

# SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

*His Birth and Resurrection*

A musical drama presented by  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

*Savior of the World: His Birth and Resurrection*  
was first performed November 28–December 30, 2000,  
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**SAVIOR OF THE WORLD:  
His Birth and Resurrection**

**ACT I  
Scene 1  
Segment 1.1**

(The stage is rimmed with a circular stone colonnade. An expanse of deep blue sky and bright stars is projected above it. As the play progresses, we see the sun rise and set, and clouds move across the horizon. Atop the colonnade, angels and prophets appear. Beneath the colonnade, on a circular mosaic floor, the scenes unfold rapidly and lyrically, with musical underscoring. Simple structures and props suggest a variety of settings that flow without interruption from one to another. The production begins with the CHORUS, representing angels and heavenly messengers, singing from the colonnade. Below on stage at Zacharias and Elisabeth's house, designated by a small bench stage right, ZACHARIAS kneels and prays.)

[Music cue: "Come, Lord Jesus – Opening Act I"]

**CHORUS**

*Come, Lord Jesus, to the manger;  
May we see Thy tender face?  
Great Creator, here a stranger,  
Infant in this humble place.  
Darkness scatter, morning swell;  
Come, dear Lord Immanuel.  
Come, Lord Jesus, to the manger;  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

(Most chorus members exit. A few remain on the colonnade to observe. Zacharias stands and begins packing a bag.)

ELISABETH (offstage): Zacharias! Zacharias! Do you have your robes?

(ELISABETH enters.)

ZACHARIAS: I have them, dear. Thank you.

(Elisabeth exits. A small boy, EZRA, runs in.)

EZRA: Zacharias!

ZACHARIAS: Come here, Ezra.

EZRA: My father says it's almost time.

ZACHARIAS: Yes, Ezra. I'm almost ready.

EZRA: He says not to believe you if you say you're almost ready.

ZACHARIAS: Well then go tell him I am ready . . .

(Ezra runs off.)

ZACHARIAS: . . . almost.

(Elisabeth enters and sees Zacharias struggling. She helps him pack.)

ELISABETH: Zacharias, are you all right?

ZACHARIAS: I'm fine.

ELISABETH: Because if it's too much of a strain—

ZACHARIAS: It's my turn to serve at the temple.

ELISABETH: Yes, of course. But do they know how hard it is for you to—

ZACHARIAS: They know all they need to know. They know that the Lord has not chosen me to burn the incense. I have not yet drawn the lot.

ELISABETH: I'm sorry.

ZACHARIAS: No, don't be sorry. I accept it.

ELISABETH: I'm not sure I do.

ZACHARIAS: Elisabeth! We have to accept it. That's all we *can* do.

(Pause)

ELISABETH (rolling Zacharias's robe into a bundle that she cradles in her arms as if it were a baby): Did I tell you my cousin Mary is betrothed? Well, almost betrothed. The women are still planning it. She'll make a wonderful mother.

ZACHARIAS: Elisabeth, you're thinking about not having children again.

ELISABETH: What? I'm thinking of Mary. That she's good and obedient, and of course she's going to have children!

[Music cue: "I'll Give God Forever"]

ZACHARIAS: O my dear, people can be good and obedient and still not have children.

ELISABETH: I know that.

ZACHARIAS (exiting): Then for your own peace of mind shouldn't we stop thinking about it?

ELISABETH (after Zacharias): But Zacharias, I'm not just thinking about it. It's always here. It's always with me.

ELISABETH (contd)

*I've wanted only one thing since I could braid my hair,  
When tending to my dolls was just an art –  
And now I can't dismiss it or drive it from my heart!  
How can I stop a thing I didn't start?  
I'll give God forever to make me what I am.  
Give my plans and give my dreams,  
Give up all my fretful schemes.  
I'll give God this moment to fill my soul with cheer –  
I'll give Him forevermore  
And that will keep Him near.*

(Underscore continues.)

ZACHARIAS (starting offstage as he enters): Yes, we must leave it in the hands of the Lord and not worry about it.

ELISABETH: Well then, I won't worry, but I won't forget.

ZACHARIAS: No, I wouldn't expect you to.

(Elisabeth exits.)

ZACHARIAS (contd)

*Of course, I've dreamt of drawing the lot one sacred day  
And stepping forward straight and square and tall—  
I pour the holy incense; the plume goes up to God!  
I've known it, seen it, smelled it, felt it all.*

(Underscore continues. Elisabeth returns.)

ELISABETH: Oh, Zacharias, I knew you hadn't given up hope!

ZACHARIAS: No, not my hope. But my demands, yes.

ELISABETH: What do you mean?

ZACHARIAS

*I'll give God forever, but not to do my will.  
Give my plans and give my dreams,  
Give up all my lofty schemes.  
I'll give God this moment, and if it's not to be,  
Giving Him forever means  
I'll wait and watch and see.*

(Underscore continues. The shepherds ASA and ELI cross on their way to the temple.)

ELISABETH: But Zacharias, it's not too late for you.

ZACHARIAS: Please be reasonable. Let's say I'm never chosen to burn the incense—

ELISABETH (in frustration, throwing up her hands): Ah!

ZACHARIAS: Now come here! Don't you understand? It's all right with me now! I have not been chosen, and you have not been chosen to have. . .  
(softening) *We have not been chosen to have children. But we still trust in the Lord.*

ELISABETH: Trust in the Lord, yes, that He will fulfill His promises —

ZACHARIAS: In His due time.

ELISABETH: In His due time.

ZACHARIAS and ELISABETH

*I'll give God forever and then give one day more!*

*What are plans and what are dreams?*

*What is what? Not what it seems!*

*I'll give God this moment and let Him lead me on!*

ZACHARIAS

*I'll give Him forevermore,*

ELISABETH

*Until my hours,*

ZACHARIAS

*Until my days,*

ZACHARIAS and ELISABETH

*Until my years are gone.*

(Underscore continues. Ezra runs in.)

EZRA: They're waiting, Zacharias.

ZACHARIAS: Yes, Ezra, I'm ready now.

EZRA: Almost ready?

ZACHARIAS: Just go tell them I'm coming!

(Ezra runs out.)

ZACHARIAS: Well, I'm ready, then.

ELISABETH: Very well. I will pray for you. For you, there is still time.

ZACHARIAS: Even if there isn't, may the Lord bless you . . .

ELISABETH: And keep you . . . as He did Abraham and Sarah, who bore a child  
in *her* old age.

ZACHARIAS: Elisabeth . . .

ELISABETH: I know. May the Lord bless you . . .

ZACHARIAS: And keep you . . . quiet!

(They exit.)

### Segment 1.2

[Music cue: "Come Deliver Us"]

(The temple. The shepherds Asa, Eli, and NATHAN enter. Nathan is carrying a lamb and singing.)

NATHAN

*Yibone hamikdosh ir Tsiyon t'ma le  
V'shom noshire shir chodosh  
Uvirnono naale.<sup>1</sup>*

(TEMPLE BOYS assist TEMPLE PRIESTS to dress in their robes while the Chorus as townspeople gradually enter from every direction and fill the stage singing.)

CHORUS

*Come deliver us!  
Come deliver us!, etc.*

CHORUS WOMEN

*He will come  
In mightiness and pow'r,  
With watchmen on the tow'r,  
He will come deliver us!*

CHORUS (ALL)

*Come deliver us!  
Come deliver us!, etc.*

## CHORUS MEN

*He will come,  
His sword aloft and blazing,  
Resplendent and amazing,  
He will come deliver us!*

## CHORUS (ALL)

*Come deliver us!  
Come deliver us! Ooo.*

(The music continues. A circle of priests forms at center stage. They draw lots. Atop the colonnade, NEPHI appears.)

NEPHI: And my father spoke concerning a prophet who would come before the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord, even that he should baptize the Messiah with water.<sup>2</sup>

(The circle of priests opens, revealing Zacharias with the lot. The other priests congratulate him and bring him incense as an altar is placed center stage. Nathan comes forward, carrying the lamb.)

## NATHAN

*Come, oh come, my little lamb,  
Sweet and soft and pure.  
Give your life for all of us.  
Make our pathway sure.  
Go, and when you're here no more,  
As a shepherd be.  
I will follow you to heav'n,  
To eternity.*

(Underscore continues. MALACHI appears on the colonnade.)

MALACHI: Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant.<sup>3</sup>

(The priests and chorus kneel in supplication. Zacharias covers his head and begins to pray.)

ZACHARIAS (praying): Oh, Lord. I stand before Thee in this holy place. I thank Thee. I thank Thee. I pray Thy merciful blessings be upon me, upon my household, my dear wife, and upon all Thy children, the house of Israel.

(Zacharias kneels alone at the altar. The angel GABRIEL appears before him. Zacharias sees him and shrinks back.)

GABRIEL: Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt have joy and gladness. And thou shalt call his name John; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall make ready a people prepared for the Lord.<sup>4</sup>

ZACHARIAS: Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.<sup>5</sup>

GABRIEL: And I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not be able to speak because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled.<sup>6</sup>

(Gabriel departs. The priests and chorus rise and come forward in anticipation. Zacharias cannot convey the wondrous event that has just occurred. All are bewildered.)

CHORUS MEN

*Come, come,  
Come, come,  
Come deliver us!  
Come deliver us!, etc.*

CHORUS WOMEN

*He will come  
In mightiness and pow'r,  
With watchmen on the tow'r.  
He will come deliver us!*

CHORUS (ALL)

*Come deliver us, etc.*

CHORUS MEN

*He will come,  
His sword aloft and blazing.  
Resplendent and amazing,  
He will come deliver us!*

(Zacharias exits, assisted by Ezra and BENJAMIN.)

CHORUS (ALL)

*Come deliver us.*

CHORUS WOMEN

*He will come.*

CHORUS MEN

*He will come.*

CHORUS (ALL)

*He will come deliver us.*

(All exit.)

### Segment 1.3

(A street in Nazareth. A boy, BEGGAR, begs of two men, JOSEPH and his uncle MICHAM, as they walk the nearly deserted streets.)

