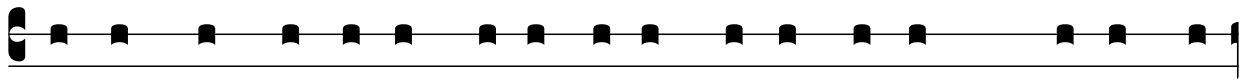


2 Kings 5:1-14

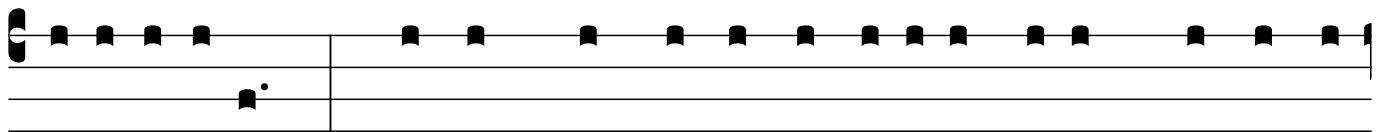
Vigil for the Eve of the Baptism of our Lord 5



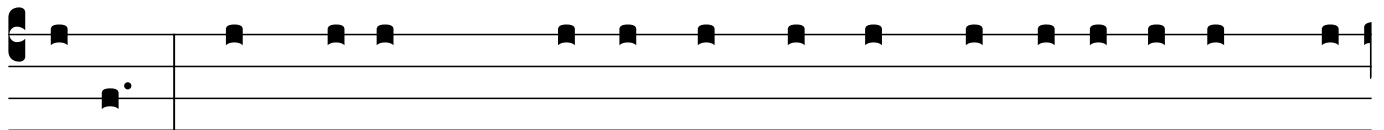
Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great



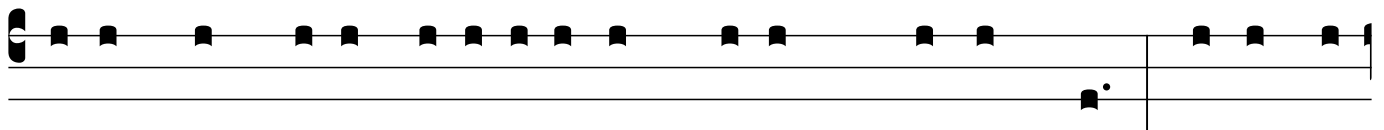
man and in high favor with his master because by him the Lord had given



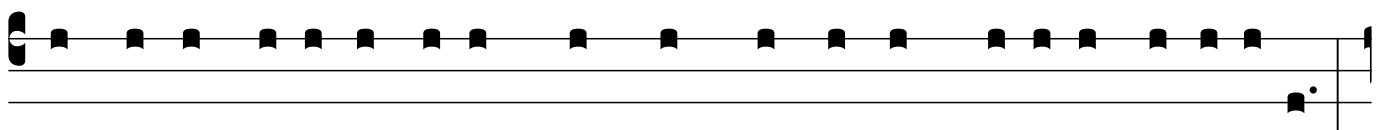
victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin



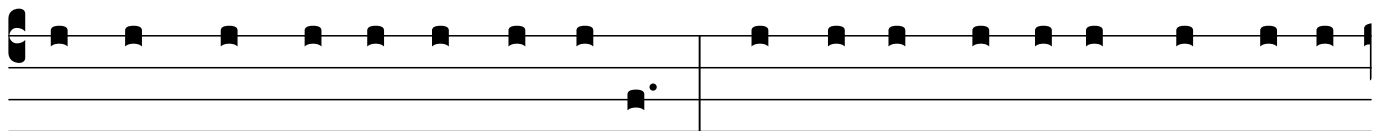
disease. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl



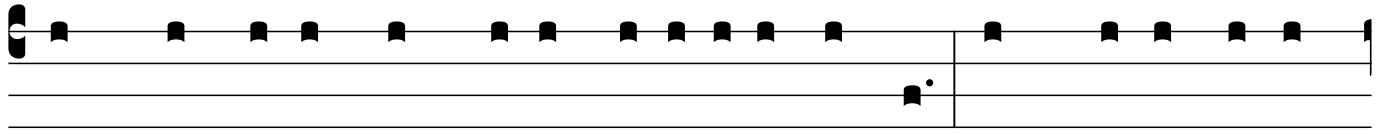
captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to



