

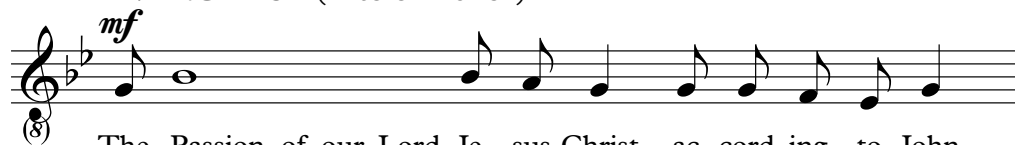
for the Choir of Portsmouth Cathedral

# St John Passion

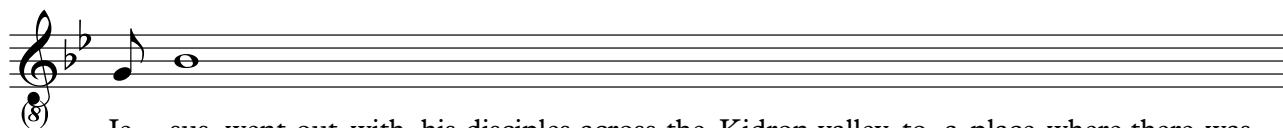
Words: John 18.1–19.42 (from NRSV Bible)

Music: DAVID PRICE

EVANGELIST (Alto or Tenor)



The Passion of our Lord Je - sus Christ ac - cord - ing to John.



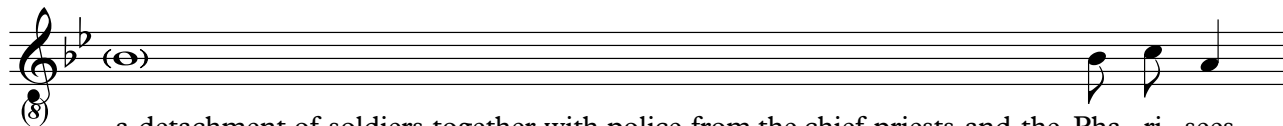
Je - sus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was



a gar - den, which he and his dis - ci - ples en - tered. Now Judas, who betrayed him,



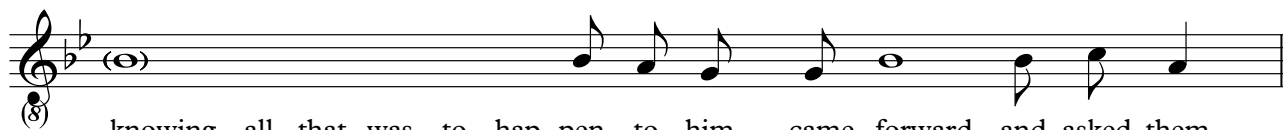
also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his dis - ci - ples. So Judas brought



a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pha - ri - sees,

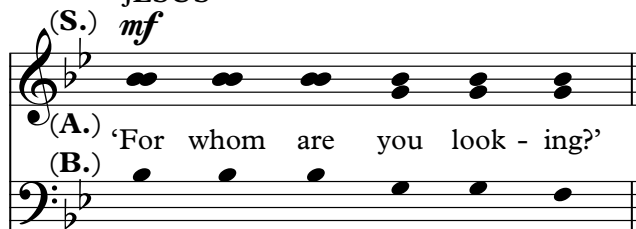


and they came there with lanterns and torch - es and weapons. Then Jesus,



knowing all that was to hap - pen to him, came forward and asked them,

JESUS



(S.)

(A.)

(B.)

'For whom are you look - ing?'

EVANGELIST




They ans - wered,

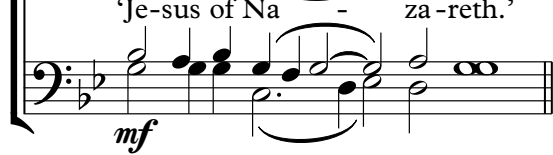
*mf*

Scripture quotations from *New Revised Standard Version Bible, Anglicized Edition*, copyright © 1989, 1995 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. Music copyright © 2008, 2016 Encore Publications. Printed in the UK.

