

THE PROMISE ...

SCENE 1: GOD'S PROMISE

SONG: GOD HATH PROVIDED THE LAMB

A SMALL ENSEMBLE OR FEW VOICES START SINGING "God Hath Provided the Lamb"

LIGHTS UP ON RABBI AND BOYS AS THEY ENTER

RABBI SIMEON: All right boys let's hurry up now, we don't have all day and we have lots to cover today. Oh Thomas will you please hurry.

(Move up to temple area and unroll scroll)

MUSIC continues -- instrumental

Well my children today we have the wonderful story of Abraham the father of our faith, listen carefully as I tell it to you.

"... We see a father, Abraham, leading his only son Isaac up a lonely desolate hill. Out of obedience to the Lord, this most precious life, the sole heir to Abraham's kingdom will be sacrificed this day on an altar of wood. Through unfathomable heartache Abraham climbs the mountain with Isaac close behind, neither understanding what has brought them to this place and time but both choosing to trust and with unfaltering faith, they obey.

RABBI SIMEON: With a broken heart Abraham laid Isaac on the altar and drew his knife to slay his son as God has asked him to. But at that moment a voice from heaven said, "Abraham, Abraham, do not stretch out your hand against your son for now I know that you fear God since you have not withheld your son from me. And as he looked up behold there was a lamb caught in the thicket and he took the Lamb and offered him to the Lord.

RABBI SIMEON: And Abraham called the name of that place, Yahweh Jireh, the Lord will provide.

SONG: *The Day I Lay My Isaac Down*

ABRAHAM::

I have a prayer as pure as gold, that where You lead me I will go. And I'll embrace that holy plea each time Your Spirit calls to me. And in that hour, and in that time, when I must lose my will in Thine, my true devotion will be found the day I lay my Isaac down.

CHOIR/ENSEMBLE: Each sacrifice You call me to, I'll die to self, I'll live for You; take up the cross, forsake the crown, the day I lay my Isaac down.

Your Lamb of Love, my blessed Friend nailed to the altar for each sin. There in my place, Your Son was bound, that day You laid Your Isaac down. Each sacrifice You call me to, I'll die to self, I'll live for You; take up the cross, forsake the crown, the day I lay my Isaac down.

FADE TO BLACK

CROWD EXITS SINGING: *GOD HATH PROVIDED THE LAMB*

Sing Alleluia, God hath provided the lamb. O sing Alleluia, God hath provided the Lamb.

SCENE 2 - THE NATIVITY

THOMAS: And I still remember Rabbi Simeon's words when I was a young boy in the temple. He told us that God was sending us a deliverer too...not a lamb, he said, but a mighty King. Isaiah had said, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel."

THOMAS: And so we looked for Him to come to us in grandeur and majesty ... but we were looking in all the wrong places, because instead of glory and power ... He came to us in the humble trappings of a manger stall. God had sent us a perfect lamb, wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. In the middle of a dark still night, God became a little baby.

SONG: HERE WITH US

It's still a mystery to me That the hands of God could be so small,
How tiny fingers reaching in the night Were the very hands that
measured the sky

Chorus

Hallelujah, hallelujah Heaven's love reaching down to save the world
Hallelujah, hallelujah Son of God, Servant King, You're here with us
You're here with us

Verse 2

It's still a mystery to me, oh, How His infant eyes have seen the dawn of
time
How His ears have heard an angel's symphony, But still Mary had to rock
her Savior to sleep

Chorus

Hallelujah, hallelujah Heaven's love reaching down to save the world
Hallelujah, hallelujah Son of God, Servant King
Here with us You're here with us
(Ohh, mmm, here with us)

Bridge

Jesus the Christ, born in Bethlehem A baby born to save, to save the
souls of man

Chorus (2x)

Hallelujah, hallelujah Heaven's love reaching down to save the world
Hallelujah, hallelujah Son of God, Servant King
You're here with us You're here with us

Traveling Music – Joseph & Mary go to Stable

SONG: The First Noel

Shepherds enter

Noel, Noel. The first Noel, the angels did say, was to certain poor

shepherds in fields where they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

Wisemen enter

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far. And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought. Noel, Noel Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Born is the King, Noel, Noel. Born is the King, Noel! Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King, Noel, Noel!

(Choir Exits)

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: It was God's open house, bathed in holy splendor. Time stood still for salvation had come. The Creator of the universe perfected his prophecy in one night of hope as Joseph and Mary were the first to touch the King of glory. It was just as the prophet foretold, "A virgin will conceive; give birth to a child. His name will be called Emmanuel." Jeremiah, the prophet said "I will raise up to David a righteous branch." Even the psalmist, kings, magi from the east will bring their gifts. But one would have to wonder . a stable? Animals! Smelly shepherds? What was God thinking? You would have thought he would inherit a heavenly palace. Am I right? The world at his feet. Tribes lined up. At least a castle, some servants. Not a stable for the King of glory. But what are we thinking? Who are we to question the things of God?

MUSIC: (Joseph) "Little Yeshua"

Are you a prophet? Are you a king
or just a small baby who makes angels sing?
I'm not a wise man, I need a light to shine on my
questions tonight.

Little Yeshua, Morning Star, I'm filled
with the wonder of who you are.
Child of Jehovah and yet my son.
Little Yeshua, my little one.

JOSEPH (spoken during song): Little Yeshua, Emmanuel, God with Us. It does seem like an awfully big name for such a small boy. "God with Us." I'm not sure what that means. All I know is that's the name the angel gave you and who am I to argue with an angel? The angel said, "The child in Mary is from the Holy Spirit." That's

you, little Yeshua. And I know that somehow or other I am supposed to be your father here on earth. I promise I will take care of you, and love you and teach you everything I know.