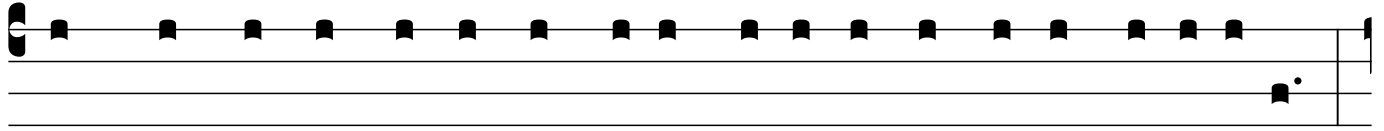
her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria!



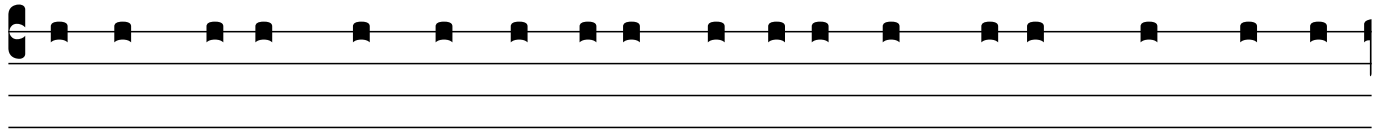
He would cure him of his skin disease." So Naaman went in and told his lord



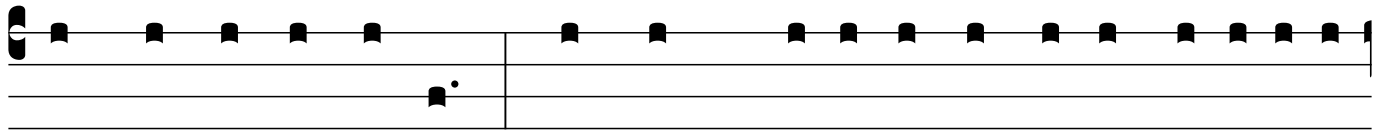
just what the girl from the land of Isra- el had said. And the king of Aram



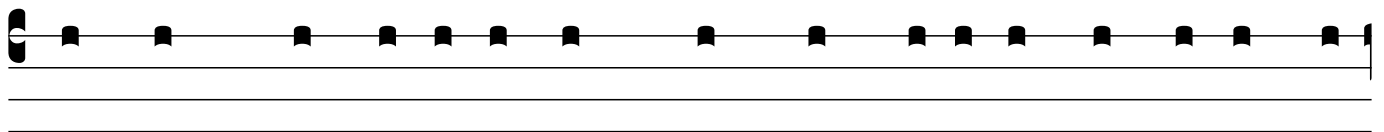
said,“Go, then, and I will send a-long a let-ter to the king of Isra- el.”



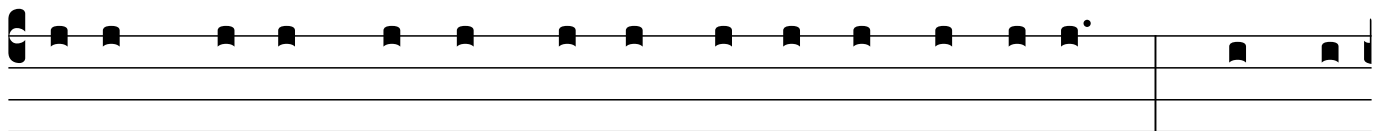
He went, tak-ing with him ten tal-ents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold,



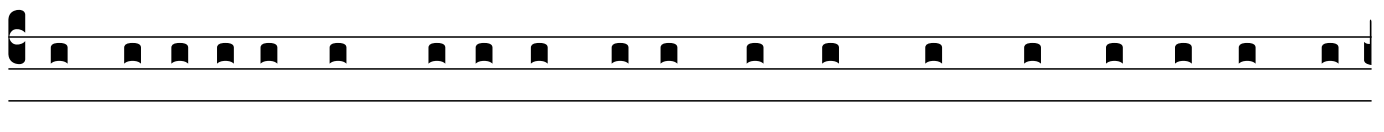
and ten sets of garments. He brought the let-ter to the king of Isra- el,



