

Passion Play – 2025 Roman 1 Script (12.26.24)

ACT I—Scene 2: Guards at City Gates & Witnessing Mourner

ROMAN 1: *(on the ground)* Who goes there?

PILGRIM/WITNESS 1: Only a traveler from afar who comes to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast.

ROMAN 2: *(on the top of the wall)* It's just another pilgrim! The city is already overflowing with them.

ROMAN 1: *(on the ground)* Come down from there. We'd better get back to our post, Pilate is due to return any time now. You'll be getting us both in trouble.

[Sheep run across set]

ACT I—Scene 4b: Barabbas Insert

Day scene resumes... Barabbas sneaks in from Gate #2 and steals garment:

MERCHANT: *(Scream; voice of the PROCLAIMER)* Stop! He stole my cloak! Thief!
[CLAUDIA enters after scream] [Roman 2 near Marketplace]

[CENTURION]: Arrest him!

[Two Roman guards catch Barabbas in front of Pilate's Porch.]

ROMAN 2: Think you can steal and get away with it?

ROMAN 1: Wait! I know this man *(realizing who is)*, this man is Barabbas. He's wanted for rebellion and murder!

ROMAN 2: I'm sure Pilate will be pleased we've caught you at last.

ROMAN 1: Yes! No one can stand against the might of Rome.

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Act III—Scene 6: Pilate Public Trial

PILATE: This man, Jesus, has been brought to me by your own chief priests and charged with rebellion against the authority of Rome. I've questioned Him and found no grounds for the charges against Him certainly nothing worthy of death. As is custom at this feast, I will release Him to you.

PRIEST 1: If you want to release someone, then give us Barabbas!

PILATE: Barabbas? Would you have me release a murderer into your very midst. Centurion, have Barabbas brought forth *(to the Centurion)*. Quickly! *(to Claudia)* I shall show them what type of man they would release.

CROWD: *(Cries louder)*

PILATE: *(To Crowd)* Then, if I release Barabbas, who stands condemned, I'll also release Jesus, un-condemned!

CROWD: *(Various cries,)* "No!" "He must not be released!" Etc.

PILATE: But why? What's He guilty of?
[BARABBUS is brought out.]

CROWD: *(Roars louder)*

ANNAS: By our Law, He has committed blasphemy by claiming to be the Son of God. And, according to our Law, He must be put to death!

PILATE: *(To Barabbas)* Look at this man! He's a thief! A murderer! Now which would you have me release to you? Barabbas? Or Jesus called Messiah?

PRIEST 2: Release Barabbas *(Voices rise crying out for BARABBAS.)*

PILATE: Speak to me! Don't you know I have the power to release you, or have you crucified?

JESUS: You would have no power over me if it hadn't been given you from above.

PILATE: *(To the Roman with JESUS)* Remove him. *(To the ROMAN with BARABBAS)* Release Barabbas. *(To CENTURION)* Have Him flogged; humiliate Him; perhaps that will satisfy them.

[JESUS is brought to the flogging post.]

LONGINUS: Lysimus, now!

5 pairs of hits, break, and then 3 pairs of hits.

LONGINUS: Hold!

(Roman laughter)

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MOTHER MARY, MARY MAGDALENE, AND JOHN SCENE

RECORD WITH JESUS VOICE AS WELL IN FIRST PERSON ISAIAH 50:6

JOHN: The prophet Isaiah wrote of this:

(JESUS FIRST PERSON) "He/I will offer his/my back to those who beat him/me..."

MOTHER MARY/(JESUS FIRST PERSON: his/my cheek to those who pull out his/my beard...

MARY MAGDALENE: He/I will not hide his face from mocking and spitting.

JOHN: Sovereign Lord, help him.

ROMAN 1: We crown you King of the Jews!

ROMAN 2: Hail O great and mighty king!

[Roman laughter]

PILATE: Enough! Behold your king!! He's been flogged, beaten, ridiculed, spit on. What more do you want!

CROWD: Crucify him! *(etc.)*

PILATE: Crucify him? Bring water! I am washing my hands. My hands are clean of this innocent man's blood.

Let it be recorded that it is on the eve of your Jewish Passover, it is the 6th hour as I sit here on my tribunal, my seat of judgment. Behold here is your King, the man called Jesus. I ask you one last and final time, what would you have me do with him?

PRIEST 2: Crucify him, Pilate! Crucify Him!

PILATE: Crucify Him yourselves! I hold no charge against Him. I would release him.

