



# Easter Passion Play Script

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## Act I – Multimedia Presentation

### Adulteress Woman/Blessing Children/Rich Young Ruler/Blind Healed

#### Audience Location – Main Sanctuary

*After the multimedia presentation, JESUS and his DISCIPLES are onstage and begin to mime discussion and teaching. Scene begins with Children flooding in from the left and the right doors joyfully crying “Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!” followed by mothers and other onlookers. The disciples immediately try to block the children from Jesus but some of the children squeeze through the disciples.*

*[Mark 10:13-16]*

Mothers: Please Jesus, can't they come through? *[Chanting... let my daughter/son come through, bless him/her...]*

Peter: *[standing between Jesus and crowd]* Children! Please! Stay with your mothers. Parents please! Control your children. The Master does not have time for foolishness.

Judas: Can't you see! Jesus doesn't have time fo---

Jesus: *[pleasantly declining the disciples' protection, smiles, and stoops down to welcome the children]* Let the children come to me! *[Looks at disciples]* Don't hinder them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these *[picks up a child]*. I say to you, anyone who does not have the faith of a child will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

*Disciples are now being overtaken by people. Some of the children hug the disciples and the disciples are overcome by compassion. RICH YOUNG RULER walks out and joins the crowd, slowly making his way to Jesus*

Jesus: *[blesses each child, the mothers are grateful]* I say to you, anyone who does not have the faith of a child will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

Child: I love you Jesus!

*Everyone is happy and Jesus hugs the child*

*[Mark 19:16-30; Luke 18:18-30]*

*As everything is happening, the Rich Young Ruler has snuck onto the scene. He approaches Jesus as the young child occupying Jesus' lap heads off to his Mother.*

RYR: The Kingdom of Heaven? Please! Good Teacher *[RYR approaches]*, what must I do to inherit eternal life?

Jesus: *[accepts a flower from a little girl]* Why do you call me good?

*The Rich Young Ruler is visibly taken back. Jesus waits a few seconds while the man collects his thoughts to find and answer.*

Jesus:           *[rises from his seat and, with compassion in his eyes, reaches out to the man]* For only God is good. You know the commandments. Do not murder, do not commit adultery,

Jesus and RYR:       Do not steal, do not testify falsely. .

Jesus:           *[bends down to address one of the children]* Honor your father and mother, *[addresses the crowd]* Love your neighbor as yourself.

RYR:           *[as he picks up a child]* I have kept all of those from the time I was young

Jesus:           *[turns to the RYR]* There is one this you still lack; go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor, *[gestures to the crowd and audience]* and you will have treasure in Heaven. *[grips RYR's shoulder and looks at him.]* Then come and follow me.

*RYR thinks, releases the child, and looks defeated by his decision.*

*He walks away in confusion and defeat. There is a moment of silence following his departure as Jesus watches the RYR go.*

Jesus:           *[quietly]* How hard is it for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

*The disciples and crowd act surprised.*

Thomas:        Then Lord, who can be saved?

Jesus: For man it is impossible to be saved. Only with GOD is it possible. Only with God ALL things are possible.

*The mother and children quietly begin leaving the stage. Some onlookers stay as they wave goodbye to the children. Jesus begins to take a few steps as if to leave the stage.*

Jesus: I assure you that when I, the Son of man, sit by the Right Hand of my Father in his Kingdom; you who have been my followers will also sit on twelve thrones. And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, anything for my sake will receive a hundred times as much in return and will have eternal life. Those who seem important now will be least in the Kingdom of Heaven, and those who are considered least here will be the greatest.

*As soon as Jesus finishes, a group of well-dressed Pharisees step in [passing by a beggar sleeping]. They are followed by commotion behind them as Mary Magdalene is brought to Jesus against her will.*

Pharisees: Bring her to Jesus!

*They throw her down before him.*

Pharisee 1: Teacher, this woman was caught in practice of the very act of adultery! The Law of Moses commands that she should be stoned. But, what do you say?

*Jesus compassionately looks at the Pharisees and then down at Mary. He silently bends down and writes on the stage with his finger.*

Pharisee 2: *[impatiently]* Well, shall we follow the laws of Moses or not?!

Jesus: *[stands and faces the crowd and audience]* If any of you are without sin. Please, cast the first stone.

