The St. John Passion

NRSV Bible

Ian King

The St. John Passion

Text: NRSV Bible

John, Chapters 18 & 19 (up to v. 37)

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Music: Ian King

Commissioned for Gloucester Cathedral Choir
by Canon Neil Heavisides, Precentor,
in thanksgiving for his parents, Flora and Stanley.
First performed on Good Friday 2014.

With thanks to Adrian Partington, Gloucester Cathedral choir,
and all those who have supported this work.
Ian King, 2014.

The St. John Passion

Words: NRSV BIBLE

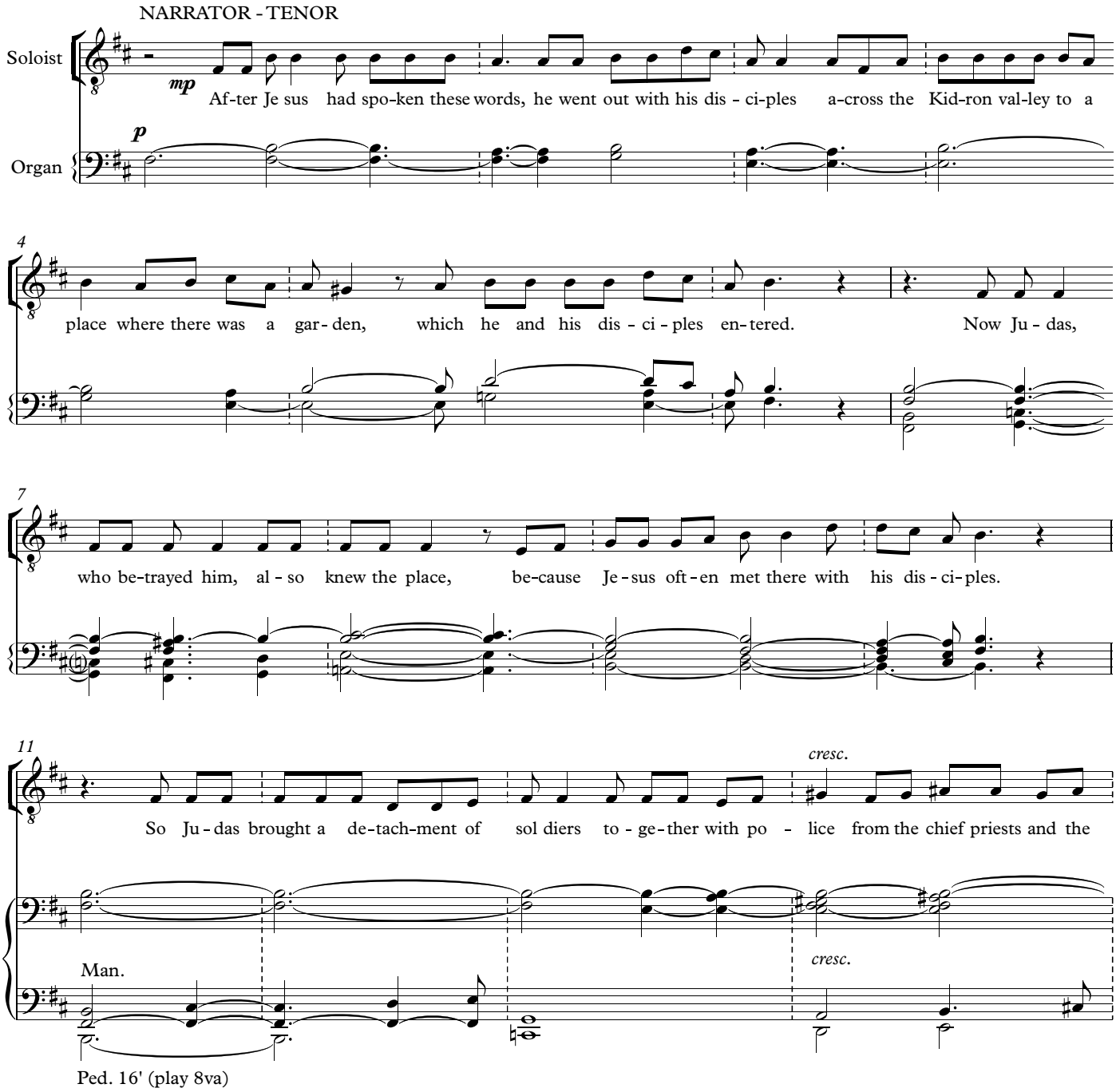
Music: Ian King

NARRATORS: Tenor, Bass and Alto alternating.

JESUS: (high) Baritone, accompanied by choir humming or singing to 'ah', as appropriate for balance.

PILATE: (low) Bass. Minor characters:- Woman: Treble Peter: Tenor Policeman: Tenor Slave: Alto

Tempo: all metronome markings are approximate. Speed may change for each section or phrase, according to the text.
Rhythm in Narration may be sung with some flexibility, as in plainchant. Rests at ends of sections are approximate.



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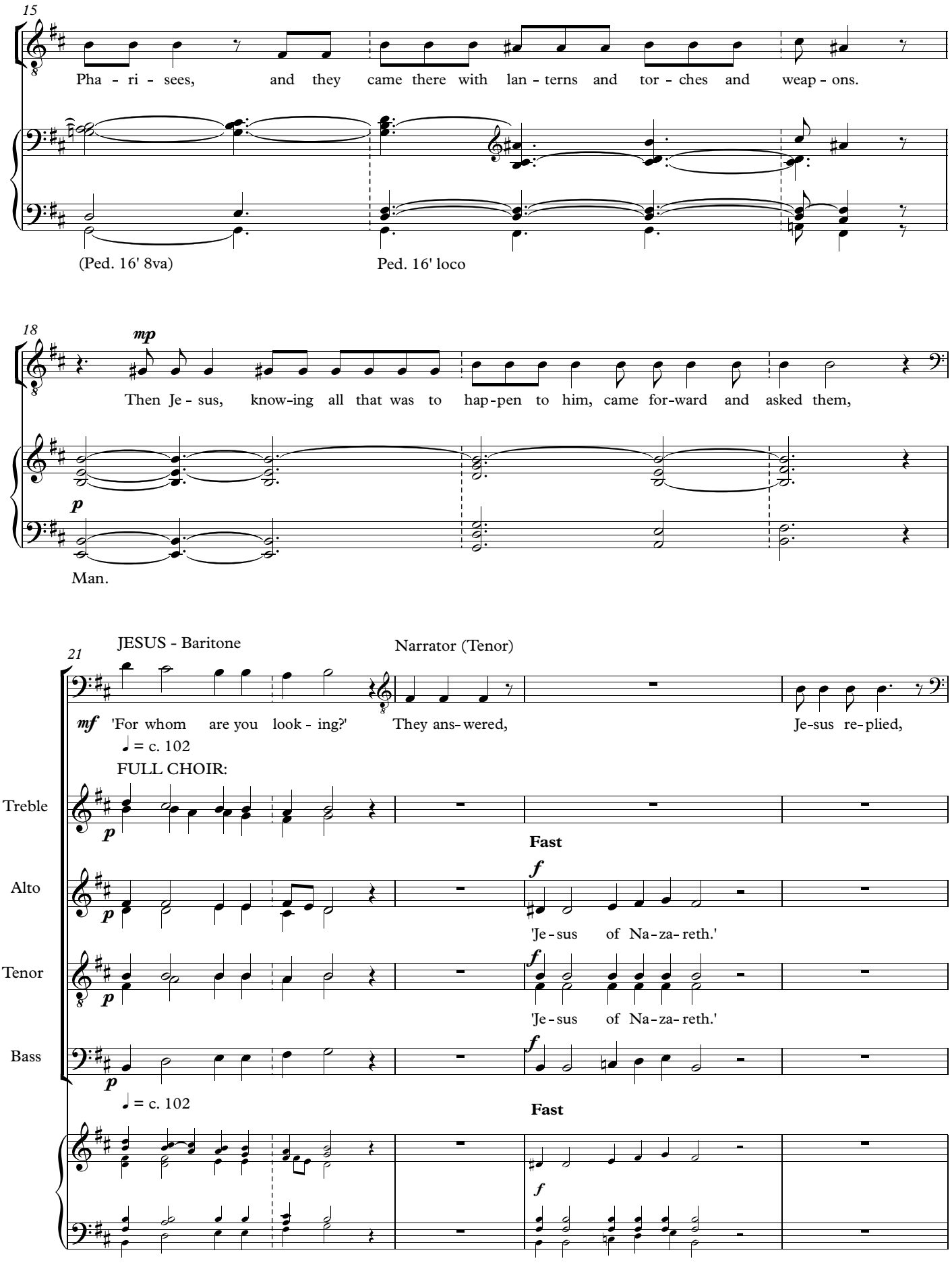
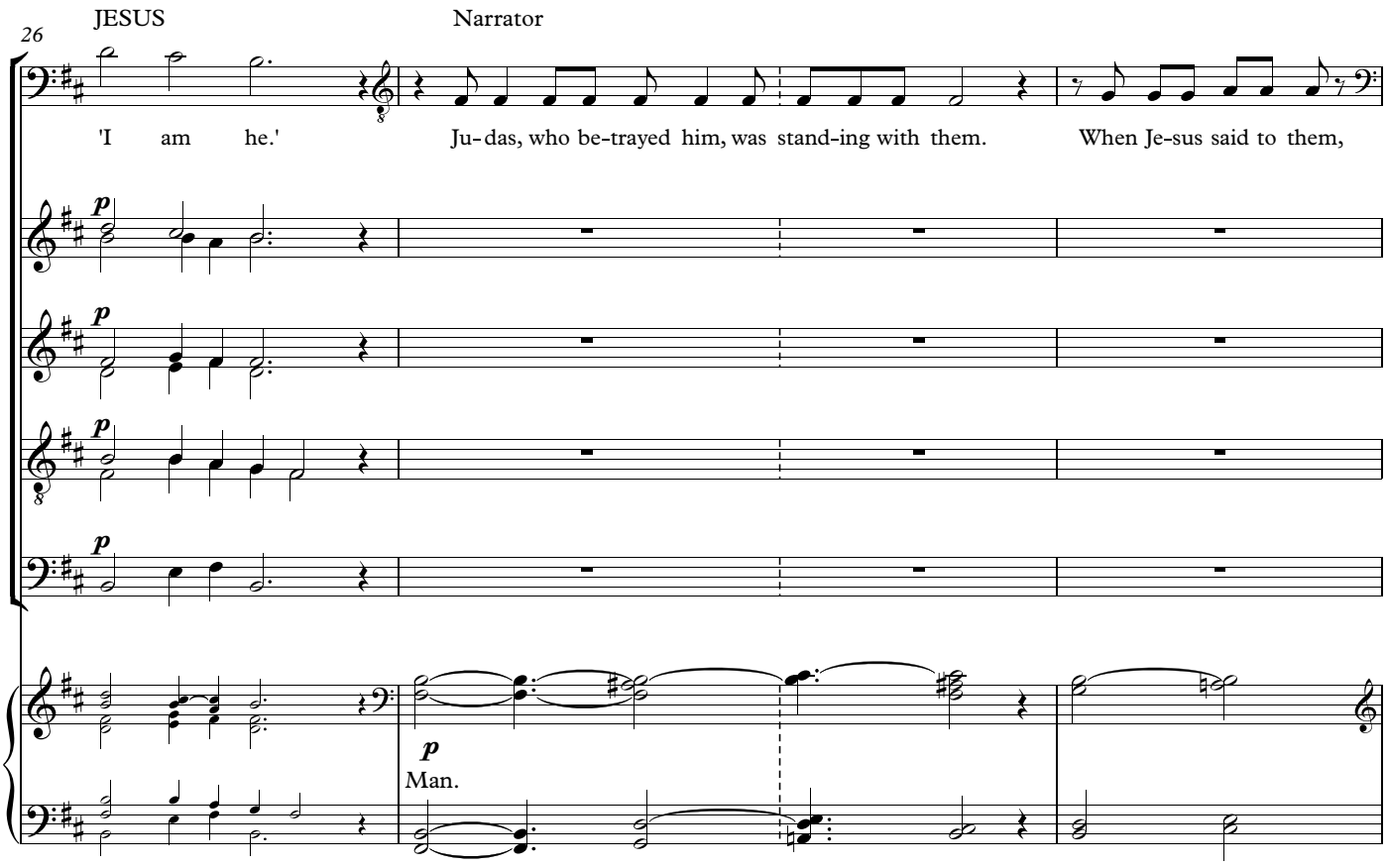
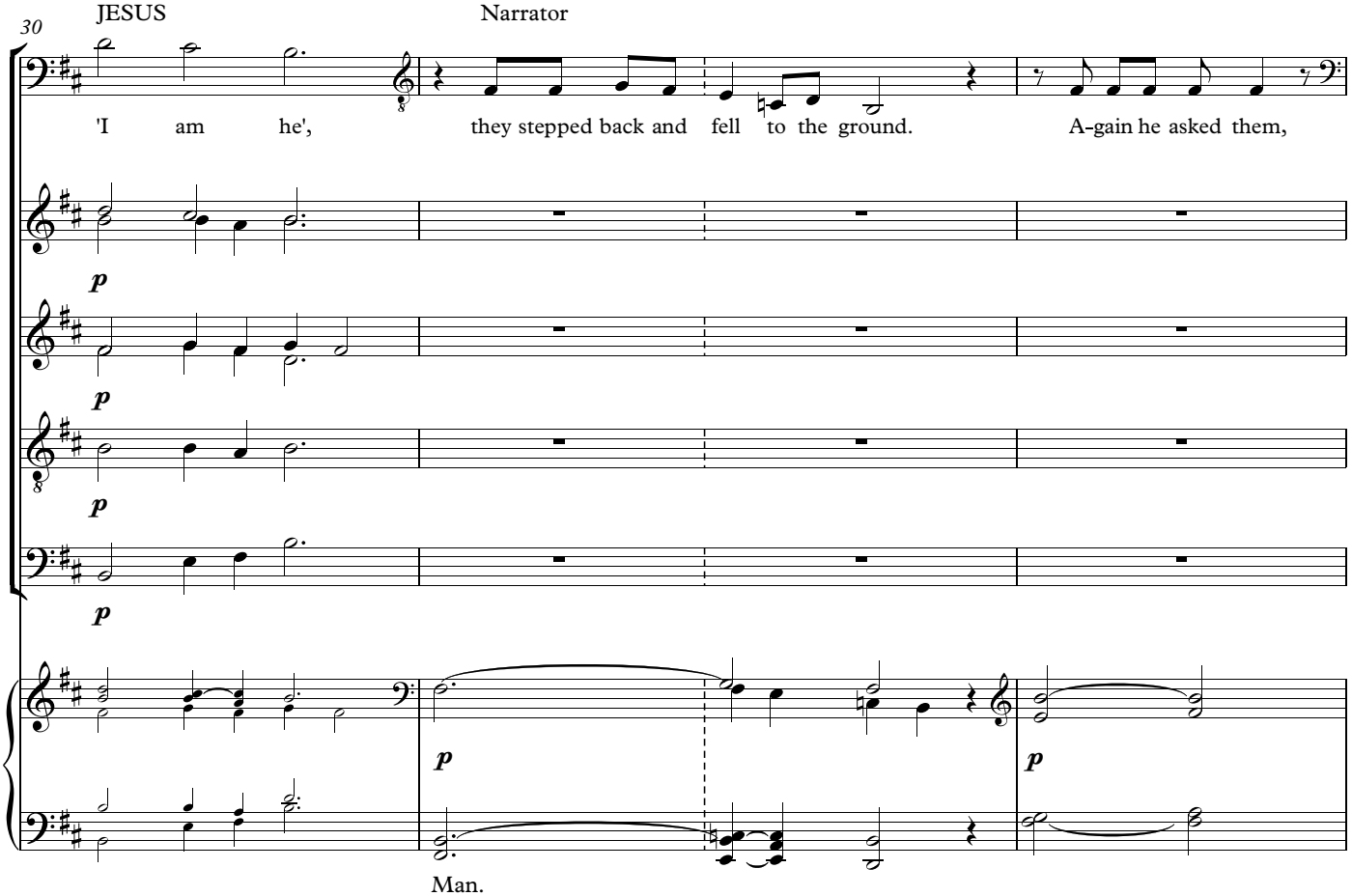
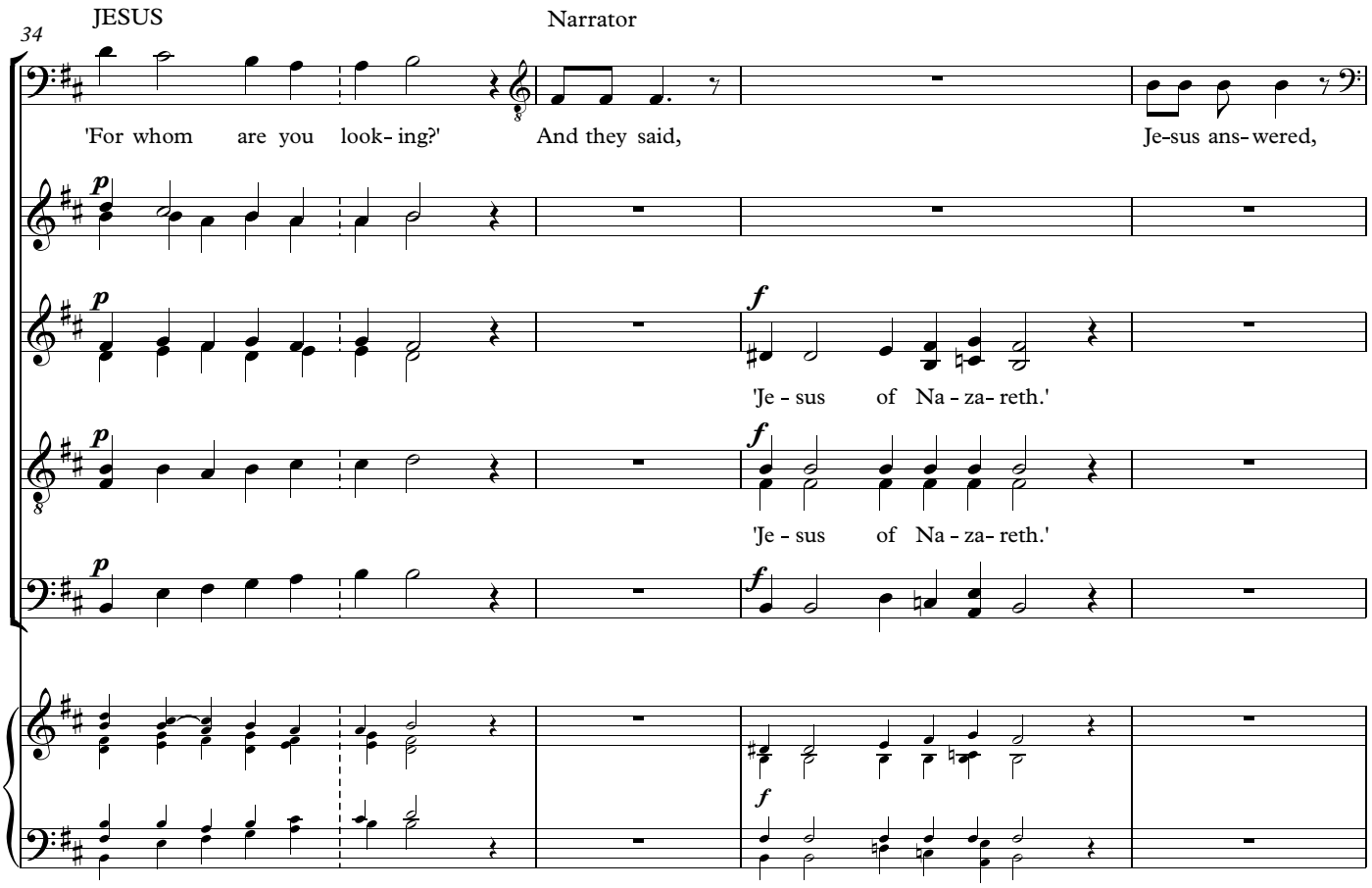
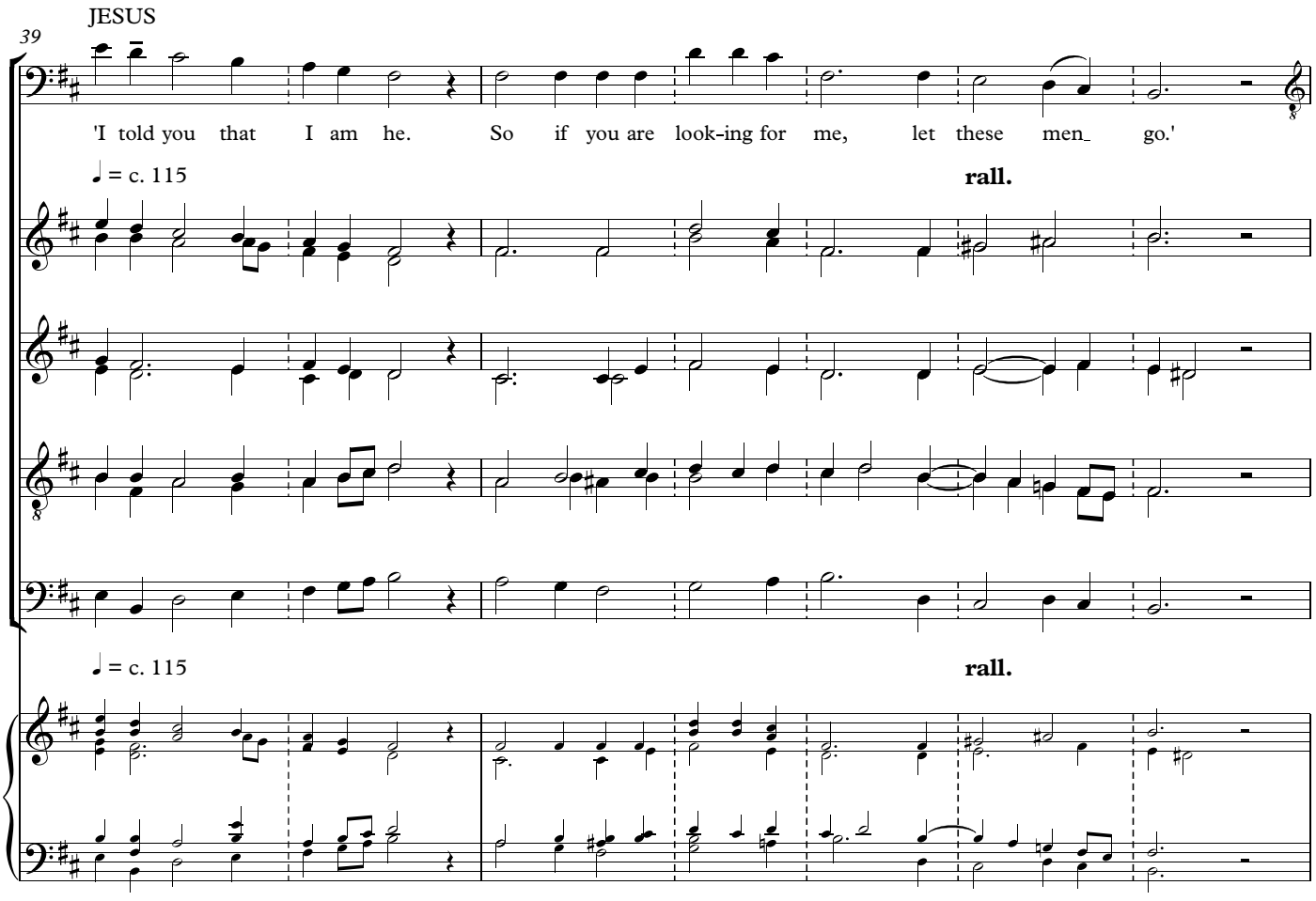
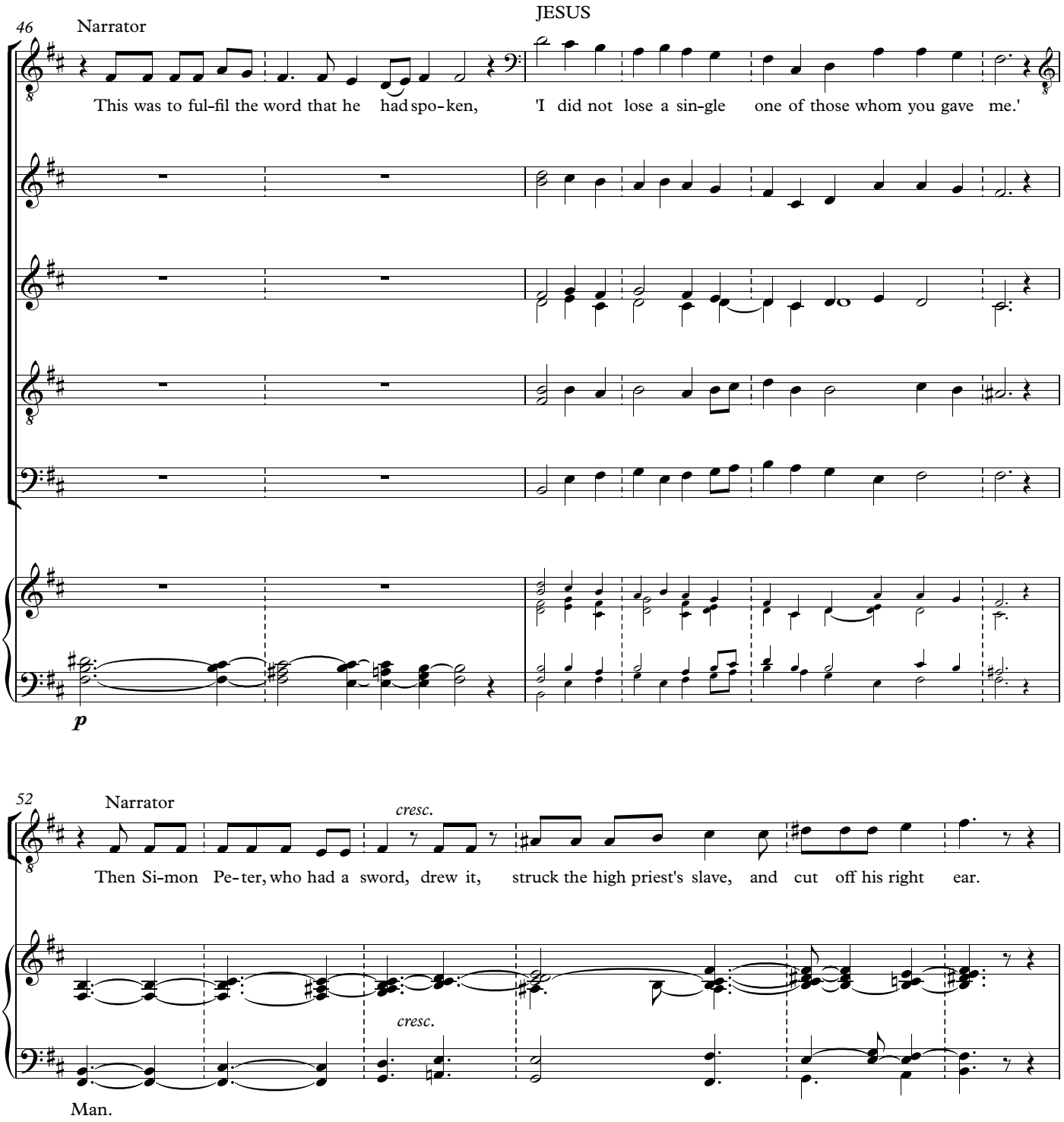