But somehow I have a feeling you will teach me much more than I could ever teach you. In the meantime I am glad you picked me as your father, little Yeshua...Whoever you are.

Singing Joseph:

Little Yeshua, morning star
I am filled with the wonder of who you are.
Child of Jehovah and yet my son
Little Yeshua, my little one.

What will I teach you, a carpenter's trade?
The tools and the wood and the way things are made.
What will you teach me?
Will I understand the mysteries you hold in your hand?

Little Yeshua, morning star
I am filled with the wonder of who you are.
Child of Jehovah and yet my son
Little Yeshua-----my little one

Little Yeshua, morning star
I am filled with the wonder of who you are
Child of Jehovah and yet my son
Little Yeshua-----my little one

THOMAS: God had provided this son for Mary and Joseph. In the years to follow, they would flee to Egypt to escape the jealous wrath of King Herod. When they learned that King Herod had died, they then made their home back in Nazareth and were faithful to travel to Jerusalem each year to celebrate the Passover, where Jesus at the age of 12 amazed even the temple scholars with his understanding of the scriptures. He grew in wisdom and in stature finding favor with God and man.

His earthly father, Joseph taught him the carpenter's trade. Carpenters, you know, are trained to fix things that are broken and put back together things that are torn apart. What better training could Jesus have had for the ministry that lay ahead of Him in the years to come? Jesus lived and worked with Mary and Joseph until he was about 30 years of age.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: Then came the day he was recognized by the man called John, known as the baptizer. John was calling people to repentance from sin and telling them of one to come who would clean them not just with water, but also with the Spirit. It was very confusing to us all. Who was this man of whom

John spoke? I remember so clearly the day I watched the baptizer from far off as people from all walks of life were coming to be baptized in the Jordan river. It was on that day that I first saw Jesus!

JOHN THE BAPTIZER: Repent Prepare the way of the Lord.

THOMAS: This is the one spoken of by Isaiah, the prophet. A voice crying out in the wilderness.

MUSIC: "ONE VOICE"

I am one voice crying in the wilderness,
Shouting at the emptiness of the world.
Singing one song of hope to those who've gone astray,
Calling out, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!"

I speak one truth, salvation for the weary soul.
Repent and you can be made whole once again.
For one day God's light will overcome the dark,
A flame that pierces deep in the hearts of all men.

And every valley shall be filled,
And every mountain be made low.
The crooked straight, the rough places plain,
As all creation sees the salvation of God!

Behold the one man, Jesus who alone was slain
Who conquers death and lives to reign, risen Lord!
I claim one King, lifting up His mighty name,
Shouting "His truth is proclaimed to the world!"

I am one voice
Singing one song,
Speaking one truth.
I am one voice!

(Lights dim to blue and pin light upon Jesus.)

(Fade to black)

(Spot remains on John the Baptizer)

JOHN THE BAPTIZER: Behold the Lamb of God. He takes away your sins. My mother Elizabeth told me of him from a very early age. "John, she would say, "You are special. Jehovah has great things in store for you." But this, oh this, that I should baptize my Lord, the Holy One of Israel, the one we have longed for for generations! It is too much! I am not worthy even to untie the strap of his sandal and yet mine has been the privilege to show Him to the world.

JOHN EXITS SINGING: GOD HATH PROVIDED THE LAMB
Sing Alleluia, God hath provided the lamb. O sing Alleluia, God hath

provided the Lamb.

(spot of Joseph of A ... we hear the voice of Satan)

Joseph of Arimathea: Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devilõ .

Satan: If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.+

Joseph of A: Jesus answered: It is written, Man shall not live on bread aloneõ but on every word that comes from God.

Satan: If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you,
and they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."^[c]

Joseph of A: Jesus answered him, %It is also written: ~~D~~o not put the Lord your God to the test.q

Satan: Look before you at all the kingdomsõ .%All this I will give you,+he said, %If you will bow down and worship me.+

Joseph of A: And Jesus said to him, %A way from me, Satan! For it is written: ~~W~~orship the Lord your God, and serve him only.q So Satan left himõ until a more opportune time.

SCENE 3 - Ministry of Jesus

SPOT ON THOMAS STAGE RIGHT

THOMAS: I was there that day he was baptized by John and as I watched I kept saying to myself, "Thomas, Who is this man? Is he really the son of God?". Jesus left that afternoon and I didn't see Him again for a while. But the next time we met my life would be forever changed.

BACKGROUND MUSIC BEGINS

JESUS ENTERS

SPOT ON PETER STAGE LEFT

PETER: I'm Simon Peter, a fisherman ...I had heard of this man from Galilee. There were rumors of Him throughout Judea. From Galilee to the golden gates, Jesus brought strength for the weak, power for the meek, hope for the hopeless, in the name of the Lord. Why, the first day that we met, he said "Simon, follow me and I will make you a fisher of men." I can't explain it. It makes no sense. I don't know how to tell you what happened. I don't think I could explain it if I talked for years. It welled up inside of me like nothing ever had. My heart was telling me things my mind never could, so I followed Him. I just laid down my nets and followed. Me! -- who followed no one. I followed him right away from my boats . from my business. ò and although I didn't understand what he meant or where we were goingò I knew I had to follow Him.

