

Christ the Servant, Christ the King

A musical drama for Easter

By Kathy Applebee and Linda Lineberry

Cast list

(Doubling possible as well as using members of the choir)

Mary	Blind Man 1	Mary Magdela
Gabriel (part of choir)	Blind Man 2	Mary 2 - the mother of
Choir voice 1	Centurion	James the Younger
Choir voice 2	Canaanite Woman	Woman
Shepherd	Salome* Joseph	Teen girl
Magi 1	Baby Jesus	Shepherds
Magi 2	Magi 3 (traditional but	Martha*
John the Baptist	optional)	Thomas
Priest 1 (<i>more belligerent</i>)	Demon possessed girl	Mary, sister of Lazarus
Priest 2	Father of dead girl	Judas
Nicodemus*	Mother of dead girl	Pilate
Peter*	Dead girl	Mary, the mother of Jesus
Caiaphas	Poor widow	Crowd Voice 1
Jesus*	Barabbas	Crowd Voice 2
Voice of God	Simon of Cyrene	Soldier

THE BIRTH OF JESUS FORETOLD

SCENE 1 *(before the curtain)*

NICODEMUS: *(Standing center stage in spot light)*

Four hundred years. Four hundred years and we had not had a word from God. I, Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, the ruling body of the Jews, was acutely aware of another 400 year period in our history. My people had been enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. I was also acutely aware of our current occupation by the Romans. I, like my Jewish brethren, was looking for the coming Messiah to restore the kingdom to Israel. *(Moves stage left)*

But it had been 400 years since my people had the word of the Lord. Four hundred years of silence. When the word of the Lord came, it was not to the high priest, or a member of the Sanhedrin or even a prophet. It was to an obscure young woman in the tiny town of Nazareth. To most, she was nothing remarkable. But to God, she stood out among all women. For the LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. *(Freeze, spot off)*

GABRIEL'S VISIT SCENE 2 *(before the curtain)*

Spot up on MARY who is sweeping the floor stage left. After 2 beats another spot hits GABRIEL center stage. She looks up, drops the broom in amazement, then bows before him.

GABRIEL:

Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. *(Mary looks up in amazement and fear.)*

GABRIEL:

Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, *(enough emphasis so when this is later quoted during Salome's Sorrow the audience remembers)* and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.

MARY:

How will this be since I am a virgin?

GABRIEL:

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. The

holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God

MARY:

I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said. (*Spots off GABRIEL*)

(*Mary stands and praises God*)

My soul glorifies the Lord

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

(*Spot off MARY, back on NICODEMUS.*)

NICODEMUS:

Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. So Joseph went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

BETHLEHEM SCENE 3

(*Curtains open with Gabriel center stage backed by the choir in angel robes standing powerfully. The choir sings. – “Joy to the World” verse one and two. Choir hums during spoken dialogue.*)

Other songs to consider for this scene: “Angels from the Realms of Glory”, “The Flocks were wrapped in Slumber”, “In the fields their Flocks Abiding”, “Rise Up Shepherd and Follow”, “While Shepherds Watched their Flocks”, “While their Flocks the Shepherds Tended.”

Shepherds notice Gabriel and are frightened, the younger ones scurrying into the protective embrace of an older shepherd.

GABRIEL:

Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the

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town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

ANGEL VOICE 1: *(from the choir):* Glory to God in the highest!

ANGEL VOICE 2: *(From the choir)* And on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests

Choir sings “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing, verse one” while the shepherds look to each other in wonderment and listen to the choir of angels. JOSEPH quietly enter next to MARY)

SHEPHERD 1:

Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. *(Shepherds exit left. Angel Choir sings “Rise Up, Shepherd and Follow”, then the second and third verses of “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” while the following occurs without dialogue. Lights on the choir are dim to focus attention on MARY, JOSEPH, stage right during the song. Mary lays Jesus in a manger, Joseph and Mary bow to pray, then raise their heads and hands to God. Shepherds enter, bow and exit. Magi enter from the back and bow before the family)*

NICODEMUS:

Once again the news had not come to the high and mighty, to the priests or teachers of the law but to shepherds. And to Gentiles.

MAGI 1:

Here is the one who has been born king of the Jews. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him.

MAGI 2:

It has been said that in the land of Judah,
 one will come who is a ruler
 one who will be the shepherd of the people of Israel

(Song “Hail, Thou Source of Every Blessing”, “by Magi, Can be backed by the choir. Magi can have servants who lend their voices as well) Curtain closes. Choir changes into Biblical costumes. NICODEMUS in front of curtain)

NICODEMUS SCENE 4 *(before the curtain)*

NICODEMUS:

The good news spread as far as the palace of King Herod. He did not rejoice at the news of a rival king. He sent out soldiers to destroy any threats to his throne. It was a time of sadness for

those who lost their infants and toddlers.

For another thirty years we heard nothing.