BEGGAR: Alms! Alms!

(Joseph reaches for his purse.)

MICHAM (stopping Joseph): Joseph, if you're going to be married, you can't afford to take care of every beggar in the city.

JOSEPH: But uncle, the law says that thou. . .

MICHAM: Yes, yes, I know the law. I taught you the law.

JOSEPH: "Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need." <sup>7</sup>

MICHAM (cutting Joseph off): “. . . sufficient for his need.” If he’s truly in need.  
Do not be fooled by appearances, nephew.

(Micham exits. Joseph gives a coin to the beggar. Both exit. Micham approaches Mary’s house. MARY and her family enter: MOTHER, FATHER, younger sister ANNA, and younger BROTHER.)

MARY’S BROTHER: He’s coming! He’s coming!

MOTHER: It’s Micham.

FATHER: Where’s my coat?

MOTHER: Here, dear. You children run upstairs now.

FATHER (struggling with his coat): Wife . . .

MOTHER (as Mary begins to exit): Not you, Mary!

(Father reaches the door and opens it.)

FATHER: Micham, come in!

MICHAM: Shalom! Alohim!

FATHER: Alohim! Shalom! (To Mary) Mary, would you get something for our guest to drink? (Turning back to Micham) Come, sit.

(Mary exits.)

FATHER (contd.): So, what manner of business brings you here today?

MICHAM: I have come to make a proposal.

MOTHER: Yes, he’s ready to hear your proposal, Micham. Go on.

MARY (returning and handing Micham the drink): Are you Joseph’s uncle?

MOTHER: Excuse us. Mary, come with me.

MICHAM: Forgive me sir, the matter is plain . . .

(Lights down on Father and Micham as Mother and Mary move away from them.)

MOTHER: Come here. You're worried.

MARY: I'm trying not to be.

MOTHER: But . . .

MARY: But how can I be sure that Joseph . . . How can I be certain that . . .

MOTHER: Certain?

MARY: I've seen him at synagogue. He's faithful.

MOTHER: The rabbis think so.

MARY: And he's a carpenter, with a good reputation.

MOTHER: Yes.

MARY: And he is kind. He is. And—

MOTHER: Mary, I was betrothed once myself.

MARY: You were?

MOTHER: Your father's uncle came to visit my parents, just as Micham has come to us. And you wonder . . .

[Music cue: "Do His Will"]

MOTHER (contd): . . . will you love Joseph as your husband, and will he love you.

MARY: I'm sorry.

MOTHER: I think it's good to wonder a little about yourself, if you will be true to the covenants you're going to make. But we need never wonder about the Lord.

MOTHER (contd)  
*Ask God all your questions,  
 Tell Him all your fears,  
 Thank Him for His mercy,  
 And wait with open ears.*

*Listen as He answers,  
 Hear the voice so still,  
 Let the Spirit's whisper  
 Teach how to do His will.  
 Then go and do His will.*

(Mary and Mother embrace.)

FATHER: Mother, come!

MOTHER (to her husband): Yes, dear. (To Mary) Now go be with your sister.

(Mary starts to leave.)

MOTHER (contd.): And Mary —

(Mary turns back.)

MOTHER (contd.): I have never wondered about you.

(They exit.)

### **Segment 1.4**

(Zacharias and Elisabeth's home.)

EZRA (running in): Elisabeth! Elisabeth! Elisabeth!

ELISABETH (entering): What?

EZRA: It's Zacharias!

ELISABETH: Zacharias?

EZRA: He was in the temple and the lot—it fell to him.

ELISABETH: Oh!

EZRA: And he went in to burn the incense . . .

ELISABETH: The lot fell to him? Truly?

EZRA: Yes!

(Zacharias enters, leaning on the shoulder of Benjamin. Elisabeth runs to them.)

ELISABETH: Is it true? Did it? Oh my love! Finally after all these years it fell to you. Tell me, Zacharias; tell me all about it.

(Silence.)

ELISABETH: Zacharias . . . Zacharias?

BENJAMIN: Elisabeth, he can't speak.

EZRA: He can't hear either.

ELISABETH: Oh mercy. I knew it. It was too much for you!

BENJAMIN: We tried to talk to him, to ask him what happened . . .

ELISABETH: Here, sit here. You must lie down.

BENJAMIN: . . . But he can't hear what we're saying.

ELISABETH: Ezra, the blanket! Benjamin, go for your mother, quickly!

BENJAMIN: Elisabeth! He's not sick. He saw something.

EZRA: He saw the Lord!

BENJAMIN: Or someone like Him. He was in the temple a long time. Some say he saw a vision.

ELISABETH (pausing, suddenly subdued): A vision.

[Music cue: "I'll Give God Forever – Reprise" underscore]

ELISABETH: Oh, my beloved. A vision.

(Zacharias takes Elisabeth's hand. He gazes deeply into her eyes. He folds his wrap and places it in Elisabeth's arms as if it were a baby. As he does so, Elisabeth understands and begins to weep.)

ELISABETH: Oh, Zacharias. I know. I know.

BLACKOUT

**ACT I**  
**Scene 2**  
**Segment 2.1**

(Mary's home. The betrothal. Mary and her family, Joseph and Micham, MARY'S AUNT and MARY'S COUSINS are present.)

MICHAM (as they all approach the table): Good? It's very good. Don't you agree?

FATHER: It's a standard agreement.

MOTHER: Oh, it's a very good contract.

MICHAM: Joseph, present your gift, and make your vow.

(Joseph places a gold ring on the table.)

JOSEPH: Mary, I will betroth you to myself forever, betroth you in righteousness, and in judgment, and in loving kindness. I will betroth you in faithfulness. And you will know the Lord.<sup>8</sup>

MICHAM: The drink.

(Joseph pours from a pitcher into a cup and places the cup on the table before Mary. Silence.)

FATHER: Now, Mary, it is time for you to choose. Joseph is a good man. If you pledge faithfulness to him, he will provide for you and care for you forever, as a wife and mother in Israel. (Pause) Drink, and you have a covenant. Put it away, and all is forgotten.

MICHAM: You won't regret it!

WOMEN (Mary's aunt and cousins): Shhh!

FATHER: As you choose.

(Mary takes the cup and drinks. All erupt into joyous congratulations.)

MICHAM: Wonderful! Wonderful!  
(Joseph places a ring on Mary's forefinger.)

JOSEPH: It is done. You are set apart for me according to the law of Moses and Israel. And one day we'll be married.

[Music cue: "There Are Rules"]

FATHER (embracing Joseph): This day you shall be as my son-in-law!

(Mary's Father and Brother exit. Micham and Joseph put on carpenter's aprons and work together on Joseph's house while Mary's Mother, Anna, and other women – Mary's Aunt and Cousins – help prepare Mary for her wedding day.)

MICHAM

*There are rules for joining of two timbers:  
First you find the surest, truest ground.  
Then you sink the footing where it always will stand,  
And nothing under heav'n can bring it down.*

MARY'S MOTHER

*There are rules for joining of two people:*

MOTHER and WOMEN

*First betrothal known throughout the land,  
Then a year of raising high a good Hebrew house,  
Then wrapping of the hands in swaddling bands.*

JOSEPH and MICHAM  
*Build a house for a prophet,  
 Filled with law and truth –*

MOTHER and WOMEN  
*A house for a handmaid  
 Obedient as Ruth.*

JOSEPH and MICHAM  
*Build it firm as a mountain,  
 A house of faith and prayer*

ALL  
*For the children,*

JOSEPH and MARY  
*Israel's children,*

ALL  
*Ever pure and fair.*

(Underscore continues.)

MICHAM: Well, Joseph, it's coming along nicely, very nicely.

JOSEPH: I think she will be happy here. (Gazing at Mary) She's beautiful, isn't she?

MICHAM: Beautiful? Well, so far. Strong bones and good joints. But a good beginning is no guarantee of a good finish.

JOSEPH (sternly): Uncle, I will not have you speak of Mary in those terms.

MICHAM: Mary? Who's talking about Mary? I was talking about your house!

JOSEPH (abashedly): Oh.

MICHAM: Mary is a beautiful girl, to be sure Joseph. And this house will be a wonderful place to raise a family, if . . .

JOSEPH: If I follow all the rules.

JOSEPH (contd)

*Build a house and marriage with devotion,  
Follow every rule that God prescribes,  
Then observe how the promises to Father Abraham  
In me and in my house are realized.*

(All women exit.)

JOSEPH and MICHAM

*Build a house for a prophet,  
Filled with law and truth –  
A house for a handmaid  
Obedient as Ruth.  
Build it firm as a mountain,  
A house of faith and prayer  
For the children,  
Israel's children,  
Ever pure and fair.*

(All exit.)

## Segment 2.2

(Mary's house. Before they go to bed, Mary brushes Anna's hair.)

ANNA: You'll live in Joseph's house when you're married, won't you?

MARY: Yes, Anna. He's building it right now, and when he's finished, we'll go live there.

ANNA: Is that when we have the big wedding party and he comes and gets you?

MARY: Yes.

ANNA: And will you put on a beautiful dress like Hannah did when she was married?

MARY: Of course.

ANNA: And then what?

MARY: Well, people in the neighborhood will come out carrying their lamps and they will join the procession —

ANNA: Oh yes! And they'll surround you with their lights and carry you off in the chair like a queen. And you'll be married under the canopy and live with Joseph forever.

MARY: Yes! That's the way it's done! I can hardly believe it's me.

ANNA: Mary, do you have to go?

MARY: Don't worry, Anna. This is how Mother and Father began, and look at them now. They say Joseph keeps his covenants, just like Father, and that will make him a good husband.

ANNA: I don't understand.

MARY: You will someday.

ANNA: Someday when I'm older, like you?

MARY (suddenly emotional): Oh, Anna.

ANNA: What's wrong, Mary?

MARY: I don't feel very old. I don't feel any older than you are. I don't even know if I'm ready. Come now, run along.

(Anna runs off. Mary kneels and prays. The angel Gabriel enters behind her. The light grows around them. Mary becomes aware of his presence and turns, frightened.)