*Jesus returns to writing in the sand. The crowd is now curious as to what he is writing. One of the onlookers goes [with stone in hand] to look at what Jesus is writing and quickly leaves. Others start passing the Pharisees to see what Jesus is writing and they in turn also leave. The Pharisees, slightly disappointed and surprised, take a look at what Jesus has written and one by one leave.*

Jesus: *[stopss writing and looks at Mary. He gestures for her to raise her head]*  
Is there any one here who condemns you still?

Mary: *[receptive to his gesture, embarrassed, thankful, yet tired]* No one my Lord.

*Jesus touches her shoulder and they both stand together, Mary is very embarrassed but Jesus is compassionate and forgiving.*

Jesus: And neither do I condemn you. Go now and sin no more.

Mary:           *[Bursts out into sobs and falls to Jesus' feet]* But LORD, those men... they found me... *[starts sobbing again]* I've been so wrong...

*She grabs His feet and Jesus waits for her crying to end. He then places his hand on her shoulder again.*

Jesus:           I know.

*Mary looks up at him and is grateful. She is still crying but leaves the stage and looks back at Jesus*

Mary:           Thank You. *[She turns back around and pauses.]* Thank you.

*Mary passes by the disciples but tries not to make eye contact. She passes by the beggar who then awakes.*

*[Luke 18: 35-43]*

Bartimaeus:   *[tries to get up]* Jesus! Son of David have mercy on me! *[repeats this as he staggers around due to his blindness]*

Peter:           BE QUIET BLIND MAN! You are causing a commotion. Can't you see!  
The Master is busy so move out of the way.

Andrew:        Brother, you are too harsh. Come, blind man. The master is busy.

*Andrews then separates his brother from the blind man and Bartimaeus and tries to lead the man off stage. John reaches to help the blind man with Andrew.*



Jesus: John. Bring him to me.

*Bartimaeus keeps pleading them to “Have mercy on me, please...”.*

John: Yes Lord. Thomas, Andrew, can you give me a hand?

*Thomas, Andrew, and John help Bartimaeus to Jesus*

John: *[trying to calm the man]* He’s calling for you. We are going to help you get to him.

Bartimaeus: Thank you, have mercy on me... Jesus, son of David! Have mercy.

Jesus: *[when Bartimaeus is in front of him]* What do you want me to do for you?

Bartimaeus: Lord! Please, I want to see!

Jesus: *[covers Bartimaeus’ eyes and smiles]* All right, you can see. *[moves his hands away so the audience can see.]* Bartimaeus, it is your faith that has healed you.

*Bartimaeus reacts to his new eye sight (surprised, reaching for Jesus, touching his hands, hugging the disciples).*

Bartimaeus: I . . . I can SEE! Thank you Jesus! I can see. Thank you... *[hugs Jesus and jumps around overjoyed]*. Praise the God of Heaven! Praise the God of Heaven!!!

Jesus: Yes, all glory to the Father above.

*Bartimaeus continues to rejoice in his new sight. The disciples are trying to ask him questions. Some in the crowd begin saying “Glory, glory to God” while others are asking questions. They follow Jesus joining in the praise and exit stage left and out the door. Jesus and Disciples go ahead of the crowd to the Bedouin Tent, located in front of the Marketplace during the narration. The disciples help Jesus get on the donkey and prepare for the AUDIENCE’s arrival.*

Narrator: Everywhere He goes Jesus brings light and life to all those who seek Him. In one way or another they are all touched and changed by His love and compassion. It is the spring Sunday in the year A.D. 31 and Jerusalem is bustling and booming with people from all over who have come to celebrate Passover. Most are from Judea, but others have come from even further just for this occasion. Because Passover is near, the city is very crowded and busy with activity. This is a special occasion—Passover reminds us of the time our forefathers covered the doorframes of their houses in Egypt with the blood of a lamb and were passed over by the angel of death; that, and what followed – our miraculous delivery from bondage in Egypt. As the prophets foretold, Jesus will enter the city in royal fashion; riding on a donkey as was the custom of Israel’s kings. Please follow your guide as they hold up the banner to lead you through the city. But remember, the Romans control Jerusalem now, so we’ll have to pay their tax when we enter. Be sure to get a record of payment. And of course, as we make our way through the marketplace, feel free to look

around. When you hear the shofar horn sound, it means the shops are closing, and we will need to move on. Look for the banner and follow your guide as you continue to walk in Jesus' footsteps.