**ENCÔRE**  
*publications*

**SOLDIERS**  
*mf*

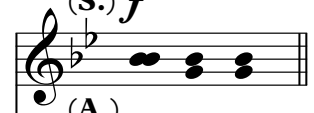
S. A.   
'Je-sus of Na - za-reth.'

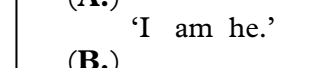

T. B.   
*mf*

**EVANGELIST**

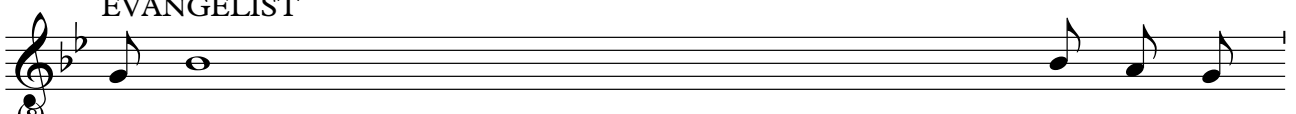
  
Je-sus replied,

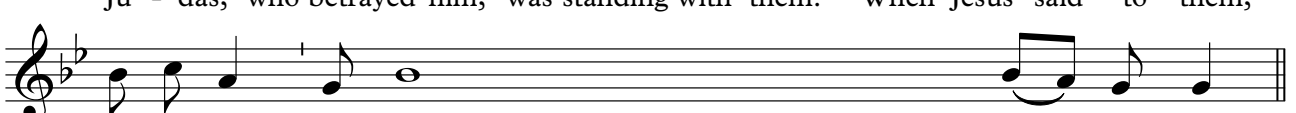
**JESUS**  
*f*

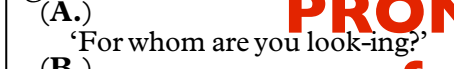
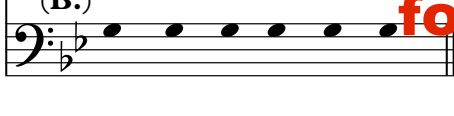
(S.)   
'I am he.'


(A.)   
(B.)   
*f*

**EVANGELIST**


  
Ju - das, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them,



  
'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

**JESUS**  
(S.)   
(A.)   
(B.)   
'For whom are you look-ing?'

**EVANGELIST**  
(S.)   
(A.)   
(B.)   
'And they said,

**SOLDIERS**  
*f*


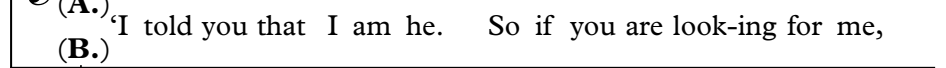
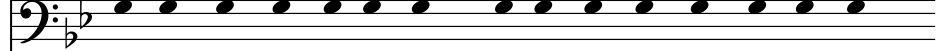
S.   
'Je-sus of Na - za-reth.'

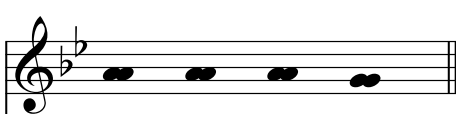
A.   
B.   
*f*

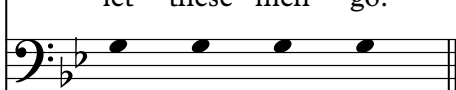
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**EVANGELIST**

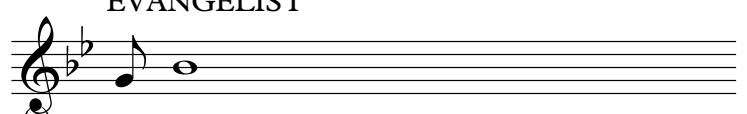
  
Je-sus answered:


**JESUS**  
(S.)   
(A.)   
(B.)   
'I told you that I am he. So if you are look-ing for me,


  
let these men go.'



**EVANGELIST**

  
This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken,

  
'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' Then Simon Peter, who had a sword,

  
drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Mal-chus.

JESUS

(S.) *f*  
(A.) Put your sword back in its sheath.  
(B.)

*f*

Am I not to drink the cup that the Fa-ther has gi-ven me?

## EVANGELIST

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Cai-a-phas, the high priest that year.

