

“CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HAVERING”

HORNCHURCH PASSION PLAY 2015

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PASSION 2020

PRELIMINARIES

AS THE PEOPLE GATHER ON THE GREEN THERE WILL BE SOLDIERS EXCLUDING THEM FROM THE ACTING AREAS AND THE MARKET WILL BE TRADING. AT LOCAL CHURCHES AND POSSIBLY OTHER SITES WHERE PEOPLE ARE GATHERING, PARTICIPANTS WHO WILL BE IN THE GENERAL CROWD SCENES ALONG WITH FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS AND OTHERS WHO MAY BE INVITED WILL BE ADDRESSED BY EVANGELISTS REPRESENTING THE 70 SENT OUT BY JESUS TO PROCLAIM THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM. GROUPS COMING FROM DIFFERENT LOCATIONS WILL BE MOVING ALONG THE STREETS TO CONVERGE AT THE GREEN. BEFORE THE CONVERGENCE TAKES PLACE TWO PRIESTS HARANGUE THE CROWD.

SCENE 1 - BY THE GATE OF JERUSALEM

JACOB: Citizens and Visitors to Jerusalem, may I have your attention please? At this solemn Passover festival, you have the privilege of hearing from your religious leaders. We have a message to touch your conscience and inspire your lives. Pray silence for Rabbi Daniel.

DANIEL: Thank you Rabbi Jacob. Welcome to you all, many of you have taken great trouble to be here today, I am most heartened to see you. We are met to remember that only God can set his people free. So, when we kill the Passover lamb this year, we pray that it may be a sign of hope to all the world. This festival is not only a time for remembrance it is also a time for thanksgiving and re-dedication to our duty. We are grateful that during this past year our law and order policies have meant that we have, successfully, avoided any disturbances or the riots of earlier days. Now, we are able, to take advantage of the Roman protection and make a good profit for ourselves.

JACOB: At this time of year let us make a fresh resolve to do our duty well. We are superior to other peoples in many ways; let us demonstrate it by our hard work and obedience. There must be no shirkers. If anyone will not take a job when it is offered, then he deserves to be punished. Let everyone do his duty, know his place and be content.

(AT THIS POINT WE BECOME AWARE OF THE APPROACH OF CROWDS FROM VARIOUS DIRECTIONS. DANIEL CONTINUES IN SPITE OF THE DISRUPTION)

DANIEL: Above all the law must be respected.

JACOB: Crime can only be kept in check if we demand the severest penalties. I call on all who administer the law to remember that capital punishment is often in the best interests of the people.

DANIEL: Violence must be repaid with violence. We must demand retribution when wrongs have been committed.

JACOB: The sacrifice of a life here and there will protect the benefits that we all gain.

DANIEL: May God be with you; and make this the greatest Festival of the age.

SCENE 2 - HOSANNA

(THERE IS NEVER A BREAK BETWEEN SCENES. THEY ALWAYS FLOW ONE TO THE NEXT, THE DIVISIONS ARE FOR REHEARSAL PURPOSES AND EASE OF REFERENCE ONLY)

(ENTER JESUS ON A DONKEY AND HIS ENTOURAGE. FROM ACROSS THE GREEN HE IS SPOTTED BY THE ARRIVING PREACHERS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS.)

PREACHER 1: There he is, on a donkey.

PREACHER 2: Jesus the King!

PREACHER 3: Come on, let's go and cheer him.

(THEY LEAD THE CROWDS FLOODING ACROSS THE GREEN [if room!]. A TRIUMPHANT SONG SWELLS FROM THE CHOIR. THE APOSTLES START TO HAND OUT BALLOONS TO CHILDREN? FLASH GUNS ARE POPPING. A CARNIVAL BAND IS LEADING JESUS'S PROCESSION. A COUPLE OF SOLDIERS LOUNGE NEARBY "ON GUARD" AT THE "GATE").

CROWD 1: Hosanna to the Son of David.

CROWD 2: Welcome to Jerusalem.

CROWD 3: Jesus you are the greatest.

CROWD 4: Smile for the camera.

CROWD 5: Here, hold my baby.

CROWD 6: Jesus, our new King.

CROWD 7: Yeah, King Jesus.

CROWD 8: Long live King Jesus.

CROWD 9: We love you Jesus.

SIMON Z: King Jesus, King Jesus, King Jesus

(THE CHANT IS TAKEN UP AS THE PROCESSION MOVES ON. THE TWO PRIESTS CONFRONT THE PROCESSION).

JACOB: Jesus. For God's sake shut these people up.

JESUS: For God's sake, or for yours?

DANIEL: Oh, we'd heard you were a wit. Just shut this rabble up.

JESUS: Why?

JACOB: Are you mad? This crowd is getting out of control.

JESUS: Out of your control perhaps.

DANIEL: Look we can't have any trouble at the Festival time.

JESUS: Why should there be any trouble? Look at these people, they are enjoying themselves. ***(TO THE CROWD.)*** Are you having fun?

CROWD: Yaaayuyyy!

JESUS: See.

JACOB: They are calling you a King.

JAMES: Why shouldn't we? The kingdom is coming, and Jesus is to be our leader, our King.

MRS ZEB: Yeah! You priests have had your day. The Kingdom of God is at hand.

(CHEERS FROM THE CROWD)

THOMAS: Don't waste your breath, Jesus. Let's go on to the Temple.

SIMON Z: Yeah. Come on. And go home priests!

JESUS: I assure you we mean no harm to anyone of goodwill. We are here to celebrate the festival, but things have got to change. Men's hearts have got to change, and it is going to happen, here, very soon. Oh, I could shut this crowd up, but I tell you this place is so rotten that its own walls and stones would still cry out against it. But it is not too late. Look into your own hearts. Come with us and I will show you such peace and joy as you have never dreamed of.

JACOB: You are a troublemaker Jesus.

DANIEL: A blaspheming rabble-rouser. We'll get you.

JESUS: ***(TURNING TO HIS FOLLOWERS)*** I offer them the Kingdom and they call me names..... Are we going to let them spoil our fun?

CROWD: NNnnnooooo!!!

JESUS: Shall we go on to the Temple?

CROWD: Yyeeeeeaaahhh!!

JESUS: Okay. Let's go. Giddy-ap donkey!

(THE CHOIR OR BAND OR BOTH ERUPT AGAIN, THE CROWD CHANTS "KING JESUS").

DANIEL: Rabbi Jacob this is looking very dangerous.

JACOB: You're right Daniel, Caiaphas needs to know this Jesus is not as innocent as he claims.

(AS THE PROCESSION MOVES, A ROMAN CAPTAIN AND FOUR SOLDIERS BLOCK ITS PATH).