**Act II – Triumphal Entry/Marketplace**  
**Audience Location – West Side of Seminary**

*Crowd begins to walk towards the Marketplace. JESUS and DISCIPLES remain “hidden” behind the Bedouin tent until the AUDIENCE enters the area. Crowd gathers and Jesus emerges. The TAX COLLECTOR sits on a platform around which the tour group gathers. After Triumphal Entry, the Tax Collector stops the FLAG BEARER for payment [demanding more for the large group, etc]. This should go quickly as the group enters the Marketplace. As soon as the crowd is half way through the market place, Jesus [riding the donkey] and the disciples immediately begin to ride out from the Lamson Hall side of the church*

Children:        *[A couple of kids make their way through the crowd yelling]*  
                      Jesus is coming! The Messiah is coming! Hosanna! Hosanna!

City Crowd 1: *[marketplace merchants]* Who is this? ... What is happening? Why are the children yelling and running towards the end of the marketplace, scaring away customers!

City Crowd 2: *[other merchants murmuring, then yelling]* ...They say it is the son of David! Jesus is coming, the messiah is coming. Hosanna, Hosanna!

*Several MARKETPLACE MERCHANTS and CHILDREN are getting in place, waiting for JESUS to pass by them. They have tambourines and other percussive instruments of the day, as well as palm branches to wave and lay down in front of the donkey. This is an extremely loud and joyous celebration!*

Crowd & Disciples: *[continually]* Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!

*As the CROWD passes through the Marketplace, merchants lead the procession at their own booths, ready to welcome. The AUDIENCE moves towards the back of the Marketplace where the FLAG BEARER waits with their flag signifying the gathering place. SHOFAR sounds at the appropriate time.*

**Act III – Roman Encampment/Catching Barabbas**  
**Location – East Side of Lamson Hall**

*FLAG BEARER* knocks at the stockade gate, asking to pass through. *SOLDIERS* question group, then let them enter. Banners and standards flutter by a few tents. A *SERGEANT* comes out of his tent to inspect the *CROWD* who is forced to file past him. *SERGEANT* harasses *CROWD* and demands to see their proof of tax payment.

*A cooking fire burns with a suspended pot by a tent. As the CROWD walks through the camp, the COOK and SOLDIERS threaten any crowd members who try to see what's cooking – they yell "Keep moving!" with coarse laughter. As the CROWD exits camp and heads toward the Last Supper, SOLDIERS stop them and force everyone to line up on the angled sidewalk.*

Narrator: Roman soldiers are constantly patrolling to “keep the peace,” as they say, and they are quick to arrest and send prisoners to execution. At the moment, they are looking for a renowned criminal, a local man wanted for robbery and murder. The Romans have increased security to try and capture him, because he always causes trouble during the celebrations and holidays. I’m sure they will not give us too much trouble – he’s not likely to be with our group.

*SOLDIERS scrutinize crowd, looking for BARABBAS. Suddenly he dashes through the crowd from the back and makes a break for it across campus toward Lamson Hall.*

Soldiers: It’s Barabbas. Seize him!

*Three SOLDIERS run after BARABBAS. MOUNTED SOLDIERS appear and flank Barabbas. He is forced to turn and run where everyone in the crowd can get a good look at him. Soldiers catch him and take him into custody, then begin binding him.*

Flag Bearer: *[to SOLDIER]* What will happen to that man now?

Soldier: He'll appear before Governor Pilate to stand trial. We already know Barabbas is guilty. He will be crucified.

*The SOLDIER lets his last word hang in the air for a few moments, eyeing the FLAG BEARER and the CROWD suspiciously.*

You're all as guilty as Barabbas. *[to the Flag Bearer]* Get these people out of here now before we arrest you all.

Flag Bearer: Please remain calm and stay close to me.

*SOLDIERS urge the crowd to move on and follow the guide.*

**Act IV – Last Supper**  
**Location – Behind Student Center**

*All come in together in a festive mood [except JESUS who is somber]. He still graciously guides the disciples to sit. As they sit down engaged in their various conversations, Jesus looks around and goes to the back for the towel and basin to wash the Disciples' feet. He takes off his outer cloak.*

John:           *[after Jesus pardons himself to go get the water]* James! There's no servant to wash our feet.

James:          *[looks around but doesn't notice Jesus]* You know, you're right!

Judas:          John, you should wash our feet! Or how about you Peter? You were quick to jump in the way of the children before Jesus, why not be quick to grab a towel and some water?

*All the disciples do a slight chuckle over the possible tension. John consoles Peter who looks unimpressed.*

John:           Let it go Judas. *[in a friendly, "okay that's enough" voice]*

James:          You know, Jesus has always been so kind, yet so unpredictable. I would have thought that he would have ministered to the multitude around instead of playing with the children.