Then a powerful prophet began preaching in the desert, a powerful man. Wearing camel's hair and a leather belt, dining on locusts and wild honey— John brought the word of the Lord and was baptizing people for the remission of their sins in the Jordan River. He told us the Messiah was about to be revealed. (*NICODEMUS inserts himself into the scene once the curtain opens*)

BAPTISM SCENE 5

(Curtain opens. Rocks in the forefront conceal the area where baptism will take place and water can be hidden to wet those being baptized. Choir starts “These are the Days of Elijah”. JOHN will baptize two people, NICODEMUS will merge with crowd)

PRIEST 1:

Who you are? Are you the Christ?

JOHN:

I am not the Christ

PRIEST 2:

Then who are you? Are you Elijah?

JOHN:

I am not.

NICODEMAS:

Are you the Prophet?"

JOHN:

No.

PRIEST 1:

Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?

JOHN:

I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.

NICODEMAS:

Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?

JOHN:

I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know. The reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

(Crowd parts, Jesus steps out)

JOHN:

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! *(John bows to Jesus; Jesus takes his hand, raises him up and embraces him, moving into the water to be baptized)*

JESUS:

I have come to be baptized.

JOHN:

I need to be baptized by you. Why do you come to me?

JESUS:

Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness. *(John baptizes him)*

VOICE of GOD:

This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. *(Dove comes down)*

JOHN:

Behold the Lamb of God.

Choir sings another verse of "These are the Days of Elijah" Other disciples are baptized.

NICODEMUS:

From that day on many chose to follow Jesus. I was not one of them

PETER:

But I was.

(Jesus beckons and several follow him. Peter steps out in front of the curtain. Curtain closes behind him. Choir sings first verse of "Make Christ your King Today")

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NICODEMUS SCENE 6 (*before the curtain*)

(Lighted to infer darkness. Peter is in narrator stage right position.)

PETER:

Many followed but Jesus chose 12 of us to train, keeping us with him, day and night. For three years he trained us. He spoke with authority and he served with humility. We were unschooled ordinary men. Fishermen, a Roman tax collector, often hated as a traitor to his people, and a zealot, willing to take up arms to rid us of Roman occupation. An unlikely bunch. But by choosing ordinary men it became obvious it was God's power working through us, not our own.

The religious leaders grew increasingly annoyed, then hostile toward Jesus. One, Nicodemus, a Pharisee and member of the Jewish ruling council came one night, in secret.

(Light off PETER and spot on NICODEMUS and JESUS slightly left of down center)

Nicodemus:

Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.

JESUS:

I tell you the truth; no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.

Nicodemus.

How can a man be born when he is old? Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!

JESUS:

I tell you the truth; no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus:

How can this be?

JESUS:

You are Israel's teacher. Do you not understand these things? The Son of Man must be lifted up,

that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness (*Uses hands to indicate the darkness around them, NICODEMUS seems somewhat shamed*) instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God. (*Lights off, they exit, curtain opens*)

MIRACLES SCENE 7

(Curtain opens. Choir sings first two verses of "A Cold Heart Turns" by Rebecca St. James while the crowd filters in, whispering without sound and looking expectantly at each other, and looking around as if they expect someone. Choir sings chorus only of "Days of Elijah". During this song, from the back, Jesus with a few disciples appears. Mood of the crowd changes to jubilation and excitement. People's faces light up, they point and their faces reflect the excitement of seeing him. A few children run to him and he bends down to scoop one up for a hug, then returning them to the ground. Two children take Jesus' hands and walk by his side as he continues to walk, stopping to touch people, touch a child being held out to him as he moves toward the stage. Curtain opens to reveal the rest of the choir and crowd. Blind men are far stage left, softly calling once for Jesus to have mercy on them. Crowd will shush them)

MARTHA:

He went through all the towns and villages, teaching in our synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. Word of his teaching and miracles spread like wildfire. Even the Romans occupying our country heard of him and his power.
(inserts herself in scene)

JESUS: *(Center stage, children are closest to him, sitting at his feet. A few adults sit as well)*
If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.

BLIND MAN 1:

Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!"

CROWD:

Quiet. Be quiet.

BLIND MAN 1 & 2: *(Louder)*

Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!

JESUS: *(Indicating two of his disciples should lead them to him)*

What do you want me to do for you?

BLIND MAN 2:

Lord, we want our sight.

JESUS:

Do you believe that I am able to do this?

BLIND MEN:

Yes, Lord.

JESUS:

According to your faith will it be done to you. *(Jesus touches their eyes, they receive their sight and thank him, the crowd is amazed)*

Centurion comes down center aisle. The crowd looks at him with loathing as he kneels before Jesus. Jesus focuses on him. The crowd grows silent - a Roman kneeling to a Jew?! The centurion lifts his head and speaks)

CENTURION:

Lord, my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.

JESUS:

I will go and heal him.

CENTURION:

Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

JESUS:

I tell you the truth; I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. Go! It will be done just as you believed it would. *(Centurion bows his head in reverence and exits center. The crowd has mixed emotions. Most are either perplexed or unhappy Jesus that has helped a*

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Roman enemy.

(There is a commotion stage right. The stage right crowd parts to reveal a woman and her daughter who is shuddering and foaming from demon possession. The girl falls and shudders once more, then lies as if she is dead. The woman, kneeling by the girl, cradling her as the seizure subsides, calls out desperately. The crowd reacts with fear and avulsion to this gentile and the demon. They pull back, holding children in protective embraces.)