PETER: I was fishing one day when my brother Andrew brought me to Jesus & said "Peter - this is Him - the one we've been waiting for. When I heard his voice say "follow me and I will make you fishers of men", I dropped my nets and went with him. The rest of the ones he called and I had only been together for a few days when Jesus was invited to a wedding in Cana of Galilee. His mother Mary was there and so were we.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS: My son Jesus and his disciples were at the wedding and right in the middle of all of the excitement the most awful thing happened.... the wine ran out. So I said to Jesus, they're out of wine...do what you can.

He called the servants and asked them to draw water from the water pots and right before their eyes the water was turned to wine.

Not everyone that day knew a miracle had happened in front of them.

They just knew that the wine was wonderful.
But I knew it was a miracle.

I remembered back to that night in Bethlehem when he was born, to all those years that he helped his father Joseph in the carpenter shop. All the questions he asked...all the time he spent in the synagogue. Learning all he could about Jehovah God. Even though he studied and seemed to learn, I somehow thought he had always known who he was and that God had this unbelievable plan for his life.

I knew this was it. That his time had come. This is what the angel said would happen, that's why he said to call him Jesus...Emmanuel...God with us.

SONG: *In the Name of the Lord* (CHOIR)

Crowds have lined the narrow street to see this Man from Galilee; Just a carpenter some say leading fools astray. Yet many kneel to give Him praise. And in His eyes they glimpse the power that sees the hearts of all men; And He knows His Father's mind, He speaks His Father's Word, for He comes in the name of the Lord.

There is strength in the name of the Lord. There is power in the name of the Lord. There is hope in the name of the Lord; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

DEMON POSSESSED VOICE: What do you want with me Son of the Most High God? Don't torture me!

JESUS: Come out evil spirit!

DEMON POSSESSED VOICE: My name is Legion for we are many!

JESUS: Come out!

SONG CONTINUES:

When my plans have fallen through and when my strength is nearly gone; when there's nothing left to do but just depend on You, and the power of Your name. And when we call upon Your name, You turn our weakness to power; we can know the Master's plan, extend the Master's hand, when we come in the name of the Lord.

There is strength in the name of the Lord. There is power in the name of the Lord. There is hope in the name of the Lord; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

His name will be worshipped forever. Creator, Redeemer and King! And King!

There is strength in the name of the Lord. There is power in the name of the Lord. And there is hope in the name of the Lord; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is He who comes, blessed is He who comes, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the name of the Lord, the name of the Lord!

PETER: Everywhere we went there were crowdsō all eager to be near himō to be healedō to sit at his feet and hear his voiceō We were looking for a Messiahō to establish our kingdom here on earthō so, who was this man whose message was unlike any weϕ ever heard?

Once some of us were arguing about who would be the greatest in the kingdom of heavenō and He said, %That unless we changed, and became like a little child we would never enter the kingdom of heaven.+He said, %If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last and the servant of allō .+

He said so many thingsō comforting wordsō and confronting wordsō I can still hear them now.

SONG: *Blessed Are They* (CHOIR)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven
Blessed are all those who mourn
For they will be comforted
Blessed are the meek
For they will inherit the earth
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness
They will be filled.

(Jesus, children, disciples, and crowd....)

JESUS: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
Do not judgeō or you too will be judged.

JOHN: *(Begins to chant to crowd)* Messiah! Messiah! *(Crowd joins in shouting %Messiah!+)*

CAIAPHAS: *(Trying to control the crowd)* No! Stop!
Messiah?...what youϕ saying is blasphemy!

PHARISEE #1: Tell us by what authority you are doing these thingsō Who gave you this authority?

JESUS: I will also ask you a question. Tell me, Johnϕ baptismō was it from heaven, or from men?

(Pharisees begin to talk to each other)

PHARISEE #2: If we say, %from heaven+he will ask , %Why didnϕ you believe him?q

PHARISEE #1: But if we say, From menqall the people will stone us, because they believe that John was a prophet.

CAIAPHAS: We donq know where it was from.

JESUS: Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

PHARISEE #2: Teacher,õ I have a question for youõ We know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Tell us your opinion then, Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

JESUS: You hypocrites! Why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying tax.

(Money changer steps forward to give Jesus a coin)

JESUS: whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?

ALL: Caesarq

JESUS: Then give to Caesar what is Caesarq *(Jesus tosses coin back to money changer)* and to God what is Godq.

(Looking at the Pharisee's ...but speaking to the crowd) Watch out for the teachers of the law. They like to walk around inflowing robes and be greeted in the marketplace, and have the most important seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets. *(Pharisees begin to walk away in disgust)* They cheat widows..and for a showõ make lengthy prayers.

Listen to meõ when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogue and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who sees what is done in secret and He will reward you. Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

(Woman enters from back followed by priests and others with prayer shawls screaming)

CAIAPHAS: *(To Jesus)* We caught this woman in the act of adultery. The law says to stone her, Rabbi. What do you say?

JESUS: *(To woman)* Donq worryõ everything will be alright.

PRIEST #2: Tell us %teacher+what do you want us to do with her?

(Jesus leans down and begins to write on the ground)

JESUS: *(Looking up)* If any of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.

(One by one they drop their stones & leave the area)

JESUS: *(to woman)* Is there no one left to condemn you?

ADULTERESS: No, my Lord. I see no one. Theyøe all gone.

JESUS: Then neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more!

PRIEST #1: Who is this man who can forgive sins?

SONG: *Blessed Are They* (CHOIR)

If for Jesusqsake people insult you
And persecute you, falsely accuse you,
Rejoice, be glad; great is your reward
Which now awaits you in heaven.

JESUS: *(to crowd)* Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me. For I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

PRIEST #2: Who is this man?