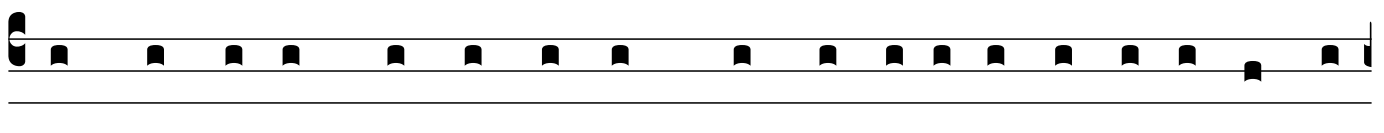
which read,“When this let-ter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my



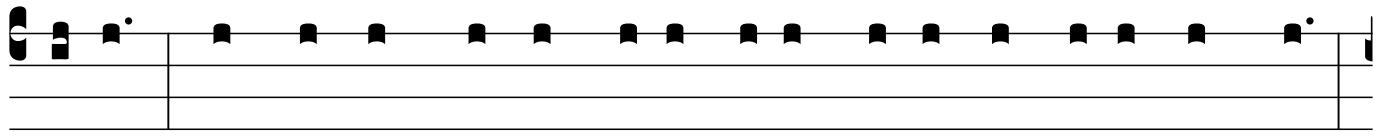
servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his skin dis-ease.” When the



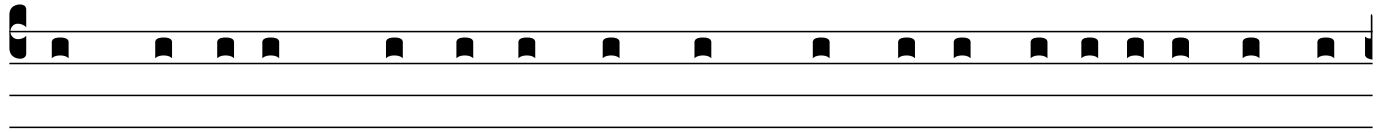
king of Isra- el read the let-ter, he tore his clothes and said,“Am I God, to



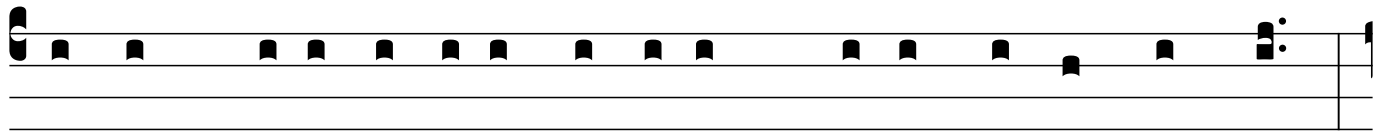
give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin



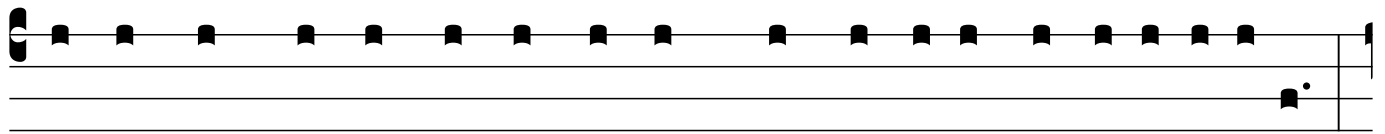
dis-ease? Just look and see how he is try- ing to pick a quarrel with me.”



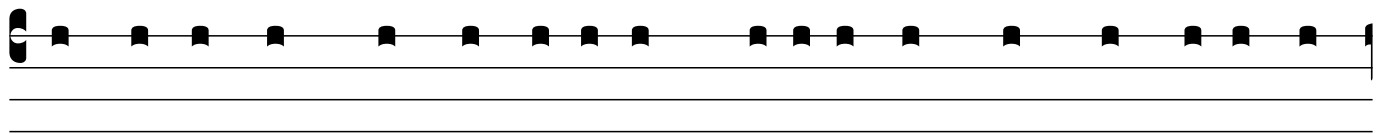
But when El-isha the man of God heard that the king of Isra- el had torn



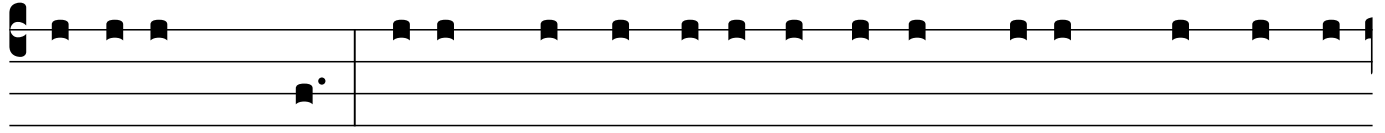
his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes?