CANAANITE WOMAN:

Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession. *(Someone in the crowd comes forward and kneels by the girl, gently wiping her mouth and tending her as the mother goes to Jesus)*

JESUS: *(Compassionately)*

I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.

CANAANITE WOMAN :*(Comes and kneels before him, face down. Sobs rack her body. She lifts her tear streaked face and one hand, imploring him)* Lord, help me!

JESUS: *(Kneels down to her, gently and expectantly)*

It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs.

CANAANITE WOMAN:

Yes, Lord, but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table

JESUS: *(Pulls her to her feet, with evident joy at her response)*

Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted. *(He indicates the girl with a wave of his hand. The girl sits up, smiling and unpossessed. The crowd gasps. Mother and child rush into each other's arms and embrace)*

CENTURION: *(Coming from stage left moving right next to Jesus, kneeling)*

Lord Jesus! My servant has been healed. At the very moment you spoke of it! *(Crowd looks amazed)*

JESUS:

(Crowds faces start to register that maybe he is talking about Gentiles such as the Canaanite woman's daughter and the Centurion's servant. Priests push to the forefront and center stage for a confrontation.)

PRIEST 1: *(To the crowd and Nicodemus)*

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He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to him?

NICODEMUS:

These are not the sayings of a man possessed by a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?

PRIEST 2: *(To Jesus)*

How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.

JESUS:

I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me. I and the Father are one.

PRIEST 1:

Blasphemy! You, a mere man, claim to be God.

JESUS:

I am the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. Even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.

(Crowds attention shifts to the back where a father carries in a dead girl. The mother and possibly siblings, following, weeping. Jesus takes the child in his arms. The choir starts quietly singing "Lamb of God by Rebecca St. James. (or "Worthy is the Lamb") Jesus prays over the girl. Slowly he lifts her to heaven. Brings her back down and cradles her momentarily. The girl stirs. The crowd is flabbergasted. Jesus gives the girl back to her parents. Choir finishes song with volume and enthusiasm and praise. Priests 1 and 2 leave in disgust. Girls runs to Jesus to hug him. He picks her up and stretches one hand to heaven. Everyone kneels to Jesus, raising their hands. Black out. Curtain)

SALOME SCENE 8 *(before the curtain)*

MARTHA:

I knew Jesus was the Messiah and many others were coming to put their trust in him as well. But we had missed part of his message – the nature of his kingdom. Many were looking for an earthy king, an earthy kingdom and an earthy reward.

(Jesus enters from curtains to center. SALOME, JAMES and JOHN enter from stage right and place themselves at Jesus feet. Other disciples enter stage left and stand left.)

JESUS

What is it you want?

SALOME: (*Straightening up but still kneeling*)

Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.

JESUS

You don't know what you are asking. (*To James and John*) Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?

JOHN:

We can.

JESUS

You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father. (*Other disciples start towards JESUS, upset and talking amongst themselves*)

MARTHA:

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant.

JESUS

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Choir sings "Servant of All" and/or Song by disciples – Oh, Jesus I have promised, three verses.

LARARUS DIES SCENE 9 (*before the curtain*)

PETER:

We promised to follow him, serve him. I told him I was willing to go to prison or die for him. Yet when Jesus made plans to heal a friend, we were afraid once again.

MARTHA:

My brother, Lazarus was sick so I sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

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(Curtain opens part way to reveal Jesus and his disciples. Peter will insert himself in scene. Martha exits)

JESUS:

This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it. Let us go back to Judea.

JAMES:

But Rabbi, a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?

JESUS:

Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light. It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.

PETER:

Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better

JESUS:

Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.

THOMAS:

Let us also go, that we may die with him. *(Jesus and disciples move to down right as the curtains are opened all the way and the lights come up to reveal mourners at a tomb.)*

RAISING OF LAZARUS SCENE 10

(Curtain opens. Tomb with a crowd of mourners. Jesus and disciples move to center stage and. Martha runs out to Jesus and embraces him, sobbing.)

MARTHA

If you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.

JESUS

Your brother will rise again.

MARTHA

I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

JESUS

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

MARTHA

Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.

JESUS:

Get Mary

Martha leaves to get Mary, Priests to the crowd, away from Jesus.

PRIEST 1:

Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?

MARTHA (*Calling off stage right*)

The Teacher is here, and is asking for you.

MARY: (*Enters to Jesus, falling at his feet weeping. Jesus gently raises her up to console her*)
Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

JESUS

Where have you laid him?

MARTHA

Come and see, Lord.

JESUS

Take away the stone. (*Some of the crowd does so*)

MARTHA

But, Lord, by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.

JESUS

Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God? Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me. *(With power)* Lazarus, come out!

(Lazarus emerges from the tomb. Martha and Mary rush to him to remove the grave clothes. They embrace, bow to Jesus. Reprise of chorus of "These are the Days of Elijah")

SALOME SCENE 11 *(before the curtain)*

SALOME:

Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out of their way to hear and see him for themselves. *(Choir sings "Agnus Deus/Worthy" by Third Day "or "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" (Crowd enters from the sides of stage and back waving palm branches)* By the time Passover came, people lined the streets with their children, hoping to catch a glimpse of him. When he arrived they greeted him as king with shouts of praise, singing and waving cut palm branches.

