

CHARACTER LIST

NARRATOR

JESUS

JUDAS

PETER

LUKE

PONTIUS PILATE

ROMAN GUARD

CHIEF PRIEST

SHOPKEEPER

MARY

MARTHA

CITIZEN #1

CITIZEN #2

CITIZEN #3

CITIZEN: #4

THIEF #1

THIEF #2

THIEF #3

Passion Play 2012 - Part One (Palm Sunday to Good Friday)

HYMN: Congregation (*Youth process in, and sit in choir loft for hymn, and blessing of the Palms*)

Blessing of the Palms

Hymn (*children take their spots in front of the church.*)

LITTLE KIDS: Grab a palm and with us sing

For here He comes, the King of Kings

Upon a donkey old and gray

Spread the palms, prepare the way

OLDER CHILDREN

The crowd cheers now, but that will change

And nothing will ever be the same

But for now let your hearts be light

Embrace the day; don't think of night

For this is the path upon which we tread

No other choice but the way ahead

So

LITTLE KIDS:

Grab a palm and with us sing

For here He comes, the King of Kings!

NICHOLAS/JESUS: Today, we will enter Jerusalem.

NARRATOR: After a long journey, JESUS and the disciples finally arrived at the grand city. Not far from the main gates, on a Hill called the Mount of Olives, they stopped to rest. JESUS sent two disciples to find a donkey. Not a grand horse, but a donkey. He chose the donkey because he wanted to be seen as a person of peace, not a great soldier arriving on a big horse. When they returned, he rode the donkey into the city. As JESUS approached, the people tore the palm leaves off nearby trees and began to wave their palms. They started to cheer.

EVERYONE: HOSANNA! HOSANNA! Hosanna in the Highest!

SHOPKEEPER: (waving a t-shirt): Get your Hosanna T-shirts here! Get 'em while they last! 10 denari apiece.

CITIZEN #1: Do you see him? Do you see him?

CITIZEN #4: I can't see anything, with you guys in the way.

CITIZEN #3/CITIZEN #2: WE see him! He's on a donkey!

BROOKLYN: And they're putting palms in his path.

CITIZEN #3: Like a king coming home from a victory.

CITIZEN #2: Except who ever heard of a King on a Donkey?

CITIZEN #1: You won't believe what they are saying about him.

CITIZEN #4: I have heard some crazy stories: that this man, Jesus, heals the sick!

ISABELLA: He comforts strangers!

BROOKLYN: And makes the blind see!

CITIZEN #4: That he offers hope to the poor!

BROOKLYN: And stands up to the religious leaders.

ISABELLA: Now that takes courage!

CITIZEN #4: He must truly have God on his side.

CITIZEN #1: He sounds too good to be true.

CITIZEN #3: Too amazing to be real.

CITIZEN #2: And yet here he comes!

ANTHEM: EASTER JUBILATION

HIGH PRIEST: Listen to them shouting. This is a situation that definitely needs keeping an eye on.

PETER: I cannot believe we are finally here. And look at this crowd. Listen to them rejoicing. Surely this is a good sign?

JUDAS: Yuck. Here we go again - praise and worship, praise and worship. Does it every stop? Where's our praise? Where's our glory?

PONTIUS PILATE: You know, I am not opposed to a little celebrity once in a while. It's good for business. Brings in the tourists. But this guy on a donkey, he's bound to be trouble. The chief priests are not going to be happy at all. But, you have to admire him. He sure knows how to make an entrance!

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

(the little kids leave, sit in the front pew)

the disciples sit down in the front of the church, and stand only for their lines; Tristan is at the lectern.

NARRATOR: But there were dark deeds afoot. One of the 12 disciples, who was called JUDAS Iscariot, went to the chief priests.

JUDAS: What will you give me if I betray him to you?

HIGH PRIEST: We will give you 30 pieces of silver. But you better keep your end of the bargain.

(JUDAS and the HIGH PRIEST make a deal, centre stage.)

NARRATOR: The priest made his offer, and JUDAS accepted. And from that moment, he began to watch for an opportunity

to betray JESUS. Meanwhile, the disciples gathered in a private place for the evening meal.

MARTHA: Well, that was quite a day!

SIMON: Did you see that crowd? Did you hear them? It was amazing!

MARY: And what a city! I have never seen so many people.

JUDAS: But how can we enjoy it, with no coin in our pockets?

PETER: This has, indeed, been quite a journey. It's all happened so fast. One day, a catcher of fish.....

LUKE: The next day, we are fishing for people.

PETER: Just as you promised, teacher.

LUKE: So many great days. Do you remember Lazarus, rising from the dead?

MARY: Who could possibly forget THAT day.

MARTHA: And the day, in the temple, when JESUS called the children forward.

JUDAS: The Chief Priests didn't like that.

PETER: Well, they liked it even less when JESUS trashed the temple. That was a pretty interesting moment.

LUKE: I think I would have to put the feeding of the 5,000 on my top ten list.