SONG: *Blessed Are They* (CHOIR)

Blessed are they who make peace
For they shall be children of God
Blessed are they, blessed are they
Blessed are they

JESUS: I am the vine and you are the branches. Apart from me you can do nothing.

PRIEST #3: Who is this man?

JESUS: *(angrily)* My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations. But you have made it a den of robbers!

CAIAPHAS: By whose authority do you speak?

JESUS: I tell you the truthõ .before Abraham was born, I AM.

(crowd reacts)

(JESUS SPEAKS TO DISCIPLES)

JESUS: Who do people say that the son of man is?

DISCIPLE 1: Lord, some say you are John the Baptist

DISCIPLE 2: or Elijah

DISCIPLE 3: or Jeremiah or one of the other prophets

JESUS: Yes, but you, who do you say I am?

PETER: (with conviction and amazed that the others did not realize it) You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God!

JESUS: Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, because this was not revealed to you by man· but by my father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell will not overcome it.

SONG: *Upon This Rock* (CHOIR)

Upon this Rock I^d build my Kingdom, And on this Rock forever and ever it shall stand; Upon this Rock of revelation I^d build a strong and mighty nation, And it shall stand the storms of time upon this Rock. I^d build My church upon this Rock. Amen!

(FADE TO BLACK)

SCENE 4 - Triumphal Entry

SPOT ON THOMAS, STAGE LEFT.

PETER: Yes, Jesus would teach and heal -- and heal and teach -- and teach and heal all day and into the night. I tried to tell him, Lord, the hour is late and there are so many. Send them into town so that they can buy some food. O Simon, you give them something to eat. (laugh) What? Did you see this hungry bunch? There are too many. Why, how much would it cost? A boy in the crowd said: ~~Master~~, you could have these.+

THOMAS: So, Jesus took a little lad's lunch that day. Only five loaves and two fish. What is that? But he blessed it. And then he took the bread. And tore it. He gave it to us and he sent us out into the crowd and asked us to give it to the people. He tore the bread. He divided the fish. He sent us out. It kept coming. It kept coming and coming. And they passed it around from man . from group to group -- from family to family. And they did eat and eat and eat. The did eat their fill . Some five thousand, maybe more. Then we took up what was left over. There must have been 11 . 12 baskets of food left over. Here was a miracle. Born out of necessity. Do you see? Little becomes much in the hands of Jesus. No wonder everywhere we went the people were anxious to see, to touch just the hem of his garment.

PETER: But nothing like one wonderful Sunday. We were on our way to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast. . Thousands were already with us. Thousands more came rushing out from the city to greet us. It was unbelievable! Children were running and playing. People were singing and dancing and then they started to take their coats off. And lay them on the street in front of Jesus. They started cutting down palm branches, waving them in the air. All of them were shouting. Hosanna!

SONG: *HOSANNA* – CHOIRS

Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed be the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed be the name of the Lord.
Blessed is He. Blessed is He.
Praise the name of the Lord.
Blessed is He. Blessed is He.
Praise the name of the Lord.
In the name of the Lord!
He comes in the name of the Lord!
In the name of the Lord!
He comes in the name of the Lord!

Glory and honor.
All glory to the name of the Lord!
Glory and honor.
All glory to the name of the Lord!
This may be the King.
Has Messiah come?
Hear the praises ring!
Could this be the one?

CROWD AND DISCIPLES "HOSANNA, HOSANNA, HOSANNA".

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: Hosannas riding through the city. Rejoice, daughter of Zion, your king comes to you gentle and riding on a donkey. Who is the King of glory? It's the Lord, strong and mighty. Everyone agrees Yeshua is Messiah!

THOMAS: Jesus went every day right into the temple to teach. And he was met every day the religious establishment hoping to trap Jesus into contradicting Moses. They were constantly prodding him, questioning his authority. Oh no, and things like our triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Sunday only further incensed them.

LIGHTS FADE. CROWD EXITS HUMMING: GOD HATH PROVIDED THE LAMB

Sing Alleluia, God hath provided the lamb. O sing Alleluia, God hath provided the Lamb.

JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: Oh, and then there was that ugly event that happened on Monday. Here's what happened. We came into the Holy city headed for Solomon's portico when Jesus stopped. The outer court was filled with buyers, sellers, moneychangers. You could see that look. It came over Jesus. It didn't take a genius to see, he was angry. Then he bolted into the crowd, pushing, shoving, kicking, yelling. "This is my Father's house of prayer. How dare you turn it into a den of thieves!!" Yes, these things had challenged their authority. O, the Passover week. the most profitable time of the year for the moneychangers. They made a whole year's temple budget in one week. These things, stirring up the people. These things, they were suddenly not in control off. They expected to control all religious thinking. Oh, they held the book on God they thought. Me? I was simply looking at Jesus for the expected reply. Why he had always given God the Father, no God, HIS father, the authority by which he did everything. So now naturally I expected him to do the same right

here. And then it hit me. That's what they were hoping he would do because then they would have him. Then they would charge him. Blasphemy. Oh, they weren't going to arrest Jesus right here. Oh, no for fear of the people they had another plan. We need an insider. We must find a traitor. And they plotted with Judas, to kill Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. But not before the feast of unleavened bread.

JUDAS: When we went back to Jerusalem, I felt we were right on the edge of what God wanted us to do. Jesus entered Jerusalem and He was greeted by hundreds of people waving palm branches. I was more excited and hopeful than I had ever been. I screamed over to Judas (*by way of explanation*) ... the other Judas ... He's the son of James, I'm Iscariot. I asked, Can you believe this? He was amazed. And when Jesus neared the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd began praising God louder than I would have believed. And the Pharisees in the crowd told Jesus to shut us up! You know what He said? He said, Tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.

