



# HEAVEN to HEAVEN

## THE MUSICAL THE LIFE OF JESUS

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY AUSTIN VANDERZEE  
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## The Cast

Luke	The People
Zechariah	Angel Gabriel
Elizabeth	Joseph
Mary	The Innkeeper
Shepherds	Angels
Young Jesus	Teachers of the Law
Priests	Elders
Pharisees	John the Baptist
Jesus	Devil
Peter	Andrew
James	John
Demon possessed man	Leper
Paralytic	John's disciples
Philip	Bartholomew
Matthew	Thomas
James	Thaddeus
Simon	Judas
Jacob	Centurion
Adulterous woman	Simon the Pharisee
The Blind Man	The Sinful Woman
The Father	The Prodigal Son
Martha	Mary
Lazarus	Caiaphas
False witnesses	Peter's accusers
Pilate	Soldiers

Even though there are 50 cast members listed here, the roles of certain cast members, such as John's disciples, can be easily filled by members of the ensemble and townspeople, etc. You will need about 30 people to cover about 42 principal parts as you can see in the video. 3 Faculty members also stepped up and played roles as Mary Magdalene, Pilate and Caiaphas.

**PLAYWRIGHT'S INTRODUCTORY NOTES:**

Please . . . if you have any questions about what moves are intended by the written suggestions found in the blocking notes, always refer to the video recording for visual explanation. With very few exceptions, my blocking suggestions adhere closely to what was carried out in the World Premiere stage presentation of Heaven to Heaven.

Also, I am writing what I believe is very little "mandatory" direction, knowing that most Directors want to have a liberal amount of artistic freedom. So I will be very fair, but pointed, in my desire to preserve the pure vision I have for this Musical, and will offer only a very few, but important, directions on a very small number of scenes. I would pray that you please follow these few directions where I "strongly suggest" adherence to certain movements and actions, please.

I list the scene and page number here, where you can read the specific directions for those scenes on those pages.

Act I Scene 6

Page 24

Directions for Mary

Act I Scene 10

Page 46

Directions for the song Blessed

Act II Scene 8

Page 111

Directions for the Crucifixion

Act II Scene 12

Page 124

Directions for the Curtain Call

The glaring absence of spoken female lines in this Musical seems to be consistent with the actual amount of the words spoken by women in the gospels. BUT I have provided a short list where females, rather than males, can speak certain lines. I have added that list at the end of this formatted script. I have diligently tried, where no mandatory gender is written in scripture, or the words do not demand that they come from the mouth of a male, to allow more female speech where I could. I think I have succeeded in that goal.

I have also included a list of who could double up to play different roles because of the large cast that is required.

Important Reminder:

I have many times simply noted beneath some of the blocking instructions for you to . . . "Refer to the Video Record" That is because I was so pleased with the choices Joe Obermueller made as the first Director of Heaven to Heaven, that we have provided a complete video record of the entire Musical performance on our website to guide your Direction. In this way, even though most all of the blocking instructions are written down in the script for you to see, the video record we made and uploaded will help all the Directors to understand how it actually looks on stage. I believe strongly you will find it very useful.

Finally:

I have always believed that one of the biggest rooms in anyone's house, is the room for improvement. Having said that, I am pleased with the way this Musical was handled at the World Premiere with very few exceptions, all of which are subjective and based on personal style and preference. As it relates to movements and actions on the stage, if there are changes you would like to make, that in your opinion, would "improve" the Musical, please enjoy that freedom. But I am jealously guarding the words of both the script and the songs, and will not allow any changes to those areas unless you can convince me of the reason for the changes, and only if we grant you express written permission for those changes. I am grateful for your understanding of that desire.

## Act I

### Scene 1

(Open with LUKE as narrator. LUKE should read from the places assigned in the World Premiere. LUKE should become a part of the story itself, interwoven, at your direction, in and out of the scenes, to make him more than just "The Narrator" . . . but an integral part of the whole story.)

SETTING: (We are outside Jerusalem.)

AT RISE: (A spotlight comes up from black. LUKE comes through the curtain Center Stage and begins to read.)

LUKE

In the beginning was the Word . . . and the Word was with God . . . and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John chapter 1, verses 1, 2 and 14.

(LUKE walks Downstage Center toward the audience as he begins to address them just as he would a good friend.)

Hello, my name is Luke. And I'm going to be guiding you through the biblical record of the life of Jesus Christ. Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. So, having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good for me also to write an orderly account for you, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

(LUKE starts to walk downstage left)

In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there lived a priest named Zechariah.

