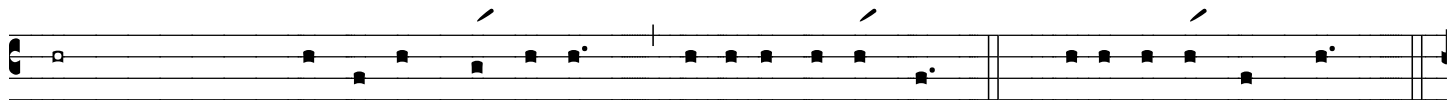
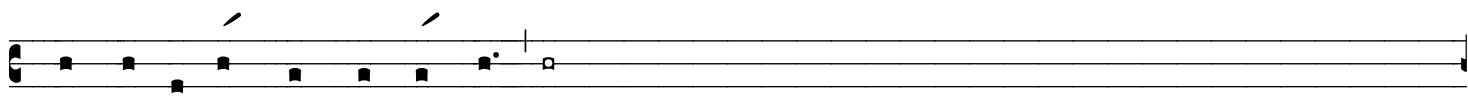


Year A, Proper 2I (RCL)
Matthew 21:23-32 (NRSV)



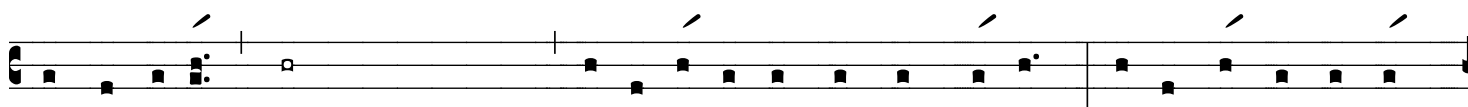
✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Je-sus Christ according to Mat-thew. ✠ *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*



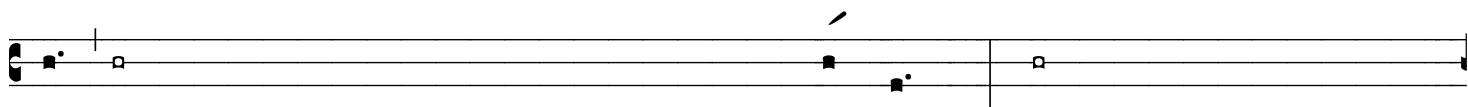
When Je-sus en-tered the tem-ple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he



was teaching, and said, “By what au-thor-i-ty are you do-ing these things, and who gave you this



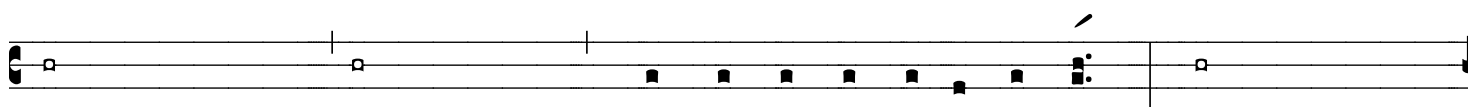
au-thor-i-ty?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will al-so ask you one ques-tion; if you tell me the an-



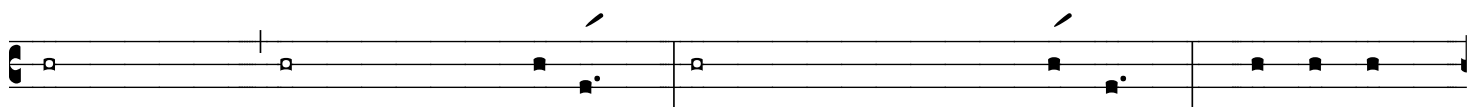
swer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John



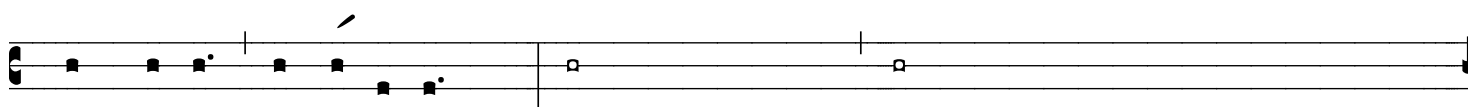
come from heaven, or was it of hu-man or-i-gin?” And they ar-gued with one an-o-ther, “If we