GABRIEL: Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

[Music cue: "Jesus, Once of Humble Birth" underscore]

GABRIEL (contd.): And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the

throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.<sup>9</sup>

MARY: How can this be? I am not yet married. <sup>10</sup>

GABRIEL: Thou shalt be carried away in the spirit.<sup>11</sup> And the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore that holy child which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.<sup>12</sup>

MARY: Elisabeth . . .

GABRIEL: For with God nothing shall be impossible.<sup>13</sup>

MARY: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.<sup>14</sup>

(Gabriel exits.)

[Music cue: Segue into "Look on Me This Day"]

MARY

*Who am I, that this day  
He should come to me?  
Dressed in white, filled with light,  
What wonder did I see!  
And he spoke words divine,  
Words I cannot say.  
So I'll praise His name, I will praise His name,  
I will praise His holy name,  
Praise His name from day to day.*

### Segment 2.3

(While underscore continues, the scene is transformed into a street in Jerusalem. Ezra runs onto the stage carrying a basket filled with items from the market and bumps into Mary.)

MARY: Oh, excuse me! Are you all right?

EZRA: I'm sorry. I just have to get back to Elisabeth.

MARY: Elisabeth! Is something wrong with the baby?

EZRA: The baby? How do you know about . . .?

MARY: I'm Elisabeth's cousin.

EZRA: But she said no one knows.

MARY: And no one does.

EZRA: But you do.

MARY: Yes. And I'm keeping it right here, safe in my heart.<sup>15</sup>

(Ezra runs off. Mary smiles, filled with joy.)

MARY	CHORUS WOMEN
<i>O Lord, my God, be with me this day,</i>	<i>Ooo . . .</i>
<i>Show Thy mercy on me,</i>	
<i>And keep me in Thy way.</i>	
<i>What I feel, what I know,</i>	
<i>Leads my heart to say,</i>	
<i>I will praise Thy name, I will praise Thy name,</i>	
<i>I will praise Thy holy name,</i>	
<i>Praise Thy name to all, alway.</i>	

### Segment 2.4

(Zacharias and Elisabeth's home. Elisabeth enters, visibly with child.)

EZRA: Elisabeth, I'm back! And I got everything you said – the bread, the meat, the fish, it's all here.

ELISABETH: Oh, my boy. Thank you.

EZRA: But, um, I . . .

ELISABETH: What is it?

EZRA: I met a stranger on the way here. I think she was coming to visit you. And she knew that you were going to have a –

ELISABETH (interrupting him): Ezra, I hope you didn't tell anyone!

EZRA: No, *I* didn't, she knew all about the baby . . .

ELISABETH: Baby . . . ?

MARY (offstage): Elisabeth! Elisabeth!

(Elisabeth feels the movement of her child.)

ELISABETH: Oh, my. . .

EZRA: Are you all right?

MARY (still offstage): Elisabeth!

ELISABETH: Ezra, take these things in the other room and hurry home.

EZRA: But maybe I could help you. Maybe I could —

ELISABETH: Thank you, but not now, child. Go quickly.

(Ezra leaves.)

MARY (still offstage): Elisabeth!

(Mary enters.)

MARY (contd.): Cousin!

ELISABETH: Mary! Come in! Come here!

(They embrace.)

MARY: How is the baby?

ELISABETH: You know about the baby?

MARY: Yes.

ELISABETH: Oh, Mary, blessed art thou among women!<sup>16</sup>

MARY: What—?

ELISABETH: And blessed is the fruit of *thy* womb.<sup>17</sup>

MARY: Elisabeth, you know!

ELISABETH: Don't be afraid, Mary. I am honored that the mother of my Lord would come to me! As soon as I heard your voice, I felt my son leap inside me for joy.<sup>18</sup> And I knew. (Touching her abdomen) He knows.

(Nephi appears on the colonnade with an ANGEL. Elisabeth exits. Mary turns downstage.)

ANGEL TO NEPHI: Nephi, what beholdest thou?<sup>19</sup>

NEPHI: A virgin, most beautiful and fair above all other virgins.<sup>20</sup>

[Music cue: "Look On Me This Day – Reprise 1" underscore]

MARY (to herself): My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.<sup>21</sup>

ANGEL TO NEPHI: Knowest thou the condescension of God?<sup>22</sup>

NEPHI: I know that he loveth his children; nevertheless, I do not know the meaning of all things.<sup>23</sup>

ANGEL: Behold, the virgin whom thou seest is the mother of the Son of God, after the manner of the flesh.<sup>24</sup>

(ABINADI appears on the colonnade.)

ABINADI: And God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people. And because he dwelleth in flesh he shall be called the Son of God.<sup>25</sup>

(Time has passed. Mary is in Elisabeth's home, embroidering a long strip of linen cloth.)

ELISABETH: How is the embroidery coming, Mary?

MARY: Swaddling bands aren't easy, even after three months.

ELISABETH: Here, let me see.

MARY: It would be easier if I only had to worry about one side, and not about all the threads on the other.

ELISABETH: That's the idea, dear. First in your marriage, and then in your home, nothing can be hidden. We must try to make everything beautiful front and back, inside and out.

MARY: Elisabeth, do you think I can be as good as these bands should be?

ELISABETH: What do you mean?

MARY: In my marriage.

ELISABETH: With Joseph.

MARY: Yes. I need to tell him, so that nothing is hidden.

ELISABETH: Good!

MARY: But I don't know if I'm ready.

ELISABETH: Well then, you are ready.

MARY: I am? It doesn't feel that way.

ELISABETH: You're ready because you know you need the Lord. Now you'll depend on Him. It will come to you what to say to Joseph. (Pause) Oh, I will miss you, Mary . . .

MARY: But Elisabeth, the baby. I came here to help you.

ELISABETH: Don't worry. We'll be depending on the Lord, too.

(They embrace. Elisabeth exits. Mary turns downstage, alone in the light.)

[Music cue: “Look On Me This Day – Reprise 2” underscore]

MARY (to herself): And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.<sup>26</sup>

(Immediate segue to. . .)

### Segment 2.5

(Mary’s home.)

MARY: Joseph! Is that you, Joseph? Come in.

(Joseph enters.)

JOSEPH: Mary, it’s good to see you back. (Pause) I have to tell you I’m a little uneasy about being here before the wedding.

MARY: I understand. (Pause) Elisabeth had her child.

JOSEPH: Oh. She did?

MARY: Yes. They sent word. A boy.

JOSEPH: Oh! Well, that’s good to hear.

MARY: Yes, he’s healthy and strong, and Elisabeth is doing just fine.

JOSEPH: Good. What about the father, the priest? I heard that he –

MARY: Zacharias. . .

JOSEPH: Yes.

MARY: Well, he couldn’t hear, and he couldn’t speak, either.

JOSEPH: So what happened?

MARY: An angel . . . appeared to him.

JOSEPH: An angel?

MARY: Yes, he told him Elisabeth was going to have a child, and he even told him the name. His name is John.<sup>27</sup>

JOSEPH: John. They didn't name him after his father?

MARY: No.

JOSEPH: Why not?

MARY: Well, that's what I wanted to talk to you about. At the time of the circumcision, Zacharias finally spoke. He said the child would be called the prophet of the highest, to go before the face of the Lord and to prepare His ways.<sup>28</sup>

JOSEPH: How did he know that?

MARY: That's what the angel told him.

JOSEPH: Do the elders know?

MARY: Yes, of course. You do believe it, don't you?

JOSEPH: Oh yes, Mary. Yes. All manner of wondrous things can happen in the temple. I've heard others say it. I believe it's true.

MARY: I know it's true.

JOSEPH: Well Mary, I'm glad you told me. I guess I'd better be going.

(Joseph starts to leave.)

MARY: Wait, Joseph.

(Joseph stops.)

MARY (contd.): Before I visited Elisabeth, an angel came to me, too. I was praying, and the room became light —

JOSEPH: Where?

MARY: Here at home.

JOSEPH: You are a blessed person, Mary. I'm not surprised.

MARY: He said the Messiah is coming, through our lineage, just as the scriptures say. And quickly. Very quickly.

JOSEPH: Quickly.

MARY: Now don't be afraid.

JOSEPH: I'm not afraid, Mary.

MARY: Because He is coming as every child comes. To a family. To a father. Through a woman. (Pause) Joseph . . . through me.

JOSEPH : An angel came to you, and told you the Messiah is coming, and that He is coming soon, through you? Through you who are betrothed to me?

MARY: Yes.

JOSEPH: And now you're saying that I will be His father . . .

MARY: You will raise Him.

JOSEPH: Raise Him. What does that mean?

MARY: It means He will be the Son of the Highest. He *is* the Son of the Highest.

JOSEPH: Is?

MARY: It's been three months, Joseph.

JOSEPH: You are three months with child? What are you saying? What are you saying, Mary?

MARY: He's not just a child, Joseph. He is the Son of God.

(Joseph exits and walks to his half-finished house. Lights down on Mary.)

[Music cue: "There Are Rules – Reprise"]

JOSEPH

*It's a house, but not what I envisioned.*

*There's no door,*

[Music cue: Continuation of "There are Rules – Reprise" and segue into "Look on Me This Day – Duet"]

JOSEPH (cont'd)

*no window to be found.*

*And within, the rooms have been forever rearranged,*

*And soon I'll see it topple to the ground.*

(Underscore continues.)

JOSEPH (contd.) (to himself): Mary, you've come upon some trouble. But whatever it is – whatever it may be . . . I can't think of it.

(In her home Mary kneels in a pool of light.)

JOSEPH (contd.): What is the right thing to do? I know the law and the law is clear. If the damsel be not a virgin, they shall bring her out "to the door of her father's house, and the men of her city shall stone her . . . that she die: because she hath wrought folly in Israel."<sup>29</sup>

JOSEPH (contd.)