PETER: He called me The Rock (*frustrated at himself...chuckles bitterly*) A Rock. You would think that with all the time I spent listening to Him and trying to figure Him out, I could see what He meant. Sometimes, I didn't even know if He understood our need. There was an occupying army on every corner, and He didn't seem to see it. I kept thinking, Is He blind? If He couldn't see that, what was He looking at? What was He waiting for? We needed to be saved from the Romans .right then.

SCENE 5 - Upper Room

Sound of Shofar

THOMAS: Then came the first day of the Feast of the Unleavened Bread .the day that the Passover lamb needed to be sacrificed. And so we gathered in an upper room as we had so many times before.

PETER: Soon we would discover that this would not be any normal Passover meal I remember the hour was late. The sun was beginning to set. There was a chill in the air a sweet quiet creeping through the city. And there were candle lights flickering in all the windows.

Thaddeus the most servant of us all was of course the first in the room that evening. How he loved Passover! And of course the Canaanite, Simon the Zealot. He could not be late if he tried. Too afraid he might miss something.

Philip and Bartholomew .inseparable friends . for it was Philip who first brought this once skeptic to meet Jesus in the first place. No doubt Judas bargained well for this Passover meal But this more lavish than others as if had something to prove . Curious fellow .Certainly not my pick to be one of us. But for that matter, neither was Matthew---a tax collector!! But Matthew . Now there's wonderful evidence of a changed man! Let me tell you what he did. The first day that he accepted Jesus as his Messiah he threw a dinner party. A huge dinner party!! He invited half of Capernaum so they could meet Jesus too.

Now when Thomas gets anywhere . It becomes official Hed check it out. No doubt about it it will have the Thomas seal of approval. And then there's James, son of Alpheus Soft spoken for sure . But if pushed, he could rebuke. He had no desire to stand out he knew his place with Jesus.

They call me Simon, the fisherman But let me tell you about my brother Andrew . They call him the lousy fisherman But what a wonderful fisher of men.+ How many times have I wondered if I would have ever come to Jesus if Andrew had not been so convinced that Jesus is the Messiah.

Our other fishing partners from Capernaum trouble makers often but defenders of the faith .James and his brother John

sons of thunder Jesus called themō . You could count on them being lateō but you could count on themō

As we had our meal together, Jesus began to say & do some disturbing things. He talked of His deathō .deathō we weren't ready for Him to dieō we wanted a King, not a sacrificial Savior. Somehow we could not understand that Jesus had come to be both.

JESUS: I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.

(Jesus takes the bread)

Song: ABBA

Abba, Abba. Like a whisper on the wind I hear my name. In a sound so like a sigh, again it came.
Your disciples gathered with You do not hear, yet the whisper of my name has reached my ear.
I am here, my Son, here in the upper room.
I hear the water gently splash, I see the Servant King attending to His friends.
Here I am in the upper room.
But as you serve the bread and wine, the broken body and the blood are Yours alone.

(Jesus takes the cup) (All disciples have their hands on the table)

JESUS: The hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table.

(all disciples begin to look at each other and question ... who?)

PETER: *(to John)* Ask him which one he means.

JOHN: Lord, who is it?

JESUS: It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.

(Jesus dips the bread and hands it to Judas...who takes it)

JESUS: What you are about to do, do quickly.

(Judas gets up and leaves)

JESUS: My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples; if you love one another.

PETER: Lord, where are you going?

JESUS: Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.

PETER: Lord, why can I follow you now?

JESUS: You will all fall away for it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.

PETER: Even if all fall away, I will not.

JESUS: I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me.

PETER: Even if I have to die with you, I would never disown you.

JESUS: Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also be where I am. You know the way to the place I am going.

THOMAS: Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?

JESUS: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Come now, let us leave.

(JESUS, PETER, JAMES, JOHN, MOVE TO GARDEN)

(Judas & priests are in the shadows making a deal..Judas steps out)

JUDAS: I have never seen such a naïve bunch of sheep. I was like them. Then, what Jesus was doing didn't make any sense. Now I have realized He had no intention of overthrowing the Romans to

become King. He had no political ambition. No drive. He was pandering to the wrong people. He spent all this time with the poor, the sinners. That was a dead end! We needed alliances with the influential people of Jerusalem. We needed help from the Sanhedrin! We needed money! We needed to court the Pharisees, not alienate them! Am I the only one who sees this? But I solved all of that tonight. Money, influence, and power. Now we're ready for the real Messiah.

SCENE 6 - Garden of Gethsemane

(SPOT ON JOSEPH, STAGE LEFT)

JOSEPH OF A: And when they had sung a hymn, Jesus and several of his disciples left the Passover room that night and left the city. They went out to pray beneath the olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane. There, even with his closest friends, Jesus was still alone. His hour of trial was close at hand.

JESUS: Sit here while I go over there and pray. My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me. Pray that you will not fall into temptation.

Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.

SATAN: *(Speaks in a suave manner, yet with a deadly undertone)* Jesus, it has been a while. *(Displaying concern, half-heartedly)* What's the matter, Jesus? You seem so distressed. *(A cruel smile suddenly appears)* Of course, of course! You are about to make this so ultimate sacrifice! *(Raises voice)* For who? Them? *(points towards sleeping disciples)* They can't even stay awake in your hour of need. And you called him Peter, the rock. You should have never agreed to let me test him. He's mine now. Come on Jesus, just say the word and this will all be over. I'll give you everything, just bow down and worship me. They *(point to audience)* belong to me. Give it up while you still can.