15
Pha - ri - sees, and they came there with lan - terns and tor - ches and weap - ons.
(Ped. 16' 8va)
Ped. 16' loco
18
mp
Then Je - sus, know-ing all that was to hap-pen to him, came for-ward and asked them,
p
Man.
21
JESUS - Baritone
Narrator (Tenor)
mf
'For whom are you look - ing?'
They ans-wered,
Je-sus re-plied,
♩ = c. 102
FULL CHOIR:
Treble
Alto
Tenor
Bass
p
Fast
f
'Je-sus of Na-za-reth.'
'Je-sus of Na-za-reth.'
♩ = c. 102
Fast

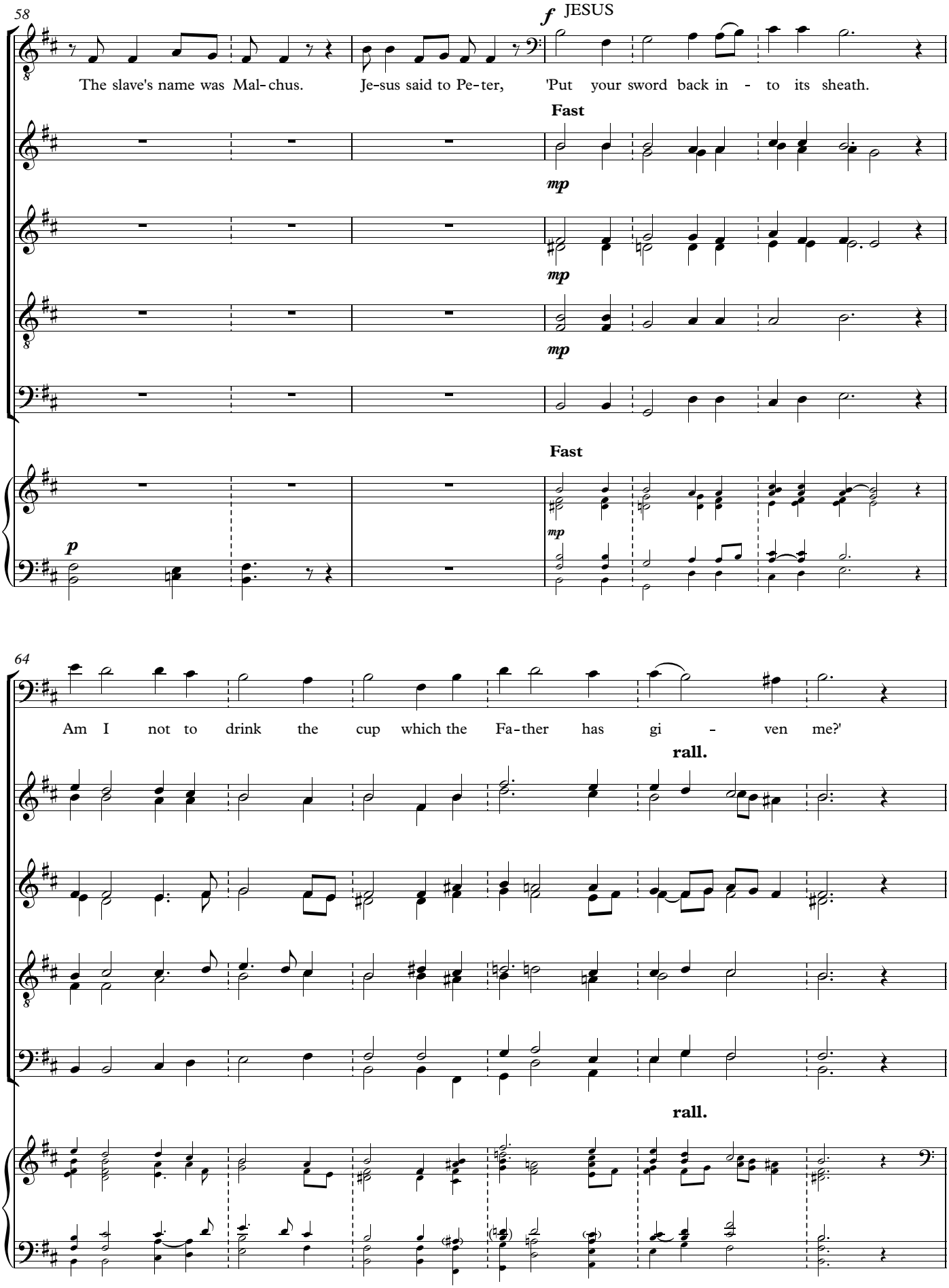

JESUS
Narrator
26
'I am he.'
Ju-das, who be-trayed him, was stand-ing with them.
When Je-sus said to them,
p
Man.

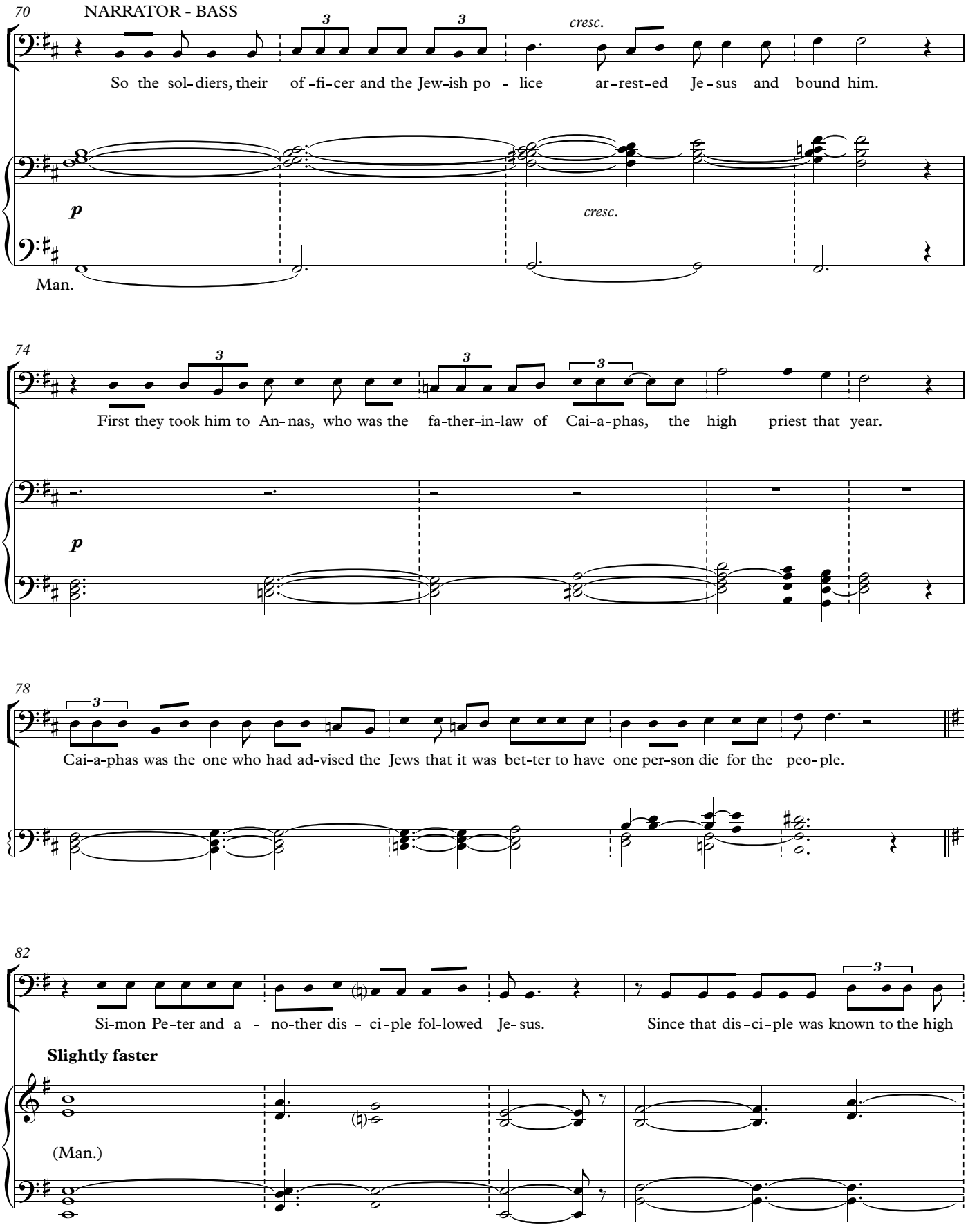

JESUS
Narrator
30
'I am he',
they stepped back and fell to the ground.
A-gain he asked them,
p
Man.

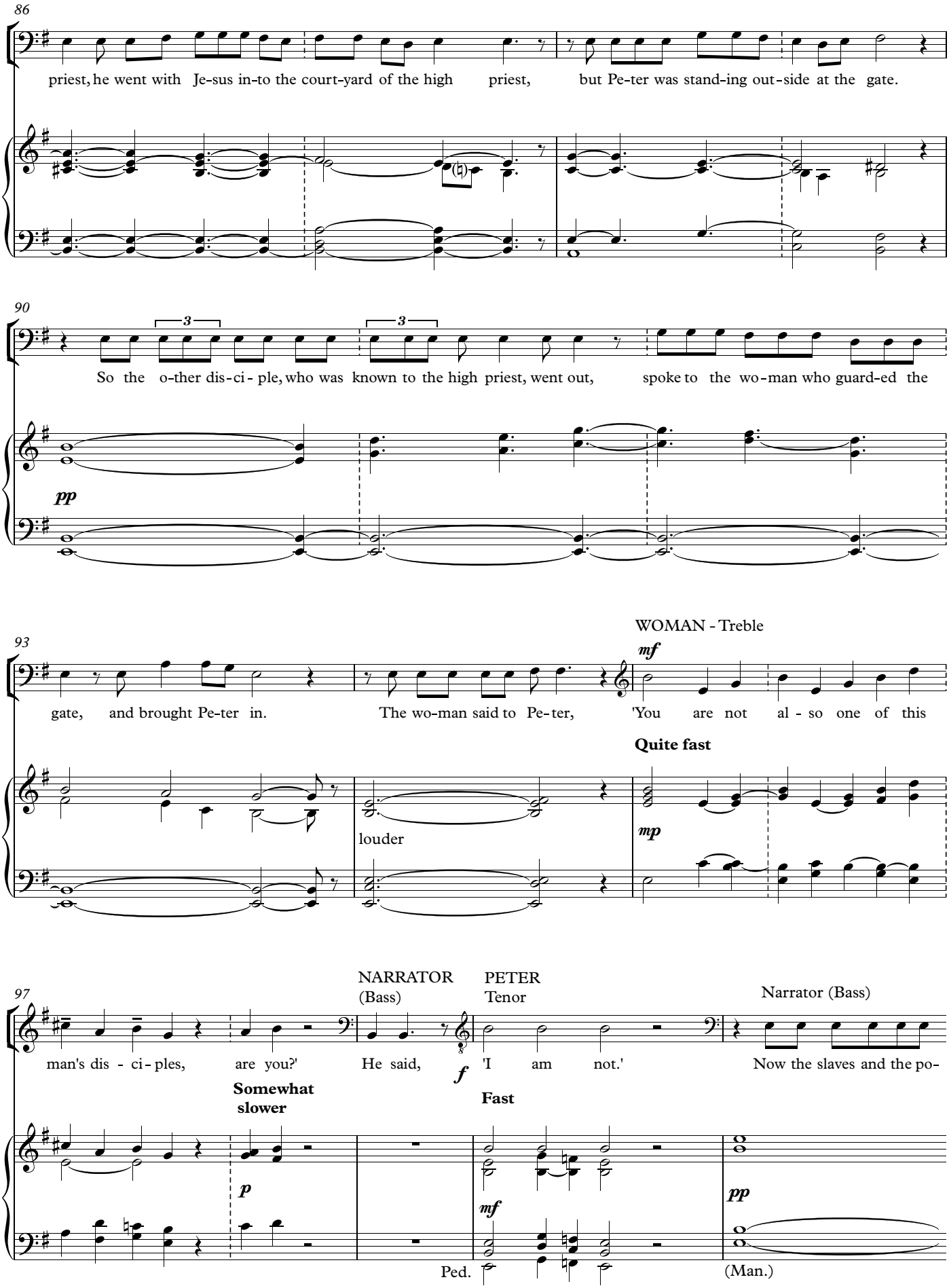

JESUS
Narrator
34
'For whom are you look- ing?'
And they said,
Je-sus ans- wered,
'Je - sus of Na - za- reth.'
'Je - sus of Na - za- reth.'

