

3-21-19 version

The Easter Passion Play

The story of the final week of Jesus life on Earth

[Compilation of the four Gospels in
the King James Version with
some revisions into modern language]

Narrators:

M1: Male Voice 1 **Baritone** Jesus voice and actions, angels

M2: Male voice 2 **Tenor** Disciples, Peter and John, Herod

M3: Male Voice 3 **Character voices** Judas, nasty crowd voices

F1: Female Voice 1 **Soprano** Mary and Mary's voices and actions

F2 Female voice 2 **Alto** female outside Pilate's palace, Herod's wife, and crowd voices

Cast of Characters:

Jesus

2 disciples

Great multitude – men, women, children

Judas

2 chief priests

Man bearing pitcher of water

12 disciples – including Peter and John,

Serving girls for Last Supper

Pilate

2 girls outside Pilates house

man

man

Herod

Barabbas

Crowd

Simon of Cyrene

Two thieves

Mary

Mary, mother of sons of Zebedee

Salome

Scenery: Nine locations (6 distinct areas)

#8 Calvary/Golgotha – 3 Crosses
(5– 6 ‘ platform with steps side and back)

#9 Tomb
(Entryway under
platform)

#2 Upper Room
(table on stage floor)

#4 High Priests
#6 Herod’s Palace
(platform 2-4’ tall with steps)

#3 Garden of Gethsemane
#5 Pilate’s Palace
(platform 2-3’ tall with steps)

#1 Palm Triumphal Entry Road
#7 Jesus’s March to Calvary Road
(on main stage floor which should be at least
3 feet above audience level with stairs to center aisle
of sanctuary)

Costumes

Disciple costumes
Crowd costumes
Priest costumes
Soldier costumes
Pilate costume
Herod Costume
Thieves rags
Royal robe for Jesus
Loin cloth for Jesus on Cross
Angel costumes

Props

Donkey colt
Cloak for donkey colt
Palm branches, cloaks, garments
Silver coins and/or pouch
Pitcher of water
Last supper details – chalices, food, bread, wine, towels, footwashing basin

Dish to dip bread
Sword for Peter
Swords and staves for soldiers
Fire pit for Pilate's house
Crown of thorns, reed, royal robe
King of Jews sign
Nails, hammers

Sound

Narrator's booth with microphones

Lighting

14 instruments, minimum, with control board

Musicians

Piano, organ, song leader

Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem [Palm Sunday]

Male Narrator 1 (M1): And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying unto them, “Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, ‘The Lord hath need of them’; and straightway he will send them.”

Male Narrator 2 (M2): All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, “Tell ye the daughter of Sion, behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.”

And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

Male Narrator 3 (M3): And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strewed them in the way.

And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying,

M2, M3, Female Narrator 1 (F1), Female Narrator 2 (F2): “Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”

M3: And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying,

All: “Who is this?”

M2: And the multitude said,

All: “This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.”

Song Leader

*Palm Sunday Hymn “Hosanna, Loud Hosanna” (UM Hymnal 278)**

Hosanna, loud hosanna, the little children sang;
Through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang.
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast
The children sang their praises, The simplest and the best.

From Olivet they followed mid an exultant crowd,
The victor palm branch waving, and chanting clear and loud.
The Lord of earth and heaven road on in lowly state,
Nor scorned that little children should on his bidding wait.

“Hosanna in the highest!” that ancient song we sing,
for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.
O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,
And in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!

Judas Bargains with Chief Priests to Betray Jesus

M3: Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, “What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?” And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

The Last Supper

M2: Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, "Where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the passover?"

M1: And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, "Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, 'The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?'

And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us."

M2: And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

M1: Now when the evening came, he sat down with the twelve.

And as they did eat, he said, "Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me."

M2: And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, "Lord, is it I?"

M1: And he answered and said, "He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born."

M3: Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, "Master, is it I?" He said unto him, "Thou hast said."

M1: He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Then cometh he to Simon Peter:

M2: and Peter saith unto him, "Lord, dost thou wash my feet?"

M1: Jesus answered and said unto him, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."

M2: Peter saith unto him, "Thou shalt never wash my feet."

M1: Jesus answered him, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."

M2: Simon Peter saith unto him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

M1: Jesus saith to him, "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all." And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Song Leader:

***Communion Hymn* “Come Sinner to the Gospel Feast *UMH 616* ***

Come, sinners to the gospel feast, let every soul be Jesus' guest.
Ye need not one be left behind, for God hath bid all humankind.