Thomas:         He always turns the most bizarre of situations into a lesson. Like with that blind man... *[tries to recall his name]* ..uh.. *[in "aha!" voice with a snap]*



Bartimaeus. Most people would just pass by someone who was in his condition.

*Jesus starts at the opposite of the table to wash the disciples' feet. The disciples at the end are shocked but Jesus insists as they hesitantly allow Him to wash their feet. The other disciples are engaged in their conversation*

Matthew: I can agree with that! I sure would have passed by a man like that. Think of that Rich Young Ruler! How he had everything. He just couldn't give up his power and prestige to follow Christ. To follow Jesus doesn't make sense at times but it certainly is worth the sacrifice.

Judas: [*condemnation*] Maybe, but look at Mary and the way he showed compassion towards her even though she didn't deserve it. She was caught in the very act! He still let her go without punishment!!!

John: And that my dear friend Judas, is why we call Him Jesus; because He saves His people from their sins.

*Jesus now reaches Peter who clearly does not want him to wash his feet.*

[*John 13*]

Peter: My Lord, you aren't going to wash my feet!

Jesus: [*compassionately but humorlessly*] You don't fully understand what is happening now, but you will in the future.

Peter: [*standing up, startled*] You'll never wash my feet!

Jesus: Peter, unless I wash your feet, you won't be a part of me.

Peter: [*very passionately and with emotion*] Then wash all of me! Wash my head! And wash my hands! Lord, all of me!

Jesus: [*speaking to all*] Those who are clean already just need to wash their feet. You all are clean already. [*looks sadly and anxiously at Judas*] But not all of you. You are not all clean.

*Judas hangs his head. Other disciples chatter among themselves: "what? What is he saying? What does that mean?"*

Jesus: [*rises and puts on his red cloak*] You know that the rulers of people in this world exercise authority over many. It should not be like that among you. [*moves to next disciple*] Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant. [*moves to another disciple*] Do you understand what I have done? [*moves to last disciple*] You call me 'Teacher and 'Lord', and you are right, because it is true. Since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you out to wash each other's feet. [*resumes His spot at the table*] I have looked forward to this hour with deep longing, anxious to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering.

Nathaniel: [interjecting] Don't say that!

Jesus: I tell you know that I will not eat it again until it comes to fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.

Simon: Lord, no!

Jesus: [*takes the bread and raises it to heaven giving thanks. After breaking the bread he passes it to His disciples.*] Take it and eat, this is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

*Disciples who were about to eat at Jesus' command are shocked when they hear him say that it is his body. They look at each other surprised and are unsure as to if they heard him correctly.*

Andrew: I'm sorry?

James the Younger: Did you say body?

Thaddeus: Lord, what do you mean?

*Jesus calmly eats the bread so the disciples awkwardly follow suit, Then Jesus takes the cup, gives thanks and offers it to them.*

Jesus: Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which seals the covenant between God and His people.

Matthew: [*shocked*] Jesus?!

James: Blood?

Jesus: It is poured out to forge the sins of many.

Thomas: YOUR blood?

Philip: Jesus, why are you talking like this? You have spoken in riddles before, but this? This surpasses them all!

Jesus: This is no riddle Philip. *(Sighs)* Even now, among us sits the man who will fulfill the prophecy and betray me.

*All the disciples are questioning if it is them. "Is it I?" "I would never!" Judas keeps his head down during the commotion. Peter motions to John to ask Jesus who would do this.*

John: Lord, why would... who would.. *[clears throat]* .. who is it?

Jesus: It is the one with whom I dip the bread in the sauce.

*Disciples immediately raise hands and start saying, NOT ME...  
Again, Judas is quiet. [side conversation as Jesus starts to reach for the bread and passes it along]*

Andrew: What does that mean?

Nathaniel: Does He mean in the same bowl or actually at the same time.. or..

Simon: I have no idea.

Philip: I don't want to eat.

*Jesus and Judas dip simultaneously. Silence immediately strikes  
the room*

Judas: [not realizing] Pardon me [then suddenly beginning to comprehend what  
just happened] Teacher, is .. is it me?

Jesus: You have said it yourself.

*Judas opens his mouth to protest but just looks dumbfounded and  
pale.*

Jesus: What you are planning to do, do quickly.

*Judas quickly eats the piece of bread and gets up and leaves.  
Amazed, but hungry, the disciples begin to eat.*

Matthew: Where is he going?

James the Younger: Well... what is he planning to do?