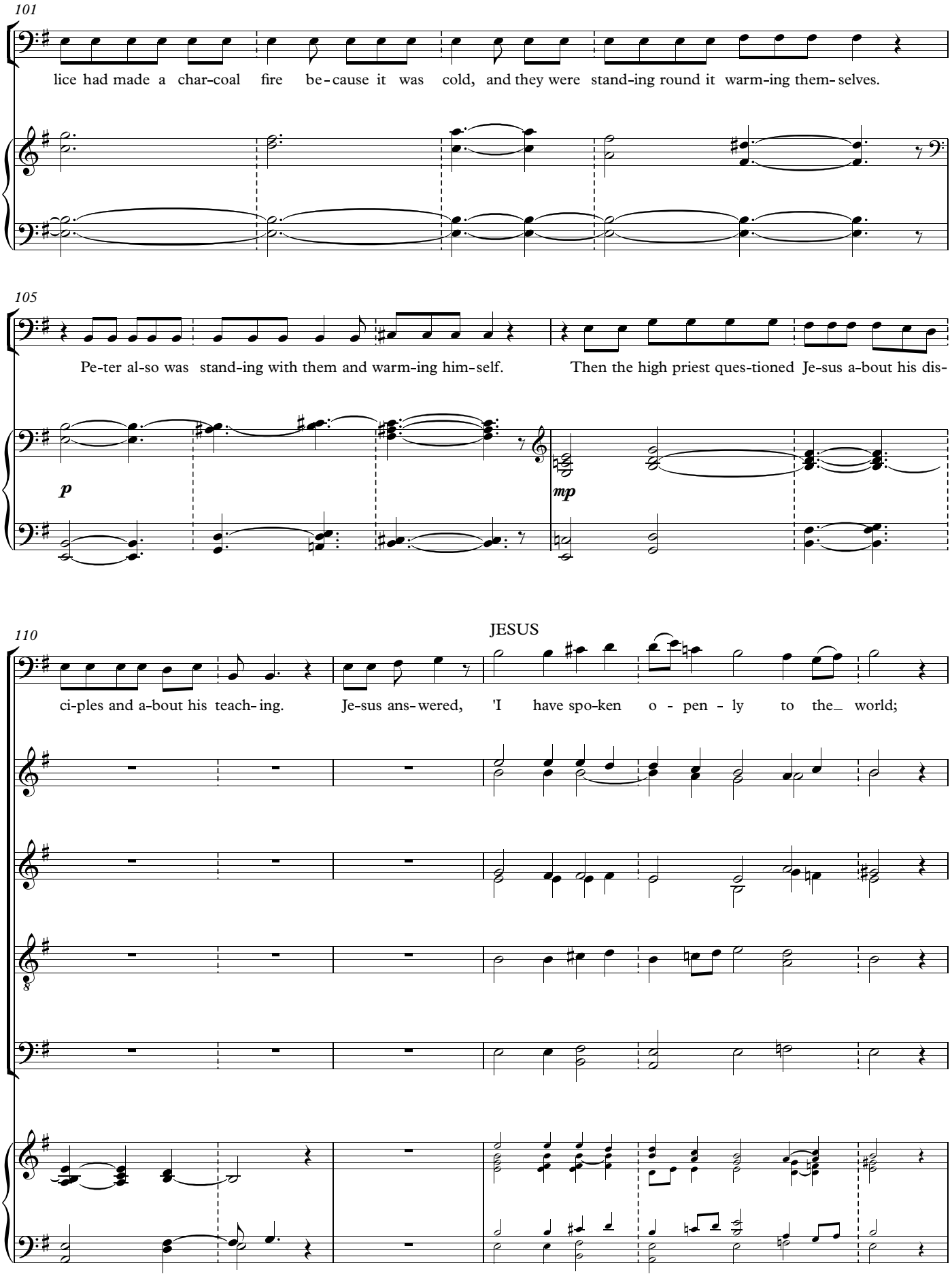

JESUS
39
'I told you that I am he. So if you are look-ing for me, let these men_ go.'
♩ = c. 115
rall.
♩ = c. 115
rall.

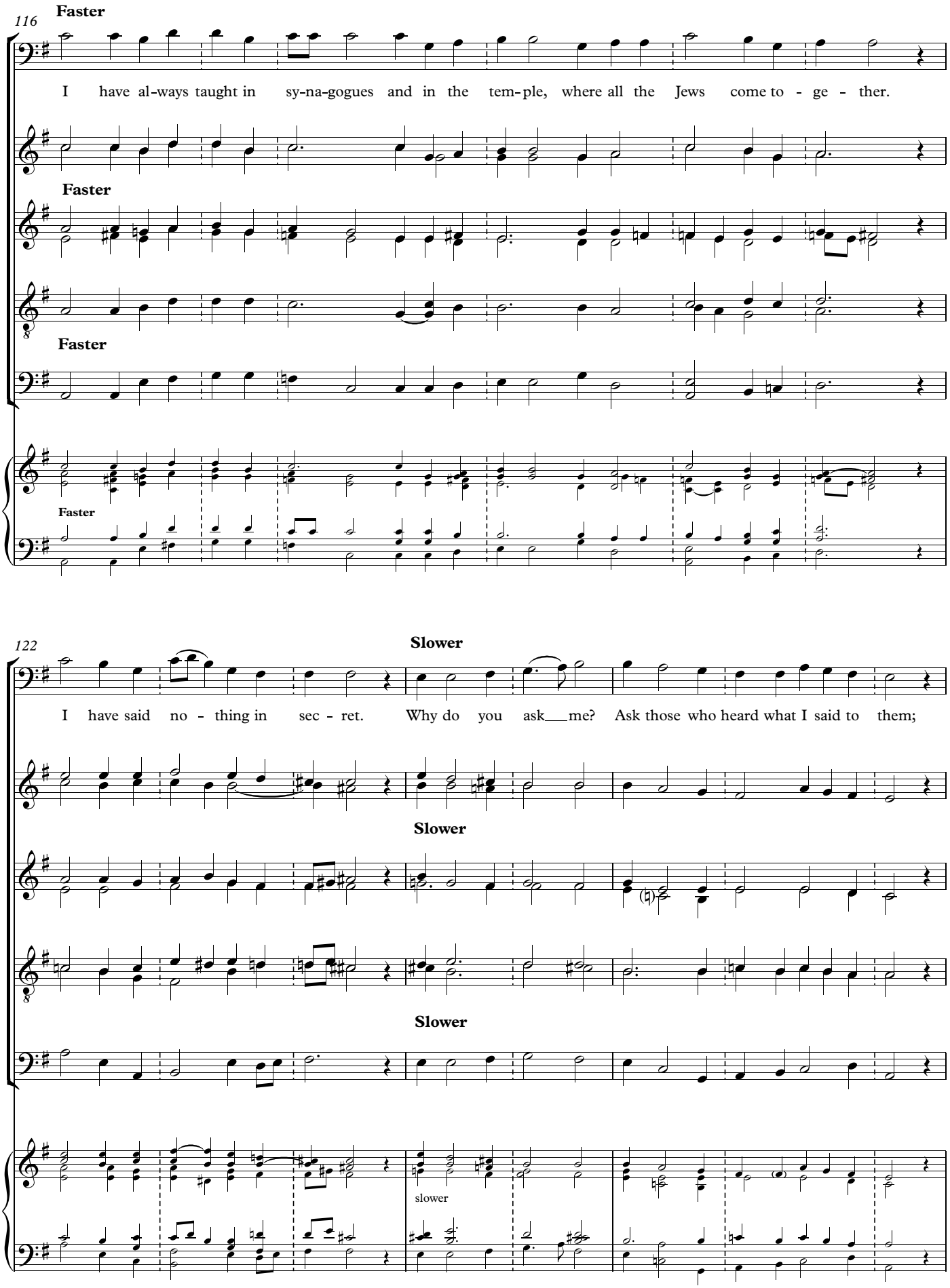

46
Narrator
JESUS
This was to ful-fil the word that he had spo-ken,
'I did not lose a sin-gle one of those whom you gave me.'
p
52
Narrator
cresc.
Then Si-mon Pe-ter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear.
cresc.
Man.

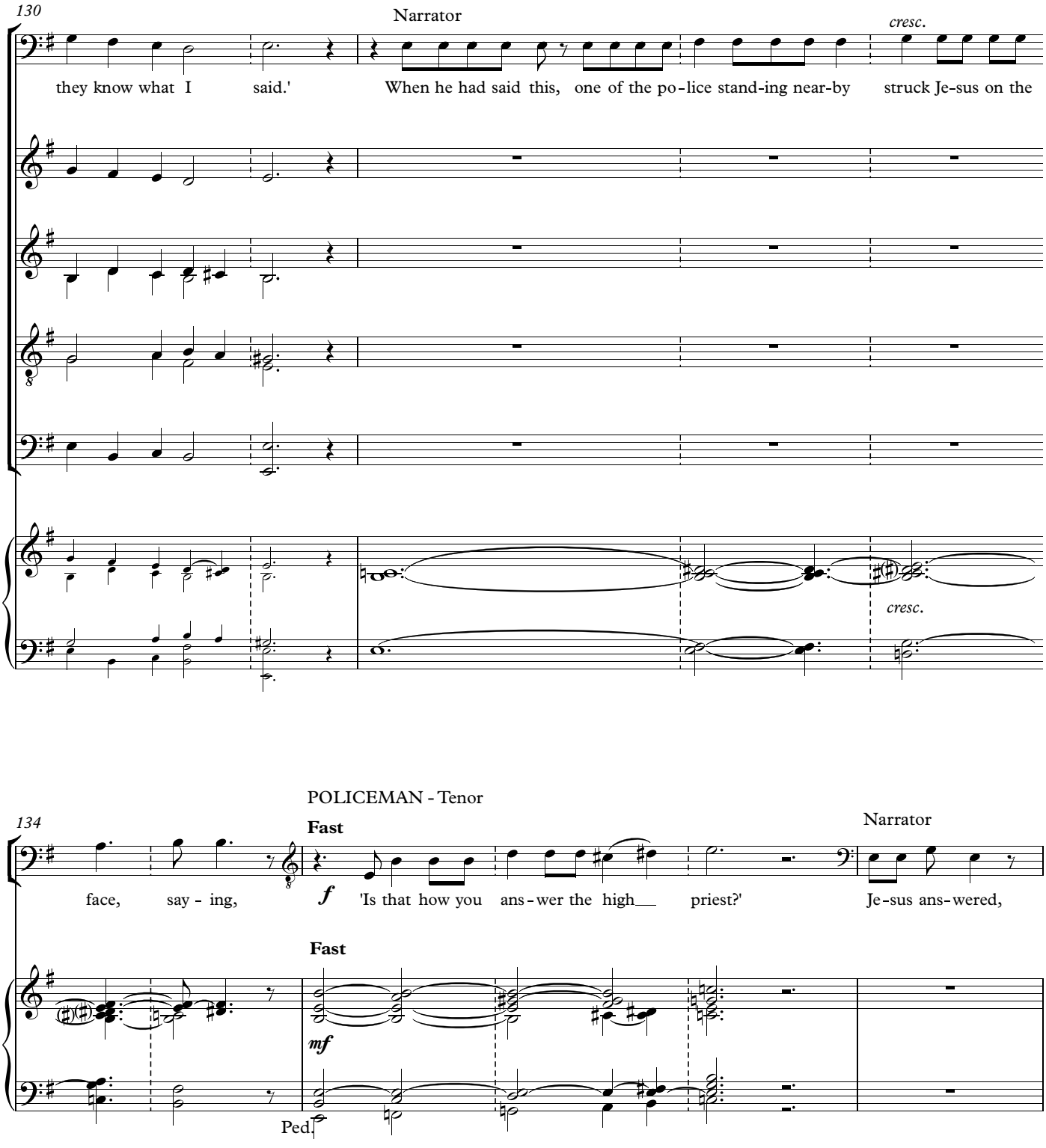

58
f JESUS
The slave's name was Mal-chus. Je-sus said to Pe-ter, 'Put your sword back in - to its sheath.
Fast
mp
mp
mp
Fast
p
mp
64
Am I not to drink the cup which the Fa-ther has gi - ven me?'
rall.
rall.


70
NARRATOR - BASS
So the sol-diers, their of-fi-cer and the Jew-ish po - lice ar-rest-ed Je-sus and bound him.
cresc.
p
cresc.
Man.
74
First they took him to An-nas, who was the fa-ther-in-law of Cai-a-phas, the high priest that year.
p
78
Cai-a-phas was the one who had ad-vised the Jews that it was bet-ter to have one per-son die for the peo-ple.
82
Si-mon Pe-ter and a - no-ther dis - ci-ple fol-lowed Je-sus.
Since that dis-ci-ple was known to the high
Slightly faster
(Man.)


86
priest, he went with Je-sus in-to the court-yard of the high priest, but Pe-ter was stand-ing out-side at the gate.
90
3
3
So the o-ther dis-ci-ple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the wo-man who guard-ed the
pp
93
WOMAN - Treble
mf
gate, and brought Pe-ter in. The wo-man said to Pe-ter, 'You are not al-so one of this
Quite fast
louder
mp
97
NARRATOR
(Bass)
PETER
Tenor
Narrator (Bass)
man's dis-ci-ples, are you?' He said, f 'I am not.' Now the slaves and the po-
Somewhat slower
Fast
p
mf
pp
Ped.
(Man.)


101
lice had made a char-coal fire be-cause it was cold, and they were stand-ing round it warm-ing them-selves.
105
Pe-ter al-so was stand-ing with them and warm-ing him-self. Then the high priest ques-tioned Je-sus a-bout his dis-
p
mp
110
JESUS
ci-ples and a-bout his teach-ing. Je-sus ans-wered, 'I have spo-ken o - pen - ly to the_ world;
8


116
Faster
I have al-ways taught in sy-na-gogues and in the tem-ple, where all the Jews come to - ge - ther.
Faster
Faster
Faster
122
Slower
I have said no - thing in sec - ret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them;
Slower
Slower
slower


130
Narrator
cresc.
they know what I said.' When he had said this, one of the po-lice stand-ing near-by struck Je-sus on the
cresc.
POLICEMAN - Tenor
134
Fast
Narrator
face, say - ing, f 'Is that how you ans-wer the high priest?' Je-sus ans-wered,
Fast
mf
Ped.

JESUS

140 *mp* *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

'If I have spo-ken wrong - ly, tes - ti - fy to the wrong. But if I have spo ken right- ly,

pp *p* *cresc.*

pp *p* *cresc.*

Dynamics as above

146 *mp* *p*

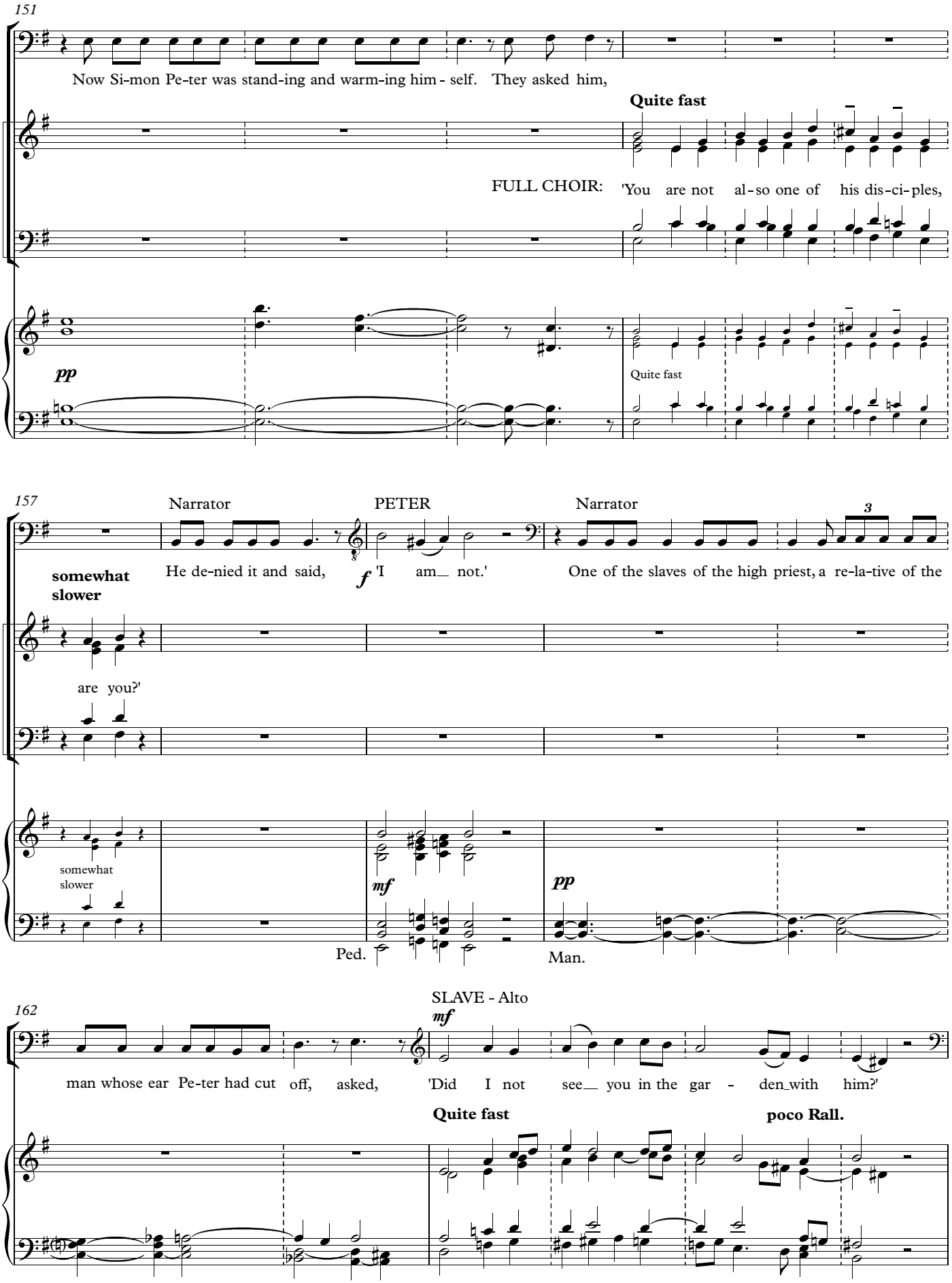
Narrator

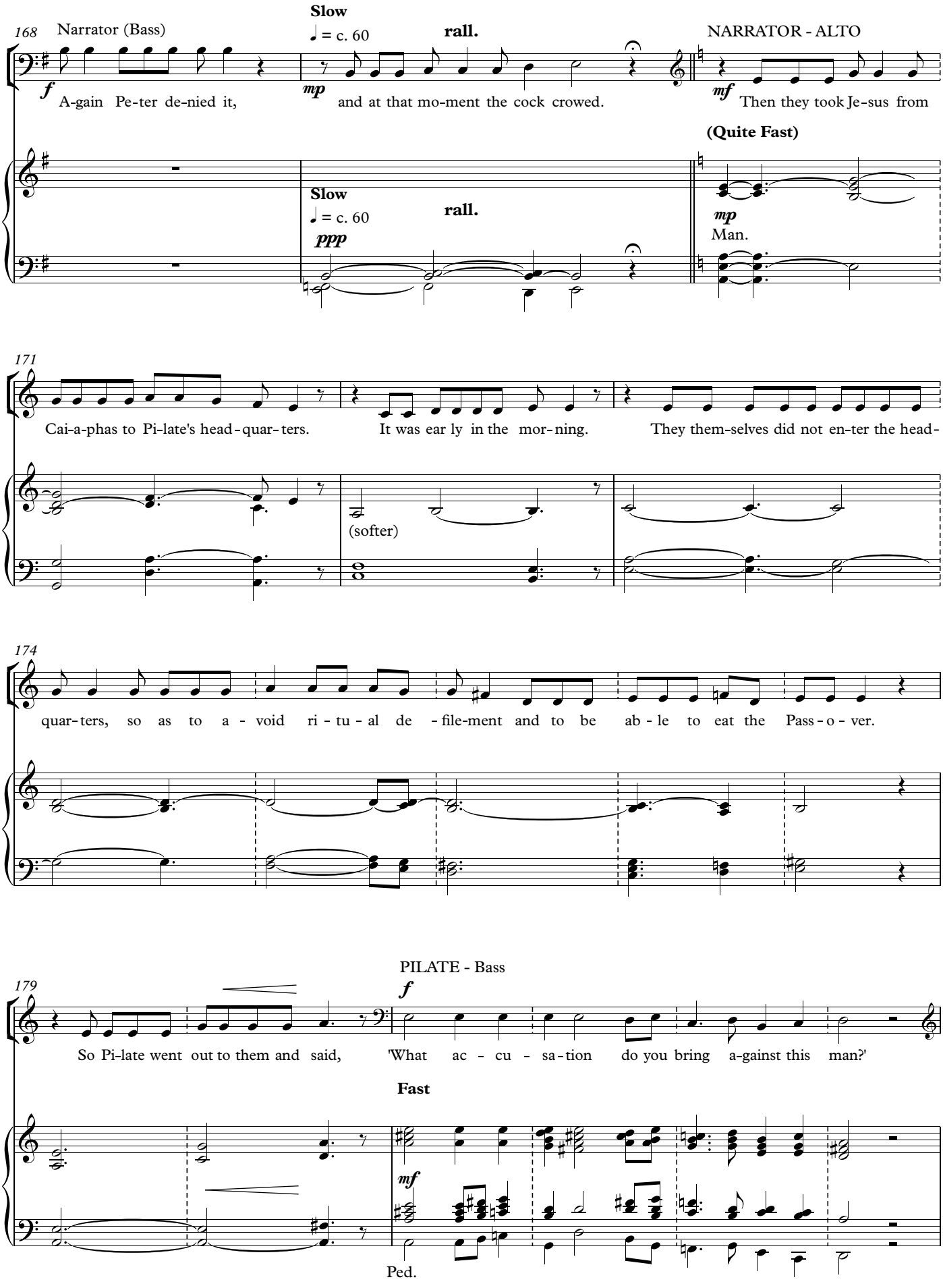
why do you strike me?' Then An-nas sent him bound to Cai-a-phas the high priest.