(Curtain opens to reveal choir and rest of crowd. Jesus enters from the back, trailed by his disciples. The crowd calls out

"Hosanna!

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

"Blessed is the King of Israel! Jesus touches the people and when he is in place center stage many children come to him for his blessing. Song ends with everyone kneeling or paying Christ homage)

TEMPLE SCENE 12

(The crowds start to gather to hear him teach, slightly right of center. Three priests are set up, left, collecting taxes. Some of the people stop to pay before they make their way over to Jesus. Two with large sums make a big show of what large quantities they are giving. In the back of the line is a poor widow, dressed in rags, moving humbly)

JUDAS

Look, Teacher! The temple! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"

JESUS

Do you see all these great buildings? Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down. Destroy this temple and in three days I will rebuild it. *(The crowd turns to each other in confusion. Two members of the crowd go to the priests collecting money, point at*

Jesus during the next segment)

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. *(Judas should shift about uncomfortably but the rest should not notice. The priests are now noticing what Jesus is saying. They shake their heads and two come over to join the group gathered around Jesus)* So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

PRIEST 1:

Who gives you the authority to teach these things to these people?

JESUS:

I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?
(Priests put their heads together briefly)

PRIEST 2:

We don't know.

JESUS

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

PRIEST 1:

Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

JESUS:

Show me the coin used for paying the tax. *(They bring him a denarius. By this time the widow should be next in line to deposit money.)* Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?"

PRIEST 2:

Caesar's. *(Widow needs to be at the front of the line by this time)*

JESUS:

Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. You see that widow? She has put in two very small copper coins. I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all

she had to live on. (*pointedly to priests*) This temple should be a house of prayer for all nations but you have made it a den of thieves.

PRIEST 1: (*Moving to Jesus to confront him*)

Who gives you the authority to teach these things to these people?

JESUS:

I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?

(*Priests put their heads together briefly*)

PRIEST 2:

We don't know.

JESUS

Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. (*Priests walk away angry. Curtain closes*)

PRIESTS PLOT SCENE 13 (*before the curtain*)

NICODEMUS:

The priests were embarrassed, outwitted and angry but what could they do? The people were convinced the Messiah had come. Discouraged, the priests reported to the High Priest, Caiaphas and plotted in earnest against our savior. (*Priests enter in front of the curtain*)

NICODEMUS: (*Trying in vain to convince Caiaphas*)

Caiaphas, this Jesus performed miracles of healing and casting out demons! He raised the dead!

CAIAPHAS:

It was all staged. There was no demon. That other girl, (*with distaste*) that Gentile, wasn't dead.

PRIEST: 2:

People swear the men were, had been, blind for years, Caiaphas.

PRIEST 1:

Caiaphas! The crowds are worse than ever, worse than at Bethany. Here is this man, this Jesus of Nazareth teaching in the temple and the people latch on to his every word. Because they are convinced he has performed many miraculous signs and that Jesus brought Lazarus back from the dead!

CAIAPHAS: (*Pacing, running his hand across his forehead*)

See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!

NICODEMAS:

This man Jesus is performing many miraculous signs. The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised. No one ever spoke the way he does.

CAIAPHAS:

You mean he has deceived you also? "Have any of us believed in him? No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.

NICODEMAS

Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?

CAIAPHAS

(*To Nicodemus*) Are you from Galilee, too? Look into it, and you will find that a prophet does not come out of Galilee

PRIEST 1

If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.

CAIAPHAS

(*To Nicodemus*) You know nothing at all! You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish. (*Priest 2 and Judas enter as Caiaphas says to Priest 1*) If he comes to the feast I want it reported to me immediately so we can arrest him. But not during the Feast, or there may be a riot among the people.

PRIEST 2:

Caiaphas, this man, one of his disciples, is willing to help us.

JUDAS:

What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?

CAIAPHAS:

Thirty pieces of silver. (*Judas nods, they count out the money to him, lights off*)

LAST SUPPER SCENE 14

(Curtain opens. Choir sings “Do this, Remember Me” by Keith Ilwain” During the song Jesus blesses, then breaks bread and hands it to the disciples. He blesses, then passes the cup and his disciples drink from it.)

(Jesus gets up from the meal, as he takes off his outer clothing, wraps a towel around his waist and pour water into a basin the disciples clear the table and other Passover items off stage. The disciples in small groups or singularly as their stage clearing tasks allow. Jesus begins to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.)

PETER: *(During the foot washing)*

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. He washed our feet. The lowest servant in a house was usually assigned that task. Yet here was the Son of God, the Lord of the Universe washing our feet. *(Peter inserts himself into the scene)*

PETER:

Lord, are you going to wash my feet?

JESUS:

You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.

PETER:

No, you shall never wash my feet.