Cai-a-phas was the one who had ad -vised the Jews that it was better to have one person

die for the people. Si-mon Peter and an-o-ther dis-ciple fol-lowed Jesus. Since that disciple

was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest,

but Peter was standing out -side at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the

high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Pe-ter in.

The woman said to Pe-ter, 'You are not also one of this man's dis -ci-ples, are you?'

PETER (Tenor)                      EVANGELIST

He said,                      'I am not.'                      Now the slaves and the police had made a

char-coal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warm-ing them-selves;

Pe - ter also was standing with them and warming him-self.                      Then the high priest

questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teach-ing.                      Je - sus answered,

JESUS (S.)

(A.) 'I have spo-ken o-pen-ly to the world, I have al-ways taught in sy-na-gogues and  
(B.) for reading only

in the tem-ple, where all the Jews come to - ge-ther: I have said no-thing in sec-ret.

Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.'

EVANGELIST

When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

OFFICER (Bass)

'Is that how you answer the high priest?'

EVANGELIST

Je - sus answered,

JESUS (S.)

(A.) 'If I have spo - ken wrong - ly, tes - ti - fy to the wrong.  
(B.)

But if I have spo - ken right - ly, why do you strike me?'

EVANGELIST

Then Annas sent him bound to Caia-phas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him,

**PROMOTIONAL COPY  
for reading only**

BYSTANDERS

S. *mf*  
A. 'You are not al - so one of his dis - ci - ples?'  
T.  
B. *mf*

EVANGELIST

He denied it and said,

PETER

'I am not.'

EVANGELIST

One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear

SLAVE (Tenor)

Peter had cut off, asked,

'Did I not see you in the gar-den with him?'

EVANGELIST

A-gain Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

They then took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's head-quarters.

It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters so as to avoid ritual

defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

PILATE (Tenor)

'What accusation do you bring a-against this man?'

EVANGELIST

They ans-wered,

PRIESTS

*S. f*

**PROMOTIONAL COPY for reading only**

A. 'If this man were not a cri-mi-nal, we would not have hand-ed him o-ver to you.'

T.

*B. f*

EVANGELIST

Pilate said to them,

PILATE

'Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your own Law.'

EVANGELIST

The Jews re-plied,

PRIESTS

*S. f*

A. 'We are not per-mit - ted to put a - ny-one to death.'

T.

*B. f*

EVANGELIST

(This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pi-late en-tered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

PILATE

'Are you the king of the Jews?'

EVANGELIST

Je - sus answered,

JESUS (S.)

(A.) 'Do you ask this on your own, or did o - thers tell you a - bout me?'

(B.)

EVANGELIST PILATE

Pi-late replied: 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have han-ded

you o-ver to me: what have you done?'

EVANGELIST

Je-sus ans-wered:

JESUS (S.)

(A.) 'My king-dom is not from

(B.)

this world. If my king-dom were from this world, my fol-low-ers would be fight-ing to keep me

from be-ing hand-ed o-ver to the Jews. But as it is, my king-dom is not from here.'

**PROMOTIONAL COPY  
for reading only**

PILATE

EVANGELIST

Pi - late asked him, 'So you are a king?' Je-sus answered,

JESUS (S.)

(A.)

(B.)

'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came in - to the world,

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to tes - ti - fy to the truth. Ev - ery - one who be - longs to the truth lis - tens to my voice.'

EVANGELIST

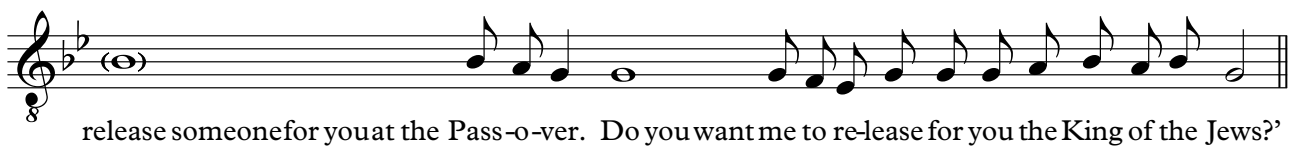
PILATE

EVANGELIST

Pi-late asked him, 'What is truth?' Af-ter he had said this, he went out to the

PILATE

I find no case a-against him. But you have a custom that I



release someone for you at the Pass-o-ver. Do you want me to re-lease for you the King of the Jews?'