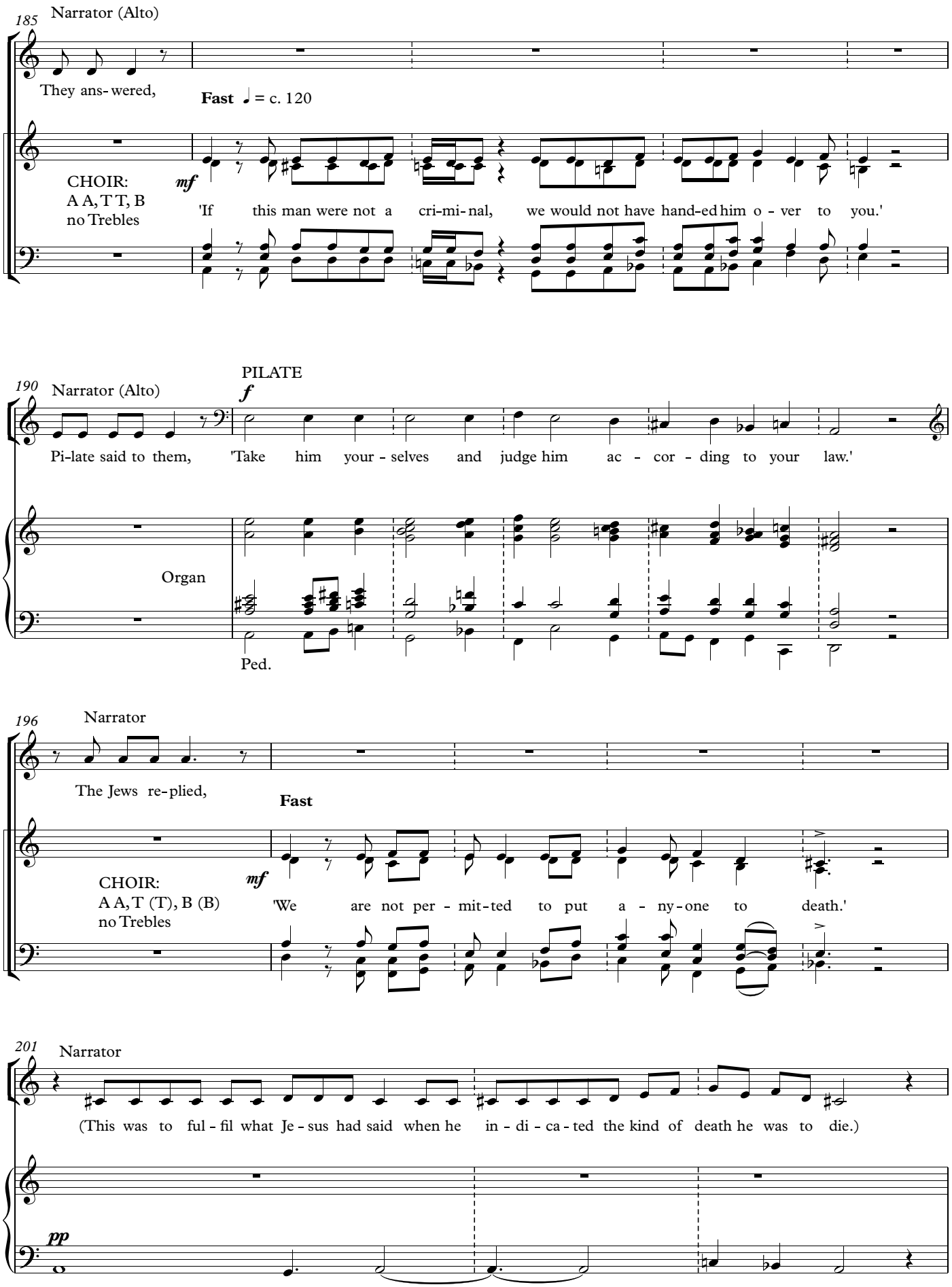
rall.

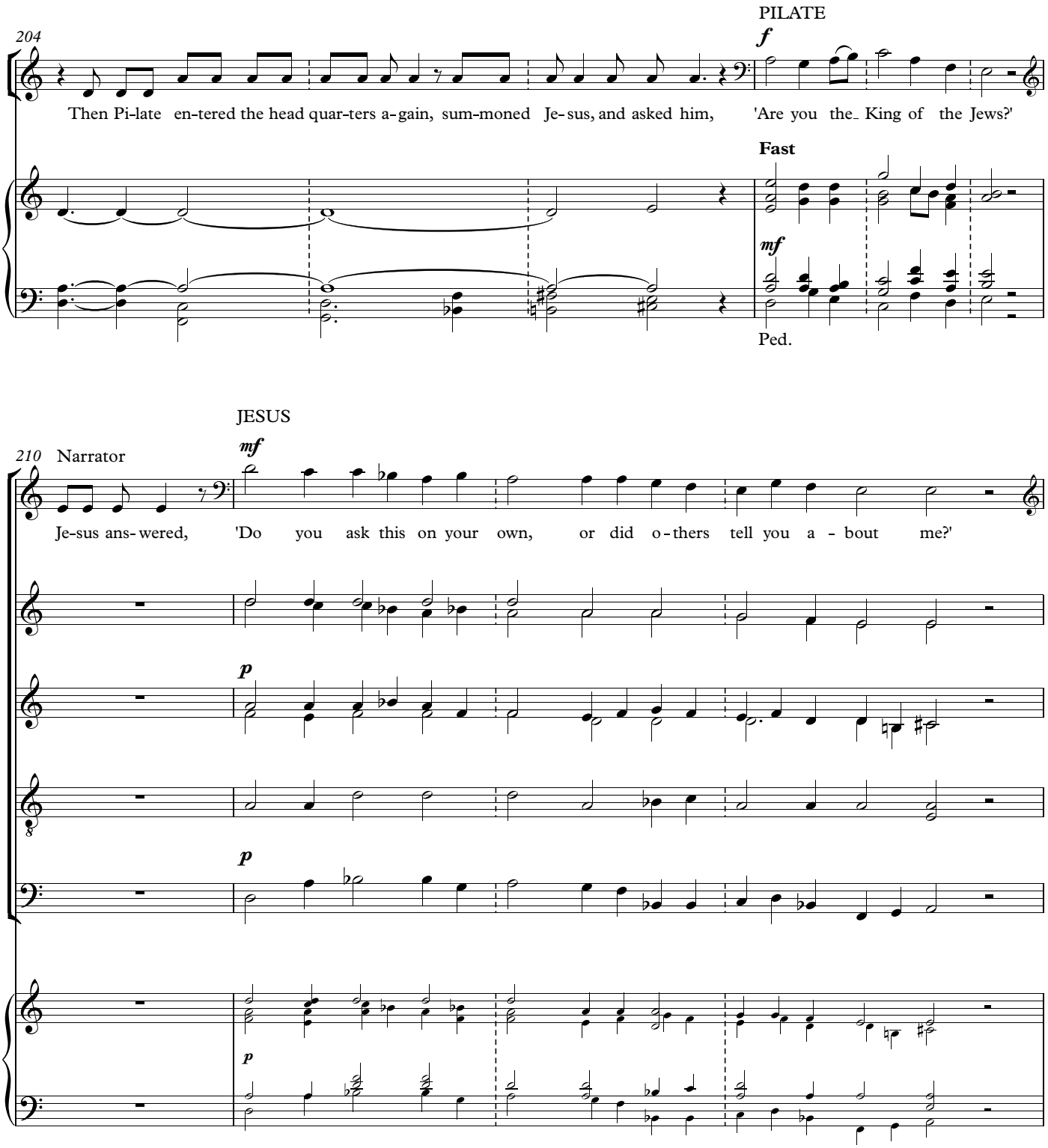
rall.

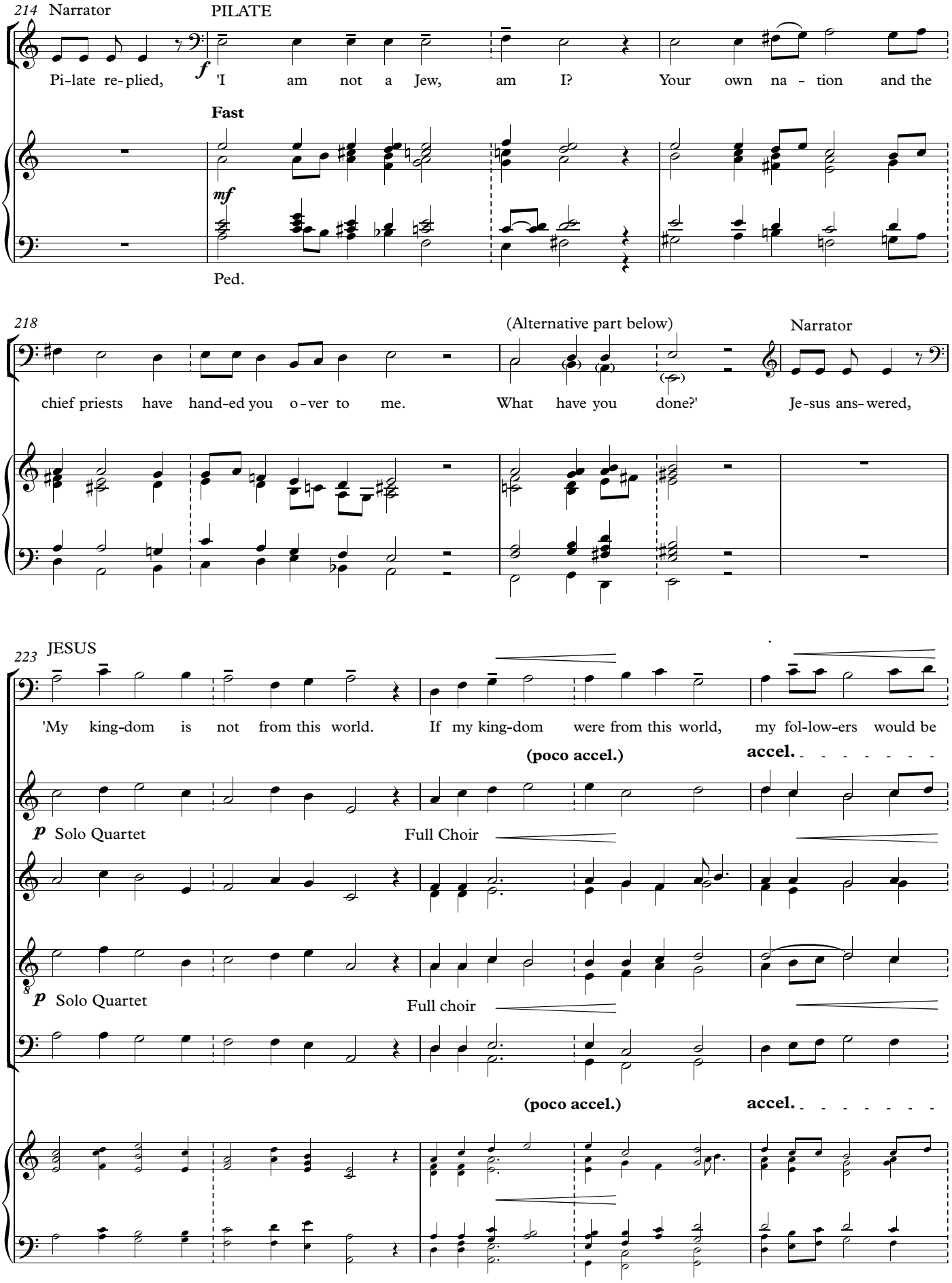
Man.

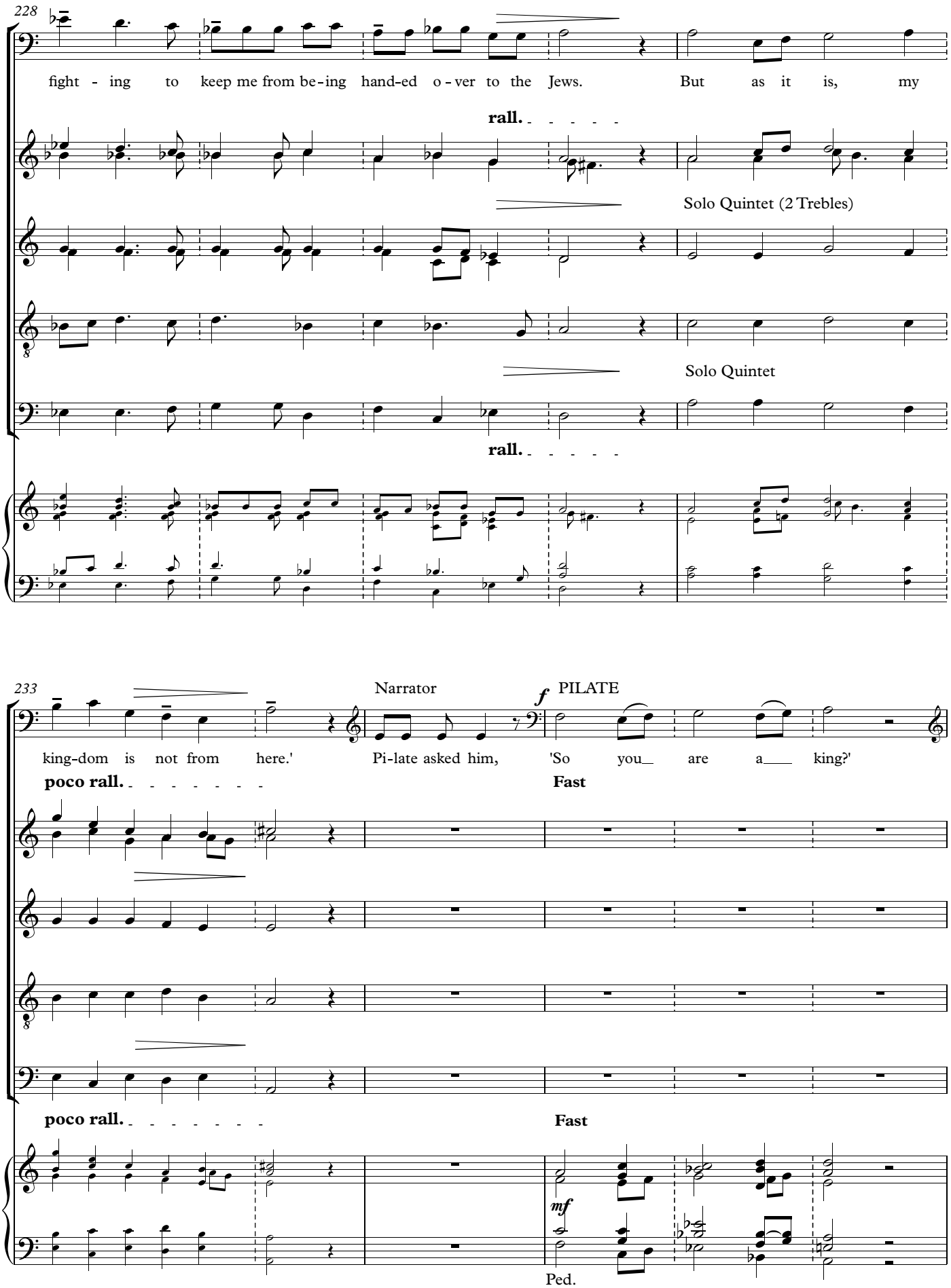

151
Now Si-mon Pe-ter was stand-ing and warm-ing him - self. They asked him,
Quite fast
FULL CHOIR: 'You are not al-so one of his dis-ci-ples,
pp
Quite fast
157
Narrator
PETER
Narrator
3
somewhat slower
He de-nied it and said,
f
'I am_ not.'
One of the slaves of the high priest, a re-la-tive of the
are you?'
somewhat slower
mf
pp
Ped.
Man.
162
SLAVE - Alto
mf
man whose ear Pe-ter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see_ you in the gar - den_with him?'
Quite fast
poco Rall.