JESUS:

Unless I wash you, you have no part with me. You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

(Possible to add “Make me a servant” if more time is needed for foot washing. Afterwards, one of the disciples takes the basin and towel off stage. Jesus puts on his outer garments)

JESUS:

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will

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keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. (*Curtain*)

THE GARDEN SCENE 15 (*before the curtain*)

NICODEMUS:

Judas had walked with Jesus for three year. He knew Jesus would head for the Mount of Olives because he often prayed there. Caiaphas called together a mob to follow Judas and arrest Jesus. (*As Nicodemus is speaking, choir is humming Ebon Pinion. Jesus and three disciples enter in front of the curtain. Jesus has them stay center right while he crosses to center left. Disciples lie down and fall asleep. Jesus kneels and begins praying*)

PETER:

But never had he prayed as he did that night. He was sorrowful to the point of point of death. All of us disciples fell asleep while he prayed the cup be taken from him, if it was possible. Even with the knowledge of the horrors he would face in such a short time he said “Yet not as I will, but as you will. (*Peter lies down*)

(*Choir sings the second and third verse. Jesus prays and three times wakes the sleeping disciples but they fall back asleep. During the last time the temple guards and Judas enter from the back. Voices say “Find him, Judas” or “He’s got to be stopped” “Which one is he?” Judas kisses Jesus and the guards arrest him. Disciples at first try to stop them, then they run. Guards haul Jesus out the way they came in. Judas falls to his knees, remorseful*)

PETER’S DENIAL Scene 16 (*before the curtain*)

(*Dark. A couple of soldiers, PETER squat in front of a portable container with a small fire, warming their hands. PRIEST 2, WOMAN, PETER are standing near.*)

PRIEST 2:

Caiaphas and Sanhedrin are interrogating the blasphemer now.

(*TEEN GIRL enters, hands cup to PREIST 2, looks closely at PETER*)

TEEN GIRL: (*to Peter*)

You are not one of his disciples, are you?

PETER:

I am not. I don't know this man you're talking about.

WOMAN: (*Looking closely at PETER*)

You were with him! (*to the others*) This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth

PETER: (*more emphatic*)

Woman, I am not! (*rooster crows*)

SOLDIER:

Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean. (*to Peter*) Your accent gives you away.

PETER: (*Vehemently*)

I don't know the man!

(*The rooster crows the second time. Peter stumbles away from them weeping bitterly, exits. Lights out*)

TRIAL BEFORE PILATE SCENE 17

Curtain opens to Pilate's Hall. . Crowd is muttering, angry, expectant. A few members of the crowd filter in from the back. A trumpet sounds. Pilate comes out. Guards bring Jesus, bound, in from stage right. Crowd mutters and points angrily.

SALOME:

By morning, our leaders had gained an audience with Pilate, the Roman governor. They had turned the hearts of the people against Jesus. The same crowd that was ready to crown him king a week early was calling for his execution. (*Priests step forward to accuse Jesus.*)

PILATE:

What charges are you bringing against this man?

CAIAPHAS:

We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.

PRIEST 1:

He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here

PILATE:

Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.

CAIAPHAS:

But we have no right to execute anyone.

PRIEST 1:

If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.

CAIAPHAS:

We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ a king (*Crowd becomes more restless*)

CAIAPHAS:

If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar

PILATE:

(*To Jesus*) Do you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?

JESUS:

You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

PILATE:

See how many things they are accusing you of. Aren't you going to answer? Are you the king of the Jews?

JESUS:

You are right in saying I am a king. But my kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. My kingdom is from another place. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.

PILATE:

What is truth? I find no basis for a charge against him. You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. (*Motion to guards stage right. They bring our Barabbas, a surly looking man*) But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release Barabbas, murderer or Jesus, the one called Christ, the king of the Jews'?

CROWD:

No, not him! Give us Barabbas! Away with this man! Release Barabbas

PILATE:
Shall I crucify your king?

CROWD VOICE 1:
We have no king but Caesar!

CROWD:
Crucify him!

PILATE:
Why? What crime has this man committed?

CROWD:
Crucify! Crucify! Barabbas! Give us Barabbas! Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!

PILATE: (*Washing hands*)
I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your responsibility!

CROWD VOICE 2:
Let his blood be on us and on our children!
(*Amos and children remove themselves from the scene and come in front of curtain*)

PILATE: (*Throws towel in disgust*)
Take him away! Have him flogged and crucified. (*Crowd cheers and exits. Barabbas is untied. Jesus is tied to a post. Curtain closes partway so only the flogging post is visible.*)

THE FLOGGING SCENE 18

The only lighting should be a spot on Jesus. This is not only to hide any activity while the crosses are set but to focus the audience's attention. During the song, "Blood on My Hands" by Todd Agnew, the flogging will stop, guards will untie Jesus from the post, push a crown of thorns on his head, give him his cross to carry. Jesus carries it out by going up the aisle and out the back entrance. Jesus stumbles three times. Each time raising his eyes to God and clearly portraying to the audience it is his love for us, not the soldiers that urges him on. After the third time the soldiers will seize Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross the rest of the way. Curtain closes.