MARTHA: Now that was a miracle!

JUDAS: (grumpy) It was all right.

PETER: We have travelled so far with you, rabbi.

ISLA: We will never leave you.

ANTHEM: THANK YOU GOD

JESUS: My friends, we have indeed travelled far. You have lightened my load on many days. For that I am grateful. But the darkness that was foretold is coming. And ... truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.

PETER: Surely not I, Lord?

LUKE: It won't be me, Jesus.

JESUS: My friends, I wish it were not so. But it has been said: the one who has dipped his hand in the bowl with me will betray me. And woe to the one by whom the Son of God is betrayed.

JUDAS: (*looking at the congregation*) Do you think he knows already?

JESUS: Know this: You will all desert me. This very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.

PETER: Even should it mean my death, I will not deny you.

NARRATOR: But the women knew their presence would not be noticed by the authorities. Among them was MARY Magdelene, and two sisters, MARY and Martha.

(Citizen #3 joins as a sister.)

ISLA/MARY: Rabbi, we would not turn you from your path.

SILVIA/MARTHA (sister): But the journey to come will be very hard. And we might remain when others must go.

ISLA/MARY: So look to us, Lord, when the day is dark.

SILVIA: We will walk beside you until the end.

ISLA/MARY: I give you my word.

SILVIA: And mine. Keep it with you as comfort.

JESUS: (speaking to them all) Know this, my friends: Faith holds true even when it falters. Your tie to me shall not be broken.... But, for now, let us share one last supper together, and let me prepare a final communion, to keep us strong for the road ahead.

(all the DISCIPLES return to the choir loft)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION (with JESUS as assistant)

OFFERTORY HYMN

(during the offertory hymn, the DISCIPLES return to their spot, sit in a circle around JESUS; the CHIEF and the ROMAN GUARD go and stand behind the pulpit)

NARRATOR: After that Last Supper, JESUS went with the disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He was feeling sorrowful and troubled.

JESUS: The dawn is coming quickly. Brothers and Sisters, will you not wait out the night with me?

LUKE: We will.

(and the disciples lie down)

NARRATOR: JESUS prayed to God, feeling fear for the fate that awaited him.

JESUS: Dear God, if it be possible let this cup pass from me. But I am your servant; your will be done.

NARRATOR: As the night went on, the disciples fell asleep. JESUS continued to pray. And through prayer, he steeled himself for what lay ahead.

JESUS: Dear God, if this cup cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.

HYMN (*CONGREGATION CAN REMAIN SEATED for vs. 1 of #345*)

JESUS: (*to the sleeping disciples, who get up*): Rise, let us be going. My betrayal is at hand.

JUDAS (speaking to a Roman Guard): The one I kiss; that is who you should arrest. Then I will have kept my promise and receive my gold. (*He goes up and hugs JESUS*)

ROMAN GUARD: Are you JESUS the Nazarean?

JESUS: I am the one you seek. I will go with you. Let the others go.

ROMAN GUARD: You are under arrest.

PETER: (*draws his sword.*) Stand back. You shall not have him!

JESUS: Put down your sword, brother. Shall I not drink from the cup that God gave me? I must go, for my part. And I shall not lose any of those that God gave me. (*He steps forward to face the crowd.*)

HIGH PRIEST (*stand with the guard*) :Is this the man? Is this the one?

CITIZEN: This is the man who said: I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.

HIGH PRIEST: What say you to this accusation? (JESUS is silent)
Have you no answer on your own behalf? Tell us: are you the
Messiah, the Son of God?

JESUS: I have taught publicly in the synagogue and in the
streets where all gather. I have kept no secrets. All who heard
me know what I have said.

ROMAN GUARD: Is this how you answer a HIGH PRIEST? (He
raises his sword).

JESUS: If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I
have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

HIGH PRIEST: He has blasphemed! What is your verdict?

EVERYONE: For his crime, he deserves death!

HIGH PRIEST: You (pointing at PETER) there! Were you not
always with this man, JESUS of Galilee?.

PETER: I don't know what you are talking about.

ROMAN GUARD: I saw you too, when I arrested him!

PETER: I do not know him.

SOUND: Cock-a-doodle-do

HIGH PRIEST: But your face is familiar. Your speech is the same.
I believe that you know him well.

PETER: I do not know the man. He is a stranger to me.

SOUND: Cock-a-doodle-do.

PETER: *(turns to the crowd):* What have I done? It is as JESUS said. I have betrayed him. I have lost my way! *(Buries his head in his hands and turns away.)*

(the disciples all go and sit in the choir loft; Tristan, Emmanuelle, and Brooklyn remain.)

JUDAS: (standing): But my sin is the most grievous of all. For I have traded JESUS away for a pile of gold in a moment of greed. You judge me, I can see it is true. But can you not see? I made a mistake. Have you never done so? I acted rashly, and then there was no going back... (he turns to the chief priest) ... Please, I would give this money to the temple, for it burns in my hands.