(Spotlight or stage light comes up on ZECHARIAH who enters thru the curtain stage center and moves downstage center)

He belonged to the priestly division of Abijah.

(LUKE has now stopped far downstage left. There is a spotlight on him still. ZECHARIAH kneels down downstage center.)

His wife, Elizabeth,

(Spotlight or a light comes up on ELIZABETH as she enters from stage right and move straight up to downstage right and kneels along with ZECHARIAH.)

was also a descendant of Aaron. They were good and upright people . . . observing all the Lord's commands blamelessly.

(ELIZABETH is working her hands inside a basket in front of her. ZECHARIAH is kneeling in prayer holding a golden urn that would be used to burn incense.)

But . . . (small pause) they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both quite old.

(ELIZABETH now gets up, takes her basket and exits stage right as Luke continues speaking. Lights off ELIZABETH)

One day, as Zechariah served as Priest before the Lord, an angel of the Lord appeared to him,

(The curtain parts stage center and a light appears on an angel elevated directly behind ZECHARIAH)

and the glory of God shone all around him. And he was terrified.

(Spotlight down on LUKE. As the angel GABRIEL starts to speak, ZECHARIAH looks frightened and leans back

A bit as he listens to GABRIEL.  
On GABRIEL'S mic, you might consider  
adding some reverb or echo to  
his microphone only for added effect.)

GABRIEL

Have no fear Zechariah. For your prayers have been answered. Elizabeth will bear to you a son, and you will name him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He will come before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. I am the angel Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to bring you this good news.

(The spotlight on Gabriel  
goes to black and comes up on LUKE.  
ZECHARIAH stands up and walks  
Stage center in the light as LUKE  
Is speaking, and he then exits at  
Stage right to find ELIZABETH and reenter)

LUKE

The child that Elizabeth would bear would become known to all of us as John the Baptist. Because nothing is impossible with God, it happened just as the angel said it would.

(A spotlight or a stage light comes up on  
ELIZABETH who emerges from stage right with  
ZECHARIAH and they move to downstage  
right. ELIZABETH now looks 5 months pregnant.)

Elizabeth became pregnant, and for five months, she remained in seclusion.

ELIZABETH

The Lord has done this for me. In these days, he has been gracious and taken away my disgrace.

(As LUKE continues to narrate,  
even as the scene is changing ELIZABETH  
and ZECHARIAH exit by moving to center  
stage and then walk back out stage right.  
The lights on them fade to black.)

Act I

Scene 2

(Spotlight stays up on LUKE  
alone who is still downstage left.)

LUKE

When Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy, God  
sent His angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a  
virgin who was pledged to be married to a man named Joseph,  
who belonged to the family of David.  
That virgin's name . . . was Mary.

(Spotlight goes down on  
LUKE and immediately fades up  
on the angel GABRIEL who is again  
upstage center perched in the air  
on a support (ladder, etc.).  
Lights dimly light up on  
MARY who is lying on the stage  
downstage right.  
No other lights should be seen.  
GABRIEL begins singing to MARY.  
As GABRIEL begins singing MARY  
looks startled but stares  
intently up toward the heavens.)

(SONG 1: Angel Angel)  
(Sung by the Angel Gabriel, Mary and Joseph.)

GABRIEL

I am Angel Gabriel,  
I've come to bring good news  
Greetings you are highly favored,  
the Lord He is with you  
Mary do not fear my words,  
for you will bear a Son  
The seed of God is in your womb,  
the Christ the Holy One.

(Just before MARY begins to sing the  
light shines brighter on her.)

MARY

Angel Angel I am your servant,  
but how can all this be  
I've never been with any man,

explain this thing to me.

(Lights slightly dim on MARY as the  
angel GABRIEL continues to sing.)

GABRIEL

Mary Mary blessed one,  
through Holy Spirit power  
Nothing impossible for God,  
conceived in you this hour

(Lights increase on MARY as she  
continues to sing.)

MARY

Angel Angel in my life,  
this is very odd  
But I'll do as I always do,  
put my trust in God.

(Spotlight stays up on GABRIEL  
but goes down on MARY and now comes  
up full on a praying/sleeping JOSEPH  
who is located downstage left.  
He begins singing so the angel  
looking out toward the audience.)