Do not begin to make excuse; ah! do not you his grace refuse;
Your worldly cares and pleasures leave, and take what Jesus has to give.

Come and partake the gospel feast, be saved from sin, in Jesus rest;
O taste the goodness of our God, and eat his flesh and drink his blood.

See him set forth before your eyes, behold the bleeding sacrifice;
his offered love make hast to embrace, and freely now be saved by grace.

Ye who believe his record trust shall sup with him and he with you,
come to the feast, be saved from sin, for Jesus waits to take you in.

M2: And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

M1: Then saith Jesus unto them, “All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.”

M2: Peter answered and said unto him, “Although all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.”

M1: Jesus said unto him, “Verily I say unto thee, that this night, before the cock crows, thou shalt deny me three times.”

M2: Peter said unto him, “Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee.” Likewise also said all the disciples.

Garden of Gethsamane

M1: And they came to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to the disciples, “Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.” And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, “My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.” And he went a little farther, and fell on his face on the ground, and prayed, saying, “O Abba, Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.” And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, “What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”. He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, “O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”

And when he returned, he found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy.

And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

M3: And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

M1: And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me."

Song Leader:

Hymn "Go to Dark Gethsemane" UMH 290 verse 1

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Judas' Betrayal

M3: And immediately while he spoke, lo Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, "Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast."

And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, "Hail, master"; and kissed him.

M1: And Jesus said unto him, "Friend, wherefore art thou come?"

M3: Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.

And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and cut off his ear.

M1: And Jesus answered him and said, "Suffer thee thus far." And he touched the ear and healed him. In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, "Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." "I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me."

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?"

M2: But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

Jesus Led to Caiaphus, the High Priest, and Peter's Denial

M3: And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

M2: But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in to see the end, and sat with the servants, to warm himself by the fire.

M3: Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; but found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.'"

And the high priest arose, and said unto him, "Answerest thou nothing? What is it which these witness against thee?"

M1: But Jesus held his peace.

M3: Again the high priest answered and said unto him, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God."

M1: Jesus saith unto him, "I am. Nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

M3: Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, "He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

What think ye?" They answered and said, "He is guilty of death."

Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?"

M2: Now Peter sat without in the palace:

F2: and a damsel came unto him, saying, "Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee."

M2: But he denied before them all, saying, "I know not what thou sayest."

And when he was gone out into the porch,

F2: another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, "This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth."

M2: And again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the man."

M3: And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, "Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee."

M2: Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, "I know not the man." And immediately the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him,

M1: "Before the cock crows, thou shalt deny me three times."

M2: And he went out, and wept bitterly.

M3: When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

Jesus Taken to Pilate and Herod for conviction

M3: And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate.

And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.”

M2: And Pilate asked him, saying, “Art thou the King of the Jews?”

M1: And he answered him and said, “Thou sayest it.”

M2: Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, “I find no fault in this man.”

M3: And they were the more fierce, saying, “He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.”

M2: When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean.

And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

M3: And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing.

And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.

M2: And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.

M1: And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

M2: Then said Pilate unto him, “Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?”

M1: And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

M2: And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, said unto them, “Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him. I will therefore chastise him, and release him.” For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

F2:: When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, “Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.”

M2: Now at that feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whosoever they desired. And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.) Therefore

when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, “Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?”

M3: The chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

M2: The governor answered and said unto them, “Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you?”

M3: They said, “Barabbas.”

M2: Pilate saith unto them, “What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?”

M3: They all say unto him, “Let him be crucified.”

M2: And the governor said, “Why, what evil hath he done?”

M3: and everyone: But they cried out the more, saying, “Crucify Him.”

M2: When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, “I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it.”

M3: Then answered all the people, and said, “His blood be on us, and on our children.”

Barabbas Released and Jesus Marched to the Cross

M2: Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Song Leader:

Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” UMH 290 verse 2

See him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.

M3: And the soldiers led him down into the hall, called Praetorium; and they called together the whole band. And they stripped him, clothed him with purple, put a reed in his right hand, platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head. They bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

And it was the third hour and they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet

M2: “They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.”

Song Leader:

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" UMH 286

O sacred head now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain,
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lord, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place,
Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow too thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

M2: And sitting down they watched him there; and set up over his head his accusation written, *This Is Jesus The King Of The Jews.*

M2: Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. And the scripture was fulfilled, "and he was numbered with the transgressors"

And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."

M3: Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

M2: The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth. And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the other answering rebuked him saying, "Dost not thou fear God seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we justifiably, for we receive the due rewards of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." And he said unto Jesus, "Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

M1: And Jesus said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Hymn "Jesus, Remember Me When You come into Your Kingdom"

UMH 488

F1: Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.