CRUCIFIXION SCENE 19

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Mourners enter from the back and kneel before the curtain. Choir sings "Were You There" Audience can hear the sound of blows, nails being driven through Christ's hands and feet and his cries of pain. Curtain opens. Dim lighting with spots gives the feeling of the darkness that came over the land. Jesus and the thieves will be upon their crosses. A written notice is nailed to the cross that says THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. During the crucifixion scene the following needs to be done in accordance with scriptures: Someone will offer Jesus a sponge to drink from, soldiers will cast lots for his clothes, MARY, MARY MAGDELA, SALOME, MARY 2 will be crying with John comforting and supporting SALOME and MRAY, Jesus' mother.

Song(s) Use one or more, depending on the timing of the dramatic action. "The Day He Wore My Crown" "Were You There", "Man of Sorrows"

While the chorus hums the following dialogue takes place. Jesus has obvious difficulty getting enough breath to say the lines. There are pauses between them.

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (Towards heaven)

Dear woman, here is your son. Here is your mother. (Toward his mother and John. They should react)

It is finished. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. (To heaven)

Jesus will bow his head and die. There will be a crack of lightning and thunder. Mourners will leave hurriedly. Blackout and curtain closes. Another verse or song with a dark stage. SALOME enters to center stage, spot light on her)

SALOME'S SORROW SCENE 20 (before curtain)

(Adapted from Mary's Sorrow written by and used by permission of Linda Lineberry. The audience should be able to relive the crucifixion scene from the women's point of view)

SALOME:

In the darkness of noonday a few of us who loved him stood on that hill before His cross. My son John, was the only one of the men who braved arrest and I could not keep the terror from

welling up in my heart..... that the soldiers would grab my son John. Forcefully stretch him out on another cross. Drive nails through his hands and feet. And let him die too. Was this to be the cup Jesus had asked if they could partake? I wondered as John held me and Mary.

At Jesus birth, a prophet named Simeon had warned Mary that a sword would pierce her heart. In the darkness of noonday I stood on that hill next to her and watched her watch her firstborn, her promised child, hanging bloodied and torn on a criminal's cross.

His blood was running down from the crown of thorns cruelly pressed into his flesh. It poured from wounds torn wide and gaping from the flogging. It was falling on Mary. He was dying and we heard him cry out (*in anguish*) "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." (*Looking up*) I looked up into his loving face and never in all my years had I ever seen such agony... and such sorrow. I tried to comfort her. Her son was dying. (*Catch in throat, struggle to go on*) We were watching him die. (*Cover area below chin so sound is not blocked*) I covered my mouth to keep the horror inside.

As they laid him in the tomb Mary repeated the words that the angel Gabriel gave her so many years ago. "He shall live forever and his kingdom will never end." (*with hope*) El Shaddai, the Holy God, keeps his promise. We held to that and each other. (*Bow head. John comes on stage to gently lead her off.*)

Possible to add another song that was not used before to allow time for set change.

PETER: (*spotlight*)

Christ suffered for me and you. He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds have you and I been healed.

NICODEMUS: (*spotlight*)

Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph had been a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. Like me. A time of decision had come. He could no longer walk in favor with both God and our leaders. He had choose. He chose Jesus.

I could no longer vacillate between two opinions. I had to choose. I chose Jesus. I brought a mixture of myrrh, to anoint my king (*starting to cry*) and aloes, though those wounds wound never be soothed by human hands.

(Crying out to God, grief stricken and in anguish) Why had I waited so long? Why had I waited until he was dead? *(Getting control over his emotions and in a flat tone)* Passover was upon us so we laid his body in the garden in a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid.

MARTHA: *(spotlight)*

In the ultimate act of servant hood, Christ had died in my place, in your place. But death was a beginning, not an end. The chief priests and elders posted their guard. *(starting to sound celebratory)* But death had no power over him. I had seen my brother restored to life. We were about to see just how much power Christ had. Nothing in all of creation could stop the Son of God.

RESURRECTION SCENE 21

Curtain opens to the tomb. Guards posted on either side. Song "Low I the Grave He Lay" First verse is slow, almost majestic. At the close of the first verse the guards fall, the stone rolls back and Jesus appears as the chorus begins.

Jesus comes out of the tomb. MARY MAGDELA, SALOME and MARY 2 enter about 6 steps before they stop, startled to see Jesus. SALOME and MARY 2 exit quickly. MARY MAGDELA bows low to the ground. The other women return bringing first PETER and JOHN; then the nine other disciples follow. They embrace and worship him, examine his hands, his side. All kneel before him. The choir and crowd enter the scene and slowly move toward Jesus. Crowd members kneel in awe.

MARTHA:

The news he had risen spread like wildfire through the city of Jerusalem and to Emmaus and beyond. Over 400 people saw the risen savior during the next 40 days. He led us out to a place near my home in Bethany, lifted up his hands and blessed us. *(Kneels)*

JESUS:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. *(He ascends, PETER moves in front of curtain. Curtain closes.)*

INVITATION SCENE 22 (*before the curtain*)

PETER:

While he was blessing us, he was taken up into heaven. We worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. (*Choir and crowd start filtering in before the curtain*) Disciples went into all the world preaching the good news making disciples in all nations, in all walks of life. No matter what someone had been, no matter what someone had done, they found new life. I had been a sheep going astray, but finally had returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of my souls. Jesus, the good shepherd, is waiting to receive any who wish to come to him. Come to him. Come now. Come forward as we sing.