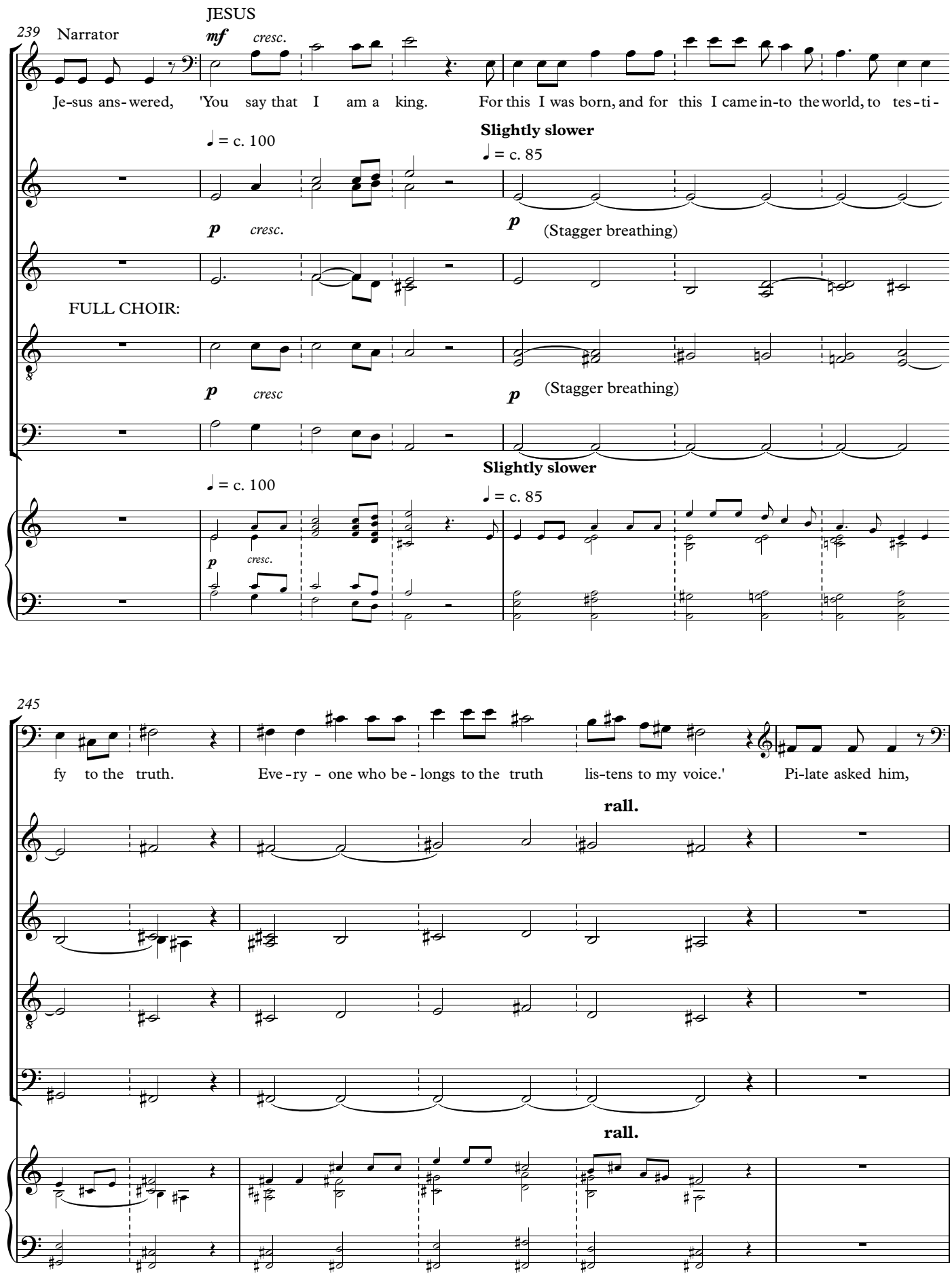

168
Narrator (Bass)
Slow
♩ = c. 60
rall.
NARRATOR - ALTO
f
A-gain Pe-ter de-nied it,
mp
and at that mo-ment the cock crowed.
mf
Then they took Je-sus from
(Quite Fast)
Slow
♩ = c. 60
rall.
ppp
mp
Man.
171
Cai-a-phas to Pi-late's head-quar-ters.
It was ear ly in the mor-ning.
They them-selves did not en-ter the head-
(softer)
174
quar-ters, so as to a - void ri - tu - al de - file-ment and to be ab - le to eat the Pass - o - ver.
PILATE - Bass
179
f
So Pi-late went out to them and said,
'What ac - cu - sa - tion do you bring a-gainst this man?'
Fast
mf
Ped.

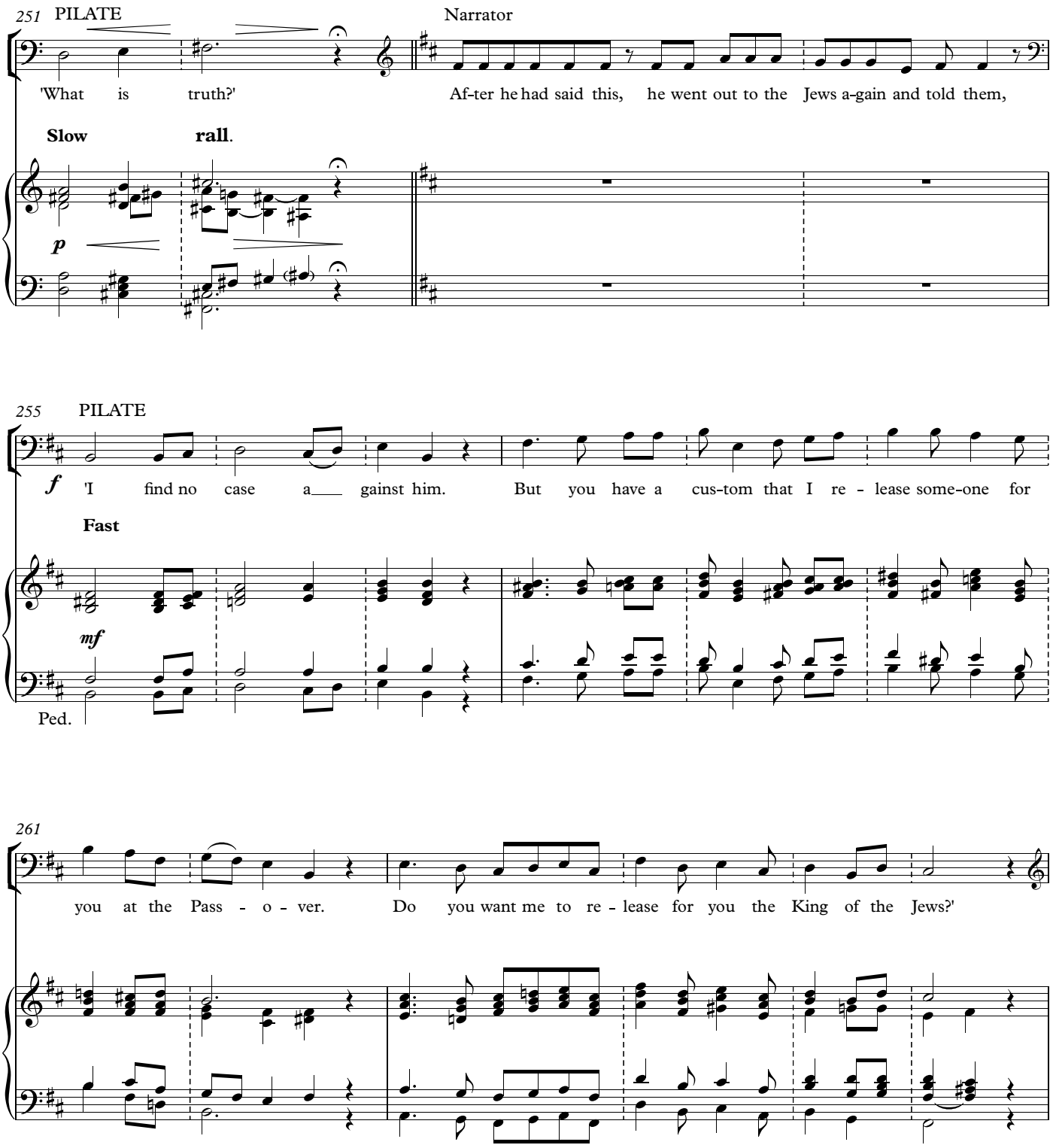

185
Narrator (Alto)
They ans- wered,
Fast ♩ = c. 120
CHOIR:
A A, T T, B
no Trebles
mf
'If this man were not a cri- mi- nal, we would not have hand-ed him o - ver to you.'
190
Narrator (Alto)
PILATE
f
Pi-late said to them, 'Take him your - selves and judge him ac - cor - ding to your law.'
Organ
Ped.
196
Narrator
The Jews re- plied,
Fast
CHOIR:
A A, T (T), B (B)
no Trebles
mf
'We are not per - mit- ted to put a - ny- one to death.'
201
Narrator
(This was to ful - fil what Je - sus had said when he in - di - ca - ted the kind of death he was to die.)
pp

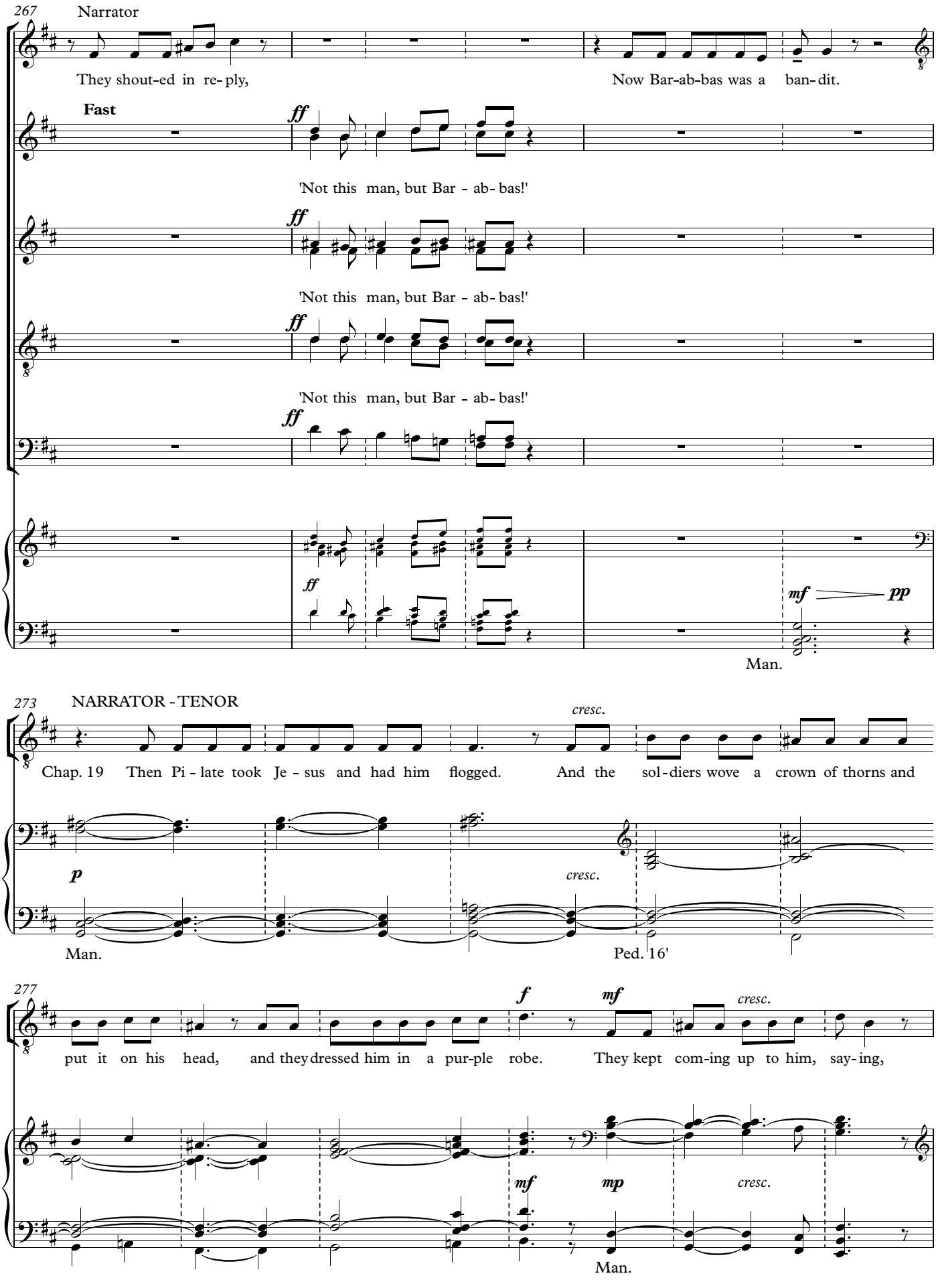

204
PILATE
f
Then Pi-late en-tered the head quar-ters a-gain, sum-moned Je-sus, and asked him, 'Are you the_ King of the Jews?'
Fast
mf
Ped.
JESUS
210 Narrator
mf
Je-sus ans-wered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did o-thers tell you a - bout me?'
p
p
p

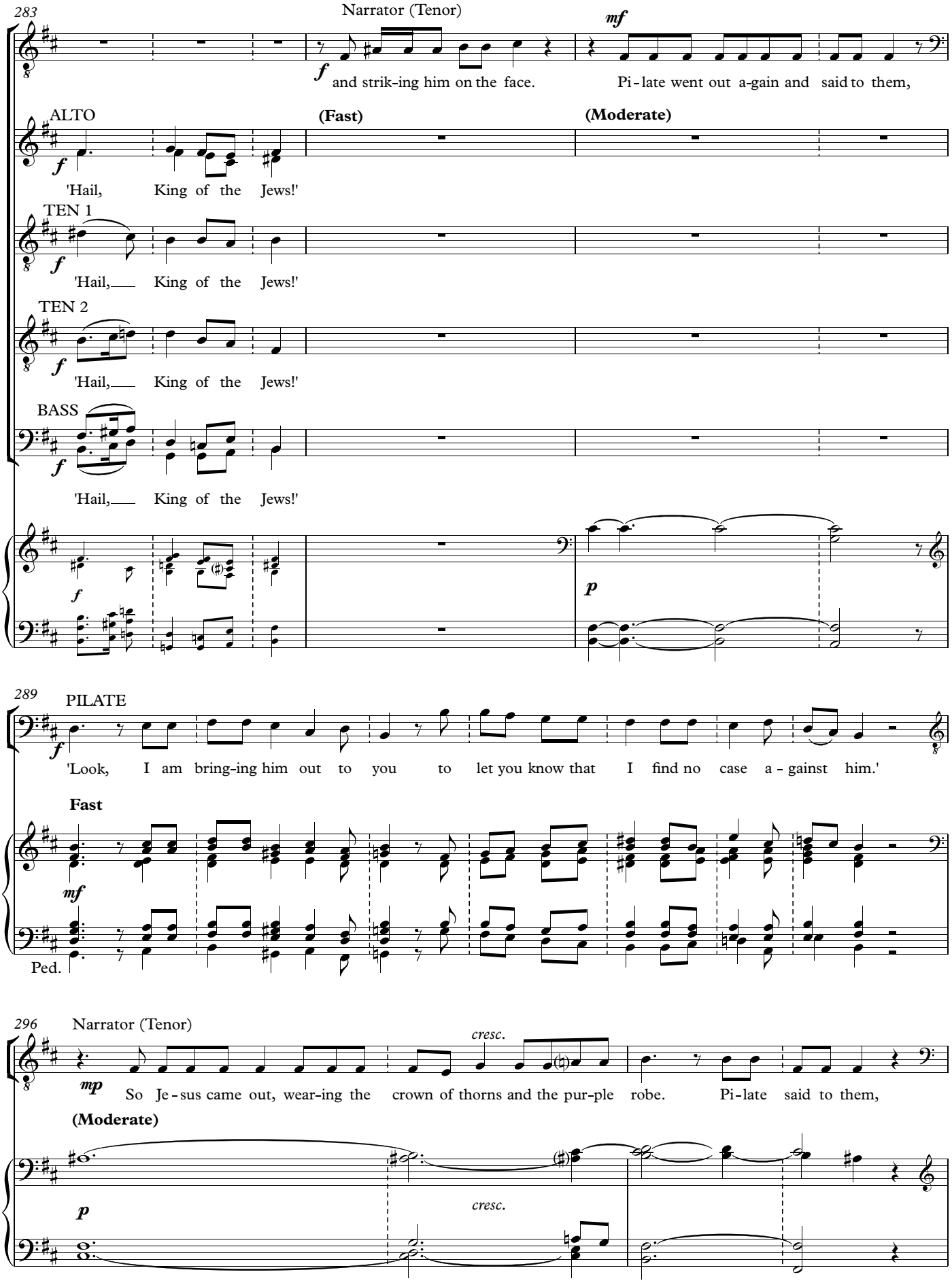

214
Narrator
PILATE
Pi-late re-plied,
'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own na - tion and the
Fast
Ped.
218
(Alternative part below)
Narrator
chief priests have hand-ed you o-ver to me.
What have you done?'
Je-sus ans-wered,
223
JESUS
'My king-dom is not from this world.
If my king-dom were from this world, my fol-low-ers would be
(poco accel.)
accel.
Solo Quartet
Full Choir
Solo Quartet
Full choir
(poco accel.)
accel.

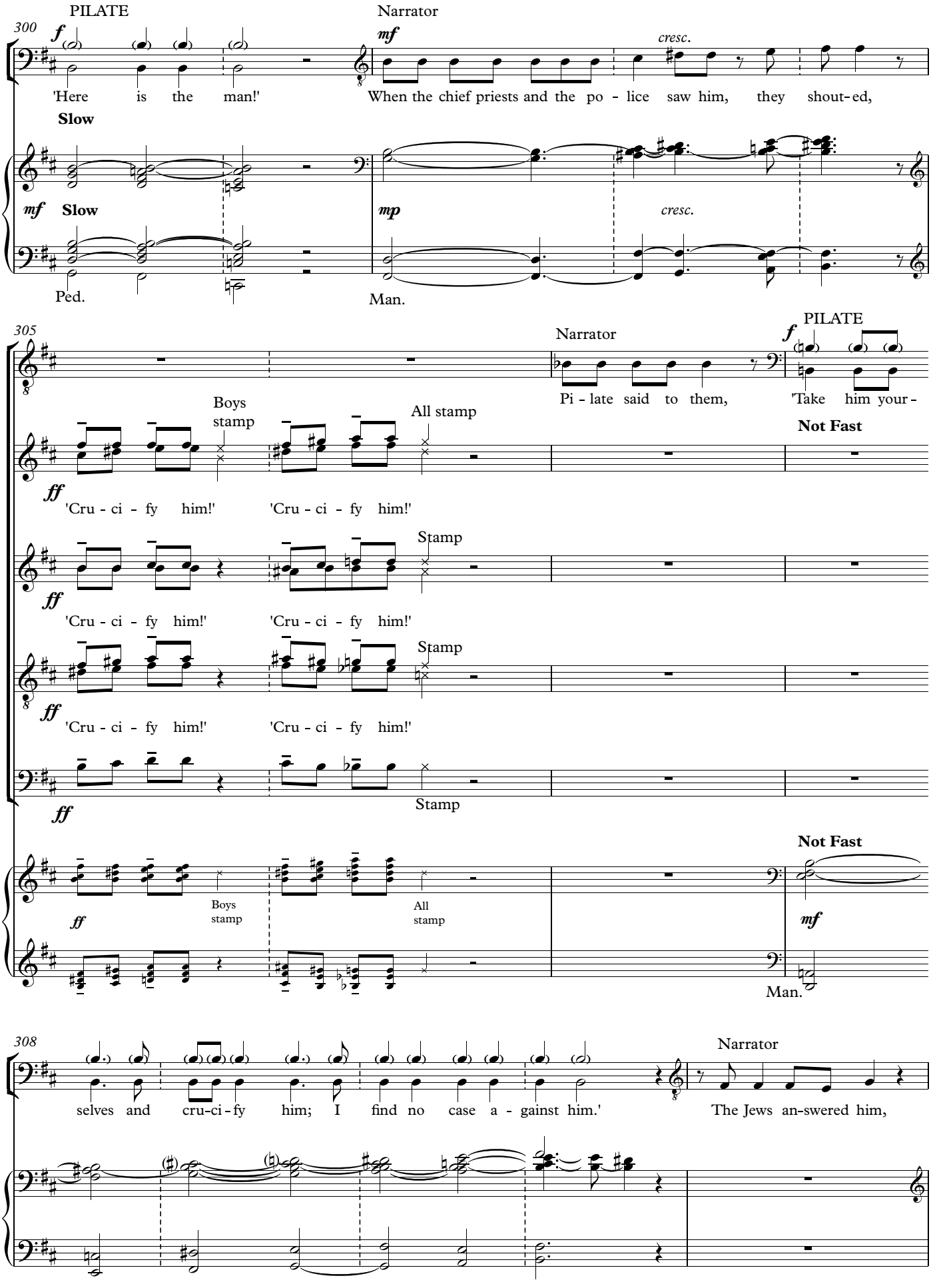

228
fight - ing to keep me from be-ing hand-ed o-ver to the Jews. But as it is, my
rall.
Solo Quintet (2 Trebles)
Solo Quintet
rall.
233
Narrator
king-dom is not from here.' Pi-late asked him,
f
PILATE
'So you_ are a___ king?'
poco rall.
Fast
poco rall.
Fast
mf
Ped.


239
Narrator
JESUS
mf
cresc.
Je-sus ans-wered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came in-to the world, to tes-ti-
♩ = c. 100
Slightly slower
♩ = c. 85
p
cresc.
p
(Stagger breathing)
FULL CHOIR:
p
cresc
p
(Stagger breathing)
Slightly slower
♩ = c. 100
♩ = c. 85
p
cresc.
245
fy to the truth. Eve-ry - one who be-longs to the truth lis-tens to my voice.' Pi-late asked him,
rall.
rall.