JACOB: Looks like we could be too late.

DANIEL: Romans!

JACOB: That's Longinus, Captain of the Guard.

CAPTAIN: Are you Jesus of Nazareth?

JESUS: Yes, I am.

CAPTAIN: I, erm, see you're busy, at the moment.

JESUS: Not too busy if it is something important. What can I do for you?

CAPTAIN: Well, I'm not sure really. I have heard that you can heal sick people.

JESUS: Yes, I can. Are you sick?

CAPTAIN: Me? No. I, erm, It's my servant.

JESUS: Where is he? At your house?

CAPTAIN: Yes, he has been a very good servant. I wouldn't want to lose him. I think he is dying. He is very sick anyway.

JESUS: Well come on then, let's go to him.

JUDAS: Jesus, you can't just leave everyone here while you go to..... a Roman house!

JESUS: Why not Judas? You can wait.

JUDAS: But he's a Roman! They are not like us. They have killed thousands of our own people.

JESUS: This man is not responsible for the actions of all his race.

JUDAS: But they don't even believe in God!

JESUS: A man may still be good. I will go with you.

CAPTAIN: No, no please. I don't want to spoil your party. But you don't have to come to my house. I am a soldier and if I give a man an order, I know he is going to do what I tell him. I don't have to be with him to see that he does it. Besides I am not a good man. I am not worthy to have you in my home, but if you tell me that my servant is healed, I know he will be.

JESUS: Do you hear this? Do you all hear this man? This is what faith is. This man has not read the holy books or heard the prophets, but he is on the way to the Kingdom! If they were all like you, I'd hardly need to be here at all. Go on Captain, go home. Your servant is well, and he will be looking for you.

CAPTAIN: Thank you. Er, Thank you, Jesus.

(THE CAPTAIN STARTS TO HEAD HOME AND THE PRIESTS WHO HAVE WITNESSED THIS EXCHANGE START FOR THE TEMPLE TO WARN THE COUNCIL OF JESUS'S IMPENDING ARRIVAL).

JUDAS: You would really have left us all on the street here to go and help a Roman, wouldn't you!

JESUS: Judas, what does it matter where he comes from? If people are in need you help them. I am for everyone.

JUDAS: But they are the ones who are oppressing our people and taking our land.

JESUS: You mustn't worry yourself over such things. True peace will not be found except in your own heart. You look on the Romans as your enemies, but I say to you, love your enemies and do good to those who hurt you. If you are only kind to your friends where is the merit in that?

(WE HEAR CRIES AND COMMOTIONS FROM THE CAPTAIN'S SERVANTS).

CAIUS: Longinus!

SEPTIMUS: Master!

LUCIUS: Captain!

CAPTAIN: What is it?

CAIUS: It's Marcus Sir.

SEPTIMUS: It's a miracle!

LUCIUS: He's recovered.

CAPTAIN: What's happened?

CAIUS: He's better Sir.

CAPTAIN: ***(OVER HIS SHOULDER AS THEY HURRY HIM AWAY.)*** Jesus.

CAIUS: It was all at once.

SEPTIMUS: Just a few minutes ago.

LUCIUS: We came as fast as we could.

CAIUS: He sat up and asked where you were.

SEPTIMUS: The fever was gone.

LUCIUS: It's amazing. I've never seen anything like it.

(EXEUNT - AND SO DO THE PRIESTS, IF CLOSE ENOUGH TO HEAR, MUCH DISGRUNTLED).

JESUS: Come, we must go to the Temple.

TEENAGER: Jesus.

JESUS: Yep.

TEENAGER: Do we have to go to the Temple? Can't we have a party out here?

JESUS: We could, but the Temple is a special place. God is all around us, in each one of us, in everything that lives and moves. But men are very blind. Most of the time they don't see God at all. The Temple is a symbol of God's presence among us. We have built him a home to remind us that He lives at the centre of our lives in the midst of our community; a big solid home for us to cling to like a rock among the stormy seas of the world's temptations. And it is an open house where all God's children can gather together to celebrate their fellowship. A place of great rejoicing and closeness to God.

TEENAGER: So, we can still have a party inside?

JESUS: The Temple was built for parties. It is the most alive and vibrant place on earth. God loves to see people enjoying themselves in his home.

TEENAGER: Well, let's go then.

(THE "CARNIVAL" MOVES OFF TO THE TEMPLE FORECOURT)

SCENE 3 - MARKET

(THERE ARE ABUNDANT CRIES OF VARIOUS HAWKERS, IMPROVISED TO SUIT WHATEVER STALLS CAN BE AVAILABLE. AT ONE FEATURED STALL AN ARGUMENT IS IN PROGRESS).

TRADER: I've never cheated in my life!

PUNTER: Your thumb was in the scales!

TRADER: It couldn't be, you could see my hands nowhere near!

PUNTER: So why don't I get as much for my money as I did last week?

TRADER: I keep telling you, the Denarii are down against the Shekel and some of your coins have been clipped. And the Temple tax has gone up again.

PUNTER: But this won't give me enough for the sacrifice. I can't go in empty handed.

TRADER: Take that up with the Priests. They set the prices.

(JESUS'S FOLLOWERS HAVE HALTED HORRIFIED. THE TEENAGER IS AGHAST. TEARS WELL UP IN JESUS'S EYES. HE WALKS THROUGH THE MARKET. HAWKERS AND VENDORS TRYING TO SELL HIM THEIR WARES. HIS DISCIPLES WATCH TO SEE WHAT HE WILL DO. AT THE THRESHOLD OF THE TEMPLE HE TURNS AND IN A LOUD VOICE)

JESUS: This House should be a House of Prayer for all the world. And you have turned it into a den of robbers and cheats. GET THESE PARASITES OUT OF HERE!!!

(AT ONCE HE BEGINS TO OVERTURN THE TABLES OF THE MONEYCHANGERS AND KNOCK OVER THE STALLS. HIS DISCIPLES JOIN IN AND THERE IS A COMMOTION. PERHAPS WE HEAR A BUGLE CALL FROM THE "PRAETORIUM" AND THE ROMAN PRESENCE MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED IN CASE OF RIOTING ON A LARGE SCALE. SOME PRIESTS COME TO SEE WHAT IS GOING ON AND HASTILY RETREAT TO THE "COUNCIL CHAMBER". JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS ENTER THE TEMPLE).

SCENE 4 - THE TEMPLE***(JUST INSIDE THE "DOOR" A PHALANX OF PRIESTS).***

CAIAPHAS: How dare you desecrate the House of God with violence.

JESUS: Caiaphas, my father's House was desecrated when you turned it into a market. I have only cleansed it of the filth of that corruption.