Choir sings first verse of "Come just as you are"

SALOME:

Maybe this is the first time you have heard the story of Jesus, the servant king. Maybe you never knew what he was willing to suffer for you. Maybe, like me, you have been looking for earthly power and earthly answers. Lasting answers and lasting power come from heaven, come from Jesus. He will save you, this very night. Come to him. Come now. Come as we sing.

NICODEMUS:

Don't you wait too long. Now is your day of decision. If you have never accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior do so tonight. There are people here waiting to receive you, help you and pray with you. Don't let what other people might think stop you from coming to the one who loved you enough to die for you. Come to him. Come now. Come as we sing.

(Sing second verse of "Come just as you are")

MARTHA:

Perhaps you believe and have declared him to be the Christ, the son of God who has come into the world. But maybe your love has grown dim or cold or died out altogether. Jesus has the power to bring the dead back to life. Let that power wash over you tonight. Come to him. Come now. Come as we sing.

PETER:

Maybe you once followed him but you fell away. If he could restore me, if he could welcome me, a man who denied him, he can restore you. He not only can, he will. There is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 who do not need to. Come to him to be restored. Come while we sing.

CHRIST THE KING! SCENE 23

(Curtain opens and Jesus is center stage on a throne, robed as a king, wearing a crown with the angels around him, kneeling, raising their hands to pay him homage. Lights should be bright with as much radiance and dazzling glow as possible.)

Choir B A "Crown Him Lord of All" The following all enter from the back, kneel before Jesus, present their gift and move to the side, alternating left and right. A person from Jesus day alternates with one from modern day.

The Magi enter from the back and lay their crowns before Jesus. A doctor or nurse, laying down a surgical cap. The centurion comes, laying his sword down. A soldier, laying down his gun. A shepherd, laying down his staff, a businessman lays down his briefcase. Nicodemus, laying down his priestly stole, football player (or other sportsman) lays down his helmet and trophy, the demon possessed girl and her mother lay down a basket with fruit, a motorcycle gang member, his helmet, a graduate lays down her cap. After laying down their item, they join the crowd.

Jesus stands and opens his arms to the audience. Choir and all sing Hosanna!

(Curtain)

Suggested songs for Christ the Servant, Christ the King

Some are public domain, others require permission to use. The lyrics are included here to assist directors in selection.

Who Will Follow Jesus
Standing for the right,
Holding up His banner
In the thickest fight?
List'ning for His orders,
Ready to obey,
Who will follow Jesus,
Serving Him today?

Refrain

Who will follow Jesus?
Who will make reply,

"I am on the Lord's side;
Master, here am I"?
Who will follow Jesus?
Who will make reply,
"I am on the Lord's side;
Master, here am I"?"

Who will follow Jesus,
In life's busy ways,
Working for the Master,
Giving Him the praise;
Earnest in His vineyard,

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Honoring His laws,
Faithful to His counsel,
Watchful for His cause?

Refrain

Who will follow Jesus
When the tempter charms?
Fleeing then, for safety,
To the Savior's arms;
Trusting in His mercy,
Trusting in His pow'r,
Seeking fresh renewals
Of His grace each hour?

Refrain

Who will follow Jesus,
In His work of love,
Leading others to Him,
Lifting prayers above?
Courage, faithful servant!
In His Word we see,
On our side forever
Will this Savior be.

Refrain

Days of Elijah by Robin Mark

http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/3819/lyrics_days_of_elijah.htm

These are the days of Elijah
Declaring the Word of the Lord
And these are the days of your servant Moses
Righteousness being restored

And though these are days of great trials
Of famine and darkness and sword

Still we are the voice in the desert crying
Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Behold He comes! Riding on the clouds!
Shining like the sun! At the trumpet call
Lift your voice! It's the year of Jubilee!
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

And these are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh

And these are the days of your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise

And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in the world

And we are the labourers in your vineyard
Declaring the word of the Lord!

Behold He comes! Riding on the clouds!
Shining like the sun! At the trumpet call
Lift your voice! It's the year of Jubilee!
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

There's no God like Jehovah!

(Repeat 3 times)

Behold He comes! Riding on the clouds!
Shining like the sun! At the trumpet call
Lift your voice! It's the year of Jubilee!
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

Behold He comes! Riding on the clouds!
Shining like the sun! At the trumpet call
Lift your voice! It's the year of Jubilee!
And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

And out of Zion's hill salvation comes!

