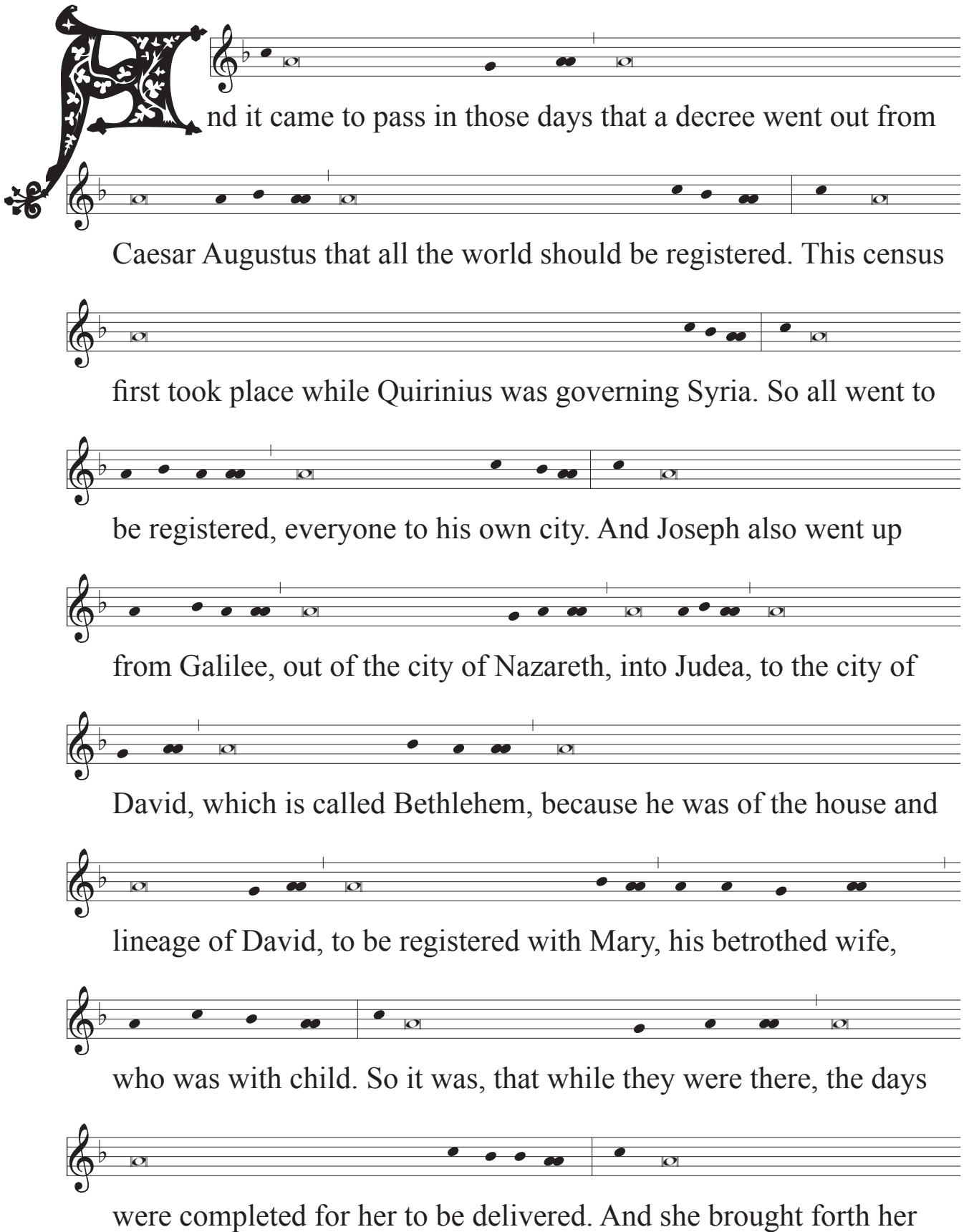
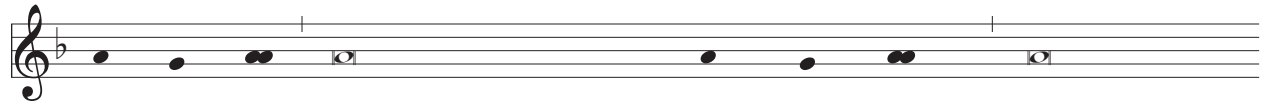


# The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

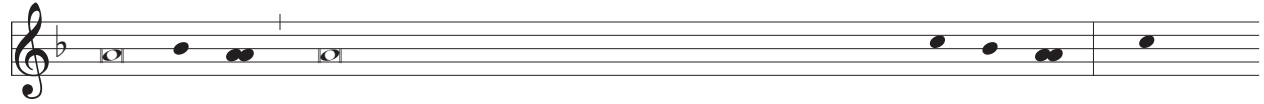
St. Luke 2:1-20



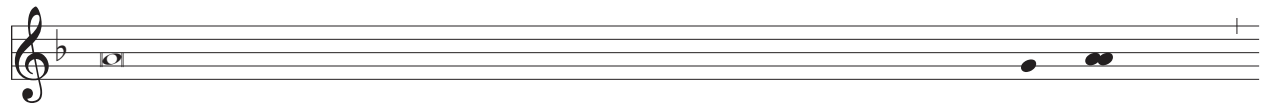
nd it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from  
Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census  
first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to  
be registered, everyone to his own city. And Joseph also went up  
from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of  
David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and  
lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife,  
who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days  
were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her



firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him



in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now



there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields,



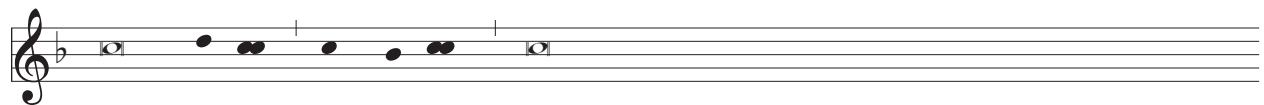
keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of