CHIEF PRIEST: We cannot take it. Blood money has no place in the coffers.

JUDAS: Please, accept my offering of repentance, that I might have a chance at forgiveness.

CHIEF PRIEST: Very well, we will take it. We will use it to by a potter's field to bury those who have no family. Now go, traitor.

JUDAS: Good-bye. I cannot bear to stay to see what my ill deed has made happen. You will not see me again. Pity me, for I have sinned. Pray for me, for I would be forgiven.

(Judas goes to the choir loft)

HYMN (*CONGREGATION REMAINS SEATED for vs 2-3 #345*)

NARRATOR: Very early in the morning, the chief priests, the elders, and the lawyers plotted their next step. Then they tied Jesus up, led him away and handed him over to Pilate to be judged.

(Pontius Pilate stands beside Jesus)

PONTIUS PILATE: Do you hear what they are saying about you? (JESUS is silent.) Even I know them to be lies. But answer me: Are you the king of the Jews?

JESUS: Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?

PONTIUS PILATE: No more riddles. Answer me straight. What have you done?

JESUS: My kingdom does not belong to this world. I answer to God.

PONTIUS PILATE: It is not God who judges you now. Why don't you defend yourself? I know that you are not guilty. They are jealous of you. The HIGH PRIESTS worry about their own positions. Speak up, so that justice might be served.

JESUS: It is only the justice of Heaven that matters on this day.

PONTIUS PILATE: Listen, you are being foolish. You are putting me in a bad spot. I am sure if you agree to leave the city, they will be satisfied. You **MUST** speak in your own defence. *(When JESUS still says nothing, Pilate throws up his hands, and turns to address the crowd.)*

PONTIUS PILATE: I have one chance to save this man. It is festival week, and there is a tradition that the people may ask for the freedom of one prisoner. I will bring them the worst criminal from the prisons, and present them a choice: Release a criminal or release JESUS. Surely, this will set things right. *(he turns to the crowd)* Listen to me. I find no guilt with this man. But according to custom, I may set one man free today. Who shall it be? This murderer named Barabbas, or this man, JESUS?

EVERYONE (IN THE CHOIR LOFT): Barabbas! Give us Barabbas!

PONTIUS PILATE: *(to himself)* This cannot be happening. They would rather free a criminal than an innocent man. They don't realize what they are doing. *(He turns to the crowd)* Then what I am to do with JESUS, King of the Jews?

EVERYONE: Crucify him! Crucify Him!

PONTIUS PILATE: *(to himself)* But he has done no wrong. I cannot condemn such a man as this to such a death. *(to the crowd):* What crime has this man committed? For I cannot see what it might be.

EVERYONE: Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify Him!

PONTIUS PILATE: Very well, but I shall have no part of this. I wash my hands of this wrongful deed. Let me be clear. It is you - the people - who are sending this man JESUS to the cross - not me. I share no blame in this....*(turns to JESUS)* Bring him forward. Have it written upon his cross: Here Lies JESUS of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. I shall have no protest from the HIGH PRIESTs. What I have written, I have written.

HYMN (*CONGREGATION CAN REMAIN SEATED for vs. 4 #345*)

(THE Roman guard, the two thieves, and Jesus, are on the stage, their hands behind their backs.)

NARRATOR: And so they made him carry his cross up to the top of the hill, to the place that is called Golgotha. And along the way they taunted him and beat him. And there was no one to stop them.

CITIZEN: Here is a pretty crown for your head, King of the Jews!

ROMAN GUARD: To the top, King of the Jews!

CITIZEN: Make way for the King of the Jews.

NARRATOR: When the soldiers had crucified JESUS, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each shoulder. They cast lots for his tunic, which was fine-woven. And they left him there to die, nailed to the cross.

JESUS: My God, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

NARRATOR: He was placed between two thieves. One of them yelled at JESUS. But the other spoke quietly to him.

THIEF#3: My lord, I can see that you are not meant to be here.

PETER (*in the crowd*): Bah! Then why didn't he speak in his own defence? He is a fool.

THIEF#1: He was protecting his friends. Standing up for what he believed in, and for God.

THIEF#2: I believe in you, my Lord. Remember me when you come into your kingdom.

JESUS I tell you the truth: today, you will join me in heaven.

NARRATOR: At the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land. It remained until the ninth hour. And then, JESUS cried out in a loud voice:

JESUS My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

NARRATOR: The crowd was around him listening. And one man ran to get him wine vinegar, to offer it to him to drink. When he had received it, JESUS spoke one more time.

JESUS: Into your hands, My God, I commend to you my spirit. (*Big pause*). It is finished.

NARRATOR: (*The cross is draped in black cloth*): Near the place where JESUS was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb that had never been used before. They laid JESUS there, rolling a stone in front of the entrance of the tomb.

ANTHEM: Were you there?

BENEDICTION

HYMN (*Youth process out*)