*And then what will protect you*

*And hide you from the storm?*

*Who will give you shelter*

*And mend the heart that's torn?*

*And who will defend*

*The child from cunning men*

*If the children,*

*Israel's children,*

*Come without a friend?*

MARY  
*My Lord,*

JOSEPH  
*My Lord,*

MARY  
*My God,*

JOSEPH  
*My God,*

MARY  
*Came to me that day,*

JOSEPH  
*Come to me this day,*

MARY  
*And His mercy*

JOSEPH  
*Shed Thy mercy*

MARY  
*On me*

JOSEPH  
*On me,*

MARY  
*Has led me in His way.*

JOSEPH  
*And lead me in Thy way.*

MARY  
*What I saw,*

JOSEPH  
*Let me see,*

MARY

*What I heard,*

JOSEPH

*Help me know,*

MARY

*Fills my heart to say,*

JOSEPH

*And teach me now to hear Thy voice,*

MARY

*I will praise Thy name,*

*I will praise Thy name,*

*I will*

BOTH

*praise Thy holy name.*

*Praise Thy name to all, alway.*

(In their separate houses, Mary and Joseph each lie down to sleep. An ANGEL enters Joseph's home and stands over him.)

ANGEL TO JOSEPH: Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of God. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. <sup>30</sup>

(The angel departs. Joseph awakens and runs to Mary's house.)

JOSEPH: Mary!

MARY: Joseph?

JOSEPH: We must be wed without delay.

MARY: You know!

JOSEPH: Yes. It's exactly as you said. His name shall be called —

MARY: Jesus.

JOSEPH: How did you know?

MARY: That's what the angel told me.

JOSEPH: And me as well.

MARY: For His mercy is on them that fear Him.

JOSEPH: The house isn't quite finished. There won't be time for all the usual preparations. Not everyone will understand.

MARY: With God nothing shall be impossible.

### Segment 2.6

[Music cue: "Come, Lord Jesus – Wedding Song"]

(Mary's family and Micham enter. Four young boys, including Mary's Brother carry the wedding canopy. As the chorus of angels sings, Mary's Mother drapes white wedding attire over Mary's costume, while across the stage Micham assists Joseph to dress in white. Zacharias and Elisabeth, holding a newborn baby, observe. Mary and Joseph approach Mary's father, who stands under the canopy. He wraps their right hands together with swaddling bands.)

#### CHORUS

*Come, Lord Jesus, see the wedding,  
With Thy kinsmen joined in feast.  
In our hearts Thy joy is spreading,  
Bringing to the earth Thy peace.  
Come in glory to the earth,  
Come to us to rule and reign.  
Ready us to kneel and greet Thee.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

#### CHORUS WOMEN

*Come, Lord Jesus, see the dawning  
Jubilation in the skies.*

CHORUS MEN

*Hear the heav'nly host responding,  
Echoing our joyful cries.*

CHORUS (ALL)

*Come in glory to the earth,  
Come to us to rule and reign.  
Ready us to kneel and greet Thee.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come in glory to the earth,  
Come to us to rule and reign.  
Ready us to kneel and greet Thee.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

(Mary's family, Micham, Zacharias, and Elisabeth watch as the newly married couple leave the stage.)

**ACT I**  
**Scene 3**  
**Segment 3.1**

[Music cue: "Herald Trumpets" underscore]

(A ROMAN STATESMAN appears with four soldiers behind him. Townspeople gather hurriedly around them to listen to their proclamation.)

[Music cue: "Roman Soldiers" underscore]

ROMAN STATESMAN: Come near, citizens and subjects of the Roman Empire. Caesar has spoken to all this land and people. All citizens are hereby commanded to return to their city of origin. All citizens of Nazareth. All citizens of Capernaum. All citizens of Bethlehem.<sup>31</sup>

(The soldiers and townspeople exit.)

(Mary and Joseph's home. Mary sits, resting. She is visibly with child. Joseph enters.)

JOSEPH: Are you all right?

MARY: Yes, just tired. Are *you* all right? Something's bothering you.

JOSEPH: I'm fine.

MARY: Joseph, what's wrong?

JOSEPH: It's this census. I've been down to the market. It's humiliating.

MARY: You mean sending us back to our ancestral homes?

JOSEPH: Yes. Micham says it's Herod cooperating with the Romans, trying to make their plan look like it's our tradition. But it degrades our tradition; it robs it of its holiness. Others keep saying we have to go along with it, that we have to do the best we can and keep praying for the Messiah . . .

MARY: And what did you say?

JOSEPH: I was agreeing with them until they started talking about the Messiah . . . about Him . . . and then I didn't dare say anything. (Pause) Oh Mary, how can I leave you right now? The baby will be here soon.

MARY: Joseph, I've been thinking about this. Perhaps this is what God wants.

JOSEPH: What? What do you mean?

MARY: Well, perhaps I could go with you.

JOSEPH: Mary, six days round trip over bad roads is difficult even for me—

MARY: No, Joseph. I mean perhaps we should go there to live.

JOSEPH: But the house is just finished, I've finally set up shop in town—

MARY: We could start over there.

JOSEPH: Start over? Why start over?

MARY: I know it hardly makes sense. But Bethlehem is the home of our ancestors, the city of David.

(MICAHA appears on the colonnade.)

MICAHA: And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda . . .

MARY: We'd be nearer Zacharias and Elisabeth, and nearer the temple.

MICAHA: For out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.<sup>32</sup>

JOSEPH: Yes, I see. The City of David. It's for His sake. We never would have chosen Bethlehem.

MARY: We didn't.

JOSEPH: No, Caesar did. And Herod.

MARY: The Lord did. All flesh is in His hands.

JOSEPH: Does He have to grip so tightly?

MARY: Please, let me come.

(They exit.)

### Segment 3.2

[Music cue: "Scene Change to Shepherd's Hill" underscore]

(A hillside near Bethlehem.)

ELI (calling from offstage): Nathan!

(Nathan, a shepherd boy, runs onto the hillside.)

NATHAN: Up here, father! I found him. He's with the others.

(Eli, Nathan's father, climbs the hill.)

ELI: Where?

(Eli's father Asa, REUBEN, JESHUA, and AMON climb up after Eli.)

NATHAN: Down there, see?

ELI: Ah! Good for you, son.

REUBEN: Good for the lamb.

ELI (helping Asa up): Up here, father —

REUBEN: Jeshua — the bread?

(Jeshua breaks pieces from a loaf of bread and distributes them.)

ASA: This seems a good spot.

ELI: Yes. Nathan, do you see all those lights!

REUBEN: Lots of people over there.

ASA: That's ol' Herod again.

ELI: As if he were a Hebrew — calling them back to the land of their fathers.

NATHAN: It makes our little town seem so important!

ELI: Bethlehem *is* important, son.

REUBEN: I'd say!

NATHAN: What do you mean?

ASA: The Messiah will be born there — don't you remember? In the city of David.

REUBEN: Some day . . .

NATHAN: How do you know?

ELI: The prophets.

NATHAN: Prophets?

JESHUA and ELI (answering together): Yes!

ELI: The Lord told Samuel that a king would come from Jesse —

JESHUA: A Beth-lehemite.<sup>33</sup>

NATHAN: Will that be Him? Will that be the Messiah?

ASA: From the stem of Jesse, the scriptures say; and —

ASA and REUBEN (together): A Branch shall grow out of his roots.<sup>34</sup>

ASA: Even so.

REUBEN: The root and offspring of —

NATHAN and REUBEN (together): David.<sup>35</sup>

ASA: Yes.

[Music cue: “The Lord is My Shepherd”]

(Nathan begins playing the harp.)

AMON: Uncle Eli, what will He be like?

ELI: Like *His* fathers, I suppose; like David.

AMON: David the king?

JESHUA: Or David the shepherd?

ELI: Both.

AMON: A shepherd? How a shepherd?

ASA: He shall feed his flock, and gather the lambs, and carry them close to His heart.

ELI: And He'll gently lead the mother sheep, those that are with young.<sup>36</sup>

AMON: Sheep? What sheep?

ELI: Us.

AMON: Us?

NATHAN: Us!

NATHAN (contd)

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*

*He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:*

*He leadeth me beside the still waters.*

*He restoreth my soul:*

*He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.*

ALL SHEPHERDS

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil:*

*For thou art with me;*

*Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

*Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:*

*Thou anointest my head with oil;*

*My cup runneth over.*

(Underscore continues.)

NATHAN: When will He come, father?

ELI: Nathan, when I was your age, I prayed that I would be there. But it's just as important to wait for Him, son, and to watch.

ASA: And be ready.

ELI

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:*

ASA

*And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

ALL

*The Lord is my shepherd*

*The Lord is my shepherd*

*The Lord is my shepherd . . .*

NATHAN

*I shall not, I shall not want.*<sup>37</sup>

(The shepherds gather in prayer. Blackout. In the darkness the shepherds lie down to sleep.)

### Segment 3.3

(In Bethlehem. Lights up on Mary, who is resting, heavy with child. Joseph enters, carrying a lamp.)

MARY: Did you find something?

JOSEPH: We have a stable.

MARY: A stable, who would have thought?

JOSEPH: When I think the town's been full for a week, Mary . . . His arm is stretched out over us.<sup>38</sup>

MARY: All flesh is in His hand. But it is strange – wonderful but strange. Our people have waited for the Messiah. “The Messiah will come.” “The Messiah is near.” “The Messiah will deliver us.” And now, here tonight, He comes to just you and me, strangers in this place, unknown. He comes in a stable. How will our people know?

JOSEPH: His Father has sent Him to the earth. He will tell them.

MARY: Yes.

JOSEPH: Come. We must be ready.

[Music cue: “Feed Thy Sheep – Reprise” underscore]

(Joseph helps Mary up. They exit.)

### Segment 3.4

(On the hillside. The shepherds are sleeping. Eli is keeping watch. An ANGEL appears on the hillside above them. As the light intensifies, Eli turns and sees the angel. He gazes in awe for a moment.)

[Music cue: “Glory to God in the Highest”]

ELI (awakening the others): Wake up! Wake up, all of you.

(The other shepherds awake, see the angel, and shrink back, frightened.)

ANGEL: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

CHORUS OF ANGELS

*Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory!*

ANGEL: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

CHORUS OF ANGELS

*Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory!*

ANGEL: And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.<sup>39</sup>

(Lights up on the multitude of angels on the colonnade.)

