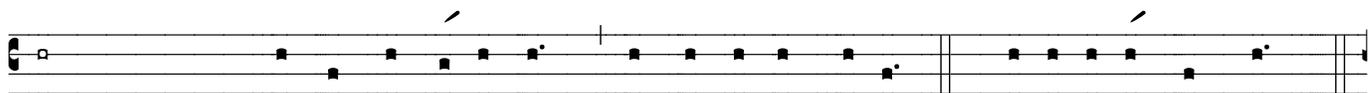
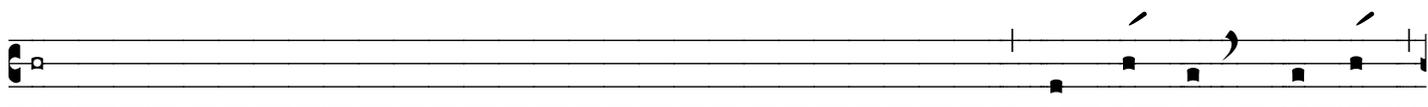


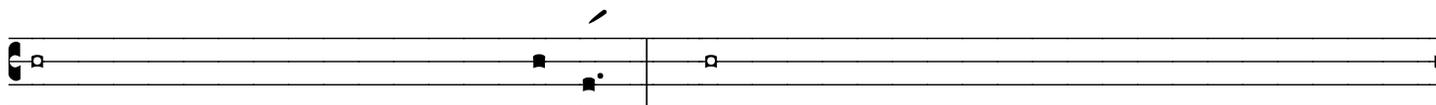
## Advent 2 A (Matthew 3:1-12 NRSV)



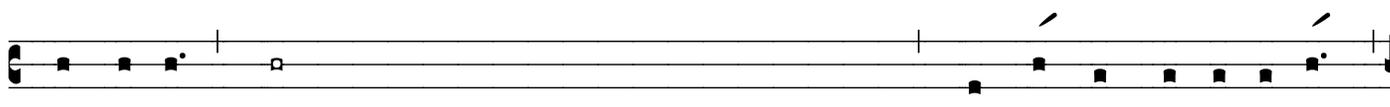
✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Je-sus Christ ac-cord-ing to Matt-hew. ✠ *Glo-ry to you, Lord Christ.*



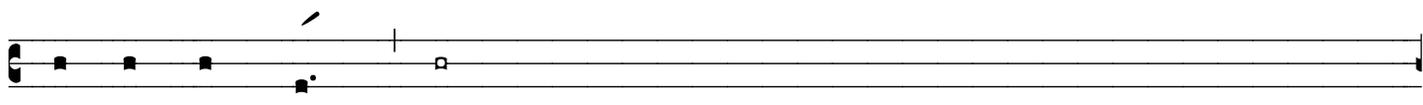
In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, pro-claim-ing, <sup>2</sup> “Re-pent,



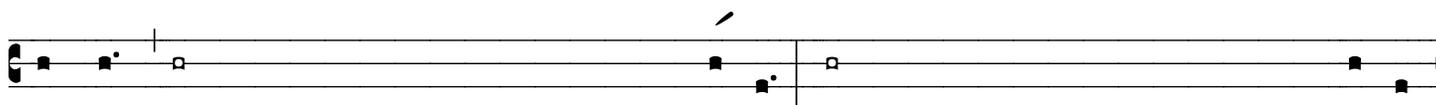
for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke



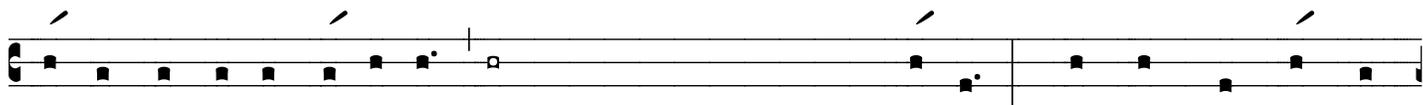
when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Pre-pare the way of the Lord,



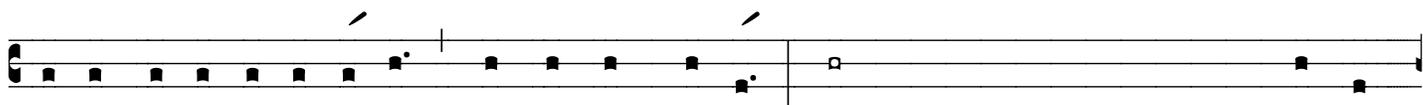
make his paths straight.” <sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around



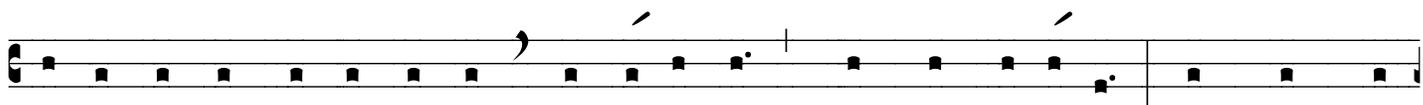
his waist, and his food was locusts and wild hon-ey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Ju-