M1: When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, "Woman, behold thy son!"

Then saith he to the disciple, "Behold thy mother!"

M2: And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.”

M1: After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, “I thirst.”

M3: Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

M1: Then said Jesus, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”

M3: And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself. If he be the Christ, the chosen of God.” And the soldiers also mocked him.

M1: And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is to say, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

M3: Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

M2: The rest said, “Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.”

M1: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Song Leader:

Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” UMH 290 verse 3

Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb there adoring at his feet,
Mark the miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete:
“It is finished!” hear the cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Song Leader:

Hymn 288 “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord” UMH 288*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O –o–o–o sometimes it case me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they crucified my Lord.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O –o–o–o sometimes it case me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you ther when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
O –o–o–o sometimes it case me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O –o–o–o sometimes it case me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O –o–o–o sometimes it case me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Veil of Temple Rent

M3: And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, “Truly this was the Son of God.”

Burying Jesus in Arimathea’s Tomb

F1: And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him: among which was Mary, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, the mother of Zebedees children.

M2: When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus’ disciple: he went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered.

Joseph of Arimathea took the body: bought fine linen, and took him down and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulcher which was hewn out of rock, and rolled stone unto the door of the sepulcher, and departed.

F1: And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld were he was laid.

Priests Attempt to Guard the Tomb

M2: Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, saying, “Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, ‘He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.’”

M2: Pilate said unto them, “Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.” So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

The Marys Visit the Tomb

F1: At the end of the sabbath, very early in the morning of the first day of the week, as it began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary and Salome came to see the sepulchre, and brought sweet spices, that they might anoint him.

Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” UMH 290 verse 4

Early hasten to the tomb where they lay his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom; who hath taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes: Savior, teach us so to rise.

M1: And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow:

M2: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

M1: And the angel answered and said unto the women, “Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Behold, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.”

F1: And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold,

M1: Jesus met them, saying, “All hail.”

F1: And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

M1: Then said Jesus unto them, “Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.”

F1: Then they runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.”

M2: Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

F1: But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

M1: And they say unto her, “Woman, why weepest thou?”

F1: She saith unto them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.” And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

M1: Jesus saith unto her, “Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou?”

F1: She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, “Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away”.

M1: Jesus saith unto her, “Mary.”

F1: She turned herself, and saith unto him, “Rabboni”; which is to say, Master.

M1: Jesus saith unto her, “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”

Hymn “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” UMH 302*

Christ the lord is risen today, Al-le-lu-ia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Al-le-lu-ia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ has opened paradise, Al-le-lu-ia!

Lives again our glorious King, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Once he died our souls to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where’s thy victory, boasting grave? Al-le-lu-ia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
Following our exalted Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Make like him, like him we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!

Hail the Lord of Heaven and earth, Al-le-lu-ia!
Praise to thee by both be given, Al-le-lu-ia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Al-le-lu-ia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Al-le-lu-ia!

Conclusion – Jesus Final Words to disciples

M2: Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: “The Lord is Risen indeed.”

M1: And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Song Leader:

Hymn “He Lives” UMH 310

I serve a risen Savior, he’s in the world today,
I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need him, he’s always near.

Refrain

He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life’s narrow way,
He lives, he lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see his loving care,
And though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast;
The day of his appearing will come at last.

Refrain

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;
None other is so loving, so good and kind.

Refrain

Notes

*Other songs that may be sung in place of this one:

Triumphal Entry

United Methodist Hymnal (UMH) 277 “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”

UMH 280 “All Glory, Laud and Honor to Thee Redeemer King”

Communion Hymn

UMH 617 “I Came with Joy”

UMH 618 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

UMH 620 “One Bread, One Body”

Resurrection Hymn

UMH 322 “Up From the Grave He Arose”

UMH 327 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

3-21-19 version

For more information on how to construct costumes, sets, lighting, sound, publicity and more refer to ***How to Do Drama and Dance in the Small Church*** by Rev. Laura L. Schultz. The chapters and notes have many suggestions for actualizing this production. These principles also work for a much larger church, but the emphasis here is on the small church because larger churches often have staff members who have the training to do all necessary for this type of production, and the small church relies on congregational members who have talent and enthusiasm but may need helpful hints on how to accomplish a production of this nature.

God bless your efforts at telling this amazing story of our Savior. May it inspire you anew as well as reach out to your community and beyond.

Rev. Laura L. Schultz