CHORUS OF ANGELS

*Glory, glory, glory, glory, glory to God!*

*Glory to God in the highest,*

*And peace on earth, good will to men.*

*Glory to God in the highest!*

*Glory to God! Glory to God!*

*Glory to God on high!*

(The Angel steps down from the hillside, and a bright new star appears in the sky.)

ASA: The prayers of our people have been answered.

ELI: Then let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which the Lord has made known unto us.<sup>40</sup>

[Music cue: “Glory to God – Reprise” underscore]

JESHUA (pointing to the new star): Wait! Look!

NATHAN: What is that?

REUBEN: In the east.<sup>41</sup> I’ve never seen it before.

AMON: What does it mean?

JESHUA: All things testify of him.

ELI: “There shall come a Star out of Jacob.”

REUBEN: “And a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.”<sup>42</sup>

NATHAN: He *is* a king.

AMON: The King of glory.<sup>43</sup>

ELI: Come, let’s hurry!

(They make ready to go. Asa walks away from the group.)

NATHAN: Grandfather!

(Nathan runs to Asa.)

NATHAN (contd.): Grandfather, aren’t you coming?

ASA: I’ll stay with the sheep.

NATHAN: Don’t you want to see Him?

ASA: "I shall see him, but not now."<sup>44</sup> Nathan, go. Follow the star. And find the Child.

(Nathan embraces Asa.)

NATHAN: Yes! Goodbye!

(They depart.)

### Segment 3.5

[Music cue: "Scene Change to Bethlehem" underscore]

(The scene is transformed to the streets of Bethlehem. The shepherds enter.)

ELI: Everyone, come quickly. This is it. This where we will find Him.

NATHAN: How do you know?

ELI: I just know. (Approaching a stable door) Here. Nathan, come. Up you go.

(Eli boosts Nathan high to see into the stable.)

ELI (contd.): What do you see?

NATHAN: It's just as they said.

REUBEN: A manger?

NATHAN: Yes.

ELI: And the swaddling clothes? Is He wrapped?

NATHAN: Yes!

(Eli lowers Nathan. Subdued, the shepherds walk away from the stable.)

REUBEN: It is the sign.

ELI: We must tell. We must tell and testify of these things.

NATHAN: How do we do that?

ELI: What do you mean, son?

NATHAN: We're just shepherds.

ELI (kneeling before Nathan): Yes, Nathan, just shepherds. But tonight we are servants, servants of a King.

(Joseph emerges from the stable, carrying a clay vessel. The shepherds see him and kneel. Noticing them, he stops.)

JOSEPH: Are you looking for someone?

ELI: Will you tell us about the Child, sir?

JOSEPH: The Child? Stand up. Who are you?

NATHAN: We're shepherds.

JOSEPH: Yes?

NATHAN: And we know about the baby.

JOSEPH: Yes?

REUBEN: He is the Lord.

ELI: The Messiah, the Savior of the World.

JOSEPH: Who told you?

ELI: An angel – angels, actually. A whole multitude of them.

JOSEPH: Where?

NATHAN: With the sheep.

ELI: In the fields, sir.

NATHAN: We were keeping watch.

JOSEPH (shaking Eli's hand): Fields . . . all manner of wondrous things.

ELI: I'm not sure I understand . . .

JOSEPH: Just a moment, let me tell my wife.

(As Joseph returns to the stable, we see Mary, holding the Child wrapped in the swaddling bands. She hums to Him.)

JOSEPH (contd.): Mary, there are shepherds here to see the Baby. Angels sent them.

MARY: Angels?

JOSEPH: Yes.

MARY: Then they must see Him.

(Joseph and Mary sit, with Mary holding the Child. The shepherds enter the stable and stand in the doorway.)

JOSEPH (to the shepherds): Come in.

(The shepherds enter.)

MARY: Come close.

(The shepherds kneel around Mary and Joseph, their heads bowed. Nathan looks up.)

NATHAN (to Mary): I've seen many lambs just born.

MARY: Have you?

NATHAN: He looks sort of soft and helpless, just like a baby lamb.

MARY: He *is* a lamb. The Lamb of God.

NATHAN: What does that mean?

REUBEN: Hush, child. Mustn't speak too much.

MARY (reassuring Reuben): Oh, no, no. (To Nathan) What is your name?

NATHAN: Nathan.

MARY: Oh, like the prophet.

NATHAN: Was he a shepherd?

MARY: In a way, all prophets are shepherds. I am glad you've come, Nathan. All of you. God didn't let Him come into this world alone, and for that, His mother is grateful. (Pause) I should have known it would be shepherds who would come – someone who could be trusted to believe.

ELI: And tell.

MARY: Tell?

ELI: Yes. The angel said it was unto all people. So if you'll excuse us, we should go.

NATHAN: And do as he said.

(The shepherds rise and begin to exit. Mary and Joseph watch them go. Eli stops and whispers to Nathan. Nathan returns to Mary and Joseph.)

NATHAN: My father said I should start with you.

JOSEPH: With us?

MARY: For what, Nathan?

NATHAN: The message from the angel.

MARY: Very well. Go ahead.

[Music cue: "Come, Lord Jesus – End of Act I"]

NATHAN: Fear not. For behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you . . .

MARY: Go on.

NATHAN: . . . for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

(Nathan kneels and kisses the child. He exits the stable. The shepherds move toward the audience, proclaiming the message.)

JESHUA:

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. . . . For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

REUBEN:

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. . . . For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

AMON:

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy. . . . For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

(Eli and Nathan are also added to the above sequence of lines.)

(As the Chorus sings, a few of the angels descend from the colonnade and gather at the edge of the stable. As they watch, the light narrows around Mary, Joseph, and the baby.)

CHORUS

*Come, Lord Jesus, to the manger;  
May we see Thy tender face?  
Great Creator, here a stranger,  
Infant in this humble place.  
Come in glory to the earth,  
Come to us to rule and reign.  
Ready us to kneel and greet Thee.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Come in glory to the earth,  
Come to us to rule and reign.  
Ready us to kneel and greet Thee,  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

(Underscore continues. LUKE appears on the colonnade.)

LUKE: And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.<sup>45</sup>

MARY and JOSEPH  
*Come, Lord Jesus, Come.*

BLACKOUT

**END OF ACT I**

**Act II**  
**Scene 1**  
**Segment 1.1**

[Music cue: “Entr’acte” underscore]

(The garden tomb, just before sunset on the day of the crucifixion. Howling wind, thunder, nearly dark. JAMES, THOMAS, MARY MAGDALENE, MARY MOTHER OF JAMES [MARY MOJ], SALOME, JOANNA, JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA, NICODEMUS, and AARON, huddle around the rectangular opening of the tomb. Inside, flickering lights and shadows can be seen before JOHN and PETER emerge with lamps. As the believers start to leave, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus roll a huge circular stone over the tomb opening. Howling wind and thunder rise. All exit. Thomas stands alone at the stone mourning. Lightning. Fade to black.)

[Music Cue: Segue into “Come, Lord Jesus – Opening Act II”]

(In the darkness the CHORUS, as angels on the colonnade, begins to sing.)

**CHORUS**

*Come, Lord Jesus, to the wounded,  
 Broken heart and bended knee.  
 Worthy Lamb, Thy love unbounded,  
 Bid our souls to rest in Thee.  
 Come in glory to the earth,  
 Come to us to rule and reign.  
 Ready us to kneel and greet Thee.  
 Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
 Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

(As the chorus continues to sing, TWO ANGELS dressed in flowing white robes enter and solemnly walk to the front of the tomb. Ceremoniously, the angels roll the stone away and enter the tomb opening. A light rises within. Fade to black.)

## Segment 1.2

(A room in Jerusalem. The light rises on CLEOPAS, a middle-aged disciple, who packs a cloth bag. From offstage we hear the voice of DISCIPLE, his somewhat younger friend.)

DISCIPLE: Cleopas! Cleopas!

(Disciple enters, a packed bag slung over his shoulder.)

CLEOPAS: In here!

DISCIPLE: Cleopas! Jesus's body is gone!

CLEOPAS: What?

DISCIPLE: Yes, the women went this morning to anoint Him, and the stone was rolled away. They said angels came and said He's alive and gone into Galilee.<sup>46</sup>

CLEOPAS: Angels?

DISCIPLE: Yes!

CLEOPAS: And Peter?

DISCIPLE: He and John went back to see the tomb for themselves.<sup>47</sup>

CLEOPAS: Well, let's leave this in *their* hands.

DISCIPLE: Mary Magdalene went back as well. She's hopeful she can find His body.

CLEOPAS: Well, if she doesn't, the Saducees will say *we* took it, so we could claim He's risen from the dead.

DISCIPLE: Why?

CLEOPAS: Because they're the ones, they're the ones — our own people — who delivered Him to the Romans! That's why the sooner we get on the road to Emmaus, the better. (handing Disciple a robe) Here, put this in your bag.

DISCIPLE: What if Jesus does come to Galilee?

CLEOPAS: Peter would send for us.

DISCIPLE: But Galilee? That's where we started! Do you realize a week ago the Messiah was riding into Jerusalem — here where *everything* happens? He came as the king — thousands waving palms and crying hosannas — a prophet, mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.<sup>48</sup> People were finally listening and believing. The Kingdom of Heaven was right here, at hand.

[Music Cue: "Where Is He This Morn?"]

DISCIPLE (cont'd): It's over now, isn't it?

CLEOPAS: We all trusted He was the one who would redeem Israel.<sup>49</sup> But without Him . . . (overcome) Come, let's go home.

### Segment 1.3

(As Cleopas and Disciple exit, fade to black. The light rises on Mary Magdalene kneeling at the tomb door. She rises and sings. Some of the Chorus Women have remained on the colonnade and later softly sing with Mary Magdalene.)