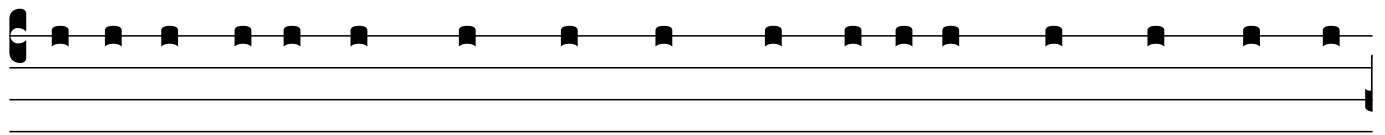
Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Isra- el.”



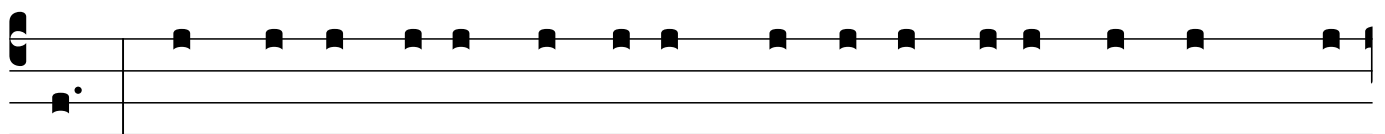
So Naaman came with his horses and char-i- ots and halted at the entrance



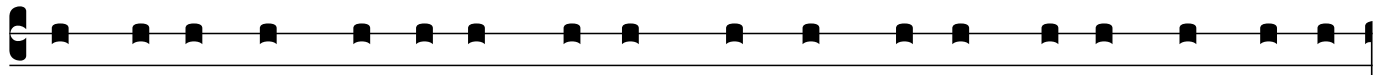
of El-isha’s house. El-isha sent a messenger to him, say- ing, “Go, wash in



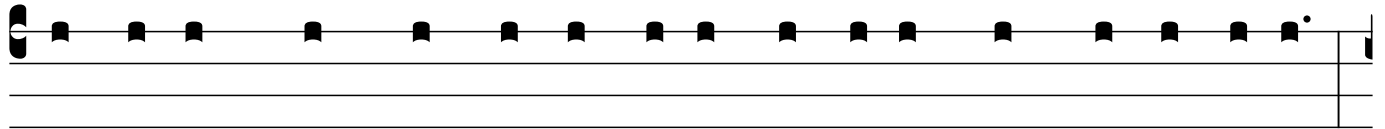
the Jordan sev-en times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be



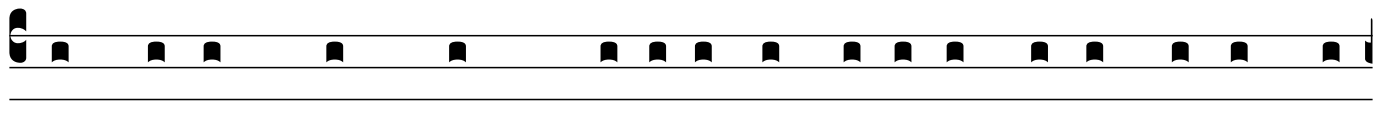
clean.” But Naaman be-came angry and went away, say- ing, “I thought that



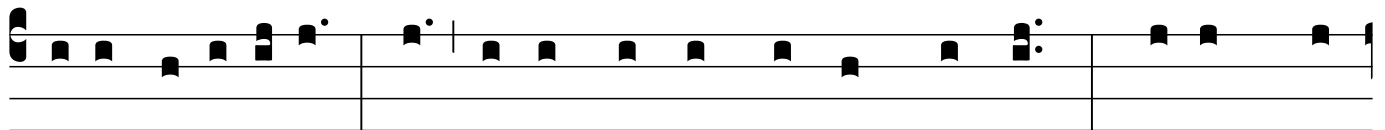
for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the Lord