JESUS: Not my will, Father, but yours be done.

SONG: ABBA

Abba, Abba. Like a whisper on the wind I hear my name.
In a sound so like a sigh, again it came.
With a whisper that is heard by God alone.
My only Son begins His painful journey home.

SCENE 7 - Arrest & Trial

MUSIC BEGINS

JOSEPH OF A: Suddenly an angry crowd approached, armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and elders. Judas, who had arranged to betray him, was with them. Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Master" and kissed Him. In an act of desperation, Peter cut off the ear of one of the temple guard. Jesus rebuked him, knelt over the wounded man and healed him. Then they bound Jesus and took Him to Caiaphas, the high priest and other members of the Sanhedrin.

SOLDIERS & JUDAS ENTER FROM TEMPLE AREA.

SPOT FOLLOWS THEM IN & OVER TO GARDEN.

*JUDAS BETRAYS JESUS WITH EMBRACE LEAVES ...
TURNS TO CATCH MONEY BAG FROM HEAD CENTURION.*

SOLDIERS TAKE JESUS TO CENTER STAGE, THEN FREEZE

PETER (*aside, weeping*): There we were in the garden. It was pitch black. No stars, no moon. Just torches flaming in the night. Temple guards, priests and, andō now we know. It was Judas! Judas, who betrayed Jesus with a kiss. It signaled the soldiers so that they could arrest Jesus and take him away like a common thief. The others fled just as Jesus said. But not me! I said that I was my Jesus and if you take him, you have to take me too! No, no I didn't. That's a lie. No, if only I had. If I ever have another chance, I know that I would. But no. I followed at a distance. Hiding in the shadows, warming my hands outside the chief priest, Caiaphas' house while they hauled him off to Herod and then to Pilate.

HORNS

CAIAPHAS: Carpenter, the accusations against you cannot be ignored. We are just, and only deal in truth. A charge against this man, let them speak.

PRIEST: He is a liar

PRIEST: He's crazy, He said he could destroy the temple and rebuild it again in 3 days.

CAIAPHAS: It took Herod over 40 years and 10,000 men to build the temple. Are you greater than Herod, are you the Son of God as you say?

JESUS: If I tell you, you wouldn't believe me but the time is soon coming when I the Messiah shall be enthroned beside Almighty God.

CAIAPHAS: Then you claim you are the Son of God.

JESUS: Yes, I am.

NOISE (*Choir and Priests react*)

CAIAPHAS: We need no further witnesses, you've heard His blasphemy, What is your verdict.

PRIESTS: Guilty...He has blasphemed

PILATE: What are you accusing this man of?

CAIAPHAS: If he weren't a criminal we wouldn't have brought him here to you.

PILATE: Then why don't you take him and try him according to your own law?

CAIAPHAS: You know that our law forbids us to put any man to death.

PILATE: What exactly has he done?

CAIAPHAS: He's leading our people to ruin by claiming to be their King, the Messiah.

PILATE: What is that to me?

CAIAPHAS: Any man who makes himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.

PILATE:(To Jesus) Are you the Messiah, their King?

JESUS: Yes, it is as you say.

PILATE: So, that's no crime.

CAIAPHAS: But he perverts our nation and he's causing riots against the government everywhere he goes from Galilee to Jerusalem.

PILATE: Is he a Galilean?

CAIAPHAS: Yes

PILATE: Then Herod should be judging Him, not me. Take him to King Herod for Galilee is under his jurisdiction and Herod is here now in Jerusalem.

MUSIC

HEROD: Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha, You call yourself the King of the Jews, just look at you, you resemble a beggar more than a king. If he is a king he should be dressed as a king. Clap, Bring him a robe befitting this great King of the Jews.

CAIAPHAS: He's no King of ours, He's a trouble maker. Can't you see he's dangerous.

HEROD: Dangerous, any fool can see he's no criminal. Dangerous, take this poor creature back to Pilate for I find no fault in Him.

(MUSIC BEGINS TO PLAY)

ANNA, A GIRL AT THE FIRE: I know you, you were with Jesus the Nazarene.

PETER: You must have me mistaken for someone else, I don't know him.

PETER: I tell you I do not know him.

GAIUS, A SOLDIER AT THE FIRE: Are you sure you are not one of his followers, for you too are a Galilean?

PETER: I'm telling you I do not know this man.

(COCK CROWS)

(JESUS LOOKS AT PETER)

MUSIC

PILATE: Why have you brought this man to me again? Nothing he has done calls for the death penalty so I will have him beaten and released.

SHOUTING

What then would you have me do with this king of the Jews? Would you have me crucify your king?

(Washes Hands)

I am innocent of the blood of this just man

(Writes)

Caiaphas, his blood is on your hand.

CAIAPHAS: Let his blood be on us and on our children. You have the King of the Jews, this must read he claimed to be King of the Jews.

PILATE: What is written, is written!

SONG: *Mary's Song* (MARY)

Is this the boy I raised? Is this the son I knew?
Is this the one I've loved? Why can't they love Him too?
What has my son ever done to you? Has He caused you some pain?
As I recall all He's shown is love! Why can't you shown Him the same?
This is the boy I raised, This is the son I knew
This is the one I've loved, Why can't you love Him too?
O what can I do my son? Why can't they see what I know
Is this the way it must be? Is this the way you must go?
I'd gladly die in Your place is I could save you some pain,
but I can see in your face, my death would not be the same

PILATE: Take him away!

MARY: You are the boy I raised. You are the son I knew
You are the one I've loved, why can't they love you too?

