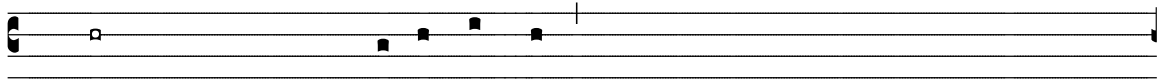


THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

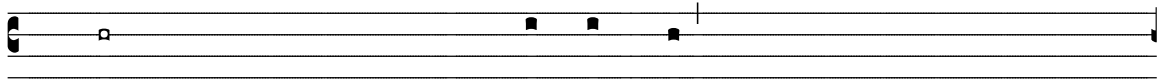
from the *Roman Martyrology*

The announcement of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord from the *Roman Martyrology* draws upon Sacred Scripture to declare in a formal way the birth of Christ. It begins with creation and relates the birth of the Lord to the major events and personages of sacred and secular history. The particular events contained in the announcement help pastorally to situate the birth of Jesus in the context of salvation history.

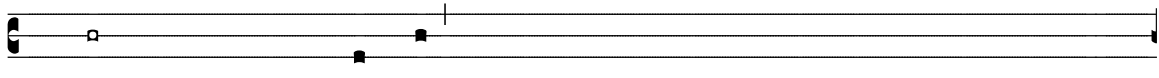
This text, *The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*, may be chanted or recited, most appropriately on December 24, during the celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours. It may also be chanted or recited before the beginning of Christmas Mass during the Night. It may not replace any part of the Mass.



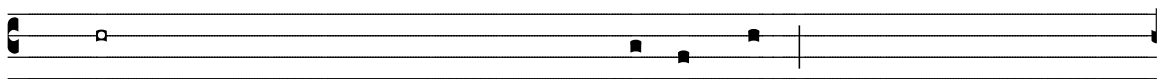
The Twenty-fifth Day of De-cem-ber,



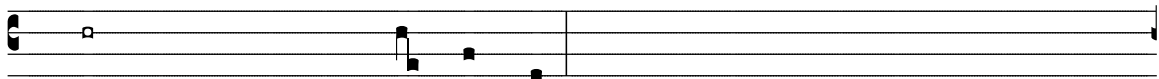
when ages beyond number had run their course



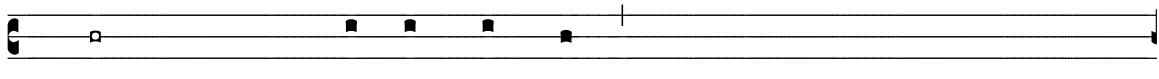
from the creation of the world,



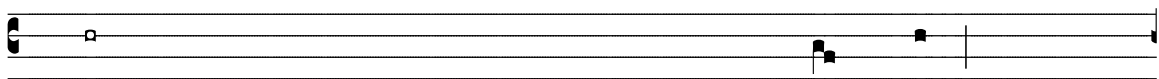
when God in the beginning created heav-en and earth,



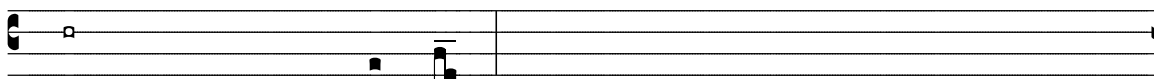
and formed man in his own like-ness;



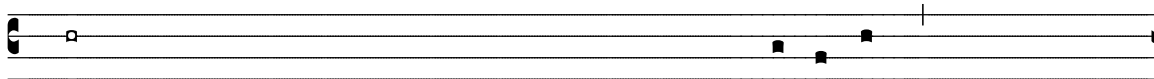
when century upon cen-tury had passed



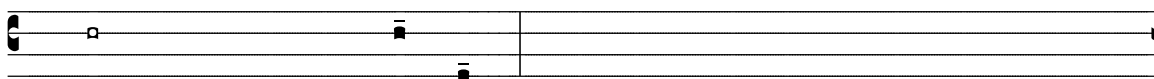
since the Almighty set his bow in the clouds after the Great Flood,



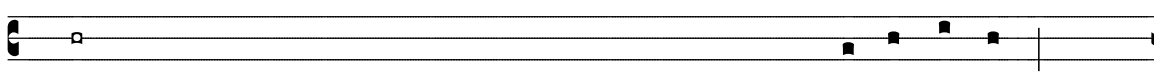
as a sign of covenant and peace;



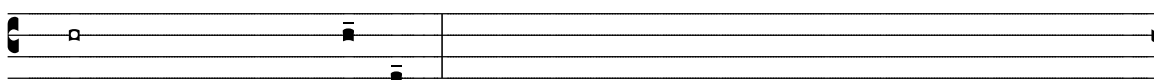
in the twenty-first century since Abraham, our father in faith,