251
PILATE
Narrator
'What is truth?'
Af-ter he had said this, he went out to the Jews a-gain and told them,
Slow
rall.
p
255
PILATE
f
'I find no case a___ gainst him.
But you have a cus-tom that I re - lease some-one for
Fast
mf
Ped.
261
you at the Pass - o - ver.
Do you want me to re - lease for you the King of the Jews?'


267
Narrator
They shout-ed in re- ply,
Now Bar-ab-bas was a ban- dit.
Fast
ff
'Not this man, but Bar - ab- bas!'
'Not this man, but Bar - ab- bas!'
'Not this man, but Bar - ab- bas!'
mf
pp
Man.
273
NARRATOR - TENOR
cresc.
Chap. 19 Then Pi - late took Je - sus and had him flogged. And the sol - diers wove a crown of thorns and
p
Man.
Ped. 16'
277
f
mf
put it on his head, and they dressed him in a pur-ple robe. They kept com-ing up to him, say- ing,
mp
Man.


283
Narrator (Tenor)
mf
f
and strik-ing him on the face.
Pi-late went out a-gain and said to them,
ALTO
(Fast)
(Moderate)
f
'Hail, King of the Jews!'
TEN 1
f
'Hail, King of the Jews!'
TEN 2
f
'Hail, King of the Jews!'
BASS
f
'Hail, King of the Jews!'
f
p
289
PILATE
f
'Look, I am bring-ing him out to you to let you know that I find no case a-gainst him.'
Fast
mf
Ped.
296
Narrator (Tenor)
cresc.
mp
So Je-sus came out, wear-ing the crown of thorns and the pur-ple robe.
Pi-late said to them,
(Moderate)
p
cresc.


PILATE
Narrator
300
f
mf
cresc.
'Here is the man!'
When the chief priests and the po - lice saw him, they shout-ed,
Slow
mf
Slow
mp
cresc.
Ped.
Man.
305
Narrator
PILATE
f
Pi - late said to them,
'Take him your -
Boys stamp
All stamp
Not Fast
ff
'Cru - ci - fy him!'
'Cru - ci - fy him!'
Stamp
Stamp
Stamp
Boys stamp
All stamp
Not Fast
mf
Man.
308
Narrator
selves and cru-ci-fy him; I find no case a - gainst him.'
The Jews an-swered him,

Fast ♩ = c. 135

313

ALTO 1

mf

'We have a law, and ac - cord-ing to that law he ought to die be - cause he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

cresc.

ALTO 2

mf

'We have a law, and ac - cord-ing to that law he ought to die be - cause he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

cresc.

TENOR

mf

'We have a law, and ac - cord-ing to that law he ought to die be - cause he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

cresc.

BASS

mf

'We have a law, and ac - cord-ing to that law he ought to die be - cause he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

cresc.

Fast ♩ = c. 135

mf

cresc.

321

Narrator

Now when Pi-late heard this, he was more af-raid than e-ver. He en - tered his head quar - ters a gain and asked Je-sus,

Quite Slow

pp

Man.

327

PILATE

'Where are you from?'

Narrator

But Je - sus gave him no ans - wer.

cresc.

Pi-late there-fore said to him,

Slower

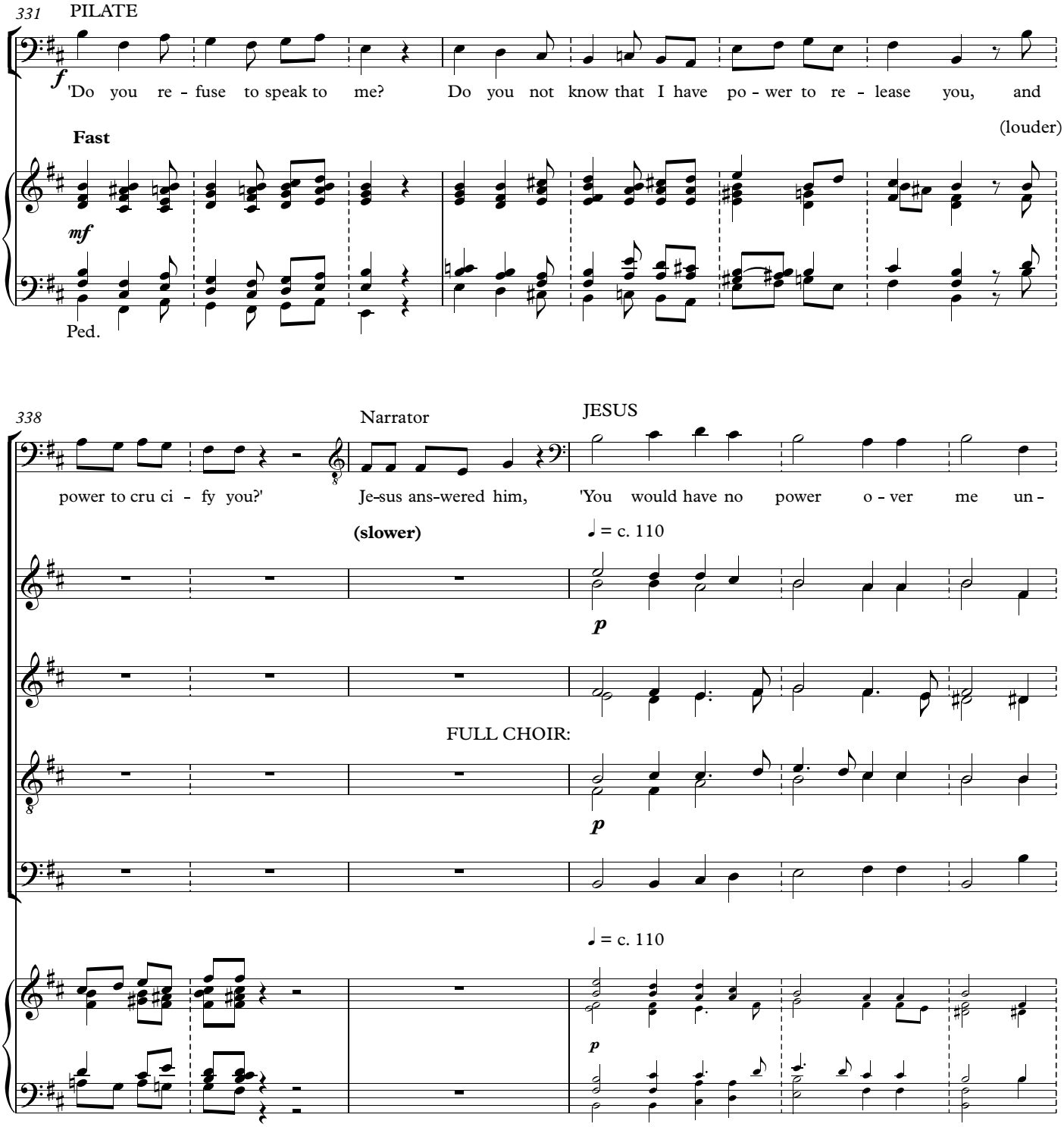
(Somewhat faster)

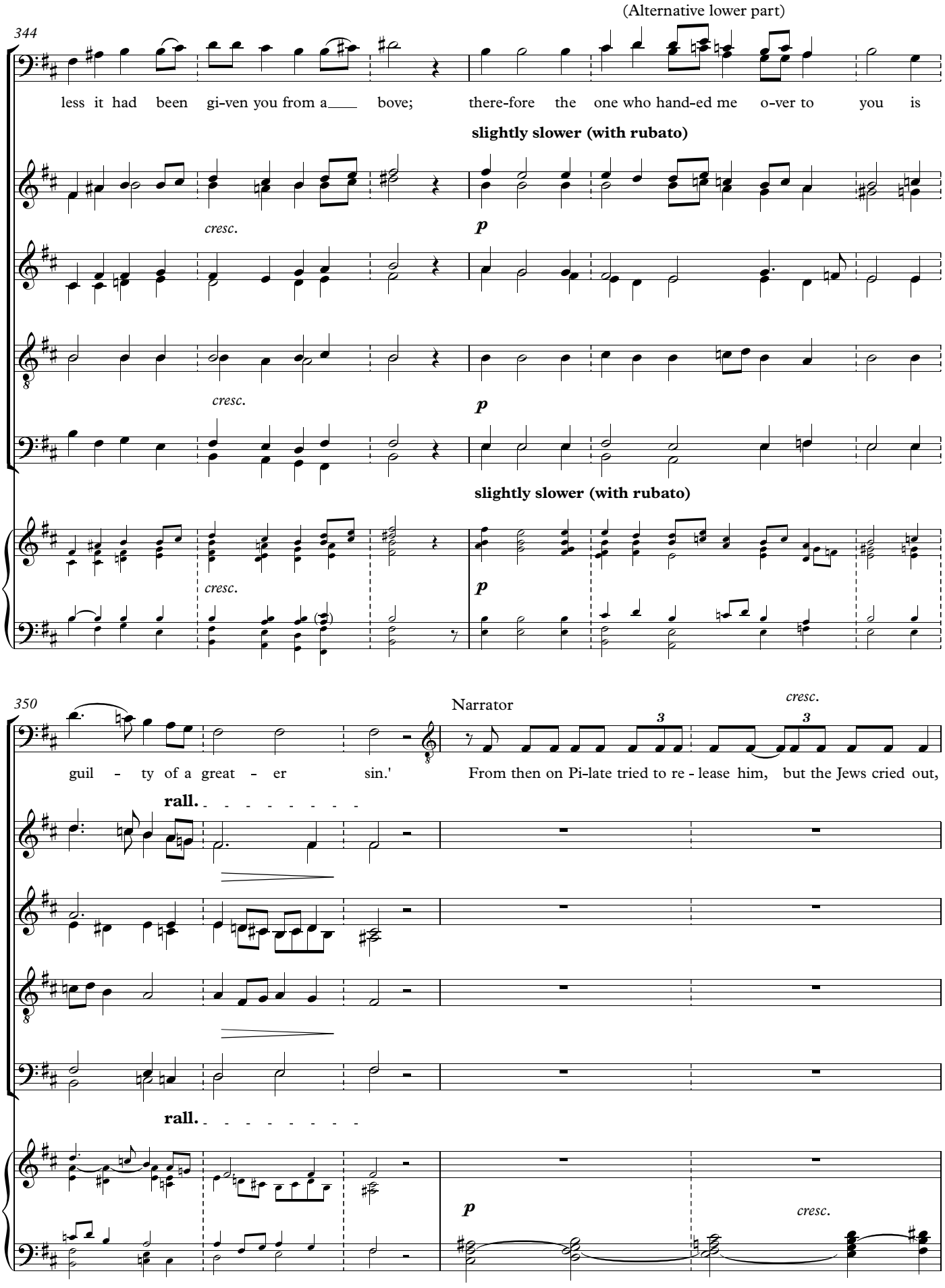
pp

mp

Ped. 16'

Man.


331
PILATE
f
'Do you re - fuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have po - wer to re - lease you, and
Fast
(louder)
mf
Ped.
338
Narrator
JESUS
power to cru ci - fy you?' Je-sus ans-wered him, 'You would have no power o - ver me un -
(slower)
♩ = c. 110
p
FULL CHOIR:
p
♩ = c. 110
p


(Alternative lower part)
344
less it had been gi-ven you from a bove; there-fore the one who hand-ed me o-ver to you is
slightly slower (with rubato)
cresc.
p
cresc.
p
slightly slower (with rubato)
cresc.
p
350
Narrator
cresc.
guil - ty of a great - er sin.' From then on Pi-late tried to re - lease him, but the Jews cried out,
rall.
rall.
p
cresc.

FULL CHOIR:

355

Fast

f

'If you re-lease this man, you are no friend of the em - pe - ror. Ev - ery-one who claims to be a king

Fast

f

'If you re-lease this man, you are no friend of the em - pe - ror. Ev - ery-one who claims to be a king

Fast

f

362

Narrator

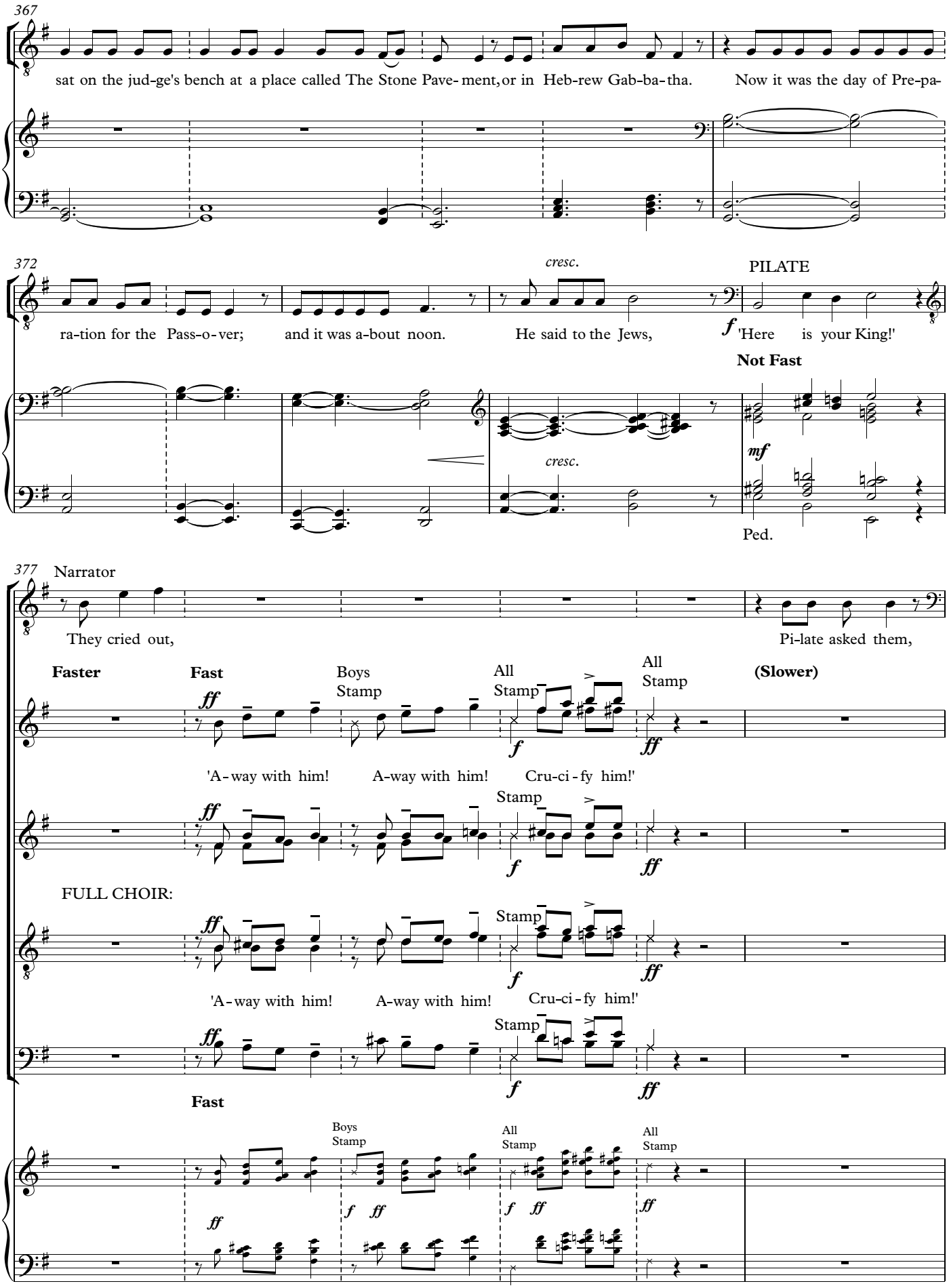
When Pi - late heard these words, he brought Je-sus out - side and

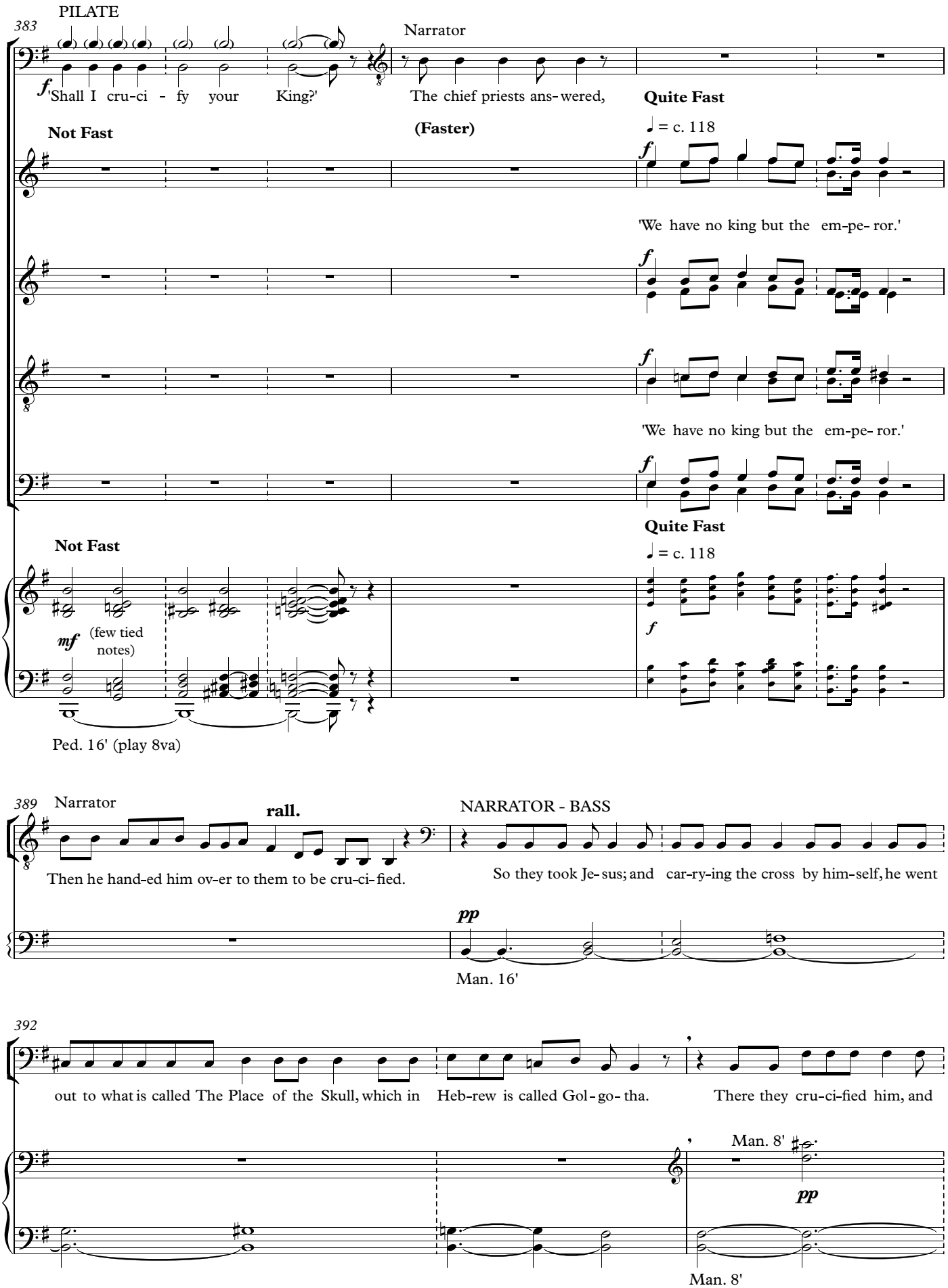
sets him-self a-gainst the em-pe- ror.'