ANNAS: On whose authority?

JESUS: God's authority.

DANIEL: So, do you claim to be God?

JESUS: God is my father.

CAIAPHAS: We are all sons of God.

JESUS: Then why don't you act like it. Why do you skulk in the shadows weaving your webs of politics and profit instead of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom?

ANNAS: Why have you come here Jesus?

JESUS: The spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, to announce liberty to prisoners, to let the blind see and the deaf hear, to free the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour!

JOS OF A & NIC: ***(TO EACH OTHER AS AN ASIDE)*** He's quoted Isaiah.

PRIESTS: ***(SEVERAL OF THEM)*** Blasphemy!!!!

JESUS: Oh, it's blasphemy to you alright. You who stop your ears to the truth and close your eyes to the light.

ANNAS: You have no right to accuse us! Caiaphas is High Priest of the people, and I am his assistant. We are the guardians of God's holy Temple.

JESUS: Destroy this Temple Annas and I will raise it again in three days.

JOS. OF A: It has taken 46 years to build this Temple. And you are going to raise it in three days?

THOMAS: Give them a sign Lord. They won't believe until you give them a sign.

ANNAS: Yes. Prove to us your miraculous power.

CAIAPHAS: Rabbi Jacob, be a good fellow, go and fetch the blind beggar, Bartimaeus.

ANNAS: Ah yes! The beggar at the gate.

JESUS: You hypocrites. You are so bound up with outward appearances, your status, your rules, your regulations, that you never look inside yourselves. Even here you want outward signs. But you still won't believe.

JACOB: Here he is.

JESUS: My brother, what do you want from me?

BARTIM: Rabbi, I have been blind from birth. Will you let me see?

JESUS: Do you believe that I can work this miracle?

BARTIM: I don't know, I'm not a holy man. But I reckon if it is God's will, it will happen.

(JESUS PRAYS OVER THE BEGGAR'S EYES)

JESUS: Bring me water. ***(SOMEONE DOES.)*** Father I ask you to reward this man's great faith and bestow on him your wondrous gift of sight. See, I wash your eyes. Bartimaeus, see the power of God!

BARTIM: I can see..... I can see!! Oh, Master, I can see!!!!

CAIAPHAS: Impossible!

ANNAS: That man's an impostor. He was never blind.

JACOB: No-one could do that.

ANNAS: It's a trick.

DANIEL: Even God could not open eyes that were never there.

JACOB: He had no eyes. He was born with no eyes.

NICODEM: But he has eyes now.

JOS. OF A: And he can see! Truly God is with Jesus.

JESUS: Now, if you don't mind, we'd like to get on with our party. ***(THERE ARE CHEERS)***.

JACOB: In the Temple?

JESUS: This is what the Temple is for. We will begin with some stories. Who'd like to hear a story? ***(LOADS OF CHILDREN COME RUNNING FORWARD)***.

CHILDREN: Yaayy!!

DANIEL: These children should not be in here. The Temple is not a playground.

JESUS: I tell you if you don't become like one of these little children you will not enter the Kingdom.

JOS. OF A: But Rabbi, how are men as old as we, to become children?

JESUS: Joseph, think about a little child. He is open, honest, uncluttered by all the burdens of daily life that we adults drape across our shoulders like a yoke. Children are empty of deceit. If they are happy, they laugh, if they are sad, they cry, there is no hypocrisy in a child. Can you not find these qualities in your own heart? I tell you all, if you would see God do not seek him among the learned works of scholars and philosophers or in the ranks of robed clerics. No. Rather look around you and you will see him playing in the faces of your children.

CHILD 1: Can we have our story now Jesus?

JESUS: Of course.

CHILD 2: What's it about?

CHILD 3: Can we have one about children?

JESUS: Okay. This one's about two brothers whose father asked them to go to work in his garden picking fruit. It was a lovely day and the beach was only a short walk down the road.

CHILD 4: I'd have gone to the beach!

JESUS: Yes. Both the boys wanted to go to the beach. But do you know what happened?

CHILD 5: What?

JESUS: The first brother said, "Okay Dad, I'll pick the fruit". But as soon as his father had left to go to work, he got his swimming stuff and hit the beach without picking a single apple.

CHILD 6: What did the other one do?

JESUS: Well, he had a row with his dad. Said it was much too nice a day to waste picking apples but when his dad had gone, he realised that he'd upset him, and he decided he would work in the fields after all. Now a question. Which of these brothers did what his father wanted? The one who said he would, but went to the beach? Or the one who said he wouldn't, but picked the apples?

CHILD 7: Obviously the one who picked the apples.

JESUS: Yes..... (name). Well done! And what does the story mean?

CHILD 8: That what you say is not as important as what you do.

JESUS: Well done (name). And you must always remember that. It's no good being full of fine words if you don't act on them. Wishing someone a nice day when they're hungry won't put food on their plates. If we come to the Temple and pray for all sorts of needy people but then go home and do nothing about it in our daily lives, then we are hypocrites and when we stand before God he will say "I don't know you".

NICODEM: Then what must we do to be part of God's Kingdom?

JESUS: You must become a new person Nicodemus, you must love God with all your heart and mind and soul and love your neighbour as yourself. For it is in your neighbour that you meet God. If only you all would think, every time that you meet another human being, that you are in the presence of God, with how much more respect would you treat one another? It's hard, but I tell you, whatever you do to the least of these little ones, you do to God. Now, whose got a song for us?

(EXEUNT THE PRIESTS, EXCEPT JOSEPH OF ARAMATHEA AND NICODEMUS. A GROUP SING A SONG OF PRAISE TO GOD, THERE IS A DANCE, DURING THIS TIME JESUS WALKS AROUND HEALING THE SICK, SINGING, LAUGHING, AND JOINING IN THE DANCING. THEN.....)

JESUS: Now it is time to pray in words.

TEENAGER: What do you mean, in words?

JESUS: Well, how have you been praying so far?

TEENAGER: We haven't, we've been partying.

JESUS: I assure you that was praying too. There are many, different ways to pray and partying in the Lord is one of them. Now we are going to use words instead of song and spirit.

CHILD 9: Is it going to be boring?

JESUS: I hope not. I hope to keep it simple because you shouldn't get bogged down in great long litanies and complicated phrases and long words when you pray. You should just talk to God, like a child talking to its father.

CHILD 10: Will you teach us?

JESUS: Of course. Repeat it after me..... ***(AND THEY DO)***

Our Father in Heaven, We love you, Let your Kingdom come, And your will be done on earth, As it is in Heaven, Please give us what we need for today, Forgive us if we do things wrong, And help us to forgive anyone who does anything wrong to us, Lead us away from temptation, And let no harm come to us, Because the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory are yours for ever. Amen.