Jesus: Tonight all of you will desert me. For the Scriptures say, "God will strike  
the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

James: No, Lord, please don't say that!

Jesus: But, after I have been raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to  
Galilee and meet you there.

Peter: No Lord, I will never disappoint you! Everyone else may desert you, but I  
will even die for you!

Jesus: Die for me? Oh Peter, before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny me three times.

Peter: *[passionately and hurt]* NO! NOT EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE WITH YOU! I will NEVER deny you!

*Everyone else agrees and vows the same.*

Jesus: Do not be troubled. *[puts a hand on Peter to calm him and get him to sit]*  
You do believe in God?

*Peter and the other disciples agree as Peter reluctantly sits.*

Jesus: You must believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. I go there to prepare a place for you. If it were not so I would have told you. And if I am preparing a place for you, SURELY I will come and get you so that you may be with me where I am. You know where I am going and now you know how to get there.

Thomas: No, we don't know Lord. We honestly have no clue where you are going.

Simon: So how can we know the way?

Jesus: I am the Way. I am the Truth and I am the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you also know my Father. Do you not believe that I am one with the Father? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own authority; but by the Father who dwells in me. He does the works, and will do great still. *(Pauses)*. My peace I leave

you, so do not let your heart be troubled. Don't trust in men but trust in  
me.

*After the first line or so Jesus, giving glory to the Father, moves off of the stage and the  
disciples follow.*

**Act V – Garden of Gethsemane/Arrest/Judas Hanged**

**Location –Between Student Center and Marsh Hall**

*Jesus and the disciples are walking and talking towards the garden. As they get closer, Jesus becomes quiet as the agony begins. The disciples support him as he stumbles while he walks.*

*[Mark 14, Luke 22]*

Jesus: Sit here while I go on ahead to pray. *[All twelve disciples stop as Jesus walks on. After several paces, Jesus turns, nearly overcome. Softly he asks]* Peter, James, John, please, come with me.

*They rush to him and give support. Together the four continue.*

Jesus: My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and watch with me.

*He walks farther and falls with his face to the ground.*

Jesus: Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet. . it is not my will, but yours that must be done.

*He walks back to the three disciples but find them sleeping.*

Jesus: Simon! *[Peter, James, and John wake up startled]* Are you asleep? Couldn't you stay awake and watch with me even one hour? Stay alert,



and PRAY! Otherwise temptation will overpower you. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.

*Jesus leaves to pray a second time.*

Jesus: My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away until I drink it, your will be done.

*He stumbles back to find the disciples asleep again but does not wake them. Instead, He goes back to pray a third time.*

Jesus: Father! Please take this cup from me! But if I must drink it, Your will be done.

*He returns to the disciples again.*

Jesus: You are all still sleeping and resting? Enough! The time has come. I, the Son of Man, am betrayed into the hands of sinners. Come, let us go. See, my betrayer is at hand!

*As JESUS is speaking, Judas arrives with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs. The other 9 disciples move quickly toward Jesus, Peter, John, and James. Judas walks ahead of the crowd to speak to Jesus. The crowd murmurs amongst themselves.*

Judas: Greetings, Rabbi! *[kisses Jesus' cheek]*

*As he tries to move away, Jesus holds his shoulder.*

Jesus: *[sadly]* Judas, how can you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

*Judas forces himself out of Jesus' grasp in horror. TEMPLE  
GUARDS step forward to arrest Jesus.*

Peter: Lord, what should we do? Should we fight against them? We have swords!

*The guards draw closer and Peter panics and desperate. He draws his sword and he cuts off the ear of MALCHUS, the high priest's servant. The disciples react. Malchus cries out in terror and puts a hand to his ear, blood trickles through his fingers.*

Jesus: Don't resist, but permit even this.

*Jesus steps between the disciples and the crowd to heal the ear.*

Jesus: *[to Malchus]* You are made whole.

Malchus: *[realizing it too]* It is true, Jesus.

Jesus: *[turning to Peter]* Put away your sword, Peter. Those who live by the sword will die by the sword. Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for twelve legions of angels to protect us, and He would send them instantly? But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled?

*The soldiers snort in ridicule.*

Jesus: *[To the crowd]* Am I some dangerous criminal, that you come armed to arrest me? Why didn't you arrest me in the Temple? I was there teaching every day. Yet you search me out here in the hour of darkness.

Malchus: *[reluctantly]* Take him to the high priest.