MARY MAGDALENE

*Where is He who walked with us?*

*Where is He who prayed?*

*Where is He whose voice rang out,*

*"Come forth from the grave"?*

*Where is He who knelt alone,*

*Who for us did bleed?*

*Where is He who gave His life*

*For our cause to plead?*

*It was He who taught all Galilee,  
He who fed us by the sea.  
With a smile He turned His head to say,  
“Look on me, follow me,  
Come to me, I am the Way!”*

*Where is He who dried the tears  
Of the suffering soul?  
Where is He who stayed our fears,  
He who made us whole?*

CHORUS WOMEN

Ooo...

*He who healed the broken heart,  
He who calmed the storm,  
He who came to save us all,  
Where is He this morn?*

(Mary Magdalene returns to the entrance of the tomb and begins to weep.)

[Music cue: “He Is Risen” underscore]

(A radiant light, representing the Savior, begins to fill the space. Mary Magdalene, sensing a presence:)

MARY MAGDALENE: Are you the gardener here?

SAVIOR (voice-over): Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?

MARY MAGDALENE (without turning toward Him): Sir, if you have carried him from here, please tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.

SAVIOR (voice-over): Mary.

MARY MAGDALENE (suddenly turning, rises): Rabboni!

SAVIOR (voice-over): Touch me not, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God and to your God.<sup>50</sup>

(Mary Magdalene rises and makes her way out of the garden, which is then transformed into a street. In small groups, angels of all ages fill the stage.)

SAMUEL THE LAMANITE: And many graves shall be opened, and shall yield up their dead. And many saints shall appear.<sup>51</sup>

(As the music ends, the angels exit.)

**Act II**  
**Scene 2**  
**Segment 2.1**

(Peter, John, and Thomas enter, conversing.)

THOMAS: The stone was rolled away? What do you mean Peter? Did you see it yourselves?

PETER: Yes, Thomas. The tomb was empty.

THOMAS: Was it thieves?

PETER: We don't think so. His body had been unbound and the grave clothes left behind.

THOMAS: So it was the Romans.

JOHN: No, Thomas, the napkin for His head wasn't just tossed aside. It was folded, neatly, as if out of respect.<sup>52</sup>

THOMAS: But, John, that could mean anything.

PETER: You're right, it could. But it's more than the grave clothes. It seems that something is happening here, Thomas, something more than we can see.

JOHN: We believe He has risen.

JAMES (running in): Peter!

THOMAS: Risen!

PETER: James.

JAMES: It's confirmed. People who have died have appeared all throughout the city. People are saying it's the resurrection.<sup>53</sup>

PETER: We'd better quietly gather the believers. Thomas, would you find Mary Magdalene? She may be at the tomb.

THOMAS: Yes, Peter.

(Thomas runs off.)

PETER: This will inflame the Sanhedrin—

JAMES: They'll think He's risen.

PETER: If they believe.

(Peter, James, and John begin to exit. MARY steps out of the shadows.)

MARY: John . . . Peter . . .

JOHN: Mary? Peter! Is everything all right?

MARY: I'm sorry to alarm you, my son. Mary Magdalene returned and—

JOHN: Is she safe?

PETER: Where is she?

MARY (beckoning to Mary Magdalene): Mary, child, come here.

(Mary Magdalene steps out of the shadows.)

PETER: Mary Magdalene.

MARY MAGDALENE: Peter . . . Oh, Peter. . . .

PETER: You saw Him, didn't you?

MARY MAGDALENE: Yes. I thought He was the gardener.

PETER: Yes?

MARY MAGDALENE: Until He spoke my name. He said, "Mary." He told me to tell you, "I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God."<sup>54</sup>

PETER: We're grateful *you* saw Him, and we rejoice with you. We'll tell the others. Come, James, John, we should meet tonight.

(Peter, James, and John begin to exit.)

JAMES: In the upper room from before?

PETER :Yes.

JOHN: We'll arrange it.

(They exit.)

[Music cue: "Alleluia"]

MARY

*Angels sang to wond'ring shepherds,  
"Fear not, Christ is born this day."  
Marvel not that in a stable,  
Heaven blessed His bed of hay.*

MARY MAGDALENE

*Angels brought the joyful tidings,  
"Fear not, Christ is risen this day."  
Heav'n came down to tend His body,  
Why I grieved I cannot say.*

MARY MAGDALENE and MARY

*Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Rise, O Light of Bethlehem.  
Calvary's dark night is over,  
Christ the Lord is come again.*

(Underscore continues. Joanna, Salome, and Mary MOJ enter, running.)

SALOME: Mary! Mary!

JOANNA: Mary! He is risen, as the angels said.

SALOME: He came to us on the road.

MARY MOJ: And He said "Tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me."<sup>55</sup>

JOANNA

*Angels sent us with a message,*

SALOME

*"Fear not, go to Galilee."*

MARY MOJ

*Who could know we'd meet our Master?*

JOANNA, SALOME and MARY MOJ

*Who could know His face we'd see?*

MARY, MARY MAGDALENE, JOANNA, SALOME, MARY MOTHER OF JAMES, HANNAH, SUZANNA, TIRZAH, MIRIAM, and CHORUS WOMEN  
*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Rise, O Light of Bethlehem.  
Calvary's dark night is over,  
Christ the Lord is come again.*

*Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Rise, O Light of Bethlehem.  
Calvary's dark night is over,  
Christ the Lord is come again.*

SALOME: We must tell Peter about Galilee.

MARY: He was just with us.

JOANNA: He knows about Mary Magdalene?

MARY MAGDALENE: Yes. Come, we'll find him.

(They exit.)

## Segment 2.2

(Cleopas and Disciple run on, breathless.)

DISCIPLE: Cleopas, wait!

CLEOPAS: I can see the lights of Jerusalem! Hurry!

DISCIPLE: I've got to rest. We already covered this road once today.

(They come upon a well.)

CLEOPAS (drawing water): I know, but if we don't hurry we may not find the Apostles before nightfall. Here, drink. Tell me, when did you first recognize it was Jesus?

DISCIPLE: When He took the bread and blessed it.

CLEOPAS: Yes. It was just like in Galilee, when He fed the five thousand, there was that feeling . . . that . . . .

DISCIPLE: Yes.

CLEOPAS: It came back. And we're as full of joy as we ever were.

DISCIPLE: How could we have been so sad?

CLEOPAS: I called Him a stranger!<sup>56</sup>

DISCIPLE: Yes! And we walked along telling Him everything that had happened to *Him*! Why did He come to us?

CLEOPAS: Because He wanted to teach us, to remind us of all that the prophets have spoken.

[Music cue: “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?”]

DISCIPLE: How could we have been so foolish, so slow to believe? How could we not recognize Him?

CLEOPAS

*Were our eyes holden because of fear?*

DISCIPLE

*Could we not see Him for all our tears?*

CLEOPAS

*If we had listened beyond His words,*

CLEOPAS and DISCIPLE

*Would we have known now more than we heard?*

*Did not our hearts burn within us as He walked with us?*

*Did not He open the scriptures by the way?*

*Did not He come as promised to even us*

*To take our sins away?*

(Underscore continues.)

DISCIPLE: Cleopas, He knew our hearts. He *knew* we were sad.

CLEOPAS: Not a sparrow falls to the earth except He knows it.<sup>57</sup>

CLEOPAS (contd.)

*And if we grieved for what had to be,*

DISCIPLE

*And knew not how He had set us free,*

CLEOPAS

*He tarried with us until the end,*

CLEOPAS and DISCIPLE

*Till eyes were opened and knees would bend.*

(As they continue singing, the space is transformed to the upper room.)

### Segment 2.3

(The upper room. The Apostles Peter, James, John, ANDREW, MATTHEW, NATHANAEL, THADDEUS, SIMON ZELOTES, PHILIP, and JAMES ALPHAEUS gather and listen intently as Cleopas and the Disciple continue singing. A few other disciples are also present, but Thomas is absent.)

CLEOPAS and DISCIPLE

*Did not our hearts burn within us as He walked with us?*

*Did not He open the scriptures by the way?*

*Did not He come deliver even us*

*By rising from the grave?*

*He came to take our sins away!*

PETER: Cleopas, did He give you any instructions?

JOHN: Andrew, better bolt the door.

PETER: Yes.

(Andrew bolts the door and returns to the conversation.)

CLEOPAS: At first we didn't recognize Him. Our eyes were holden.<sup>58</sup>

DISCIPLE: We thought He was a stranger in Jerusalem, a rabbi. But then we walked with Him and asked Him to abide with us – and eat.<sup>59</sup>

PHILLIP: He ate?

CLEOPAS: He took the bread and He blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to us.<sup>60</sup>

JAMES: Like our last supper together.

DISCIPLE: And then the eyes of our understanding were opened, and we knew Him.

JOHN: Have you heard that the women have seen angels?

CLEOPAS: Yes.

JOHN: Have you also heard that they have seen *Him*?

DISCIPLE: Who did?

JOHN: Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, and some of the other women.

PETER: He gave them instructions. What did He say to you?

CLEOPAS: He taught from the scriptures, Peter, beginning with Moses and all the prophets.<sup>61</sup> And He expounded the words written about Himself.

JAMES: And what did you learn?

CLEOPAS: All of this had to happen, Brethren. The Prophets knew it, and He knew it, too.

PETER: And not only knew it, He didn't stop it . . . He let it happen . . . He took it upon Himself.

(A man representing the Savior, dressed in a white robe, appears.)

[Music cue: "I Stand All Amazed" underscore]

SAVIOR: Peace be unto you.<sup>62</sup>

JAMES: Peter!

(All kneel, frightened.)

SAVIOR: Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.<sup>63</sup>

(The man in white extends his hands. Peter, James, and John come forward and touch the palms of his hands.)

SAVIOR: Have ye any meat? <sup>64</sup>

PETER (passing a basket of food forward): We have fish and honeycomb.<sup>65</sup>

(The man takes the basket and eats. He hands the basket back to Peter.)

JOHN: Thou hast risen from the grave, Lord, and yet Thou eatest as a man.

PETER: Wilt Thou teach us, Lord, the meaning of these things?

SAVIOR: These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. <sup>66</sup>

JAMES: What things, Lord?

SAVIOR: Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. <sup>67</sup>

(As the light fades, the man representing the Savior walks away. The Apostles and disciples, at first overcome, slowly begin to stand.)