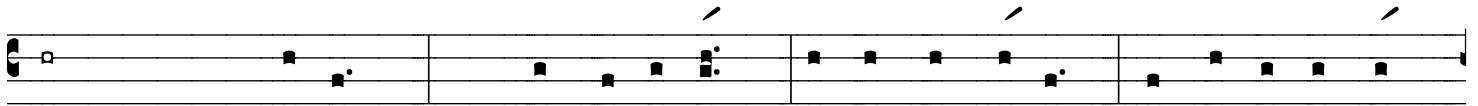
say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not be-lieve him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of



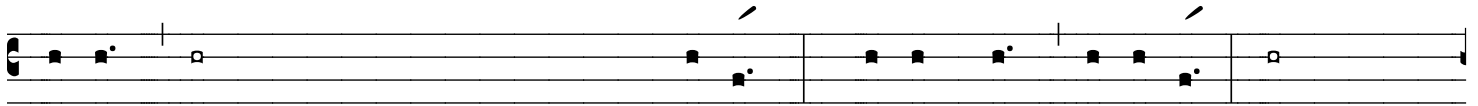
human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a pro-phet.” ²⁷ So they an-



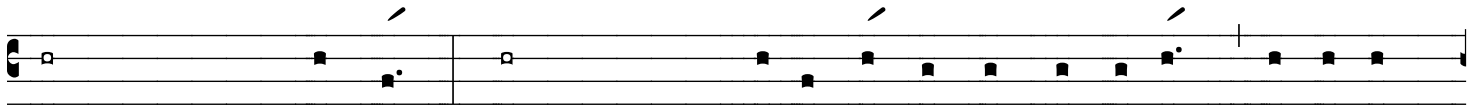
swered Je-sus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authori-



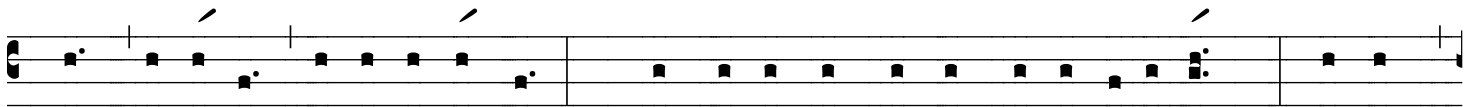
ty I am doing these things. 28 “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first



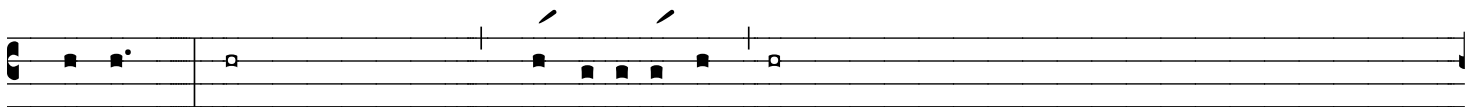
and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard to-day.’ 29 He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he



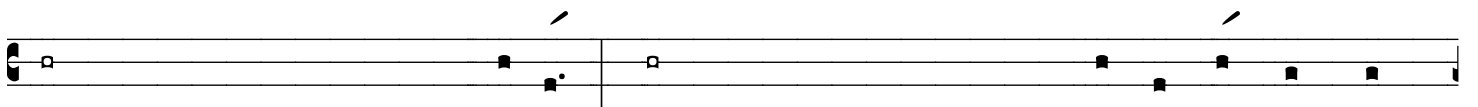
changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he an-



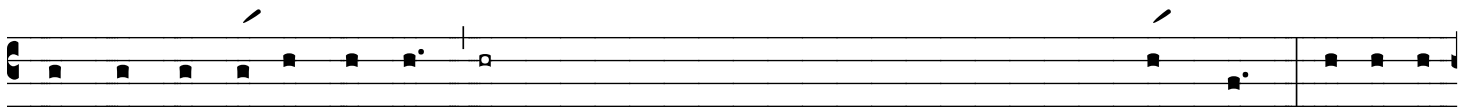
swered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said,



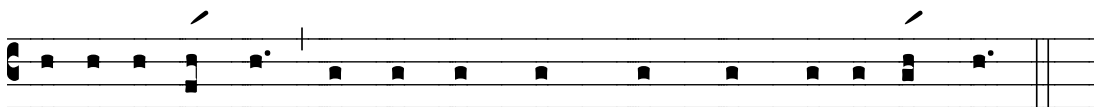
“The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going



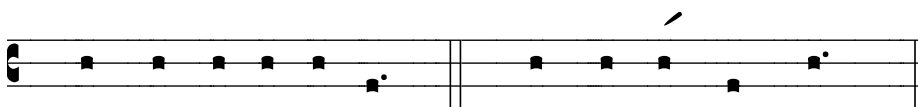
into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness



and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even



after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.



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