My friends, I want to give you all a gift. Not of earthly wealth; I have no possessions to share. I leave you Peace! My Peace I give to you. A peace that the world cannot give, this is my gift to you all.

Now let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(THEY ALL DO, TRYING TO INCLUDE AS MANY OF THE CROWD AS POSSIBLE. SOME PRIESTS TAKE PART, OTHERS REBUFF THE ADVANCES OF JESUS AND THE APOSTLES. JACOB AWKWARDLY ACCEPTS)

Now, it is getting very late, nearly suppertime. Thank you all for coming today. Go now to your own homes or wherever you are staying and share a meal with one another. Think of me while you do, and I will be with you all in spirit. Remember, be good and my Father will bless you.

(JESUS AND CO., LEAVE THE TEMPLE, LOADS OF IMPROVISED GOOD-BYES, ETC.)

(PREPARATIONS ARE MADE FOR THE LAST SUPPER. JESUS, THE APOSTLES, THE MARYS AND VARIOUS WIVES AND CHILDREN READY THE UPPER ROOM AND SET BREAD, GRAPES, WINE, ETC., THEN BEGIN TO EAT. MEANWHILE JUDAS HANGS AROUND THE TEMPLE AND EARWIGS THE COUNCIL MEETING).

SCENE 5 - THE COUNCIL

ANNAS: So, what are we to do? We can't let this carry on.

DANIEL: Lord Annas, we all saw the way he ridiculed us in front of the people. If this goes on, we will lose all power over them.

JOS. OF A: But we saw him heal Bartimaeus. Surely God is with him?

CAIAPHAS: Joseph, let us leave God out of this. It is not God who is caught in the middle of our people and the Romans.

ANNAS: Jesus is a friend to the Romans and that is also dangerous to us!

NICODEM: But Rabbi he preaches peace and love.

DANIEL: Tell that to the traders whose stalls he smashed this morning.

PRIEST 4: I have heard that he told the people that God doesn't want animal sacrifices anymore, or gifts of money.

PRIEST 5: How shall we live?

JOS. Of A: But is it right that we have such wealth, while the majority of our people struggle just to have enough to eat?

PRIEST 6: We cannot refuse the offerings of the people.

PRIEST 7: We work hard to administer the country. We deserve to be well kept. Our responsibility is enormous.

ANNAS: So, what do we do about Jesus?

JACOB: Can't we discredit him somehow?

DANIEL: He is too clever for that. Try to argue with Jesus and he will make you a laughing stock.

PRIEST 8: Can we not arrest him for blasphemy? They say he claims to be God.

NICODEM: Son of God, as are we all.

ANNAS: A technicality only. Yes, we could arrest him, but not while he is surrounded by hordes of sheep-like followers. There would be a riot and the Romans would have to intervene and we would lose our influence permanently.

CAIAPHAS: Perhaps we could use the Romans to our advantage.

JACOB: What do you mean, Lord Caiaphas?

CAIAPHAS: An arrest for blasphemy is no good to us, we are not permitted to put a man to death.

JOS. OF A: Death!

CAIAPHAS: *(SUDDENLY STANDING,)* Yes, Death! You fools! Do you not realise what a threat to our power and position this Jesus is? Do you want to rub shoulders with the fishermen and tax collectors and prostitutes that follow this carpenter? Do you want the Temple for an open house for women and children to party in?

(THERE IS A STUNNED SILENCE AT THIS OUTBURST)

Jesus must die. It is better for one man to die than for the whole social order to collapse. *(HE SITS).*

ANNAS: But we still need to get him alone.

JUDAS: I can do that for you.

DANIEL: Who are you?

JUDAS: I am Judas Iscariot. I used to follow Jesus.

JOS. OF A: You came in with him this morning.

JUDAS: Yes. What will you give me if I hand him over to you?

ANNAS: 30 pieces of silver!

JUDAS: Done!

NICODEM: Why are you doing this?

JUDAS: You'll give him a fair trial?

CAIAPHAS: A trial according to the law of Rome. What could be fairer than that?

ANNAS: When will you deliver him into our hands?

JUDAS: I'm not sure, possibly tonight. If there is an opportunity, I'll come and fetch you. But you'd better have some soldiers, he might not be completely alone.

CAIAPHAS: We can arrange that.

JUDAS: I'd better go before I am missed.

ANNAS: Tonight then.

JUDAS: Probably. *(EXIT)*

CAIAPHAS: Annas, arrange a meeting with Pontius Pilate. We just may have a popular revolutionary, for him to deal with later on. A threat to Caesar's authority. See what he feels about a public trial and execution. *(EXIT ANNAS)*

SCENE 6 - THE LAST SUPPER

(THE PEOPLES ATTENTION FOLLOWS JUDAS TO THE UPPER ROOM WHERE THE PREPARATIONS ARE COMPLETE. JUDAS TAGS ON TO THE END NEXT TO PHILLIP)

PHILLIP: Hi Judas, you're late.

JUDAS: Business.

PHILLIP: I hope you've had some more contributions. This meal is going to be quite a drain on the purse I imagine.

JUDAS: Don't you worry about finances, Phillip. I'll make sure the purse stays healthy.

PHILLIP: Okay, no big deal.

JESUS: My friends, it's so good to be sharing this supper with you all. I don't know when we'll all be able to get together again but I want to make it special.

JOHN: It is special Jesus, everything is special with you.

JESUS: Then tonight will be extra special. First a blessing.
Blessed are you Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to share.

ALL: Blessed be God forever.

(ALL SET TO, TO EAT. JESUS TAKES A LOAF AND EVERYONE FALLS SILENT)

JESUS: I want you each to take a piece of this bread, a simple loaf made by human hands. I break it and invite you all to share it. As you eat it, I am giving myself to you and you bind yourselves to me. This is my body given for you and when you eat it, do so in love for one another and for me. *(THEY EAT.)* Now look at these bowls of wine. Dark as the blood that flows in my veins. Drink from them all of you and share my life. This is my blood, the blood of

the new and everlasting covenant, it will be shed for you and for all people, so that sins may be forgiven; let it be a sign of suffering that must be endured and of forgiveness that must be shown, even when one is surrounded by wickedness. With these bowls I promise you can always count on my strength and my spirit. And whenever you gather together, eat and drink like this in memory of me.

What we have done has bound us together and to God. We belong now to Him and to each other. And it is for us to work to bring the Kingdom.

MRS ZEB: Master, when the Kingdom comes, will you do something for me?

JESUS: What?

MRS ZEB: Can my two boys, James and John, sit on your right and left beside the throne?