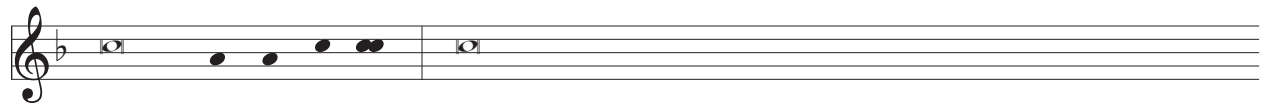
the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around



them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do



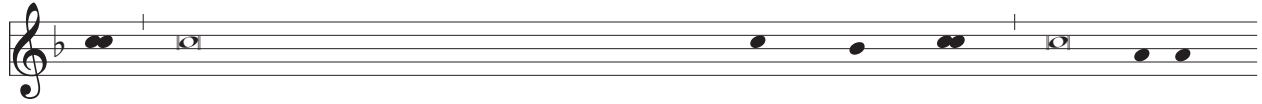
not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which



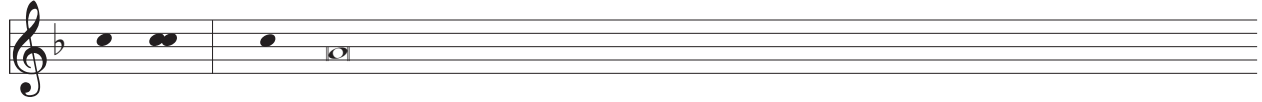
will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of



David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to



you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a



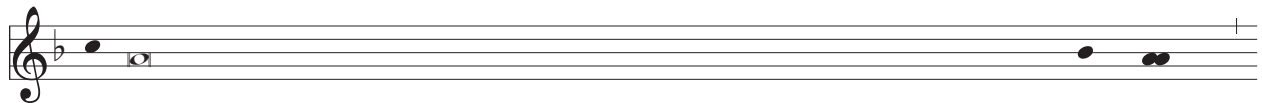
manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the



heavenly host praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest,



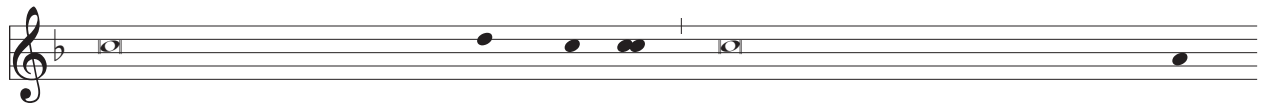
and on earth peace, good will toward men!”



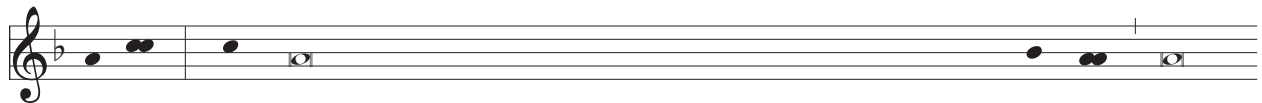
So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven,



that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and



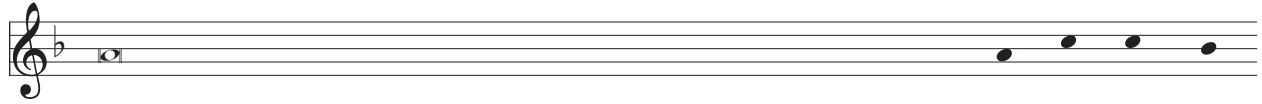
see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known



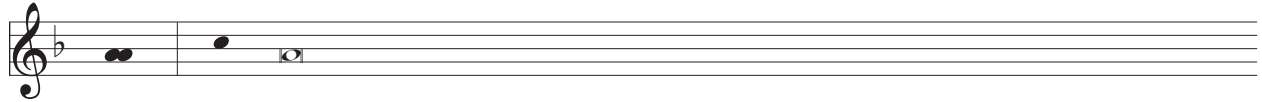
to us.” And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and



the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they



made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this



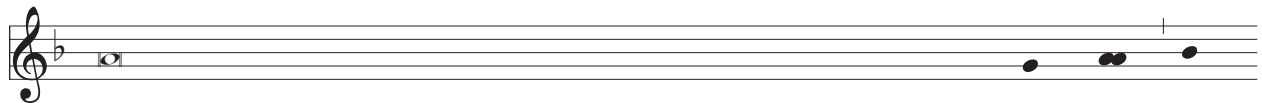
Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which



were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and



pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying



and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as



it was told them.