

Passion Play – 2025 Joanna Script (12.10.24)

ACT I—Scene 1: Raising of Lazarus

VOICEOVER of Isaiah 9:2 in Aramaic transitioning to English:

“The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.”

JAMES: Martha, the Master is here.

MARTHA: My Lord, if only you'd been here, my brother would still be alive. *(Pauses as if sorry for being vindictive)* Even now, though he has died, I know God will give you anything you ask for.

JESUS: Your brother will rise again.

MARTHA: *(Not seeing the requested miracle in His reply)* I know he will rise again, in the resurrection on the last day.

JESUS: I AM the Resurrection. I AM the Life. Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live. And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Martha, do you believe this?

MARTHA: I do Lord. I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God come to the world.

MARY L.: Lord, if you had been here my brother wouldn't have died.

JESUS: Oh, Mary ...*(Jesus wept)*..... Let's go to him.

JOANNA: See? He did love him.

MARY CLEO: He opened blind eyes; He could've healed Lazarus.

JESUS: Take the stone away!

(Nate & Thad open the tomb)

MARTHA: Lord, he's been here four days.

JESUS: Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?

Father, I give thanks because you hear me. I know you always hear. I say it so those present will know You have sent Me Lazarus, come forth!

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[LAZARUS emerges.]

MARY L.: He lives!

(Crowd sounds praising God for miracle)

MARTHA: Lazarus! *(running to Lazarus, then turning back to Jesus)* Oh, Jesus!

JESUS: Remove the grave clothes; and let him go.

WITNESSING MOURNER: We must tell the High Priests about this act of God. *(He goes down steps, thru gate 1, runs across to High Priest)*

ACT I—Scene 4c: Proclaimer & Jesus enters Jerusalem

*[CHILDREN'S voices crying, "I love you, Jesus,"
"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord," and "Hosanna!"]*

PRIEST 1: *(Looking first at NICODEMUS and JOSEPH, then addressing JESUS)*
Teacher, are you listening to what the children are saying?

JESUS: Yes, have you read what is written in the Psalm of David? "Out of the mouths of children, you make perfect praise."

[PRIEST 1: leaves for Sanhedrin.]

JESUS: Whoever receives a child like this receives me. But if someone causes one of these children to stumble, it would be better for him to have a millstone tied to him and be thrown into the sea! Don't ever look down on the children; their angels always behold the face of My Father in heaven.

*[A BLIND MAN has approached from stage right and
JOANNA has brought him forward.]*

JOANNA: Jesus, this man is blind.

PRIEST 4: I know him; he comes to the temple every day.

BLIND MAN: Jesus, our Son of David, have mercy on me! I want to see!

JESUS: As you have believed, *(He touches him)* so be it to you.

BLIND MAN: I see! I can see! Blessed be our God and Father! I can see!

Act IV—Scene 5: Resurrection

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JESUS: Satan, the battle is finished! I have come to set the captive free! I AM the first and the last! The Living One! I died and behold, I AM alive forevermore. And I now take the keys of death and hell.

OVERLAID VOICES: You will not leave My/His soul in Hell, nor let Your Holy One see corruption (Ps. 16)

He/I will swallow up death in victory. (Isaiah 25:8)

As Jonah was three days in the fish, so shall the Son of Man be three days in the earth. (Mt.12:40)

After the suffering of his/my soul, he/I will see the light of life and be satisfied. (Isaiah 53:11)

I have power to lay my life down; and I have the power to take it up again. (Echo) (Jn. 10:18)

Act IV—Scene 6: Empty Tomb

JOANNA: Why is the stone rolled away?

MARY MAG.: I don't know! Are the guards alright?

MARY LAZ.: (Rising from looking at one of the guards) They appear to be fine, and no sign of fighting.

MARY MAG.: Then where's the body? Has someone taken it? Who has taken it?
[ANGEL steps forward.]

ANGEL: Why do you look for the living among the dead? You are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. Do not be afraid. He is not here; he is risen, just as he said.

Go and tell this to his disciples and Peter. **Jesus will appear to them as well. For He was raised from the dead** so that whosoever believes in Him shall have victory over death and shall have the gift of everlasting life.