*JESUS is taken out of the garden by the priests and crowd as the disciples run away in horror [back to Last Supper scene], realizing that Jesus will not fight back. Only PETER is left.*

Narrator: Jesus is being taken prisoner and the disciples have deserted him just as Jesus predicted, all but one that is. *[PETER runs off to follow Jesus]* Peter follows Jesus at a distance to see what the outcome will be. He has not completely abandoned Christ, *[pause]* however, as Jesus is held overnight waiting his trial before the Sanhedrin, Peter's resolve weakens and he denies Christ three times. *[Rooster crows, then a pause]*. Please follow your guide as they lead you to Pilate's judgment.

**Act VI – Before Pilate**  
**Location – James White Library Steps**

*CROWD/MOB remains silent until NARRATOR finishes speaking.*

Narrator: It is early Friday morning, and the chief priests and elders have decided to have Jesus put to death, then lead Him away to Pilate, the governor, for final judgment. When Judas, the betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests. He told them, “I have sinned. For I have betrayed innocent blood.” But the priests said, “What is that to us? That’s your responsibility.” Judas threw the money onto the temple floor and went away to hang himself.

*Judas runs off stage as Pilate enters. JESUS stands before  
PILATE and the PRIESTS.*

[*Luke 23*]

Narrator: Jesus is now before Governor Pilate. It is now in his hands whether Jesus lives or dies. Come in close and see what Pilate decides.

Priest 1: We have found this man subverting our nation.

Priest 2: He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar.

Priest 3: And, he claims to be Christ, a king.

Pilate: Are you the king of the Jews?

Jesus: It is as you say.

Pilate: *[surprised, he at Jesus for a moment. , looks away]* I find no basis for a charge against this man.

Priest 2: But He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teachings!

*The PRIESTS ad lib in agreement.*

Pilate: *[to Jesus]* Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you? Still no reply – not even to a single charge? *[to himself]* Amazing...

*A MESSENGER enters and hands Pilate a note.*

Messenger: Here is an urgent message from your wife, my Lord.

*The PRIESTS turn to another and scheme while Pilate reads the note. Fear and dread grow in Pilate's eyes as he reads the message.*

Pilate: *[to Messenger]* My wife has suffered a great deal today in a dream about Jesus and bids me not to have anything to do with this innocent man.

Messenger: Does the message require a response, my lord?

*Startled, Pilate turns to the Messenger in surprise, then gathers himself and whispers a message to him. The Messenger looks at Pilate with surprise and doubt. The Priests become anxious.*

Messenger: My lord?

Pilate: Go. Do as I say.

*Messenger turns and leaves.*

Pilate: *[to Priests and crowd]* I find no fault with this man. He does not deserve death.

*Crowd roars disapproval but quiets when Pilate raises his hand.*

Pilate: As you know, every year at this time it is customary to release a prisoner.

*Soldiers enter with BARABBAS.*

Pilate: Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas, murderer and thief, or Jesus who is called Christ?

Priest 1: Give us Barabbas!

Crowd: Barabbas!

Pilate: *[growing dread]* Who?

Crowd: Barabbas!!

Pilate: *[alarm flashes across his face]* But if I release Barabbas, what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?

Crowd: Crucify him!

Pilate: Why? What crime has he committed?

Crowd: *[shouting louder and louder]* Crucify him! Crucify him!

*Pilate turns and shrugs in frustration.*

Priest 3: *[seeing Pilate's indecision, he screams]* This man must die! We want Barabbas!

*All Priests join in, "Yes, Barabbas!..." and quickly begin to chant "Bar-AB-bas! Bar-AB-bas! Bar-AB-bas! Bar-AB-bas!" Priest 3 runs up and down the crowd and audience, creating evil pandemonium. Barabbas grins happily at the rhythm. As a mob mentality begins to invade, Pilate steps back to his platform to silence the crowd.*

Pilate: I give you this choice. Who do you want among you, this CRIMINAL *[gestures to Barabbas]* or Jesus?

Crowd: We want Barabbas!

Pilate: Then what of Jesus?

Crowd: Crucify him! *[as Priests excite the crowd]* Crucify him!

Pilate: *[trying to contain fear]* I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. *[crowd murmurs, Pilate raises his hands for control]* Therefore, I will have him flogged, and then release him.

Priests and Crowd: No, crucify him! CRU-ci-fy! CRU-ci-fy! CRU-ci-fy!

Pilate: *[incredulously]* Do you want me to crucify your king?

Priest 1: *[yelling on behalf of entire crowd]* We have no king but Caesar!