CROWD: *(Cries louder.)*

CAIAPHAS: Anyone who makes Himself a King defies Caesar! You cannot release Him!

PILATE: Should I crucify Your King?

CROWD: *(Cries for Caesar)* We have no King but Caesar! We have no King but Caesar! Caesar! Caesar!

PILATE: Then away with Him!

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Act III—Scene 8a: Crucifixion

LONGINUS: (To SCRIBE) (2:45) Record this: Three crucified at nine o'clock this morning, Gastas and Dysmas for theft and rebellion, and one Jesus, King of the Jews! Nail him to the cross.

NICODEMUS: (3:00-3:05) It's as He told me.... Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness...

(NAIL, NAIL.)

MOTHER MARY: (3:15) so the Son of Man must be lifted up...

(NAIL, NAIL.)

NICODEMUS: (3:22) This is what he meant.

(NAIL, NAIL, NAIL.)

JOHN: (3:28-48) For God so loves the world that He has given His Only Begotten Son... (Record as well He has given His One and Only Son for redundancy)

JESUS: (4:01) Father, forgive them! They do not know what they do!

GASTAS: (4:05) Are You not the Messiah? Save yourself...and us!

DYSMAS: (4:17) Have you no fear of God? You are under the same sentence as He, for it is plain justice. We are paying the price for our misdeeds, but this man has done nothing wrong. Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!

JESUS: (4:40) I tell you the truth. Today, you will be with me in Paradise.

PRIEST 1: (4:56) You said you were The Son of God; if You are, come down from the cross!

PRIEST 2: Are You, our King? Come down, and then we will believe!

PRIEST 3: (5:07) He has saved others; why can't He save himself?

PRIEST 1: (5:11) Why won't God rescue Him, if He is God's Son?

MARY LAZARUS: (5:30) What are they doing? What's happening?

SIMON OF CYRENE: (5:35) The Roman soldiers are dividing his garments.

JOSEPH: (5:37) How can this be? How can they know? Is this David's prophecy?

NICODEMUS: (5:43) It must be. "They have pierced his hands and his feet. They divided his clothes among them and cast lots for his garments."

JESUS: (6:00) Mother, see your son! (6:07) John, here is your mother!

JESUS: (6:20-23) *(Record two versions: One with a loud voice and another with a very soft voice)* My GOD! My GOD! Why have You forsaken Me?

ROMAN 1: (6:33) (To ROMAN 2) What is this? A Storm?

ROMAN 2: I don't know. It's midday, but the sun is going dark.

LONGINUS: I can feel this darkness. Report this to Pilate.

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JESUS: (6:50) ...I...I am thirsty.

JESUS: (*With a loud voice*) (7:06) It is finished! (7:17) Father! Into Your Hand, I commit my Spirit!

Act III—Scene 8b: Earthquake and aftermath

LONGINUS: Break their legs and you may go.

ROMAN 2: The one they called Jesus is dead.

ROMAN 1: (*Tossing him a spear*) Make certain.

MOTHER: Even with his last breath, he trusted the Lord, crying out David's Psalm:

MARY MAGDALENE: "Into Your hand, I commit my spirit."

JOHN: But "You will redeem me, Lord, God of Truth."

LONGINUS: This was indeed a sign. Truly, he was the Son of God.

ACT IV—Scene 10: Bribing the Guards

ROMAN 1: While we guarded the tomb, there was an earthquake...

ROMAN 2: And an angel appeared and rolled away the stone!

ROMAN 1: Both of us were knocked out!

ROMAN 2: When we came to, the tomb was empty and we came here...

CAIAPHAS: Are you trying to cover for yourselves? You let His disciples steal the body!

ROMAN 1: We swear! It was just as we said!

ROMAN 2: And we don't know where the body is!

ANNAS: Stop this! No one else but you two were there?

ROMAN 1: No, there wasn't.

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ANNAS: Then no one else knows what...happened.

CAIAPHIS: We don't know what happened!

ANNAS: We know He didn't rise from the dead! *(To GUARDS)* You must say His disciples took the body.

ROMAN 2: But we don't know who took it!

CAIAPHAS: Annas is right, who else would take it?

ROMAN 1: But the angel....

CAIAPHAS: No one else saw the angel, did they? You will do as we say, or you will be punished. You probably fell asleep and dreamed of the angel!

ANNAS: That will be the story. You fell asleep and His disciples stole the body. Spread that around and we will reward you even though you failed. If Pilate hears it, we will deal with him. Agreed?

ROMAN 1: Yes!

ROMAN 2: Agreed!