

Passion Play – 2025 Mother Mary (12.24.24)

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

MOTHER MARY: 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?

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

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

MOTHER MARY: 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?

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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?

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 MAG: 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?"

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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...

MARY MAG: 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!

Act III—Scene 7b: Daughters of Jerusalem

JESUS: Daughters of Jerusalem! Do not weep for me. No, weep for yourselves and your children, for the days are surely coming, when they will start saying to the mountains: Fall on us. And to the hills, cover us. And if these things are done when the wood is green, what will happen when it's dry?

Act III—Scene 7C: Simon of Cyrene

LONGINUS: He's too weak to go on by himself. You! Help him carry the cross.

SIMON OF CYRENE: Remember though that I am innocent. I'm here from Cyrene for the Passover.

JESUS: Simon, help me finish what I have been sent to do.

SIMON OF CYRENE: How do you know my name?

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JOHN: He's not a criminal. Help him! Lord, why are you letting this happen?

MOTHER MARY: Yes, there must be another way.

JESUS: No, this is the only way. See! I make all things new.

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 LAZ: (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."

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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.

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 MARY: 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 2: Burial

JOSEPH: Friends, Pilate has granted us the body.

JAMES: Let us take him down from the cross.

NICODEMUS: We have brought spices and linen to bury Him.

JOSEPH: And I have a new tomb nearby; we can take Him there.

MOTHER MARY: My own Son, how has this happened? Simeon warned me of this so many years ago, when Joseph and I first brought him to Jerusalem. I

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cradled him tightly, my little baby boy, after Simeon told me: "A sword will pierce your soul." Now I know what he meant.

(The Pieta)

NICODEMUS: Is this what the prophet Isaiah spoke of?

JOSEPH: Surely, He took up our pain...

MOTHER MARY: He bore our suffering...

JOHN: He was pierced for our transgressions,

MARY LAZ: crushed for our iniquities,

MAGDALENE: the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,

MOTHER MARY: and by his wounds we are healed.

Act IV—Scene 3: Request for Guards

PILATE: So, you are here again?

CAIAPHAS: Governor, we have remembered that this Jesus said He would rise from the dead after three days.

ANNAS: Considering the earthquake and other circumstances surrounding His death, we believe His followers may hide His body and claim He has risen.

CAIAPHAS: This would be worse than if He had never died!

PILATE: I see, yes...yes, I see very well. Set a guard. Make the area secure.