ANDREW: That's not fair, me and Peter were the first chosen.

THADDEUS: What's that got to do with it?

PHILLIP: Matthew can be in-charge of collecting taxes!

MATT: I'm not going through that again!

JAMES: Judas can be First Lord of the Treasury!

BARTHOL: Simon can run the army!! Your very own zealots Simon!

SIMON Z: Thomas can be the Chief Judge!

CHILD: I want to ride a white horse like the Governor.

JAMES 2: Everyone will bow when we pass.

JOHN: Peter's got to be the gatekeeper, Jesus has already said.

MRS MATT: I think my Matthew should be in charge. He gave up more than you to follow Jesus. He had a good career.

JESUS: All of you, please. You don't understand what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I must drink? Some of you will. But what you ask is not mine to give. Don't you see? You must not lord it over one another, like the pagans do, or seek power in the way the world recognises it. The greatest among you must behave like the youngest and the one who rules like one who serves. The Kingdom will not be like this world. What men regard here as weakness is not always so and you must be humble with one another for only so will you be truly great. Peter, will you bring me water please.

PETER: Sure, but why?

JESUS: Please. (*PETER DOES.*) Thank you.

PETER: But Jesus

JESUS: Of all the twelve you asked for nothing. You remained humble. I will wash your feet.

PETER: But you can't. I should wash your feet. You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. You can't lower yourself like this.

JESUS: Unless I wash your feet Peter you can have no part of me.

PETER: Lord, you know I would do anything for you. Wash me all over then.

JESUS: Your feet will be enough. See, I wash your feet. Judas, come on.

JUDAS: Why me?

JESUS: You need not be afraid.

JUDAS: Okay.

JESUS: See, I wash your feet. (NAME) , what about you?

CHILD: Yeh, I don't mind.

JESUS: Good boy/girl. See, I wash your feet.

Now, do you understand what I have done to you. You call me Lord and Teacher and so you should for that is what I am. But if I your Lord and your Teacher can stoop to wash your feet so should you wash each other's feet. I have set you an example for you to do as I have done.

PETER: Let me take the bowl. Come on Andrew. See, I wash your feet.

MRS ZEB: I'll get another jug.

(THERE FOLLOWS MUCH IMPROVISED FOOT WASHING AND SPLASHING AROUND ALWAYS USING THE FORMULA "SEE, I WASH YOUR FEET". IN THE MIDST OF THE FUN, MARY MAGDALEN BRINGS SOME OINTMENT. SHE STARTS TO ANOINT JESUS'S FEET AND WIPE THEM WITH HER HAIR)

MARY M: Jesus, let me anoint your feet.

JOHN: Wow! That smells good.

MRS BART: So it should, it's pure spikenard!

MATTHEW: There's a year's wages in that bottle.

JUDAS: How can you be so thoughtless Mary?

THOMAS: You should have given it to Judas to sell then we could have given the money to the poor.

JUDAS: Tell her to stop Jesus.

JESUS: Leave her alone.

JUDAS: But the money, think of the money! The waste!

THOMAS: Think of the poor!

JESUS: Thomas, the poor will always be here. But I won't always be here. Mary has seen clearer than any of you, what has to happen. She has anointed me for burial.

JUDAS: What are you talking about?

JESUS: Wherever my story is told to those who come after, this will be told of Mary too. This is a great act of service and love. It's a shame that not all of you feel as she does.

THOMAS: What do you mean?

JESUS: One of you is going to betray me.

APOSTLES: What? Who? You're kidding! Why? Never! What do you mean? No way! Betray you to whom?

JUDAS: You know who it is, don't you?

JESUS: Yes.

JOHN: Is it me Lord. Please say it is not.

APOSTLES: Well, it's not me. Nor me. *(ETC....)*

JESUS: He knows who he is, and in some ways, it would have been better if he had never been born.

Come it's late. The young ones are very tired. Let us thank the Father for what we have received today and then bed.

(TOGETHER THEY SING A SOFT HYMN.)

"May God bless us and keep us, May God guide our path and watch over us. And give us peace, and give us peace, And give us peace for ever.

(THEY SETTLE DOWN TO SLEEP IN VARIOUS GROUPS AND POSITIONS)

JESUS: Peter, James, John, will you come with me.

JUDAS: Where are you going?

JESUS: Across the Kedron Valley to the Garden of Gethsemane.

JUDAS: Oh.

JESUS: Judas, what you are going to do, do quickly

SCENE 7 - GETHSEMANE

(WHILE THIS SCENE HAPPENS JUDAS RETURNS TO THE SANHEDRIN. ANNAS GOES WITH HIM TO THE PRAETORIUM AND THEY FETCH A COHORT OF ROMANS. SOME OF THESE SHOULD CARRY FLAMING TORCHES. THEY FOLLOW HIM TO THE KEDRON VALLEY WHILE THE PRIESTS OF THE COUNCIL ASSEMBLE BY PILATE'S COURTYARD FOR THE TRIAL. THIS WHOLE DUMBSHOW IS TIMED SO THAT THE ARREST FLOWS NATURALLY INTO THE SCENE.)

(JESUS, PETER, JAMES AND JOHN TALK AS THEY WALK TO GETHSEMANE.)

JOHN: Jesus, Master, it's not me is it?

JESUS: No John, don't worry about it.

JAMES: Well it's not me for certain.

PETER: Count on one thing Jesus, you called me a rock, you know that even if all the others betrayed you, I'd never let you down.

JESUS: Oh, Peter. We betray each other in so many, different, ways, you will lose faith.

PETER: No!!

JESUS: But when you recover, you will be a tower of strength for the others.

PETER: Jesus, believe me I will never betray you.

JESUS: I am truly sorry Peter, but by morning you will have denied you even know me three times.

(THEY COME TO GETHSEMANE)

JESUS: Stay here for a while, I want to pray by myself for a bit.

JOHN: What shall we do?

JESUS: Pray not to be put to the test. (*MUSIC AND CHOIR - TAIZE - STAY WITH ME*)

(HE DRAWS A LITTLE APART, AND THE DISCIPLES GRADUALLY FALL ASLEEP)

Father, God, I'm here. I have completed what you wanted me to do. Thank you for the last three years. Thank you for all the beautiful things. Thank you for the words which changed people's hearts. Thank you for the love which brought healing and thank you specially for the children. Yet Father there is little to show for the work. People's hearts are so hard, and everyone is still out for himself, so busy with his own affairs, he doesn't even notice his own poverty of spirit or the misery of those around him. Father, why is the pain of the world so great?

Does it have to be this way? Would it not have been better to put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt the humble and the weak and the powerless? It would have been so easy through spectacular miracles but instead I have gathered this doubting, fearful yet loveable group of disciples.

