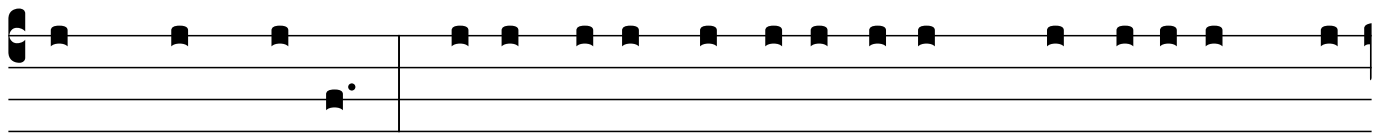
it-ance in the land. Da-vid, because he was merci-ful, inher-it-ed the throne



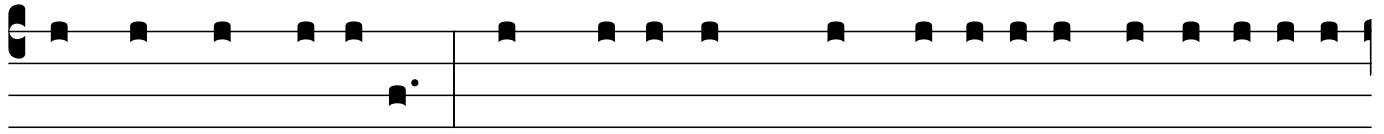
of the kingdom for-ev-er. E-li-jah, because of great zeal for the law, was



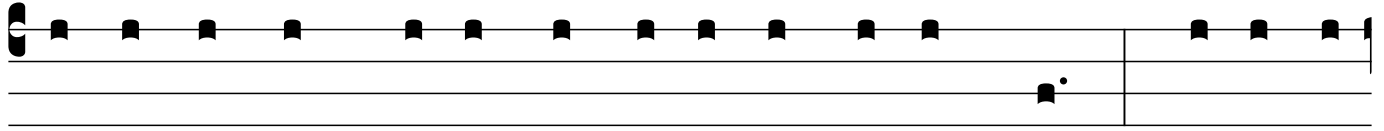
tak-en up into heaven. Hananiah, Az-a-ri- ah, and Mishael be-lieved and were



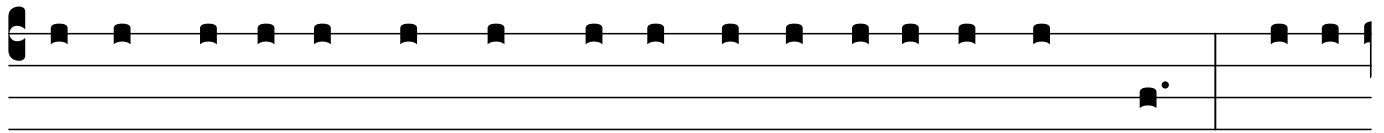
saved from the flame. Daniel, because of his inno-cence, was de-liv-ered from



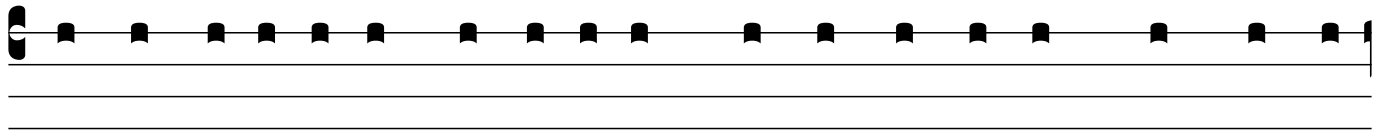
the mouth of the lions. “And so observe, from generation to generation,



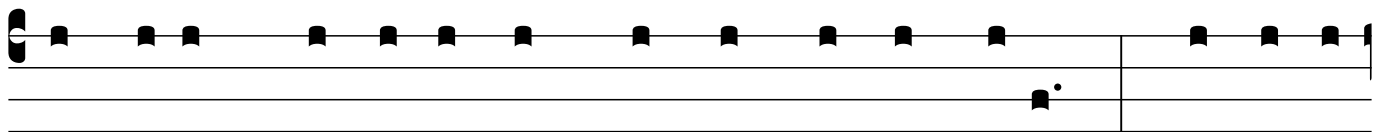
that none of those who put their trust in him will lack strength. Do not fear



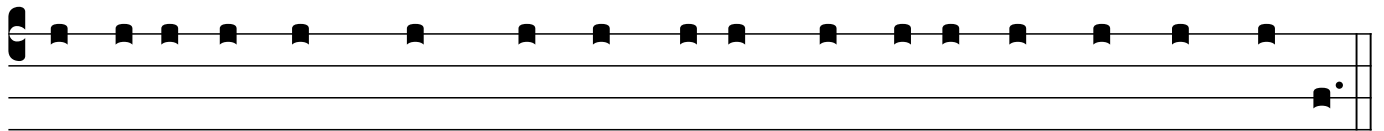
the words of sinners, for their splendor will turn into dung and worms. Today



they will be exalted, but tomorrow they will not be found, for they will



have returned to the dust, and their plans will have perished. My children,



be courageous and grow strong in the law, for by it you will gain honor.”