JOHN: Witnesses!

JAMES: To all nations!

PETER: Brethren, what we have seen, the people need to know. They are ready and many will listen. What we thought was the end is the beginning.

(The Apostles and disciples begin to leave.)

DISCIPLE: It's not over, Cleopas. There *is* something *we* can do.

CLEOPAS: And in *Jerusalem*!

JOHN (quietly): Peter, what about Thomas?

PETER: We will find him.

(Before exiting, Peter turns to look back into the room.)

BLACKOUT

### Segment 2.4

(A home in Jerusalem. Mary; Mary Magdalene; Mary Mother of James; Salome; Joanna; and two children, REBEKAH and JOSHUA, are picking fruit from a lush green tree and packing it and other articles to go to Galilee.)

REBEKAH: When will we leave for Galilee?

JOANNA: We don't know, Rebekah, but soon. The angel said Jesus would go before us. And we'll meet Him there.<sup>68</sup>

MARY MOJ (handing items to Rebekah): Rebekah, pack these too, please.

JOSHUA: I'm scared to see Him again.

JOANNA: Why, son?

JOSHUA: I thought they put Him in a tomb.

MARY MOJ: They did, Joshua. That's why the angel said, "Fear not."<sup>69</sup>

SALOME: And Jesus said the same thing to us.

JOSHUA: He did?

SALOME: Yes, on the road. He said, "Be not afraid," and then we bowed down and held his feet, and worshipped Him.<sup>70</sup>

JOSHUA: And you weren't afraid?

JOANNA: Oh, maybe a little. But we were also joyful. Very joyful.<sup>71</sup>

MARY MAGDALENE: It's true, what He said, isn't it – that this experience would be like childbirth?

MARY: Yes, “A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, . . . but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish.”<sup>72</sup>

MARY MAGDALENE: We’ve been grieving for three days and suddenly the grief is forgotten!

MARY MOJ: Not forgotten—changed. Our sorrow became our joy.

JOSHUA: I still don’t understand why He had to die.

MARY: Come here, Joshua. Did you know that once, when He was not much older than you, we lost Him?

JOSHUA: No.

REBEKAH: Where?

MARY: Here, in Jerusalem. For three days Joseph and I searched frantically, worried for His safety, afraid He was lost. And finally we found Him. In the temple. He was teaching grown men, doctors, priests!<sup>73</sup> And he said to us, “Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”<sup>74</sup>

JOSHUA: His Father’s business?

MARY: You see, it was His Father’s will that He leave us those three days. And for these past three days, when it seemed we had lost Him again, it was the will of His Father He’s been doing as always.

[Music cue: “Do His Will – Reprise”]

MARY (contd): That is why He laid down his life, so that He could take it up again, and us with Him.

JOSHUA: Did you know all this would happen?

MARY: No, not exactly, but I remember what He said, those many years ago.

REBEKAH: I don’t want to ever lose Him again.

MARY: You don't have to, Rebekah. Because if you follow Him, and remember Him, you'll always feel Him near.

REBEKAH: I'll follow Him, then, wherever He wants me to go.

JOSHUA: How will we know where that is? And what if we can't?

MARY: Oh, Joshua – it's good to wonder a little about ourselves, but we need never wonder about the Lord.

MARY (contd.)

*Ask God all your questions,  
Hear His voice so still,  
Let the Spirit's whisper  
Teach how to do His will.  
Then go and do His will.*

MARY MAGDALENE,  
MARY MOJ, SALOME, JOANNA  
*Oo...*

(Thomas enters.)

THOMAS: Sisters!

SALOME: Thomas.

THOMAS: Mary Magdalene. I've been looking for you since yesterday. Peter said you'd gone back to the garden.

MARY MAGDALENE: I did.

SALOME: Thomas, He is alive, just as the angels said.

THOMAS: You saw Him, with your own eyes?

JOSHUA (cutting off Thomas's line): Yes, she did.

MARY MOJ: Yes. On the road. And Mary Magdalene . . .

(Cleopas and Disciple enter.)

CLEOPAS: Sisters! Thomas!

THOMAS: Cleopas!

CLEOPAS: Did Peter find you yet?

THOMAS: No. What's wrong? I thought you were going back to Emmaus.

CLEOPAS: We were, but Jesus met us on the way.

THOMAS: He did?

CLEOPAS: Yes.

THOMAS: He came to the women as well!

CLEOPAS: We know.

DISCIPLE: And then last night He came again.

THOMAS: Again?

CLEOPAS: Yes. The wounds were there. It was Jesus.

DISCIPLE: Yes, we were gathered in the upper room, and He appeared.

THOMAS: We? Who is "we"?

CLEOPAS: Peter, the Twelve, and some of the disciples.

DISCIPLE: Well, most of the Twelve.

THOMAS: And you were there as well?

CLEOPAS: Yes. He told us to be witnesses of Him – of His resurrection.

DISCIPLE: The work is going forward. Oh, Thomas, we can still serve Him!

THOMAS: I hope you will.

(Women and children begin to exit.)

JOANNA: Children—

REBEKAH: Can we take these to Jesus in Galilee?

JOANNA: Yes, come.

(Women and children exit, except for Mary and Mary Magdalene, who linger behind, listening.)

CLEOPAS: Thomas?

THOMAS: I'll do whatever I can to help.

[Music cue: "Except I Shall See - Part A"]

CLEOPAS: Shouldn't we be offering help to you?

THOMAS: No, I don't think so.

CLEOPAS: But you were called to be a witness.

THOMAS: How can I be a witness of what I haven't seen! (Pause) I'm sorry, Cleopas, but . . .

THOMAS (contd)

*I cannot hear His words*

*If He's not with me.*

*I cannot feel His touch*

*If He's not here.*

*I cannot tell the world*

*My Lord still walks with me*

*If I can't see Him*

*And have Him near.*

(Peter and John enter, listening.)

CLEOPAS: Thomas.

THOMAS

*Except I shall see, I will not believe.*<sup>75</sup>

*Except I behold His wounds,*

*I will always grieve.*

*Except I put my finger into the print of nails,*

*He has not risen up for me.*

*I will not, I cannot believe.*

[Music cue: Segue into “Peter’s Witness” underscore]

PETER: Thomas.

(Thomas turns and sees Peter and John.)

THOMAS: Peter, John, I didn’t know you were here.

PETER: I’m sorry you didn’t see Him.

THOMAS: What I said about believing –

JOHN: We understand, Thomas. You want to see Him with your own eyes.

THOMAS: So I can be a witness!

PETER: You are a witness. Look, Thomas, we did see Him, but that is not enough for any of us.

THOMAS: What?

(As Peter speaks, Cleopas, Disciple, Mary, and Mary Magdalene gradually exit.)

PETER: Plenty of people saw him in life, watched his miracles and heard his teachings, and yet some of them were among those who condemned Him to the cross. To see Him, Thomas – to see Him as He is, for who He is – we must look with our hearts. (pause) Do you remember when we came to the borders of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked us “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?” And we answered Him, “Some say that thou art John the Baptist:

JOHN: Some Elias;

PETER: And others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.”

THOMAS: Yes.

PETER: And then He asked, a second time, “But whom say *ye* that I am?” And I looked at him and I said, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And He said to me, “Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”<sup>76</sup> You see, Thomas, it isn’t by flesh and blood that we know, but by what we feel. At first Mary Magdalene thought He was the gardener. And Cleopas walked along the road to Emmaus, thinking He was a rabbi. But when they felt Him, they knew. And one day, when you do see Him, you will not know any better than you know now that He lives, because you already feel – (pointing to Thomas’ heart) – here.

THOMAS: I do, Peter.

PETER: Then believe, Thomas, and see.

(Peter embraces Thomas, then exits.)

[Music cue: “Except I Shall See – Part B”]

THOMAS

*If I can’t hear His words,*

*Then I will speak them.*

*If I can’t feel His touch,*

*His touch I’ll give.*

*And I’ll rejoice because my Lord called even me,*

*And by His teachings I’ll always live.*

## Segment 2.5

(The music continues as the scene is transformed into the upper room.  
Peter and the other Apostles enter.)

PETER: Thomas, have you given up hope?

THOMAS: Hope, no. But my demands, yes. It's been a week, Peter. Tell me what I need to do.

PETER: Trust that the Lord will fulfill His promises, in His due time.

THOMAS: In His due time.

[Music cue: Segue into "He Is Risen/Except I Shall See – Part C"]

(As Thomas and Peter embrace, a man representing the Savior, dressed in a white robe, appears before them.)

SAVIOR: Peace be unto you.

(All but Thomas kneel.)

PETER: Master.

(Thomas turns and kneels.)

SAVIOR: Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

(Thomas steps forward and touches his hands.)

THOMAS (falling to his knees, weeping): My Lord and my God.

SAVIOR: Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.<sup>77</sup>

(The light fades, and the man representing the Savior walks away. Slowly, the Apostles rise and gather around Thomas, who still kneels.)

PETER: Now we can go to Galilee.

ANDREW: What would you have us do, Peter?

PETER: What we know how to do: fish. And there He will come to us again, as He said.

(All Apostles but Thomas leave. Thomas rises.)

THOMAS

*I searched with my eyes,  
But I was blind.  
By His mercy eyes of faith I find!  
Lord, what I asked afearing,  
Thou answered with Thy love.  
O Lord, my God,  
I will believe,  
I'll always,  
Forever and ever,  
Remember  
That Thou hast come to me!*

(Thomas exits. Underscore continues as the scene changes. Immediate segue to...)

**Act II  
Scene 3  
Segment 3.1**

(The Sea of Galilee, on a fishing boat. Peter; James; John; Andrew; Thomas; and John's son, Aaron, are casting nets.)

AARON: When will He come, father?

THOMAS: He'll come when we're ready, Aaron, trust me!

(All chuckle.)

AARON: I'm ready.

PETER: But maybe *we're* not, like when I tried to walk on this water.<sup>78</sup>

ANDREW: I wonder why He said He'd meet us here – in Galilee?