(JESUS GOES OVER TO THE DISCIPLES BUT THEY HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP)

The mind is willing, but the flesh is weak. (*HE MOVES AWAY.*) Yet, Father, this is your way. You call ordinary people, flawed people, unknown people to confound the mighty and the intellectuals so that the glory goes to where it belongs.

Father, help me to know that your way is the only way for the Kingdom to come. Give me the strength I need. Father, give me the love. Give me enough love to embrace people everywhere since the world began and to the very end of time. Give me love for the bitter and cruel, for the selfish and the greedy, for the intelligent and the foolish, the lonely and the sick, the believer and the unbeliever. And above all, for all those unknown people who will follow me and change the world. Father, give me the love to embrace them all and carry their sins and open the way for them to enter fullness of life here and for all eternity.

(JESUS NOW STANDS AND OPENS HIS ARMS)

Father, I feel the joy of such a vision. I can see people coming to you seeking forgiveness and a new beginning. I can see them standing tall, filled with the Holy Spirit. A people for whom nothing will be impossible because of your love burning within them.

(HE KNEELS.)

But Father, is there no other way than this path of horror you are calling me to follow? Father, the pain will crush me, even now the desperate loneliness is beyond words. I feel my weakness strangling my heart. Father, is there no other way?

(THE MUSIC CUTS.)

Father, if it is at all possible let this cup pass me by.

Nevertheless, let your will be done, not mine. But help me Father, I am so afraid.

(JESUS FALLS TO THE GROUND)

SCENE 8 - THE ARREST

(WE HEAR THE APPROACHING ARREST PARTY)

JUDAS: There'll be no need for violence. There's only four of them and they've all been drinking.

CAPTAIN: That makes trouble more likely.

SERGEANT: Are we going to nick them all, Sir?

CAPTAIN: No. Just the ringleader. The others are worthless.

SERGEANT: How do we know which one is him?

JUDAS: The man I kiss will be the one.

(AS THE ROMANS ARRIVE, THE APOSTLES COME GROGGILY AWAKE)

JAMES: Judas, what are you doing here?

JOHN: Is everything alright?

(JUDAS WALKS STRAIGHT UP TO JESUS AND KISSES HIM)

JESUS: So, Judas, you betray me with a kiss.

CAPTAIN: Right, stand still!!

PETER: Romans! Run Jesus! ***(PETER HURLS HIMSELF AT THE NEAREST SOLDIER WHO THROWS HIM TO THE GROUND)***

JESUS: No, Peter. Violence is not the way. Am I some sort of thug, that you have to come after me armed with sticks and clubs in the middle of the night? Have I not done everything openly? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple?

ANNAS: Save it for Pilate, Jesus. **(HANDING OVER A BAG OF COINS,)** Thank you Judas.

CAPTAIN: Come on.

SOLDIER 1: What about these Sarge?

CAPTAIN: Let them go.

SERGEANT: Okay, let him go.

SOLDIER 2: **(TO JOHN,)** Hop it!

SERGEANT: **(TO THE SOLDIERS WITH JESUS,)** Cuff him!

(THEY DO AND LEAD JESUS OFF FOR TRIAL)

JAMES: What should we do?

JOHN: What will they do to him?

PETER: Get back to the others, tell them what's happened, I'll find out what's going on.

JOHN: I want to come with you.

PETER: NO! Stick together and wait for me. **(HE EXITS, FOLLOWING THE ROMANS).**

JOHN: They won't hurt him James, will they?

JAMES: I don't know John, I hope not.

JOHN: I'm scared.

JAMES: So am I. **(EXEUNT)**

SCENE 9 - THE TRIAL

(GUARDS EVERYWHERE. SANHEDRIN GATHERED. JESUS BROUGHT IN)

DANIEL: Well, well, Jesus. No miracle for getting out of manacles?

JESUS: What am I accused of?

ANNAS: You will find out soon enough.

(A GREAT FANFARE. PILATE COMES OUT ONTO HIS BALCONY)

PILATE: So, what's so important that it can't wait until morning?

ANNAS: This is Jesus of Nazareth, your Excellency.

PILATE: Nazareth, that's in Gallilee?

CAPTAIN: Yes sir.

PILATE: That's Zealot heartland, isn't it?

CAPTAIN: Yes sir.

PILATE: So, what's he done?

CAIAPHAS: Rest assured, if he were not a criminal, we should not be handing him over to you.

PILATE: Alright, get on with it.

ANNAS: This man claims he is the Son of God, the Christ, the Anointed One. Chosen to lead his people out of slavery.

PILATE: So?

CAIAPHAS: This is blasphemy, Governor.

PILATE: That's outside my province. You can believe what you like. For Rome it's no crime.

ANNAS: The Messiah is going to bring into existence a new Kingdom.

CAIAPHAS: He will stop the people paying their taxes to the Temple and to Caesar.

PILATE: *(TO JESUS,)* Is this true? *(NO REPLY)*

ANNAS: He ridicules the Sanhedrin in front of the people and causes public disorder wherever he goes.

DANIEL: This afternoon he caused a riot in front of the Temple. Damaging property and provoking looting and robbery.

JACOB: He ignores all the laws and rules by which our fathers and people have lived for generations.

PRIEST 4: He encourages children to disrespect their elders.

PRIEST 5: He prevented the punishment of an adulteress.

PRIEST 6: He consorts with prostitutes and outcasts.

(AS PRIEST 7 IS ABOUT TO SPEAK PILATE HOLDS UP HIS HAND. SILENCE FALLS)

PILATE: You have heard these accusations. Have you nothing to say? You do know who I am? I have the power to free you and I have the power to crucify you.

JESUS: You would have no power over me if it had not been given you from above. It is the ones who have handed me over to you who are the guilty ones.

(COMMOTION OFF.)

(ENTER PILATE'S WIFE IN SOME DISARRAY)

MRS PIL: I must see my husband. Oh, Pontius.

PILATE: What is it? What's the matter?

MRS PIL: I was having a nightmare.

PILATE: What are you doing out here?

MRS PIL: LISTEN TO ME! I was having a nightmare and my servant said you were holding a trial.

PILATE: What are you talking about?

MRS PIL: That was my nightmare, a trial, but you were being condemned, not by a few people or a Roman Court but by millions and millions of all nations. All pointing at you and saying guilty. **(SHE SEES JESUS)** That's him! That's the man from my dream! I beg you have nothing to do with this man. Let him go. Don't you understand? He is innocent I know he is.

PILATE: Now calm down. If he is innocent, I shall find it out. Don't worry.

MRS PIL: Promise me.

PILATE: Go back to bed.