(SOLDIERS TAKE JESUS OUT – THEN ALL FREEZE!)

PETER: Didn't He see this coming? I needed to ask Him why this was happening. I needed to know what I was supposed to do! I needed to talk to Him one more time. I wonder if I ever truly saw who He was.

JUDAS: It looks like they've realized what a mistake they made. They scattered. I knew it.

It worked . He's gone. Now I have the money we need ... but nothing to use it for. And what's happening to Him now ... *(suddenly guilty)* I didn't know how far they'd go. He doesn't deserve what they're doing to Him, but He chose it! Not me! I'm not responsible for His actions. This was going to happen . I didn't cause it. At most I just sped it up. *(Judas stares off into space, racked with guilt, not even believing his own words.)*

JOHN: All around us was death and hatred ... spitting, cursing, and screaming. It was ... it was the worst place I had ever been. Where were the people who pledged their lives and their honor to Him? Christ was going to the cross and the men He was to die for were hiding in dark rooms, too afraid to move, and too weak to watch. What haunts me is that He didn't seem surprised by any of this. It was as if He had known this all along ... like He had prepared for it all of His life.

SCENE 8: Calvary

SONGS: (CHOIR)

Via Dolorosa

Down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem that day The soldiers tried to clear the narrow street; But the crowd pressed in to see the man condemned to die on Calvary. He was bleeding from a beating, there were stripes upon His back, And He wore a crown of thorns upon His head; And He bore with every step the scorn of those who cried out for His death. Down the Via Dolorosa, called %The Way of Suffering,+ Like a lamb, came the Messiah, Christ the King. And He chose to walk that road out of His love for you and me, Down the Via Dolorosa all the way to Calvary.

Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb, behold the Lamb
Slain from the foundation of the world
For sinners crucified, O Holy sacrifice
Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb.
Crown-----Him! Crown-----Him!
Worthy is the Lamb
Praises-----Praises Heaven & earth resound
Behold the Lamb! Behold the Lamb!
Slain from the foundation of the world
For sinners crucified O Holy sacrifice
Behold the Lamb of God
behold the Lamb of God behold the Lamb of God.

JESUS: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Be---hold the lamb.
Behold the Lamb Behold the Lamb

JESUS: It is finished...

(THUNDER & LIGHTENING)

SONG: *Kyrie Eleison (Christ Our Lord Have Mercy)*

Holy Son of Man, I kneel here before Your cross, broken and sorrowful by what man's sin has done. Christ, Our Lord, have mercy. Christ, Our Lord, have mercy.
Precious Lamb of God, I bow before You now, so unworthy of Your redeeming grace. Christ, Our Lord, have mercy. Christ, Our Lord, have mercy.
Kneeling here below Your cross, all my gain for sure seems lost. Christ, our Lord, have mercy, I pray.

(JESUS IS TAKEN INTO THE TOMB)

SONG : JESUS, JESUS GENTLE LAMB

Jesus, Jesus Gentle Lamb, led to the slaughter; Jesus, Jesus, gentle lamb, silent on death's altar. No plea of innocence, no defiant cry, Jesus, gentle lamb, He came to die.

Jesus, Jesus, gentle lamb, crowds came to curse Him; Jesus, Jesus, gentle lamb, He chose to forgive them. Yet He was crucified on Golgotha's hill. Jesus, gentle lamb, He felt death's chill.

He took my place, He bore my shame; And with His stripes my healing came! On the cross, the cross for all to see, Jesus the Lamb, the Lamb of God, He died for me.

Amazing love! How can it be that Thou my God, my God should died... He died for me. He died for me.

SCENE 9 - Resurrection/Empty Tomb

MUSIC, (BACKGROUND MUSIC)

DISCIPLE JOHN: For us, the world really ended that afternoon ... what with nature going crazy, earthquakes so violent that they ripped apart the curtain that hung over the Holy of Holies in the temple. There was midnight darkness in the middle of the day, and rain - such rain! I thought the whole city would be washed away!

DISCIPLE THOMAS: But the world didn't end, although for us it would have been easier if it had. It all seems like a nightmare, only we're awake and it's not going to go away!...It didn't take Him to die. It was as if He decided Himself when enough was enough.

DISCIPLE PETER: After it was over we begged for His body and carried it through the mud to the tomb Joseph gave us. He had such wounds it was hard to work with His body. We cleaned Him and wrapped Him as best we could. Then we went awayō I wanted it to be a dream so much that I woke up praying. Ironic. In the garden I had fallen asleep praying.

DISCIPLE JOHN: The dreams and the promises seemed to have died with him. I spent the second day at homeō living out the Passover. If the Father saved us with a lamb in Egypt, why didnō He have a lamb for us that night in Jerusalem?

DISCIPLE THOMAS: It wasn't just the grief. It was fear, too. We thought they might crucify us all. And for what? All the things He's said about living forever ... and building a kingdom that would never end, and now He's dead! A nice fairy tale ... a child's fantasy ... a cruel joke ... and the joke was on us!

THOMAS AND MATTHEW EXIT

DISCIPLE PETER: So we all walked away from His grave in silence. There was nothing to say. We'd just lost our dearest friend in all the world. But I had lost more than just a friend. I'm not sure when I first realized who He really was and what He had come to do. Maybe it was that first day when He called my name, maybe it was that unforgettable night when I met him in the middle of the lake, maybe it was any one of a hundred times he healed someone in need or spoke an encouraging word. I donō know - what I do know is that I am not the same since the day he took my hand and said *Peter follow me+* What are we going to do without Him? He told us over and over that this day was coming but we didnō think He would really die. We were ready to conquer the world with Him - we were ready to go with Him anywhere, but now look. He's gone - and what's worse - in his greatest hour of need, I stood right there and denied that I even knew Him. Did He die because of me? Lord forgive me!