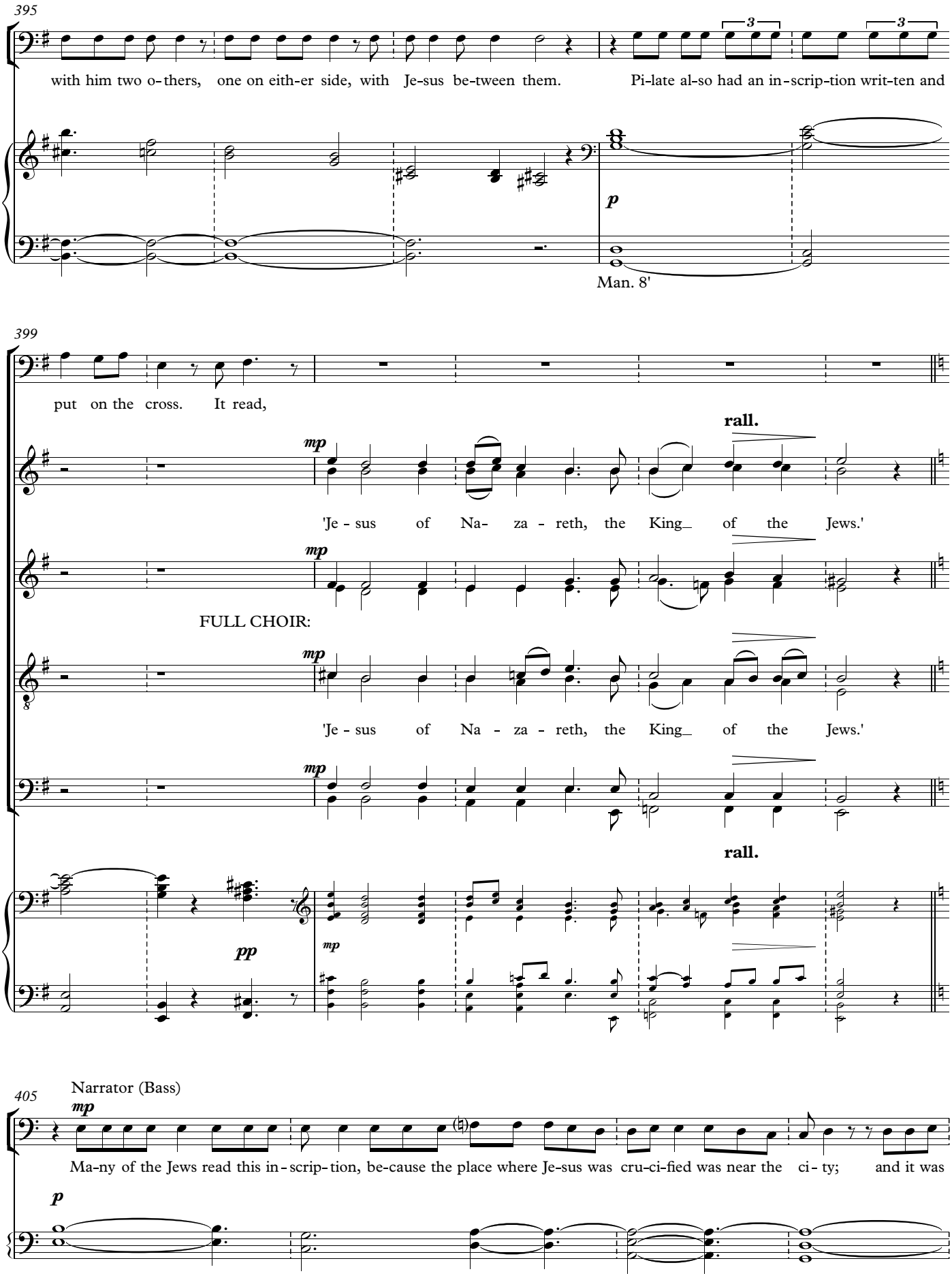
sets him-self a-gainst the em-pe- ror.'

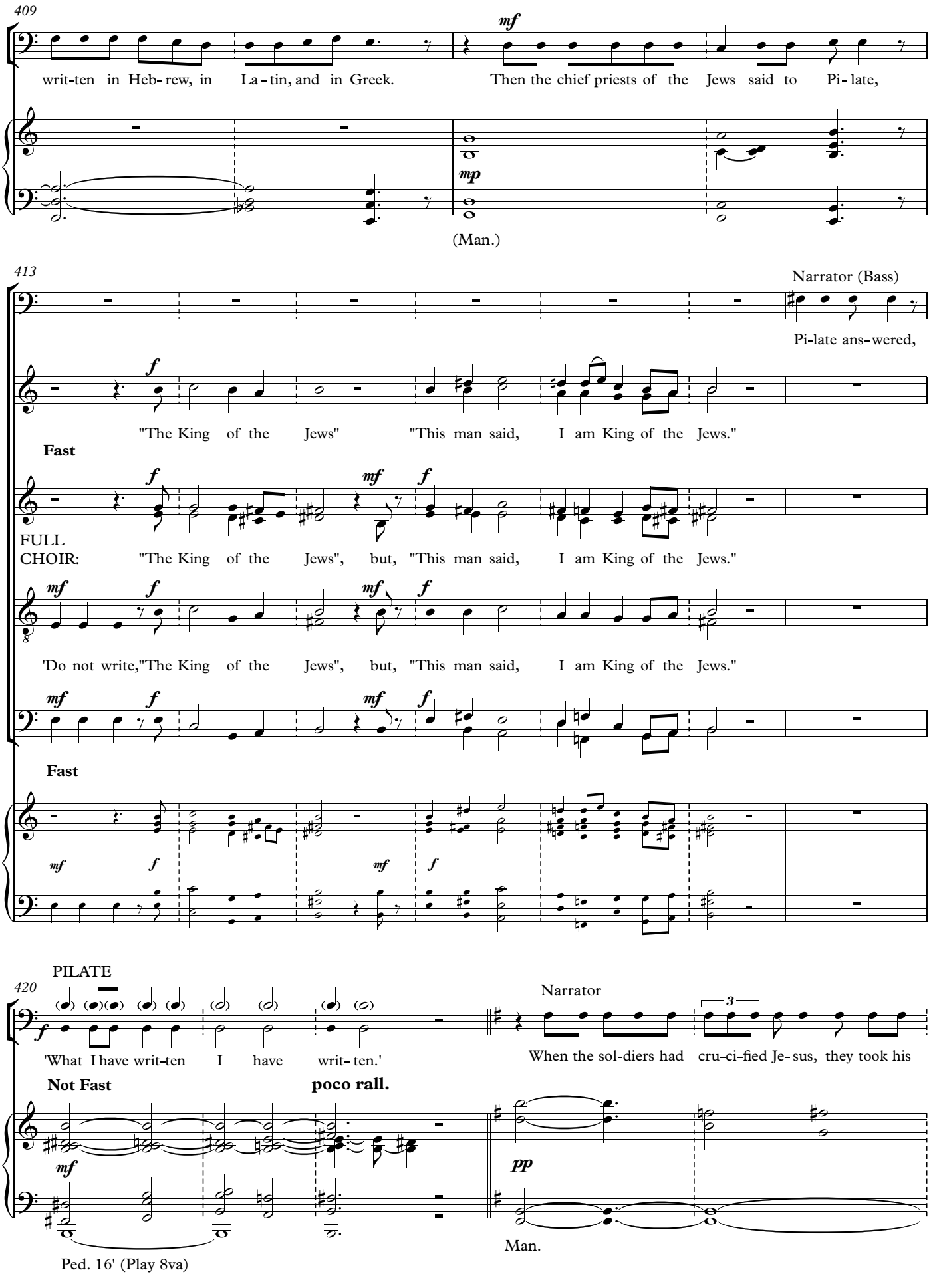
p

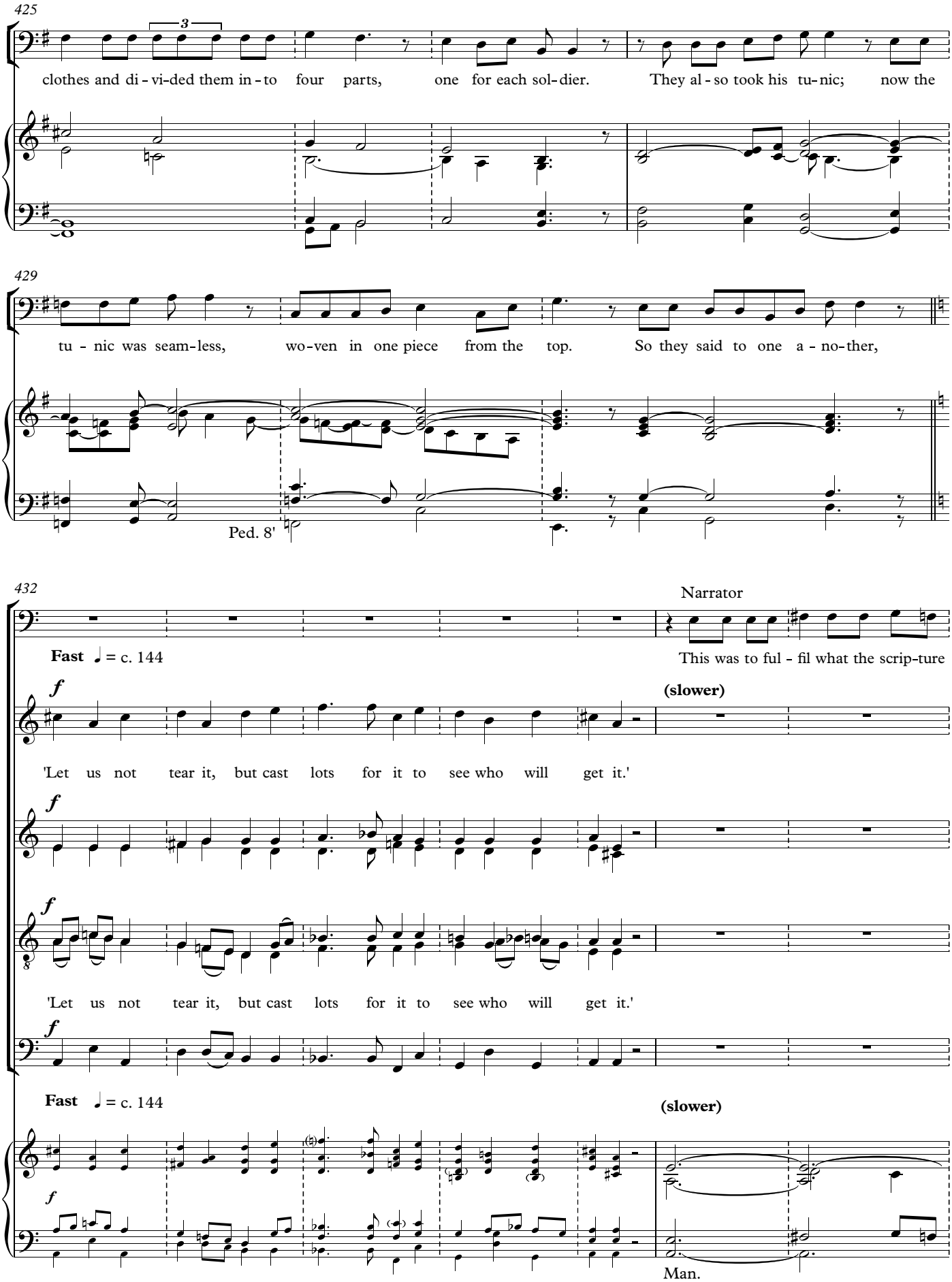
Man.

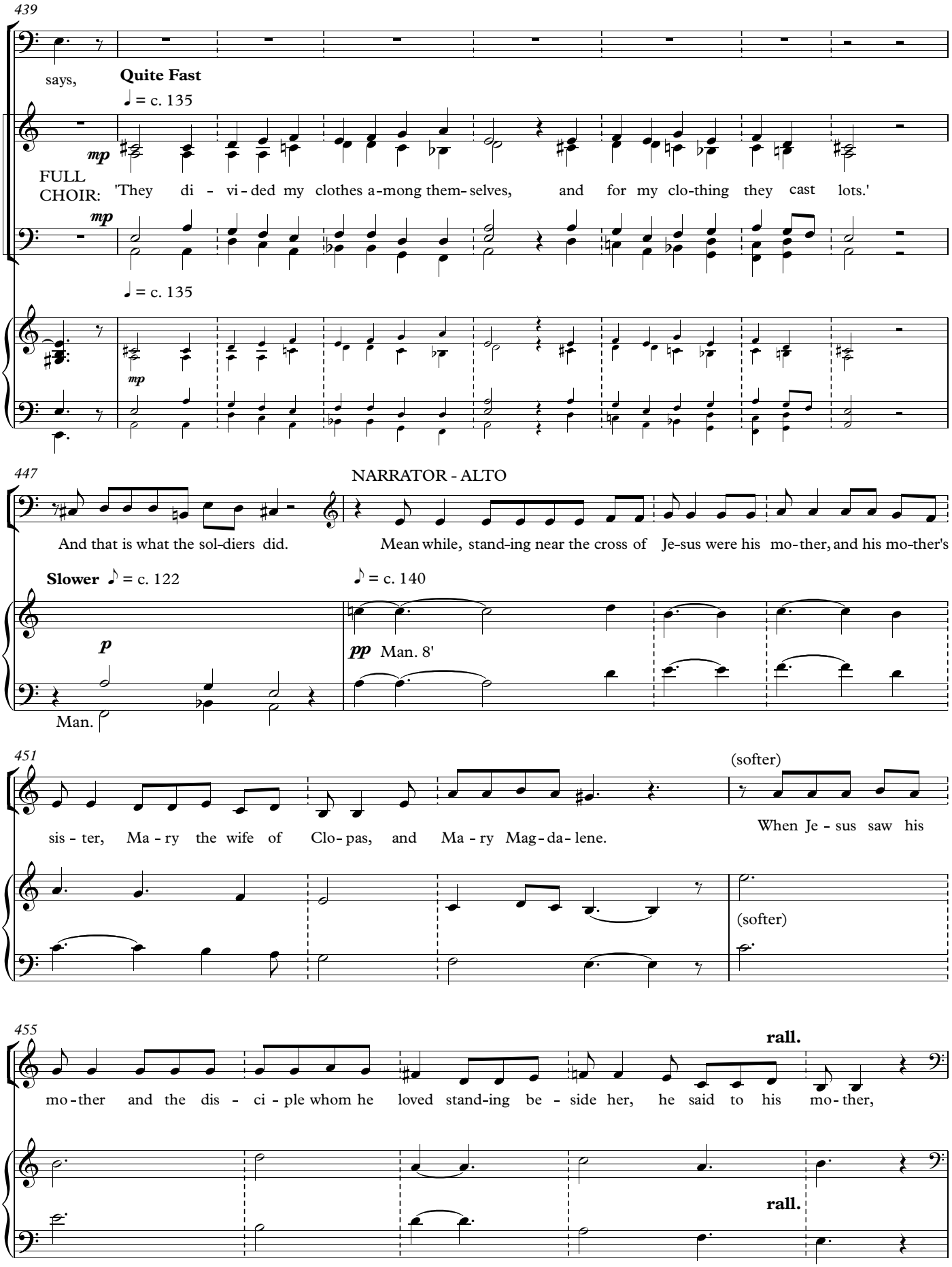

367
sat on the jud-ge's bench at a place called The Stone Pave-ment, or in Heb-rew Gab-ba-tha. Now it was the day of Pre-pa-
372
ra-tion for the Pass-o-ver; and it was a-bout noon. He said to the Jews,
cresc.
PILATE
'Here is your King!'
Not Fast
mf
cresc.
Ped.
377
Narrator
They cried out,
Pi-late asked them,
Faster
Fast
(Slower)
Boys Stamp
All Stamp
All Stamp
'A-way with him! A-way with him! Cru-ci-fy him!'
FULL CHOIR:
'A-way with him! A-way with him! Cru-ci-fy him!'
Fast
Boys Stamp
All Stamp
All Stamp

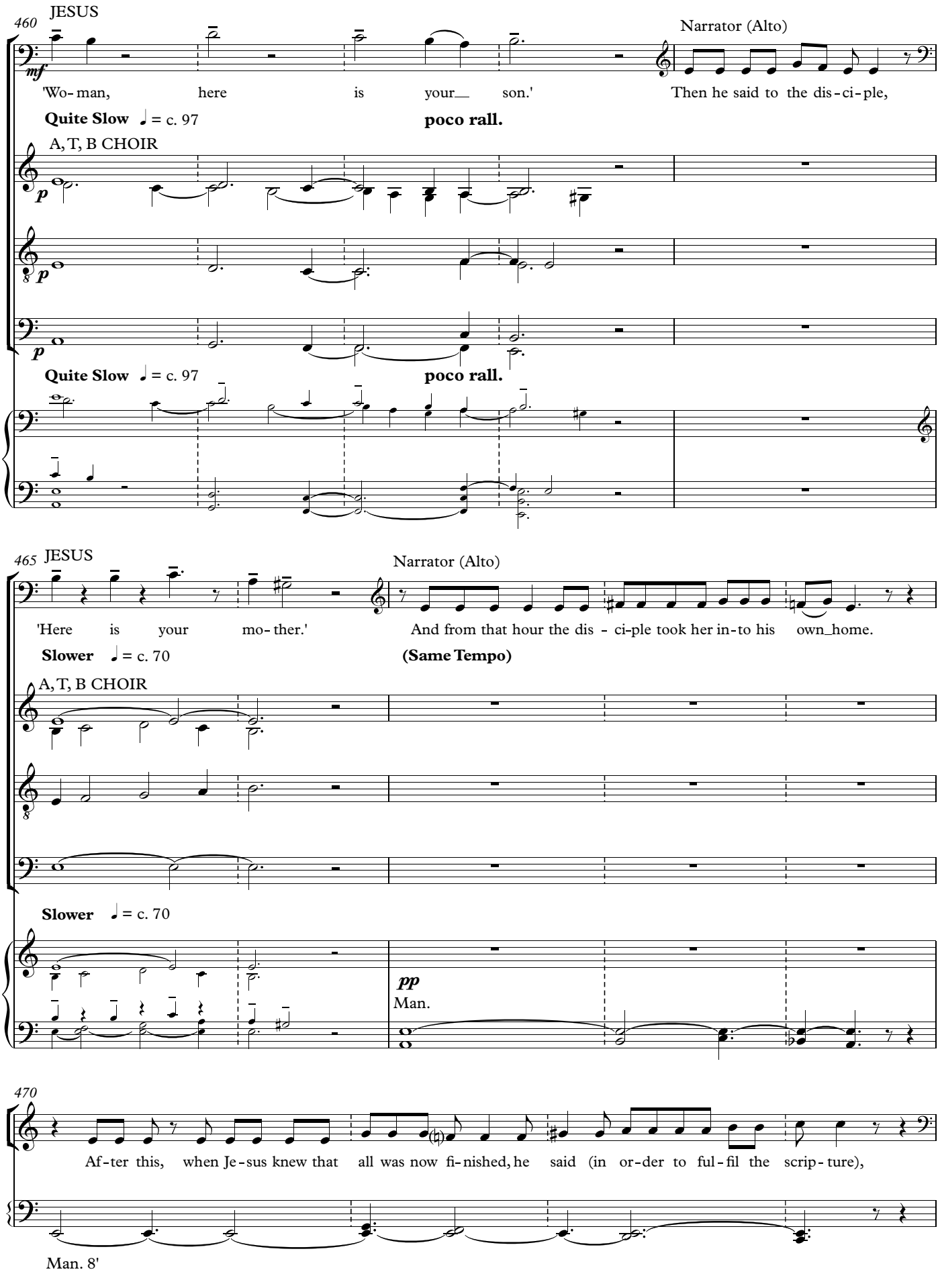

PILATE
383
'Shall I cru-ci - fy your King?'
Narrator
The chief priests ans-wered,
Quite Fast
Not Fast
(Faster)
♩ = c. 118
'We have no king but the em-pe- ror.'
'We have no king but the em-pe- ror.'
Quite Fast
Not Fast
♩ = c. 118
mf
(few tied notes)
Ped. 16' (play 8va)
389
Narrator
rall.
Then he hand-ed him ov-er to them to be cru-ci-fied.
NARRATOR - BASS
So they took Je-sus; and car-ry-ing the cross by him-self, he went
pp
Man. 16'
392
out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Heb-rew is called Gol-go-tha.
There they cru-ci-fied him, and
Man. 8'
pp
Man. 8'