EVANGELIST

PRIESTS

S. *ff*

A.

T.

B. *ff*

They shouted in re - ply, 'Not this man, but Bar - ab - bas!'



EVANGELIST

Now Barabbas was a ban-dit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged and the soldiers

wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a pur-ple robe.

They kept coming up to him, say-ing,

SOLDIERS

S. *ff*

A. 'Hail, King of the Jews!'

T. *ff*

B. *ff*

EVANGELIST

and striking him on the face. Pi-late went out again and said to them,

PILATE

'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case a-gainst him.'

EVANGELIST

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the pur-ple robe. Pi-late said to them,

PILATE

'Here is the man.'

EVANGELIST

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shout-ed,

PRIESTS

S. *ff*

A. 'Cru-ci-fy him! Cru-ci-fy him!'

T. *ff*

B. *ff*

EVANGELIST

Pi-late said to them,

PILATE

'Take him yourselves'

EVANGELIST

and cru-ci - fy him; I find no case a-against him.'

The Jews answered him:

PRIESTS

*S. f*  
A. 'We have a law, and ac-cor - ding to that law he ought to die  
T. because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'  
*B. f*

EVANGELIST

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than e-ver. He entered his headquarters

again and asked Je-sus,

PILATE  
'Where are you from?'

EVANGELIST  
But Jesus gave no an-swer.

Pi - late therefore said to him,

PILATE  
'Do you refuse to speak to me?'

Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to cru - ci - fy you?'

JESUS (S.)

(A.) 'You would have no power o - ver me un-less it had been gi - ven you from a - bove;  
(B.)

there-fore the one who hand-ed me o - ver to you is guil - ty of a great-er sin.'

## EVANGELIST

From then on Pilate tried to re-lease him, but the Jews cried out,

## PRIESTS

*S. mf*  
A. 'If you re - lease this man, you are no friend of the em - pe - ror.  
T.  
*B. mf*

Ev-ery-one who claims to be a king is setting him - self against the em - pe - ror.'

## EVANGELIST

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place

called The Stone Pave-ment, in He-brew Gab-ba-tha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the

Passover; and it was a-bout noon.

## EVANGELIST

He said to the Jews,

## PILATE

'Here is your King!'