*Crowd echoes this. Angrily, Pilate signals for his Messenger to come forward with a bowl and pitcher of water. The Messenger pours the water and Pilate washes his hands.*

Pilate: *[visibly shaken but resolute]* I am innocent of this man's blood. Let his blood be on YOU! *[angrily flings the water on his hands over the crowd]*

Man: Let his blood be on us...

Woman 1: And on our children.

Crowd: Yes, let his blood be on us and our children.

Pilate: *[To soldiers]* Take him away and have him flogged. Then, *[sighs]* He is to be crucified.

*Jesus and the soldiers immediately begin to leave.*

Pilate: *[to priests and crowd]* I am innocent!

Narrator: The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium to be whipped. *[sounds of a whip cracking and agonizing screams – seven or more times]* They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and forced it on his head. Then they put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him! *[sounds of soldiers*



*laughing and mocking – “hail king of the Jews!”]* After they mocked him, they spat on him, took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. Taking off his robe they placed his own clothes back on him and led him away to be crucified. Please follow your guide as Jesus takes his final steps to Golgotha.

*Flag Bearer and two soldiers lead crowd to the top of Golgotha. From here everyone can look back and see as Jesus is brought out of the whipping shed and forced to pick up the cross. Flagbearer and soldiers will need to **hold** the crowd members **back** on the Via Dolorosa until Jesus goes by. This way, every person will experience the scene as Jesus passes by a few feet away.*

## Act VII – Crucifixion

### Audience Location – Via Dolorosa [behind Library]

*Jesus reappears coming out of the building with the soldiers. His robes have been removed; he wears a royal sash or cape on his bloody shoulders and back. The soldiers force Him to pick up a cross and drag it up the hill. There will be much yelling and commotion. Jesus is bloody, bruised and weak; he falls several times. Simon the Cyrene is ordered to carry the cross the rest of the way. Jesus is nailed to the cross and lifted off the ground. Two other prisoners are already hanging on crosses. Jesus' cross is in the middle and a sign above that reads "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS."*

*MARY, the mother of Jesus, MARY MAGDELENE and another WOMAN are crying close by. JOHN and a man named JOSEPH are there also. JOSEPH is trying to comfort the women.*

Jesus:           Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.

*Jesus is offered wine mixed with gall on a sponge. After tasting it he refuses to drink. The soldiers divide up the clothes and cast lots for them. As the crowd passes by, they shake their heads. Some hurl insults. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, stands at the foot of the cross with two other women and John. The crowd leers at Jesus.*

Woman 2:       You, who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!

Man 1:           Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God!

Priest 1: He saved others but he can't save himself.

Priest 2: He's the King of Israel! We will believe in him if he comes down now!

Priest 3: He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants, for he said, I am the Son of God.

Criminal 1: Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!

Criminal 2: Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence? We deserve to die. But this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus: I tell you the truth today, you will be with me in paradise.

*The groups draw closer to the cross.*

Jesus: *[to Mary]* Mother, he is your son. *[to JOHN]* John, she is your mother.

*Mary, the Mother of Jesus, begins to wail.*

Soldier 1: *[to Soldier 2]* This darkness is eerie. It's been this way since the sixth hour, and now it's almost the ninth.

Jesus: Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani!

Soldier 2: What is he saying?

Centurion: It means, my God, my God, why have you forsaken me.

Jesus: I thirst!

*A Soldier runs to get another sponge. He lifts it up to Jesus who painfully leans forward to try and drink. The soldier dabs at Jesus mouth, then throws the sponge and stick on the ground.*

Jesus: *[in a loud voice]* Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. *[beat]* It is finished!

*Jesus bows his head and dies. An earthquake rumbles under Calvary.*

Centurion: *[a few beats, takes off his helmet]* Surely this man was the Son of God.

*After a few moments of stillness, another soldier [not the Centurion] takes a spear and stabs Jesus' side. Soldiers break the prisoners' legs. Background music begins. Soldiers, working gently, begin taking JESUS' cross down and removing his body.*

Narrator: Joseph of Arimathea has asked Pilate for Jesus' body and was granted his request. A tomb was prepared.

*Silently, the Flag Bearer leads the crowd away. Soldiers should be concerned with the thieves on the crosses. Soft music should be playing and there should be limited talking.*

## **Act VIII- Resurrection: You Were There**

### **Audience Location – Johnson Gym**

*The audience is brought to the doors of the gymnasium.*

Narrator:       The chief priests and Pharisees remembered that Jesus prophesied that he would rise again. They asked Pilate to have Jesus' tomb made secure. Pilate agreed to have the tomb sealed and to provide soldiers to stand guard. Let us visit the tomb and pay our respects.