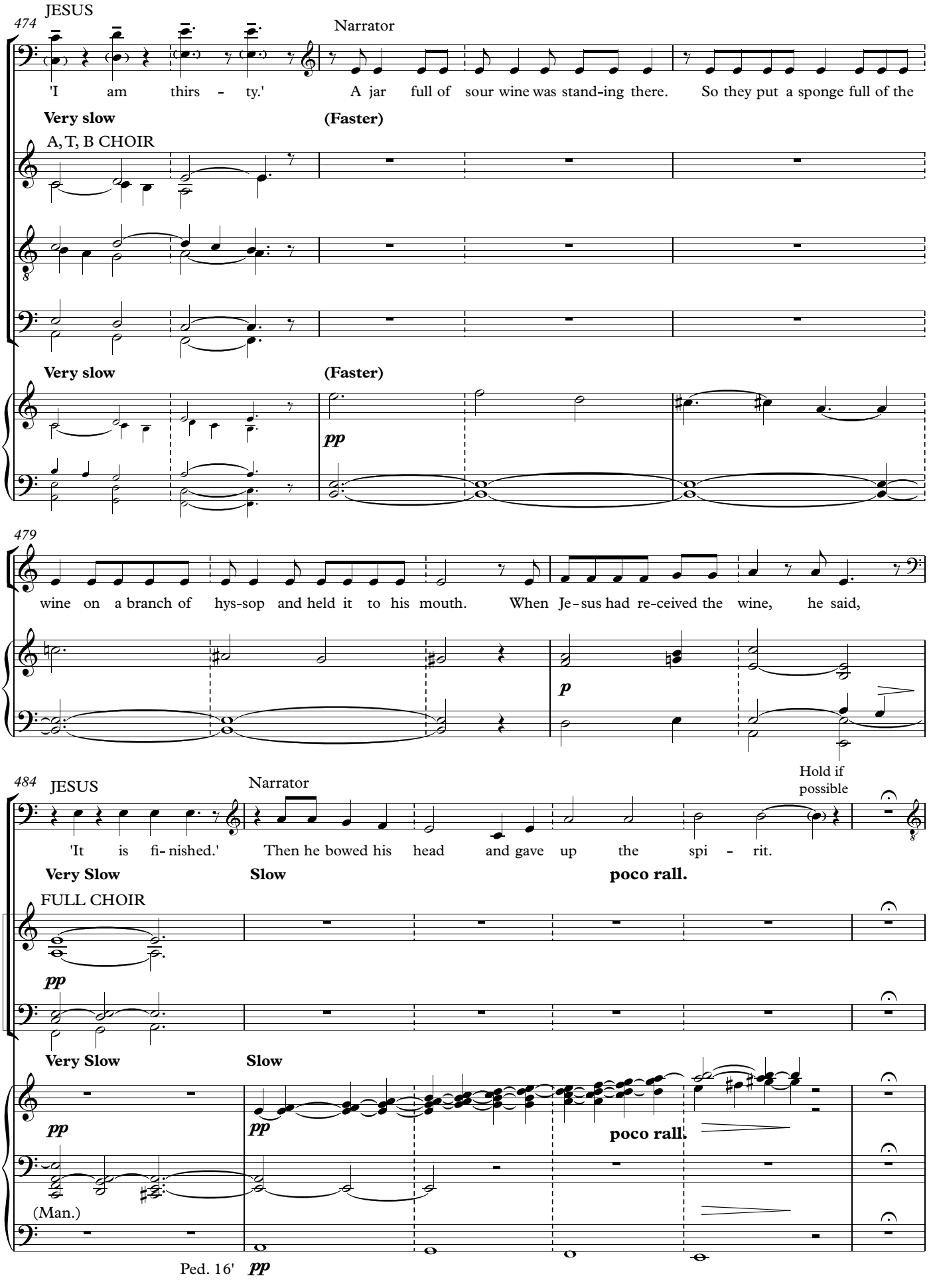

395
with him two o-thers, one on eith-er side, with Je-sus be-tween them. Pi-late al-so had an in-scrip-tion writ-ten and
p
Man. 8'
399
put on the cross. It read,
rall.
mp
'Je - sus of Na- za - reth, the King_ of the Jews.'
mp
FULL CHOIR:
mp
'Je - sus of Na - za - reth, the King_ of the Jews.'
mp
rall.
pp
mp
405
Narrator (Bass)
mp
Ma-ny of the Jews read this in-scrip-tion, be-cause the place where Je-sus was cru-ci-fied was near the ci- ty; and it was
p

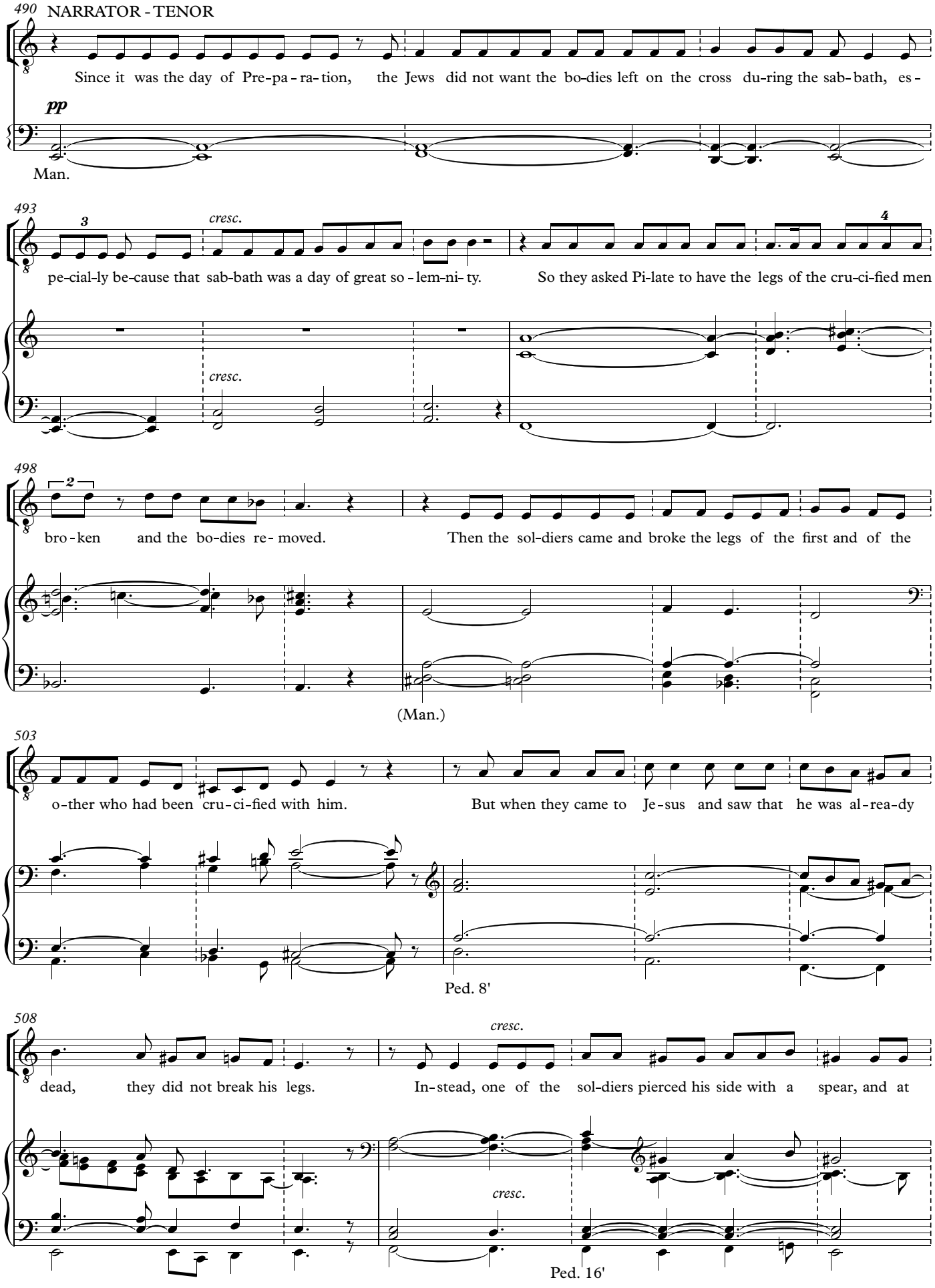

409
writ-ten in Heb-rew, in La-tin, and in Greek.
Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pi-late,
(Man.)
413
Narrator (Bass)
Pi-late ans-wered,
"The King of the Jews"
"This man said, I am King of the Jews."
Fast
FULL CHOIR:
"The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."
'Do not write,"The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."
Fast
PILATE
420
Narrator
'What I have writ-ten I have writ-ten.'
When the sol-diers had cru-ci-fied Je-sus, they took his
Not Fast
poco rall.
Ped. 16' (Play 8va)
Man.

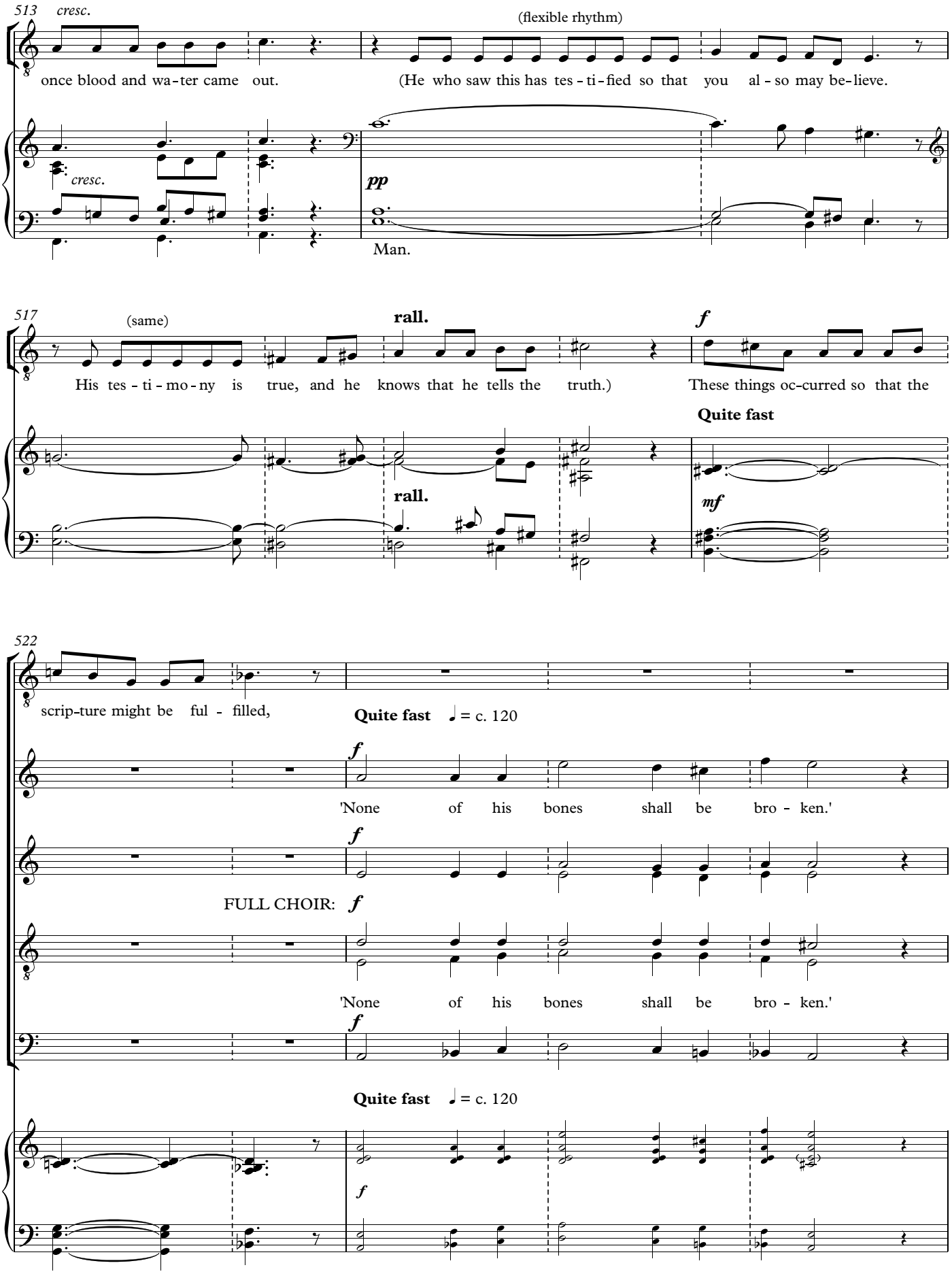

425
clothes and di - vi-ded them in - to four parts, one for each sol-dier. They al - so took his tu-nic; now the
429
tu - nic was seam-less, wo-ven in one piece from the top. So they said to one a - no-ther,
Ped. 8'
432
Narrator
Fast ♩ = c. 144
This was to ful - fil what the scrip-ture
f
(slower)
'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.'
f
f
'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.'
f
Fast ♩ = c. 144
(slower)
f
Man.

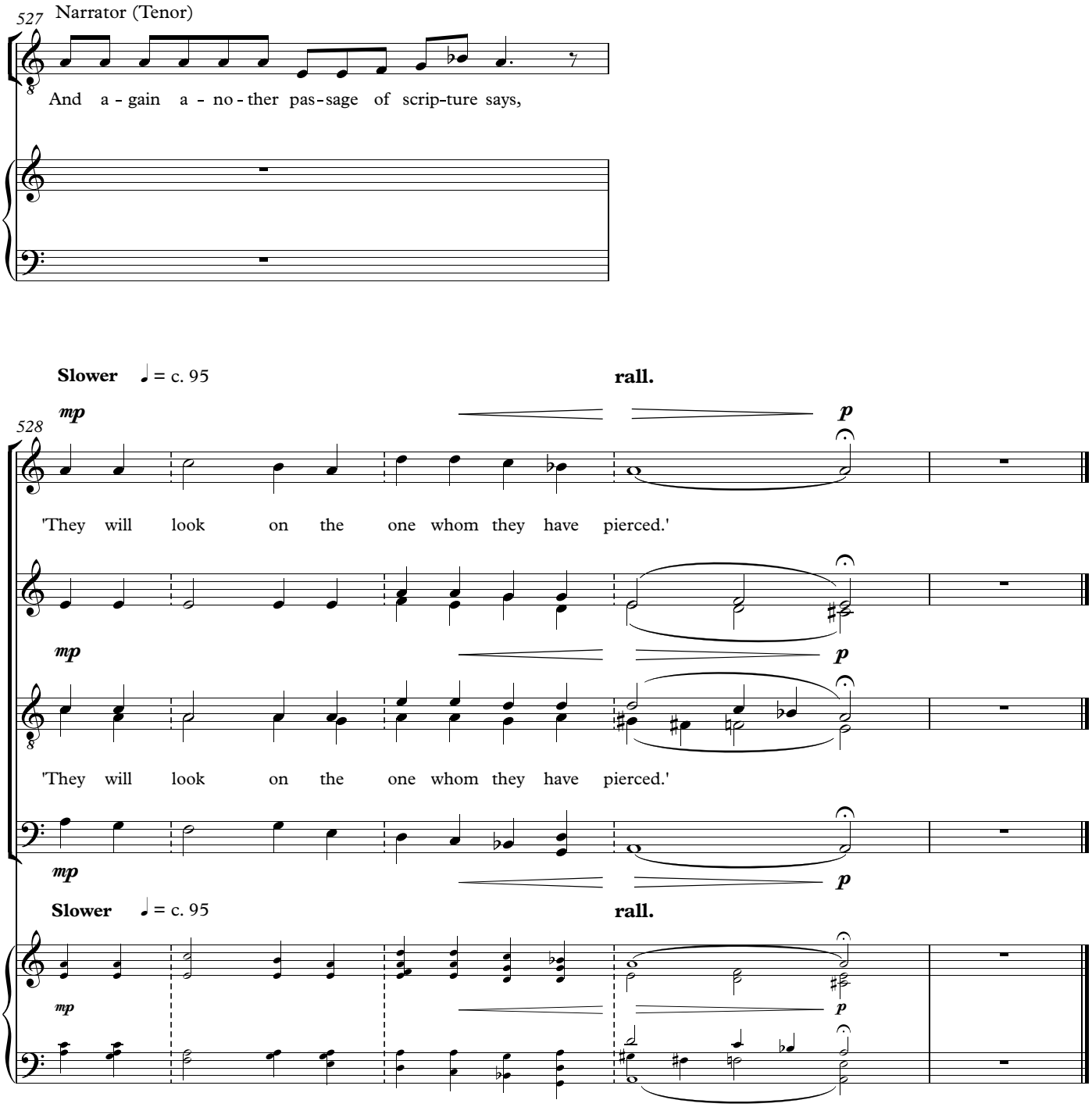

439
says,
Quite Fast
♩ = c. 135
mp
FULL CHOIR:
'They di - vi - ded my clothes a - mong them - selves, and for my clo - thing they cast lots.'
mp
♩ = c. 135
mp
447
NARRATOR - ALTO
And that is what the sol - diers did.
Mean while, stand - ing near the cross of Je - sus were his mo - ther, and his mo - ther's
Slower ♪ = c. 122
♪ = c. 140
p
pp Man. 8'
Man.
451
(softer)
sis - ter, Ma - ry the wife of Clo - pas, and Ma - ry Mag - da - lene.
When Je - sus saw his
(softer)
455
rall.
mo - ther and the dis - ci - ple whom he loved stand - ing be - side her, he said to his mo - ther,
rall.


460
JESUS
Narrator (Alto)
mf
'Wo- man, here is your son.'
Then he said to the dis - ci - ple,
Quite Slow ♩ = c. 97
poco rall.
A, T, B CHOIR
p
Quite Slow ♩ = c. 97
poco rall.
465
JESUS
Narrator (Alto)
'Here is your mo- ther.'
And from that hour the dis - ci-ple took her in - to his own_home.
Slower ♩ = c. 70
(Same Tempo)
A, T, B CHOIR
Slower ♩ = c. 70
pp
Man.
470
Af - ter this, when Je - sus knew that all was now fi - nished, he said (in or - der to ful - fil the scrip - ture),
Man. 8'


JESUS
474
Narrator
'I am thirs - ty.'
A jar full of sour wine was stand-ing there.
So they put a sponge full of the
Very slow
(Faster)
A, T, B CHOIR
Very slow
(Faster)
pp
479
wine on a branch of hys-sop and held it to his mouth.
When Je - sus had re-ceived the wine,
he said,
p
Hold if possible
484
JESUS
Narrator
'It is fi- nished.'
Then he bowed his head
and gave up the spi - rit.
Very Slow
Slow
poco rall.
FULL CHOIR
pp
Very Slow
Slow
pp
pp
poco rall.
(Man.)
Ped. 16'
pp


490
NARRATOR - TENOR
Since it was the day of Pre-pa-ra-tion, the Jews did not want the bo-dies left on the cross du-ring the sab-bath, es-
pp
Man.
493
3
cresc.
pe-cial-ly be-cause that sab-bath was a day of great so-lem-ni-ty.
So they asked Pi-late to have the legs of the cru-ci-fied men
4
cresc.
498
2
bro-ken and the bo-dies re-moved.
Then the sol-diers came and broke the legs of the first and of the
(Man.)
503
o-ther who had been cru-ci-fied with him.
But when they came to Je-sus and saw that he was al-rea-dy
Ped. 8'
508
cresc.
dead, they did not break his legs.
In-stead, one of the sol-diers pierced his side with a spear, and at
cresc.
Ped. 16'


513
cresc.
once blood and wa-ter came out.
(flexible rhythm)
(He who saw this has tes-ti-fied so that you al-so may be-lieve.
cresc.
pp
Man.
517
(same)
His tes-ti-mo-ny is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)
rall.
f
These things oc-curred so that the
Quite fast
rall.
mf
522
scrip-ture might be ful-filled,
Quite fast ♩ = c. 120
f
'None of his bones shall be bro-ken.'
f
FULL CHOIR: f
'None of his bones shall be bro-ken.'
f
Quite fast ♩ = c. 120
f


527
Narrator (Tenor)
And a - gain a - no - ther pas - sage of scrip-ture says,
Slower ♩ = c. 95
rall.
528
mp
p
'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'
mp
p
'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'
mp
p
Slower ♩ = c. 95
rall.
mp
p

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