MRS PIL: Promise me.

PILATE: Please, go inside, this will all soon be over.

(SHE GOES. HE TURNS BACK TO JESUS)

PILATE: Who are you?

JESUS: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.

PILATE: Are you a King?

JESUS: Yes.

PILATE: Where is your Kingdom?

JESUS: My kingdom is not of this world. If it were my servants would have fought to stop me being taken. My Kingdom is a Kingdom of Truth.

PILATE: What is truth?

JESUS: Follow me and I will show you. You too could win the Kingdom.

PILATE: I find no charges against this man.

CAIAPHAS: Don't let his double talk confuse you Governor. You and I know all about the truth. In politics, one cannot always afford to tell the truth. This man is the most dangerous man in the world. He seeks to overturn the entire social order. The Council will fall and how will Rome govern then?

ANNAS: If Caesar hears of disturbances in Jerusalem, he may need to replace his Governor.

PILATE: Tomorrow is your feast, yes? What do you call it?

DANIEL: Passover.

PILATE: That's right. To honour your feast, Rome will release one prisoner. We will let the people decide who. Captain.

CAPTAIN: Yes, sir.

PILATE: Fetch Barabbas.

CAPTAIN: Barabbas! But sir, he is a zealot, a killer.

PILATE: Captain.

CAPTAIN: Yes, sir. Sergeant, fetch Barabbas.

SERGEANT: Sir! You two, go get him.

(HE SENDS A COUPLE OF SQUADDIES TO GET BARABBAS)

PILATE: We will let the people choose.

SERGEANT: The men won't like it if that murdering zealot gets off.

CAPTAIN: Let's just hope they choose Jesus then.

(AS WE WAIT FOR BARABBAS TO BE BROUGHT IN HANDCUFFED, PRIESTS OR THEIR MEN SPREAD THROUGH THE CROWD TELLING PEOPLE TO SHOUT FOR BARABBAS, OR ELSE. THERE IS A FANFARE)

SERGEANT: Silence for the Roman Governor.

PILATE: People of Jerusalem, capital of the Roman province of Judea, I show you two prisoners. Barabbas; charged with murder and terrorism. Jesus of Nazareth; charged with conspiracy to revolution. I will release whichever you chose. Which is it to be?

CROWD: Barabbas! Barabbas!

PILATE: But ... but What of this man? Do you not want him released?

CROWD: Not this man but Barabbas.

PILATE: Release him.

SERGEANT: Sir?

PILATE: RELEASE HIM!!!

(HE IS RELEASED)

PILATE: Then what should I do with this Jesus?

CROWD: **Crucify him! Crucify him!**

PILATE: Bring me water. ***(THEY DO.)*** This decision has been yours. See, I wash my hands. I am innocent of this man's blood. Take him away. Crucify him. But treat him like a King.

(THE SOLDIERS MARCH JESUS OFF INTO THE PRAETORIUM WHERE THEIR CORDON MASKS THE MAKE-UP AND PREPARATION FOR THE VIA DOLOROSA, WHILE GIVING THE ILLUSION OF SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR)

SCENE 10 – DENIAL (BESIDE A REAL BRAZIER)

STALLHOLDER: Well, I'm glad they've put him away after what he did to my stall this morning!

WOMAN 1: Here!

PETER: Who me?

WOMAN 1: Yea, aren't you one of this bloke's followers?

PETER: No.

WOMAN 1: Yeh, I'm sure I've seen you with him.

PETER: No, not me, I don't know him.

WOMAN 2: Yes, you do, I saw you with him when he was on that donkey.

PETER: You must be mistaking me for someone else.

WOMAN 2: You're a Gallilean, aren't you?

PETER: There's a lot of us in town for the Passover. It's a mistake, I don't know him.

HUSBAND: Hang on a minute pal, my wife's never wrong about a face, if she says you're one of this bloke's mates, then you're one of this bloke's mates.

PETER: Look, I tell you I have never seen him before in my life. I don't even know him.

(PETER RUNS AND TRIES TO HIDE FROM THEM. IT TAKES SO LONG THAT HE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH JESUS AS HE IS LED FROM THE PRAETORIUM, CROWNED WITH THORNS, DRAPED IN PURPLE AND CARRYING THE CROSS PIECE OF HIS CROSS. THEIR EYES MEET)

PILATE: Ecce homo. Behold the man.

PETER: Oh God Oh God **(HE COLLAPSES IN TEARS. FANFARE, [COCKCROW])**

SCENE 11 - VIA DOLOROSA

(THIS IS BASICALLY A PROMENADE RENDERING OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS. JESUS FALLS IN FRONT OF A GROUP OF MOTHERS)

MOTHER 1: Oh you poor man.

MOTHER 2: Let me give him some water.

SERGEANT: No.

MOTHER 3: Oh, it's terrible.

JESUS: Don't weep for me, weep for yourselves and your children.

CHILD: Mummy, why are they hurting that man?

SOLDIER 2: **(KICKING JESUS)** Get up!
(THEY MOVE ON AND JESUS FALLS AGAIN)

SOLDIER 1: Come on your Majesty. Get up.

SOLDIER 2: You must have hit him too hard with that whip.

VERONICA: He can't see, the blood's in his eyes.

SOLDIER 3: Do what?

VERONICA: Let me wipe his eyes.

SERGEANT: Yeh, okay.

JESUS: **(AS SHE DOES)** Thank you.

SERGEANT: That's enough Mrs. Get him up and let's get on with it.
(THEY MOVE OFF AGAIN. JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME)

SERGEANT: This is ridiculous.

SOLDIER 2: Let's get someone to give him a hand. **(HE SELECTS A MEMBER OF THE CROWD)** Oi, you!

SIM. OF C: Me?

SOLDIER 2: Yes, you. Get over here and carry this for him.

SIM. OF C: Why me?

SOLDIER 1: Just do it.

SERGEANT: Come on, or we'll be all day.

(SIMON GENTLY LIFTS THE CROSS PIECE)

JESUS: Thank you.

(THEY GO ON AND MEET MARY MUM AND JOHN)

MARY: Oh, my son, my son.

SOLDIER 4: Out of the way.

JOHN: She's his mother, please.

SERGEANT: Alright.

MARY: Oh, Jesus, my son.

JESUS: John, you must look after my mother now. Mother, John's your son now. Be brave.

SERGEANT: That'll do.

JOHN: Oh, Jesus.

(THEY TAKE HIM TO THE EXECUTIONERS AT GOLGOTHA WHERE HE IS NAILED TO THE CROSS AND CRUCIFIED, AS GHASTLY A PROCEDURE AS WE CAN MANAGE)

SCENE 12 - CRUCIFIXION

CROWD 1: You saved others Jesus, save yourself.