Agnus Dei http://www.hymnlyrics.org/newlyrics_a/agnus_dei.php

Alleluia, Alleluia
 For our Lord God Almighty reigns
 Alleluia, Alleluia
 For our Lord God Almighty reigns
 Alleluia
 Holy, Holy
 Are You Lord God Almighty
 Worthy is the Lamb

Worthy is the Lamb
 You are Holy
 Holy are You Lord God Almighty
 Worthy is the Lamb
 Worthy is the Lamb
 Amen
 Blessed be the name of the Lord

A Cold Heart Turns by Rebecca St James
 Power thunder, lightning bolts
 Rushing wind, a waterfall
 Babies' cry, a mother's tears
 Humming river, rustling leaves

Winter snow, a fire's warmth
 Summer's day a cold heart turns
 Peaceful place, a helping hand
 Kindly words, a smiling face

CHORUS:
 He's calling loud and clearly
 He's saying "Won't you hear Me"
 We see Him everywhere
 And still we roll on by

CHORUS

He was God but one of us
 A king who had a servants heart
 Born to die so we might live
 His reason was His Father's will
 Rushing wind, a waterfall
 Winter snow, a fire's warmth
 Summer's day a cold heart turns

CHORUS

Power thunder, lightning bolts

Blood on my Hands by Todd Agnew
 Each crack of that whip was for my mistakes
 Blood is on my hands
 Each stumble up that hill was my step to take
 Blood is on my hands
 How do I say thanks for this

Each tear that flowed was by my sorrow sown
 Blood is on my hands
 Each drop that was spilled, my debt fulfilled
 His blood is on my hands
 How can I say thanks for this

In the cross, In the cross, be my glory ever
 Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the
 river

Jesus keep me near the cross
 There a precious fountain
 Free to all, a healing stream flows
 from Calvary's mountain

Make Christ Your King Today <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/m/c/h/mchrisyk.htm>

O youth, with life before you, and with gladness
all around,
While in your heart the songs of hope and
courage ring,
“Remember thy Creator while the evil days
come not,”
And choose the Christ of Calvary to be your
King.

Refrain

Choose today! acknowledge Him your Savior;
Choose today! your heart a tribute bring
Unto Him who suffered to redeem you,
Let Him rule and reign, your King!
Choose today, for love and valiant service
Unto Him belong,
Take the vow, and ever faithful be
Till you sing the victor's song.

True wisdom you are seeking; no one ever
sought in vain
Who asked of Him who lived and taught in
Galilee;
A fullness and a brightness for your life in Him
you'll find,
And safety from the sins that lie in wait for thee.

Refrain

Courageous be, and loyal, for on every hand are
foes
That wait with subtle charms to lead your feet
astray,
Yet Christ the world's Redeemer every step
before you knows,
And He will guide, and guard, and love you all
the way.

Refrain

Servant of all http://www.hymnlyrics.org/hymns_children/servent_of_all.php

If you want to be great in God's kingdom
Learn to be the servant of all (repeat)
Learn to be the servant of all
learn to be the servant of all.
If you want to be great in God's kingdom
Learn to be the servant of all.

I Will Serve Thee

I will serve Thee because I love Thee
You have given life to me
I was nothing before You found me
You have given life to me
Heartaches, broken pieces
Ruined lives are why You died on Calvary
Your touch was what I longed for
You have given life to me

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interactive Bible games at <http://guest.portaportal.com/applebeebible>

Oh, Jesus I have promised <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/o/j/ojihprom.htm>

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;

My foes are ever near me, around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

Do This, Remember Me by Keith Ilwain <http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/d/t/dtrememe.htm>

Our Lord and His disciples at table were as one,
And Jesus thought of the morrow, His work here nearly done.

With one last night together, they knew not what would be,

But Jesus had one final word:
“Do This; Remember Me!”

Thanksgiving to the Father, an ancient feast made new.

Christ said, “This is My body, My body giv’n for you.”

The holy bread was broken and shared with Jesus’ plea

That His words not be forgotten:
“Do This; Remember Me!”

The Day He Wore my Crown

The darkest hour in history
I can’t believe my eyes
Before me hangs the Lamb of God
And I watch as all of creation cries

CHORUS

He took the cup of blessing, the blood of Jesus shed
That all might know forgiveness, received when Jesus bled.

Salvation now available to all on bended knee
Who repent and follow His command:
“Do This; Remember Me!”

Yes, Christ’s command continues to all who serve His Name

To go and make disciples, that all would sing His fame.

And gathered at one table His holy church shall see

Our Master is still calling:
“Do This; Remember Me!”

And I’m the one to blame
I caused all the pain
He gave Himself
The day He wore my crown

He brought me love
That only He could give

I brought Him cause to cry
 And though He taught me how to live
 I only sat and watched Him die

He could've called His Holy Father
 And said "Take Me away,
 Please take Me away!"
 He could've said: "O I'm not guilty

When I survey the Wondrous Cross <http://www.christian-lyrics.net/artist/chris-tomlin/track/the-wonderful-cross-lyrics.html>

When I survey the wondrous cross
 On which the Prince of Glory died
 My richest gain I count but loss
 And pour contempt on all my pride

See from his head, his hands, his feet
 Sorrow and love flow mingled down
 Did ever such love and sorrow meet
 Or thorns compose so rich a crown

And I'm not gonna stay

I'm not gonna pay"
 But He walked right through the gate
 Then on up the hill
 And as He fell beneath the way
 He cried, He cried: "Father not my will"

O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
 Bids me come and die and find that I may truly
 live
 O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
 All who gather here by grace draw near and
 bless
 Your name

Were the whole realm of nature mine
 That were an offering far too small
 Love so amazing, so divine
 Demands my soul, my life, my all