*Seating to the Resurrection begins to play, as lights rise on ANGEL 1 and ANGEL 2 praying and crying by tomb and the ANGEL SCRIBE kneeling and praying by tomb.*

*PETER and JOHN enter carrying Jesus' body into the tomb with soldiers nearby. They watch as SOLDIER 1 and SOLDIER 2 roll the tomb shut, and stand on either side and then exit the stage.*

*"You Were There" begins to play, Angel 1 and Angel 2 exit stage left, Angel scribe slowly stands at 17 seconds and raises hands into the air and looks up. At 35 seconds she points to down stage right as lights rise on down stage right on DAVID and Angel 1. David looks afraid as he picks up stones and finally collapses. At 57 seconds Angel 1 picks David up, and points upwards as David smiles, as the lights fade. At 1:05 lights rise again on tomb as MARY MAGDALENE, MARY MOTHER, Peter, and John enter and mourn by the tomb, as Angel 1 comforts them. At 1:36, Mary, Mary, Peter, and John exit, as Angel Scribe watches them leave, and walks forward and points down stage left at 1:45 as lights fade from tomb.*

*At 1:48 lights rise on down stage left on ABRAHAM and ISAAC. Abraham sadly leads Isaac to an altar and lays him down on top of it as Angel 2 watches near by. He looks up sadly into the sky and raises knife. At 2:11 Angel 2 gently stops the knife from killing Isaac. Abraham happily lifts Isaac from altar, and they embrace as Angel 2 smiles. Lights fade.*

*At 2:19 lights rise on Tomb, as SOLDIERS and DARK SILENT PRAISE march down the center aisle loudly and fan out in front of stage. Angel Scribe, Angel 1, and Angel 2 all watch from behind. At 2:30 angels lift arms, and Angel Scribe continues to lower arms all the way to the ground. At 2:34 when Angel Scribe touches ground earthquake begins and guards begin to shake and act confused and afraid. Angel 1 and 2 continue to raise arms in the air while Angel Scribe walks forward to edge of stage and at 2:50 point to back of auditorium.*

*At 2:50 GABRIEL, ANGEL 3, and ANGEL 4 all enter from back of auditorium and begin to march down the center of the aisle towards tomb. LIGHT SILENT PRAISE enters from either side of the audience, and begins to do choreography, as Dark silent praise attempts to push them back unsuccessfully as Gabriel, Angel 3, and Angel 4 continue to proceed towards tomb. At 3:05 Loud Crash is heard, as Gabriel makes the Soldiers fall down unconscious; Angel Scribe takes out Soldier 1 and Soldier 2 as they retreat off stage left, Gabriel and Angel 3 and Angel 4 continue to towards tomb. At 3:14 Gabriel stands front and center of Tomb and raises hands, as Dark Silent Praise retreats into the shadows off to both sides of the auditorium with screams along with soldiers who stand and run to back of auditorium, and Light Silent Praise stands in the place of the Soldiers in front of the stage. At 3:21, all angels and light silent praise have hands in the air.*

*At 3:24, lights change to blue/purple hue, as Gabriel reverently begins to roll the stone away, revealing a dark tomb. The rest of the angels reverently bow their heads, as Light Silent Praise continues to do choreography. At 3:40 all angels reverently kneel where they are in prayer.*

*At 3:55 all angels stand and begin to take place in front of tomb to guard it, Gabriel raises sword, as lights inside of tomb begin to flash, and a low rumble begins. At 4:10 the lights change to a reddish hue as Dark Silent Praise reemerges from the shadows and attempts to rush the tomb; countered only by Light Silent Praise in the front. Angels on stage continue to do choreography, as tomb shakes louder and louder and lights flash even more.*

*At 4:31 there are no more Dark Silent Praise- they retreat to corners and back of auditorium, and the angels all rejoice by the tomb, lining up, and Gabriel bows at 4:41 when JESUS emerges from the tomb, and all the angels bow.*

Jesus: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.

*Stage black, music begins. Lights up slowly on empty stage.*

Voiceover: Thank you for sharing with us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As you have walked in His footsteps today, it is our prayer that

God has touched your life and that He may continue to bless you as you walk with Him. At this time we invite you to join us in the Hospitality Center through the doors to your left. Those needing assistance please exit through the rear doors on your right.