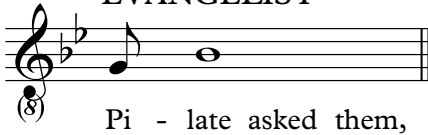
## EVANGELIST

They cried out,

## PRIESTS

*S. f*  
A. 'A-way with him! A-way with him! Cru-ci-fy him!  
T.  
*B. f*

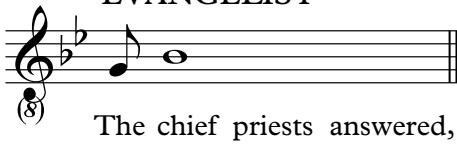
## EVANGELIST



## PILATE



## EVANGELIST



## S. PRIESTS

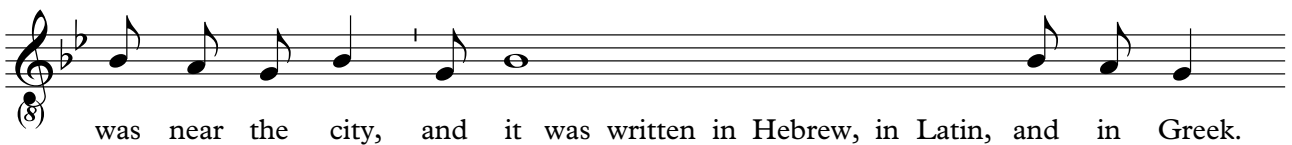
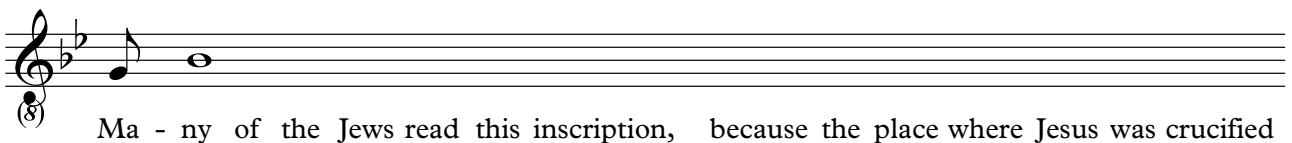
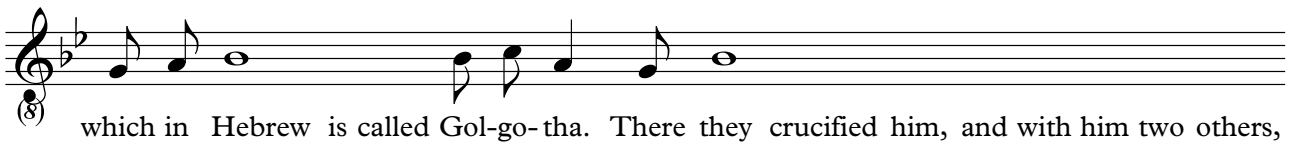
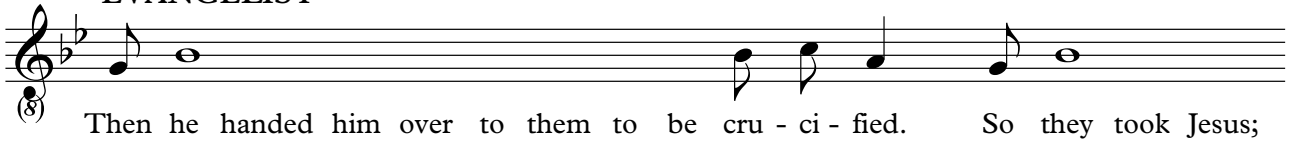
'We have no king, but the em - pe - ror.'

A. *p*

T. *p*

B. *p*

## EVANGELIST



Then the chief priests of the Jewssaid to Pi-late,

**PRIESTS**  
*pp*  
 A. 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews",  
 T.  
 B. *pp*

but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."  
 EVANGELIST  
 Pi - late answered,

**PILATE**  
 'What I have writ-ten, I have written.'

**EVANGELIST**  
 When the soldiers had cruci-fied Je-sus,

**PROMOTIONAL COPY**  
**for reading only**  
 they took his clothes and divided them into four part, one for each soldier.

They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

**S. SOLDIERS**  
 A. 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.'  
 T.  
 B.

**EVANGELIST**  
 This was to fulfil what the scrip-ture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my  
 clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile standing near the cross of Jesus  
 were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Mag-dalene. When Jesus

saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved stand-ing be-side her, he said to his mother,

**JESUS**  
*mp*

(S.)  
(A.) 'Wo - man, here is your son.'  
(B.)

*mp*

**EVANGELIST**

(S.) Then he said to the dis - ci - ple,

**JESUS**  
*p*

(S.)  
(A.) 'Here is your mo - ther.'  
(B.)

*p*

**EVANGELIST**

(S.) And from that hour the disciple took her

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into his own home. Af - ter this, when Jesus knew that all was now fi-nished.

he said (in order to fulfil the scrip - ture),

**JESUS**  
*pp*

(S.)  
(A.) 'I am thirst - y.'  
(B.)

*pp*

**EVANGELIST**

(S.) A jar full of sour wine was stand-ing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a

branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said,

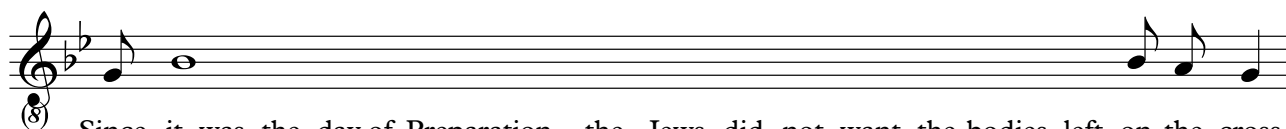
**JESUS**  
*pp*

(S.)  
(A.) 'It is fin - ished.'  
(B.)