CROWD 2: Are you high enough now Jesus?

CROWD 3: Can you see the Kingdom from up there.

CROWD 4: I bet he can see my house.

CROWD 5: Bit chilly with no clothes on, is it?

CROWD 6: Love the crown, does it fit?

ANNAS: So, you would destroy the Temple and build it again in three days would you.
Well the Temple is still there. You're destroyed.

JESUS: Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do.

CROWD 7: What did he say?

CROWD 8 He said forgive them who?

CROWD 9: Us, you fool, us. Don't you see what we've done.

CROWD 8: What do you mean?

CROWD 9: We've crucified our King.

CROWD 8: You're mad.

JESUS: I am thirsty.

SOLDIER 1: Here, there's some vinegar here for cleaning the tools, give him some of that.

(THEY DO, AND THEN THEY LAUGH)

JESUS: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? It is accomplished. Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. ***(HE DIES)***

(THERE IS THE MOST DEAFENING CLAP OF THUNDER)

CAPTAIN: In truth, this man was the Son of God.

(THE APOSTLES ETC., GATHER AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS. CHOIR SINGS APPROPRIATE MUSIC)

SCENE 13 - BODY

JOS. OF A: Captain, I have Pilate's permission to bury the body. I have a tomb not far from here.

ANNAS: Just a minute, make sure he's dead.

(SERGEANT STABS JESUS IN THE SIDE WITH A SPEAR)

JOS. OF A: Are you satisfied now, Annas?

(REVERENTLY THE APOSTLES TAKE DOWN THE BODY. THE CHOIR SINGS. PIETA IMAGE. THEY WIND THE BODY INTO A SHROUD AND CARRY IT SHOULDER HIGH TO THE TOMB.)

ANNAS: Please Captain, follow them and guard the tomb.

(THEY LAY THE BODY INSIDE AND TEARFULLY DEPART. THE SOLDIERS REMAIN)

CAPTAIN: Sergeant, two squads.

SERGEANT: 2nd and 3rd! rest of you back to barracks. At the double.

CAPTAIN: Right, you stay here all night, got it?

SERGEANT: Do they really think that someone is going to try and steal a body?

SOLDIER 3: No-one's going to mess about with us here.

CAPTAIN: Just stay awake and follow your orders.

SERGEANT: Yes sir. We'll be here all night.

(THERE FOLLOWS A SLOW BLACKOUT IN WHICH THE SOLDIERS EXEUNT)

SCENE 14 – UPPER ROOM

(LIGHTS COME UP ON THE UPPER ROOM WHERE THE DISCIPLES ARE GATHERED)

CHILD 1: Where's Jesus, mummy?

MRS MATT: He's gone away.

CHILD 2: Will he be here tomorrow?

MRS BART: We don't know (name).

CHILD 1: I love Jesus.

MRS MATT: So do we all.

TEENAGER: He never said good-bye.

JOHN: I think he tried to at supper, but we didn't understand.

JAMES: I wish I hadn't run away.

THOMAS: It's Judas's fault. If I could get my hands on him.

PETER: You'd do what? Betray Jesus too! Like I did? Would you kill Judas?

BART: Steady Peter.

THOMAS: Well, why not?

SIMON Z: He betrayed the master. He deserves to die.

PETER: NO! Revenge is not the way. Have you forgotten all that Jesus taught us already? Love your enemies, do good to those who hurt you. I'd like to find Judas too and if I did, do you know what I'd do? I'd forgive him. I'd embrace him. I'd try to love him.

JOHN: You're right Peter.

MATT: No-one's seen Judas anyway.

PETER: We can't let it all be for nothing. We have to change. We have to cling to what he said and stood for.

PHILLIP: But where will we get the strength without Jesus?

JOHN: Peter will give us strength. He'll be our rock.

PETER: I'll try Phillip, but we must all hold Jesus with us in our hearts. We must be strong for each other.

JAMES: We will Peter. We will hold Jesus in our hearts.

BARTH: Where's Mary?

THADD: She didn't come back with us.

JAMES 2: Well, where is she?

ANDREW: It's okay, they won't be looking for the women.

SIMON Z: We should have got out last night. Headed for the hills.

PETER: No, Simon. We stay. It's not ended yet it can't be.

(MARY COMES RUNNING CALLING OUT LOUDLY)

MARY: Peter, Peter. Andrew. John. He is risen. He's risen.

PETER: What are you saying?

MARY: I went to the tomb. It was open, empty. And then all at once a man all in white asked me why I was looking for the living among the dead. He said Jesus is risen and then..... I, I saw him! I saw Jesus! Alive and well and he told me to come and tell you.

JOHN: Where is he?

MARY: In the garden by the tomb.

PETER: Come on James, John. Andrew keep the rest of them here. We will see if this is true.

MARY: It is true! I saw him! He is risen!

PETER: I want to believe you Mary I really do, but...

JOHN: Peter! Come on let's go and see! I don't doubt you, Mary. He said he would never leave us.

(SUDDENLY THE RISEN CHRIST APPEARS ON THE HILL OF GOLGOTHA)

SCENE 15 - MISSION

JESUS: My friends.

APOSTLES: **(IMPROVISING)** Jesus. He's alive! He is Risen! Alleluia! Master! Messiah!

(THEY SWAMP OVER TO HIM)

JESUS: You see I am alive. Death, hell and all the powers of evil have done their worst and are defeated. Love is greater than hatred. Truth is greater than falsehood. My life is greater than death. Now my Kingdom can really begin, and it starts with you. Let my spirit fill your hearts then go and share the good news with all the world. Look a crowd is here. Start now, share with them all. And remember wherever you go to the end of time I shall always be beside you.

(THE CHOIR BURST INTO JOYOUS SONG. ALL THE DISCIPLES GATHER AROUND THE CROSS AS JESUS DISAPPEARS FROM VIEW. ONE OF THE PREACHERS ADDRESSES THE CROWD)

PREACHER: What you have seen today is a reminder of the most important events in the whole of history. We who have played this know the deep truth of sharing Jesus's spirit in today's world. Our mission is the same. We long that everyone here might also be a part of Jesus's new way and Kingdom. Then the Easter drama really starts happening. We would love to talk to you about Jesus's new way; if you would like to talk at length with us and it's not possible tonight then do leave your name and address and we will contact you. In any case we will be here for a while because we are going over to the hall over there for hot drinks and you are invited too. As you leave you will meet people with red buckets who will be very pleased to take any contribution you might like to offer towards the expenses of the project and the work of God in Hornchurch.

Thank you for coming to be with us on this very special day and God bless you and a very happy Easter.