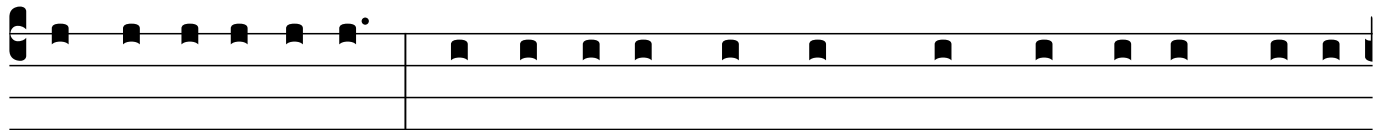
his God and would wave his hand o-ver the spot and cure the skin dis-ease!



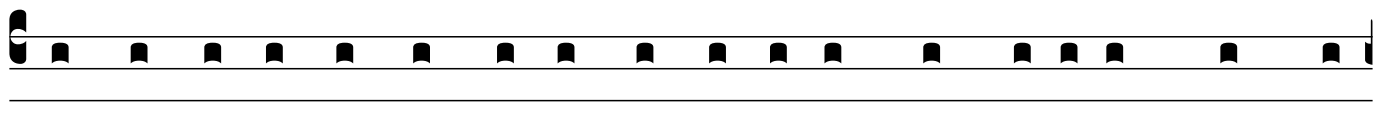
Are not Abana and Pharpar, the riv-ers of Damascus, bet-ter than all the



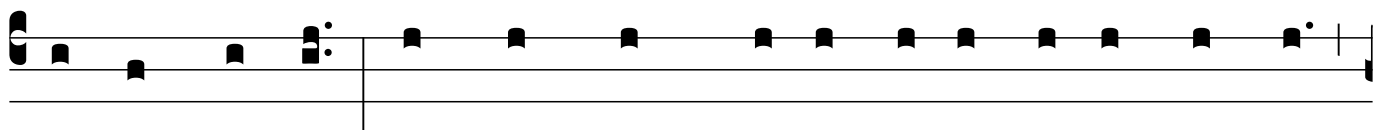
wa-ters of Isra-el? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and



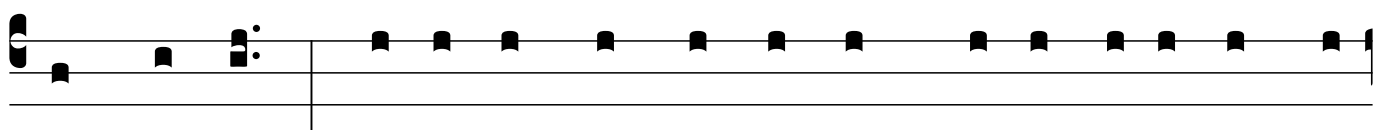
went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him,“Father,



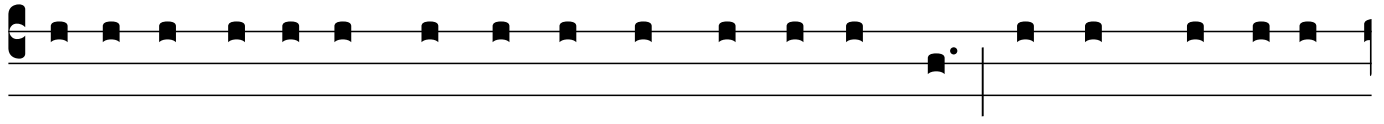
if the prophet had commanded you to do something dif-fi-cult, would you



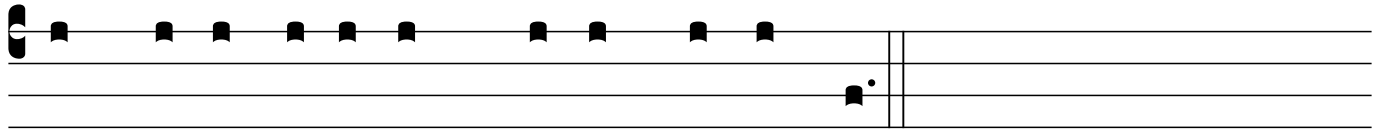
not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was,‘Wash,



and be clean?’” So he went down and immersed himself sev-en times in



the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored



like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.