JAMES: Maybe because it's where we all started.

PETER: Where He called us.

AARON: What do you mean?

PETER: We were right over there, to the west, and He told us to cast in our nets.

JAMES: But on the right side of the boat.

PETER: Yes.

JOHN: And it was on a night just like this. Not a single fish.

PETER: And suddenly there were so many . . . so many . . . .

JOHN: So many our nets broke, son.<sup>79</sup>

PETER: We weren't ready, Aaron – our nets weren't strong enough. So we couldn't bring in the fish and take them back to feed the people.

JOHN: And that's when He called us to be fishers of men.<sup>80</sup>

AARON: Of men? So why are we fishing for *fish*?

THOMAS: Especially when there aren't any!

[Music cue: "Did Not Our Hearts Burn – Reprise" underscore]

SAVIOR (voice-over as if coming from shore): Children, have ye any meat?<sup>81</sup>

THOMAS (to the others on the boat): Is that man talking to us?

PETER (calling to shore): No, not today!<sup>82</sup>

SAVIOR (voice-over): Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find!<sup>83</sup>

(One by one they quickly stand and look in amazement.)

AARON: What is he saying?

THOMAS: He doesn't know we've been fishing all night.

JOHN (realizing): Yes, He does.

PETER (also realizing): Do it!

AARON: Why would there be fish now?

THOMAS: I don't see any.

JAMES: Shh. Peter, what is it?

PETER: He's here. He's here with us.

JOHN: It is the Lord.

THOMAS: You can tell from here?

PETER: Yes.

(Peter jumps off the boat and crosses downstage. Back on the boat:)

THOMAS: Look! Look!

JAMES: It's a draught, again!

JOHN: As many as before! Maybe more!

THOMAS: Pull!

JAMES: Careful, the nets!

JOHN: They're holding, James. This time the nets are holding!

THOMAS: Pull! Pull!

(They pull in a large net of fish. On shore, Peter steps into a pool of light and discovers a small fire with fish cooking on a spit.)

PETER: Is this a meal for us, Lord?

SAVIOR (voice-over): Bring of the fish which *ye* have now caught.<sup>84</sup>

JOHN (from the boat): Peter, come!

JAMES: Peter, we must have caught over a hundred fish. And the nets didn't tear!

THOMAS: At least a hundred and fifty, and big ones.<sup>85</sup>

AARON: It's Jesus, isn't it, father?

JOHN: Yes, son, it is Jesus.

SAVIOR (voice-over): Come and dine.<sup>86</sup>

(Aaron exits as the men on the boat make their way downstage.)

JAMES: A meal!

JOHN: Is this for us, Lord?

PETER: Food was never so welcome.

JOHN: We thank Thee, Lord.

(The Apostles gather around the fire and eat.)

SAVIOR (voice-over): Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?

PETER (turning downstage, into the light): Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

SAVIOR (voice-over): Feed my lambs.

(Music ends. Peter begins to turn back to the Apostles.)

SAVIOR (voice-over): Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?

PETER (turning toward the light): Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

SAVIOR (voice-over): Feed my sheep.

(Peter turns to the Apostles again.)

SAVIOR (voice-over): Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?

(Silence. Peter faces the light squarely. The other Apostles rise.)

PETER: Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.

SAVIOR (voice-over): Feed my sheep.<sup>87</sup>

(Peter stands, resolute. As he does, the other Apostles kneel behind him, recognizing the charge given him.)

[Music cue: "Feed Thy Sheep"]

PETER (with understanding and resolve): James, John, let us divide what we have been given with others. We will feed Thy sheep, Lord, withersoever thou wilt.

(All Apostles rise.)

JOHN

*As we're fed, we'll feed them.*

JAMES

*As we learn, we'll teach.*

(The rest of the Apostles enter.)

THOMAS

*As we're blessed, we'll lift each other.*

JOHN, JAMES, and THOMAS

*We will feed Thy sheep.*

ALL APOSTLES

*Feed Thy lambs, O feed Thy sheep!*

*Shepherds we'll become.  
Help us find the wandering lambs,  
Make Thy flock as one.*

(The music continues as the Apostles kneel. The light before them becomes intense, again representing the Savior.)

PETER: Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

SAVIOR (voice-over): It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you.<sup>88</sup> Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.<sup>89</sup> And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.<sup>90</sup>

### Segment 3.2

(The scene is gradually transformed to a hillside, which the Apostles climb. The chorus sings from offstage.)

APOSTLES

*On our right and left hand,  
Thou wilt always be.  
We will go to all the world.  
We will feed Thy sheep.*

THADDEUS: And he led us out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed us.<sup>91</sup>

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And while he blessed us, he was parted from us, and carried up into heaven.<sup>92</sup> And a cloud received him out of our sight.<sup>93</sup>

APOSTLES and CHORUS (under dialogue)

*Feed Thy lambs,  
O feed Thy sheep!  
Shepherds we'll  
become.*

*Guide us to the wandering lambs,  
Make Thy flock as one.*

(On the hill, the Apostles look up. From the colonnade, two Angels speak. The chorus continues to sing under the dialogue.)

ANGEL 1: Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven?<sup>94</sup>

ANGEL 2: This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.<sup>95</sup>

(The chorus fills the stage as the Apostles address them.)

[Music cue: Segue into “Come, Lord Jesus – End of Act II”]

PHILIP: Now there was in the days of Herod a certain priest named Zacharias.<sup>96</sup>

ANDREW: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.<sup>97</sup>

MATTHEW: And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field.<sup>98</sup>

NATHANAEL: Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden.<sup>99</sup>

JAMES ALPHEUS: And we took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre.<sup>100</sup>

THOMAS: And Jesus stood in the midst of us, and saith unto us, “Peace be unto you.”<sup>101</sup>

PETER: For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.<sup>102</sup>

JAMES: For the Son of man shall come in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.<sup>103</sup>

JOHN: And I John saw these things, and heard them. He is the root and offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. He which testifieth of these things saith, Surely I come quickly. . . .Even so, come, Lord Jesus.<sup>104</sup>

ALL

*Come, Lord Jesus, Great Redeemer,  
Light of morning from the east.  
We will be Thy children ever,  
Dry our tears, all weeping cease.  
Come in glory to the earth,  
Come to us to rule and reign.  
Ready us to kneel and greet Thee.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

*Jesus, once of humble birth,  
Now in glory comes to earth.  
Once He suffered grief and pain;  
Now He comes on earth to reign.  
Now He comes on earth to reign.<sup>105</sup>*

(All assemble beneath a column of light, gazing upward into heaven, some reaching up toward the light.)

ALL

*Come, Lord Jesus, come.*

BLACKOUT

END OF ACT II

## NOTES

1. English translation: "Let the temple be restored, Zion refilled, that we may come up singing a new song."
2. See 1 Nephi 10:1, 4-5, 7-11, 17.
3. Malachi 3:1.
4. See Luke 1:13-15, 17.
5. See Luke 1:18.
6. See Luke 1:19-20.
7. Deuteronomy 15:8.
8. See Hosea 2:19-20.
9. Luke 1:28, 30-33.
10. See Luke 1:34.
11. See 1 Nephi 11:19.
12. See Luke 1:35-36.
13. Luke 1:37.
14. Luke 1:38.
15. See Luke 2:18-19.
16. See Luke 1:42.
17. Luke 1:42.
18. See Luke 1:41.
19. 1 Nephi 11:14.
20. 1 Nephi 11:15.
21. See Luke 1:46-49.
22. 1 Nephi 11:16.
23. 1 Nephi 11:17.
24. 1 Nephi 11:18.
25. Mosiah 15:1-2.
26. See Luke 1:50-55.
27. See Luke 1:13.
28. See Luke 1:59-63, 76.
29. Deuteronomy 22:21.
30. See Matthew 1:20-21.
31. See Luke 2:1-3.
32. Matthew 2:6 (based on Micah 5:2).
33. See 1 Samuel 16:1.
34. See Isaiah 11:1.

35. See Revelation 22:16.
36. See Isaiah 40:11.
37. See Psalm 23.
38. See Luke 2:7.
39. See Luke 2:10–12.
40. See Luke 2:15.
41. See Matthew 2:2.
42. Numbers 24:17.
43. See Psalms 24:7–10.
44. Numbers 24:17.
45. Luke 2:40.
46. See Matthew 28:1–7.
47. See John 20:3–4.
48. See John 12:12–13.
49. See Luke 24:21.
50. See John 20:14–17.
51. See Helaman 14:25.
52. See John 20:5–7.
53. See Matthew 27:52–53.
54. John 20:16–17.
55. Matthew 28:10.
56. See Luke 24:18.
57. See Matthew 10:29.
58. See Luke 24:16.
59. See Luke 24:29–30.
60. See Luke 24:30.
61. See Luke 24:27.
62. Luke 24:36.
63. Luke 24:38–39.
64. See Luke 24:41.
65. See Luke 24:42.
66. Luke 24:44.
67. See Luke 24:46–48.
68. See Matthew 28:7.
69. Matthew 28:5.
70. See Matthew 28:9–10.
71. See Matthew 28:8.

72. John 16:21.
73. See Luke 2:41-49.
74. Luke 2:49.
75. See John 20:25.
76. See Matthew 16:13-17.
77. John 20:26-29.
78. See Matthew 14:22-33.
79. See Luke 5:1-11.
80. See Matthew 4:19.
81. John 21:5.
82. See John 21:5.
83. John 21:6.
84. John 21:10.
85. See John 21:11.
86. John 21:12.
87. John 21:15-17.
88. Acts. 1:6-8.
89. Mark 16:15.
90. Matt. 28:20.
91. See Luke 24:50.
92. See Luke 24:51.
93. See Acts 1:9.
94. Acts 1:11.
95. Acts 1:11.
96. See Luke 1:5.
97. Luke 2:7.
98. Luke 2:8.
99. John 19:41.
100. See Mark 15:46.
101. See Luke 24:36.
102. 2 Peter 1:16.
103. See Matthew 24:30-31.
104. See Revelation 22:8, 16-17, 20.
105. *Hymns*, no. 196.