He told the Jewish leaders that He would destroy the temple and rebuild it

in three days. They thought he meant these stones -- He was talking about Himself. I'm not sure exactly what He meant but I do know that every word He ever spoke was true I know that I believe that He is the Christ and I know that He is not finished yet!

PETER EXIT.

SONG: *Christ Is Risen* (CHOIR)

Jesus was crucified. Jesus was crucified. He died and was buried,
Died and was buried. Jesus was crucified.

(TOMB OPENS, LIGHT COMES ON, SMOKE COMES OUT AND SOLDIERS FLEE)

Christ is risen, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ is risen, alleluia, alleluia!
He triumphs over the grave, our sinful souls to save. He lives again and gives eternal life.
Christ is risen, risen, alleluia. He is risen, risen, alleluia! He is risen, risen, alleluia!
Christ is risen, risen, alleluia! He is risen, risen, alleluia! He is risen, risen, alleluia!
The darkness of the night has turned to radiant light, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The tomb is empty where he lay. An angel rolled the stone away. A song of victory fills the sky, He lives that we no longer die. With hearts and voices raise a glorious hymn of praise.
Christ is risen, risen, alleluia! He is risen, risen, alleluia! He is risen, risen, alleluia!
Christ is risen, risen, alleluia! He is risen, risen, alleluia! He is risen, risen, alleluia!
Christ is risen, he is risen, he is risen, alleluia!

WOMEN RETURN TO THE TOMB, FIND IT EMPTY, HURRY AWAY

SONG ENDS. FADE TO BLACK. CHOIR QUIETLY EXITS CHOIR LOFT

SCENE 10 - The Disciples Gathered

JOSEPH OF A: Jesus appeared to many of us in the days following His resurrection. Our hearts were filled with joy as we talked with our risen Lord. But Thomas....Thomas could not believe because he had not seen the Lord. I guess there was a lot of doubt in us all, and a whole lot of fear and weakness. You know, in a way we are all like Thomas.

THOMAS: My emotions had taken all the abuse I could stand. The others came to me and said, "Thomas, we have seen Him, we have seen the Lord." They said Mary had seen Him too, and I thought, oh well she's so grief stricken until she'd believe anything.

As much as I wanted to, I just could not believe. Show me His hands and His side, I said, and then I'll believe you.

And we were gathered together again and I was there and He came to us ... and in that moment all the doubts that had kept me from believing were taken away as I touched His hands and side and knew that He really had risen like He promised He would.

SONG: WE ALL ARE THOMAS (JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA)

We all are Thomas; we have to see, We have to see with our own eyes
before we risk believing, Or open to receive His wondrous gift We have to
see.

We all are Thomas: we have to touch, We have to touch with our own
hands the wounds that once were bleeding, The hands that prayed that
we would all be one.

We have to touch. And yet He comes to us, holds out His hands to us;
And He invites us: touch and see. He knows it's not easy to believe; Yet
it is when we touch the broken body of our Lord That we see Him for who
He truly is! We all are Thomas, We all are Thomas, We all are Thomas.

JOHN: What do you do when your plans change abruptly
ō without Jesus with usō we weren't sure what to doō so we went
back to what was comfortableō we went fishing. But we weren't
having any luckō the next morning, we heard this voiceō +Friends,
haven't you any fish?+ %throw your net on the right side of the boat
and you will find some.+ We did and there were so many fishō we
couldn't lift the netō I told Peterō +It's the Lord!+ ō Well, you know
Peterō he jumped into the sea and swam to Himō We had
breakfast with Jesus.

He asked Peterō Simon, do you love me more than these?

PETER: Yes, Lord you know I love you. Feed my lambs, he said.
Again, he said..Simon, do you truly love me? Yes, Lord, you know I
love you. Take care of my sheep. Then, a third timeō Simon, do
you love me? Lordō you know all thingsō you know I love you.

Then, feed my sheepō And follow meō

JOHN: He came back and invited us to try againō but this time
with Himō .

And so our ministry beganō

Scene 11: The Promise ... Yet to Come

NARRATOR: On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousands times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and in a loud voice they said:

ALL: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and honor and glory and praise."

NARRATOR: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away and He who was seated on the throne said, "Behold I am making everything new!"

He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Look, he is coming with the clouds,
And every eye shall see him,
Even those who pierced him;

He said to me, "Behold, I am coming soon!" Come Lord Jesus!

Scene 13: Christ Returns

CHOIR SINGS "Midnight Cry"

Jonathan Sumner is soloist down front.

I hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind, and it's closer now than it's ever been; I can almost hear the trumpet as Gabriel sounds the call, at the midnight cry, we'll be going home.

When Jesus steps out on a cloud to call His children, The dead in Christ shall rise to meet Him in the air; And then those that remain shall be quickly changed, at the midnight cry when Jesus comes again.

I look around me I see prophecies fulfilled, and signs of the times, they're appearing everywhere. I can almost hear the Father as He says, "Son, get your children." And at the midnight cry, the bride of Christ will rise.

When Jesus steps out on a cloud to call His children, The dead in Christ shall rise to meet Him in the air; And then those that remain shall be quickly changed, At the midnight cry when Jesus comes again.

And then those that remain shall be quickly changed, At the midnight cry when Jesus comes again. At the midnight cry when Jesus comes again. Comes again.

REMAINING IN PLACE.

ENDING

REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL BENEDICTION