

PASSION PLAY – 2025 MARY MAG. (12.24.24)

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

PROCLAIMER: Jesus is coming, it is Jesus the prophet, and Lazarus is with Him.

[CHILDREN proclaiming; CROWD meets JESUS at Gate #1 and swells around Him as He proceeds on donkey. As soon as He dismounts, CHILDREN run to Him and surround Him as He approaches the Temple JUDAS rejoins the APOSTLE group. Layered voices: Who is this? ---Who is coming? ---It is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee! --- It is the man who raised Lazarus from the dead!]

CROWD: *Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is He who comes in The Name of the Lord! Save us now! It is the man who raised Lazarus from the dead! Let us through! We must see him. (Children's voices and other voices as well layered, with mention of Lazarus as well)*

PRIEST 1: Master, Reprimand your disciples!

JESUS: If my disciples keep silent, the very stones will cry out!

(Children Heard Rejoicing)

JESUS: Blessed are you my children. *[He notices the girl who cannot walk...a 5-10 year old girl]* Little girl with the cane.

LITTLE GIRL: Do you mean me?

JESUS: Can you not walk without the cane?

LITTLE GIRL: No, I can't.

JESUS: Would you like God to heal you?

LITTLE GIRL: Oh, yes!

JESUS: Then you do not need the cane. Throw it away and walk to me.

LITTLE GIRL: (Hesitant at first) Are you sure?

JESUS: Come to me.

MARY MAG: Aw, Look! She walks unaided!

JESUS: Let the little children come to me! I tell you the truth, unless you humble yourself and receive the Kingdom of God like a child, you will not enter in.

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*[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!

SMALL GIRL: Don't go anywhere Jesus, I'll be right back!

PRIEST 3: You have healed a drunken sinner! A drunken sinner!

JESUS: Who among you, having one hundred sheep and losing one, won't leave the ninety-nine in the open field and search for the lost one until he finds it? When he's found it, he rejoices over that one more than the ninety-nine that didn't go astray! In the same way, there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than for ninety-nine righteous who don't need to repent!
[Mary Laz. & Martha exit to prepare for anointing scene]

ACT I—Scene 4e: Jesus teaches & Day scene resumes

MOTHER: This all reminds me of the tremendous joy Simeon and Anna had when they first saw Jesus. Joseph and I brought Jesus to this Temple to present him to the Lord.

MARY MAG: What did they say to you?

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MOTHER MARY: Oh Mary Magdalene, I won't ever forget how Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God saying, "Sovereign Lord, My eyes have seen your salvation: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

MARY MAG: And I remember you said that Anna never left the Temple, worshipping God night and day.

MOTHER: Yes, Anna told us that through this child, God would rescue Israel and set Jerusalem free.

MARY MAG: This must be what she saw.

MOTHER MARY: Or maybe there was something more.

SMALL GIRL: *(Returning, leading her DEAF & DUMB FATHER to JESUS,)* Excuse me Jesus, my dad can't hear your stories, he's deaf and can't talk. Will you heal him?

JESUS: Yes, my child. Yes. *(Placing His hand on the little girl and speaking to her)* Then let his tongue loosed and his ears be opened!

DEAF MUTE: Ohhh! Ohhh! Pra...Praise God! He's heard my cry!

SMALL GIRL: Thank you Jesus!

[CROWD reaction!]

PRIEST 2: On what authority do you act? And who gave you this authority?

JESUS: To answer, let me tell you a story. A landowner planted a vineyard; He built a tower, a winepress, and a wall all around it. Then, he rented it to some farmers and went away on a long journey.

When the harvest came, he sent his servants to collect his portion. But the tenants took his servants and beat them, even killing one and stoning another. The owner sent others, but they were treated the same. At last, he sent his own son to them, thinking, "They will respect my son." But when the tenants saw the son they said, "We should kill the heir and take the inheritance for ourselves."

So they took him, dragged him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

(Turning to PRIEST 2)

When the owner returns, what will he do?

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He will destroy those wicked men and give the vineyard to others!

PRIEST 2: God forbid!

PRIEST 3: May this never be!

JESUS: (*Turning to Nicodemus*) Then what does the Scripture mean when it says, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?"

Aside with Mary, Mother of Jesus, and Mary Magdalene

MOTHER MARY: I felt like this when Jesus was 12.

MARY MAGDALENE: You felt like what?

MOTHER MARY: Joseph and I were afraid because we had lost Jesus during the Passover. We searched for him for three days, only to find him here at the Temple, sitting among the teachers...listening...asking questions. We didn't understand why he didn't tell us where he was. He just said, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business?"

Act III—Scene 6: Pilate Public Trial

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)

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...

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MARY MAG/JESUS FIRST PERSON: 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!

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.

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

MARY MAG: "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 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.

Act IV—Scene 7: Outside Upper Room (I want to see it)

JAMES: Mary! What's happened? What is it?

MARY MAG.: *(Bursting)* Brothers, we have come from the tomb, just now; the stone was rolled away, and the body of Jesus was gone! Then, an angel appeared and told us He's alive...

MARY CLEO.: *(interrupting)* Raised from the dead!

MARY MAG.: Yes! And the angel told us to tell you! Well, say something!

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PETER: Mary, I don't think that He...

MARY MAG.: *(Interrupting)* You don't believe us! Well, it doesn't matter, the angel said Jesus would appear to you.

JOHN: I want to see it.

Act IV—Scene 8: Appearance to Mary Magdalene

MARY MAG.: There were guards lying here unconscious.

JOHN: *(To Peter)* The wrappings are here, but no body.

PETER: *(Going inside first)* The cloth that was on His head is folded and off by itself.

JOHN: *(Falling on his knees)* It's what He said! *(Raising his hands)* I believe.

MARY LAZ.: Let's go to the others at John Mark's house. The angel said He would appear to them!

MARY MAG.: *(Coming out of Simon's house)* Was there something you wanted, Peter? *[She sees his distress]* Are you alright?

PETER: Let me alone awhile. I'll come down later.

MARY MAG.: (RECORD HER CRYING BEFORE THIS)
Where are you, Lord? I know the Psalmist's pain: "I feel the anguish of death. Suffering and sorrow," is this my life now? "Lord, save me."

JESUS: Why are you weeping?

MARY MAG.: The body of my Lord is gone, and I'm not sure what has happened to Him.

JESUS: [May need to remind the audience somehow that Jesus is finishing the Psalm that Mary quoted: Record two versions: one with the Psalm line and one with just her name...] **When you were brought low, I saved you.** Mary!

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MARY MAG.: Rabbi! *(She hugs Him.)*

JESUS: Mary, you can't keep holding on to me!

MARY MAG: I just can't believe you're really here! You're back from the dead!

JESUS: Yes, Mary, I'm really here, but now, I must ascend to My Father, and to Your Father. Now go, and tell the others that I will also appear to them.

MARY MAG: Yes, Master, I will tell them! You're alive!
(Mary runs down sidewalk to tell the others, saying:)
He's alive! He is Alive! I have seen the Lord, and He is alive!

[INCLUDE IN PROGRAM Psalm 116]