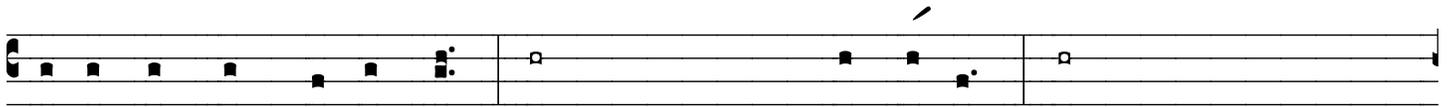
de - a were go-ing out to him, and all the region along the Jor-dan, <sup>6</sup> and they were bap-tized



by him in the riv-er Jor-dan, con-fes-sing their sins. <sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Phari-sees and



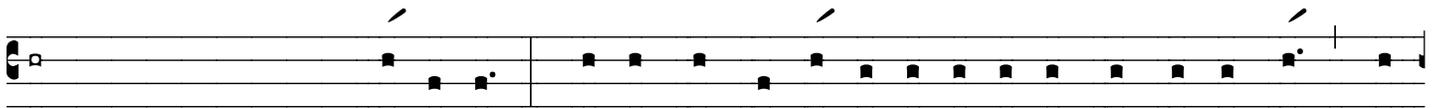
Sad-du-ces com-ing for bap-tism, he said to them, “You brood of vi-pers! Who warned you



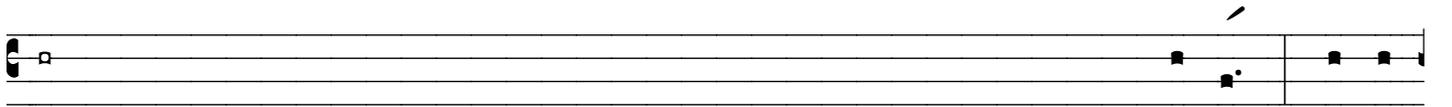
to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruit worthy of re-pent-ance. **9** Do not presume to say to



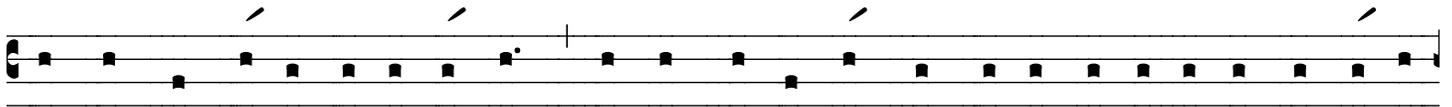
your-selves, ‘We have Ab-ra-ham as our an-ces-tor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones



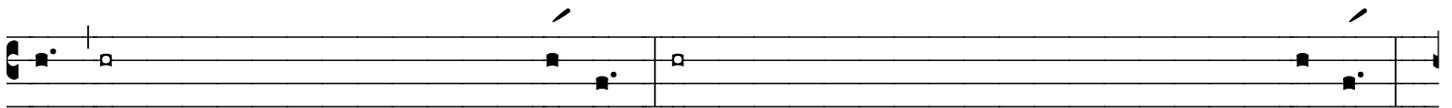
to raise up children to Ab-ra-ham. **10** E-ven now the ax is ly-ing at the root of the trees; ev -



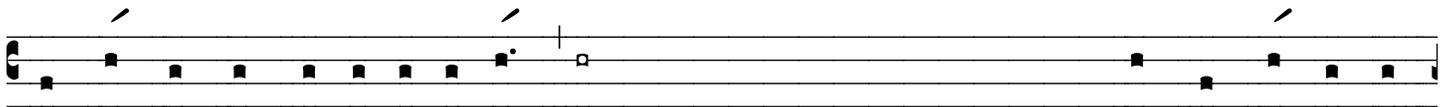
’ry tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **11** “I bap -



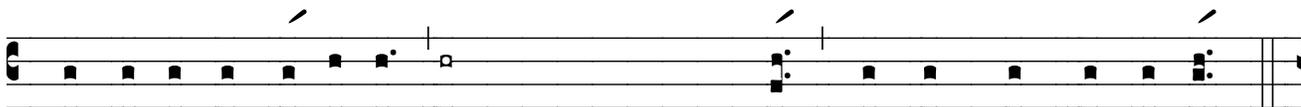
tize you with wa-ter for re-pent-ance, but one who is more pow-er-ful than I is com-ing af-ter



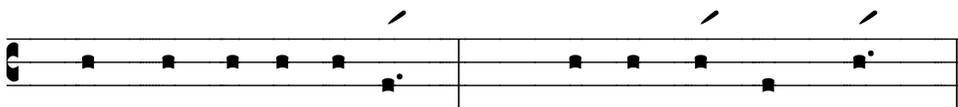
me; I am not worthy to carry his san-dals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **12**



His win-now-ing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gath-er his



wheat in-to the gra-na-ry; but the chaff he will burn with un-quench-a - ble fire.”



∇ The Gos-pel of the Lord. ✠ Praise to you, Lord Christ.