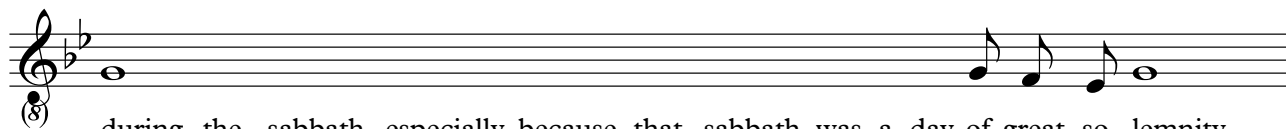
*pp*

**EVANGELIST**

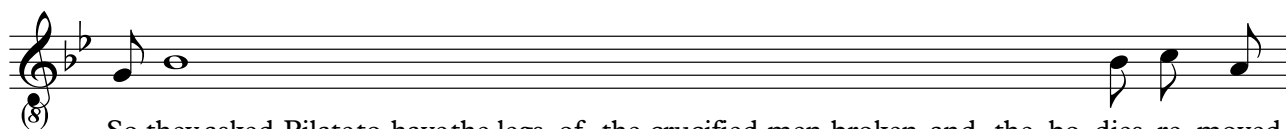
(S.) Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



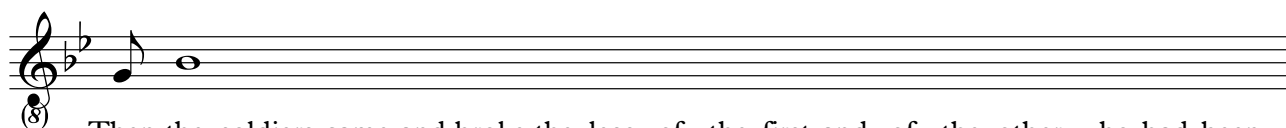
Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross



during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity.



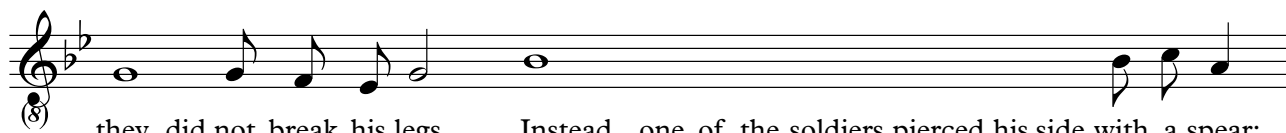
So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.



Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been



crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,



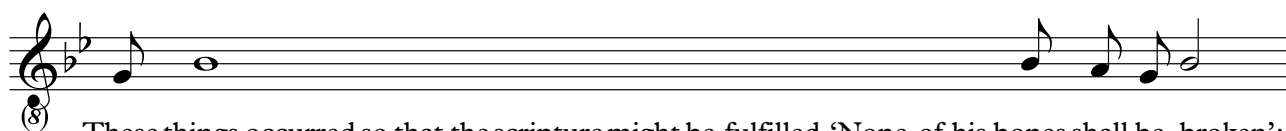
they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear;



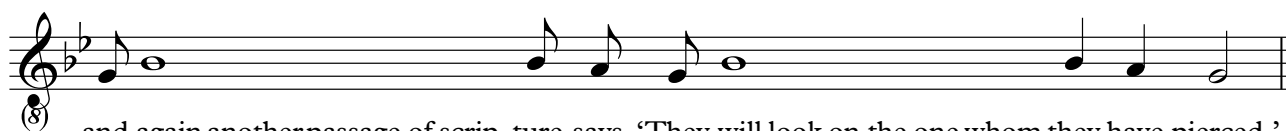
and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified



so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)



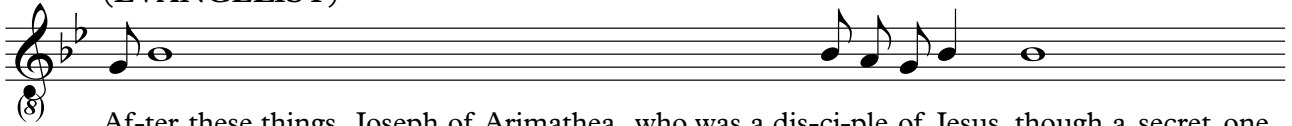
These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken';



and again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

*If the account of the burial of Christ is to be read later, the Passion Gospel ends here.*