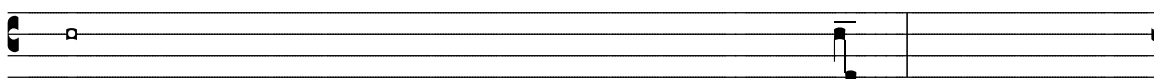
came out of Ur of the Chal-dees;



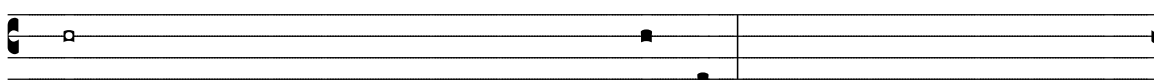
in the thirteenth century since the People of Israel were led by Mo-ses



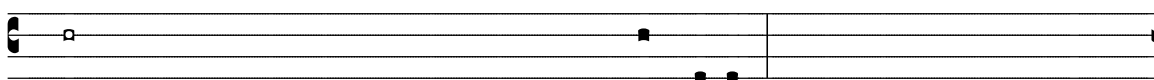
in the Exodus from E-gypt;



around the thousandth year since David was anointed King;



in the sixty-fifth week of the prophecy of Dan-iel;



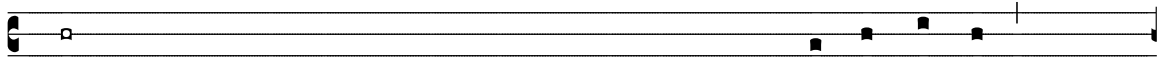
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth O-lym-pi-ad;



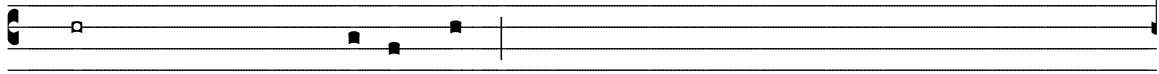
in the year seven hundred and fif-ty-two



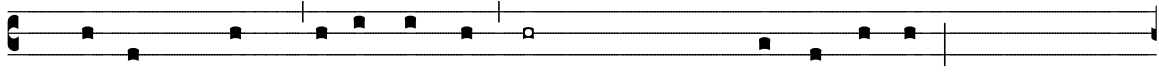
since the foundation of the City of Rome;



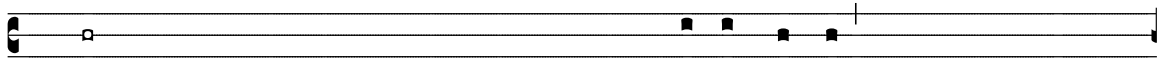
in the forty-second year of the reign of Caesar Octavi-an Au-gus-tus,



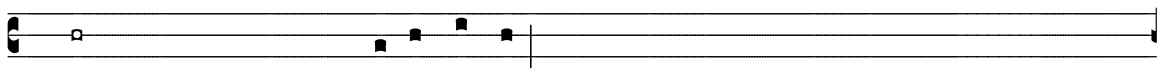
the whole world be-ing at peace,



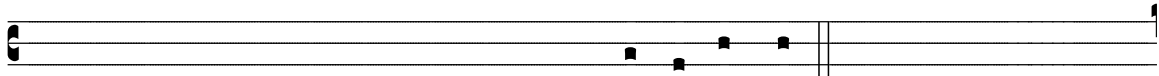
JESUS CHRIST, e-ter-nal God and Son of the e-ter-nal Fa-ther,



desiring to consecrate the world by his most lov-ing pre-sence,

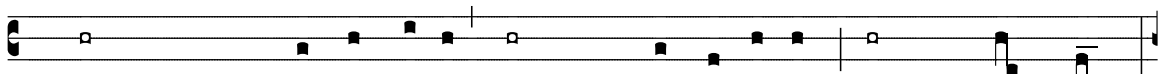


was conceived by the Ho-ly Spir-it,

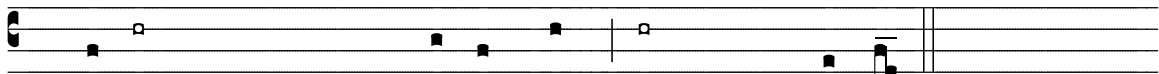


and when nine months had passed since his con-cep-tion, *

** Begin a perfect fourth higher after the double bar line.*



was born of the Vir-gin Ma-ry in Bethle-hem of Ju-dah, and was made man:



The Nativity of Our Lord Je-sus Christ according to the flesh.