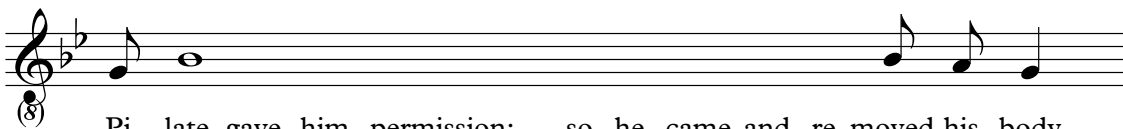
(EVANGELIST)



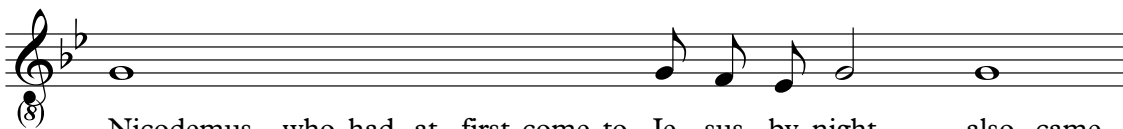
Af-ter these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a dis-ci-ple of Jesus, though a secret one



because of his fear of the Jews asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Je-sus.



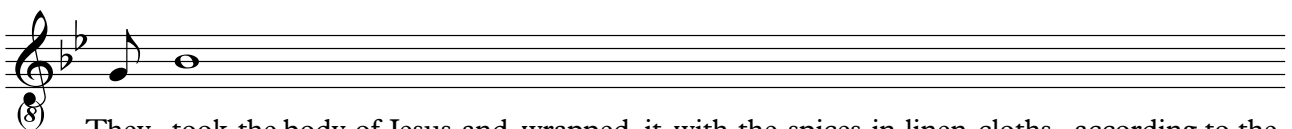
Pi-late gave him permission; so he came and re-moved his body.



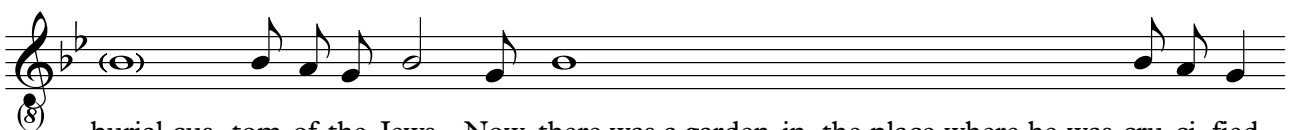
Nicodemus, who had at first come to Je-sus by night, also came,



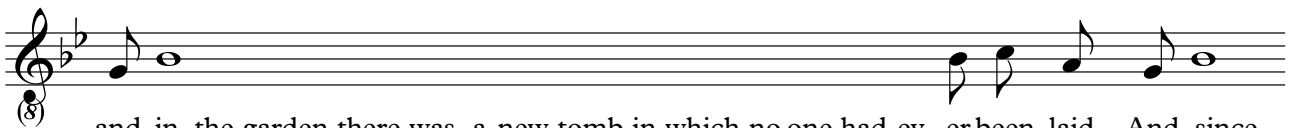
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hun-dred pounds.



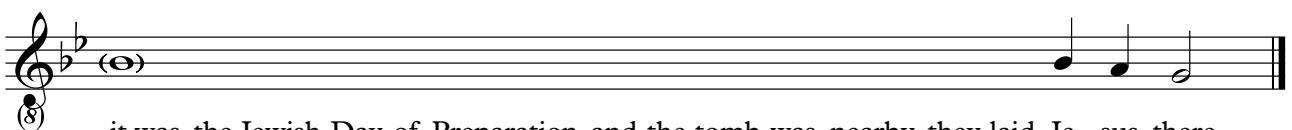
They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the



burial cus-tom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was cru-ci-fied,



and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ev-er been laid. And since



it was the Jewish Day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Je-sus there.

*Composer's note on part of Jesus: The setting of the part for Jesus for three voices is a reference to the Trinitarian nature of our belief in God. Each voice should balance within the trio so that no part is dominant. Please note the dynamic markings for the part (as well as for the Chorus) which add to the drama of the Passion.*