JOSEPH

Angel Angel in my dream,  
give me help I pray  
Mary has a child in her,  
I plan to put her away  
She says she's not been with any man,  
but how can that be true  
This is too hard to understand,  
tell me what to do

(Lights slightly dim on JOSEPH as the  
angel GABRIEL continues to sing.)

GABRIEL

Joseph Joseph man of God,  
sleep well be not afraid  
The child in her is the Lord thy God,  
the Holy Spirit has made  
Within her womb God's only Son,  
the Christ Emmanuel  
Jesus Savior who takes our sins,

saving souls from hell

(Lights increase on JOSEPH as he  
continues to sing to the angel GABRIEL.)

JOSEPH

Angel Angel in my dream,  
I'll do as you command  
Mary will be wife to me,  
I will obey your plan  
Angel Angel in my dream,  
this is very odd

(Curtains close on angel as JOSEPH  
closes out his song.)

But I'll do as I always do,  
put my trust in God.

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act I

Scene 3

(Spotlight comes up on LUKE downstage left.)

LUKE

In those days, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. So, everyone went up to their hometown to be registered. Joseph went out from Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to Bethlehem . . . the town and city of David,

(JOSEPH enters in shadows from downstage left and makes his way toward LUKE. MARY enters from downstage right to meet JOSEPH as they walk toward where LUKE is standing.)

because Joseph belonged to the family of David. He went there to enroll himself with Mary, to whom he was pledged to be married and was expecting a baby.

(JOSEPH meets MARY downstage center on either side of LUKE and walk past him heading toward center stage as LUKE says his last line and the stage lights come up to full.)

And while they were there . . . the time came for the baby to be born.

(Spotlight goes down on LUKE who exits stage left as all the crowd enters scurrying. JOSEPH and MARY begin speaking from center stage.)

JOSEPH

Mary, Mary, how are you feeling?

MARY

Oh Joseph . . . I am so very tired. I really need to lie down.

JOSEPH

I will see if the Innkeeper has a room for us. Uh, sir!

(As JOSEPH finishes the word "sir" the INNKEEPER who has made his way beside them and is standing center stage looks back and immediately responds. Meanwhile the crowd is milling past them coming on from both sides stage left and stage right and passing by mostly behind them upstage center near the background.)

INNKEEPER

Hello and "NO" . . . I have no more room for you in my Inn tonight. This census has brought so many people to Bethlehem. I am so sorry.

(The INNKEEPER is directing people with his hands the whole time he is trying to carry on this conversation with JOSEPH and MARY.)

JOSEPH

But, I was pledged to be married, and my betrothed . . . well . . . she . . .

(The INNKEEPER takes a look at MARY who is almost to the point of collapsing.)

INNKEEPER

Wait . . . this woman is with child, and you are not yet married?

JOSEPH

If you only knew what has happened you would . . .

INNKEEPER

Oh . . . I know what happened. Sir, I will be gracious to you just this once for she is in obvious labor pain.

(While JOSEPH has been talking to the INNKEEPER, a couple in the cast have somewhat covertly brought out the small crib-like trough filled with hay and have set it on the down side of stage center.)

You may take rest in my barn tonight.

(The rest of the crowd has disappeared and it's just those three left standing center stage as The INNKEEPER gestures toward the small crib-like trough filled with hay and is setting on the down side of stage center.)

Now please, I have many paying guests to tend to. May God be with you.

(The INNKEEPER turns and walks quickly away from JOSEPH and MARY exiting stage left.)

JOSEPH

And with you also . . .

(As the INNKEEPER moves farther away, JOSEPH yells out.)

Thank you for your kindness!

(JOSEPH moves toward MARY and escorts her downstage right toward a barn area next to an old cattle trough.)

MARY

Oh Joseph, please hurry. I am certain that the baby . . .  
ohhhhhh . . . the baby . . .

(There is serious panic in MARY'S voice as she is now bent over in pain and JOSEPH quickly leads MARY down toward the little crib-like trough.)

JOSEPH

Come lie down Mary. I'll ask God for comfort and strength.

(Lights on stage fade down and now they are in a lone spotlight as JOSEPH gently helps MARY to lie down behind the crib-like trough so her head is barely seen facing away from the audience and shielded by the "crib" so when the birth is acted out, all the actions will be

unseen except for glimpses of MARY'S hand occasionally reaching back to support herself as she gives birth onstage with the help of JOSEPH.)

(SONG 2: A Savior Is Born)  
(Sung by Joseph.)

It is late in the evening,  
we are weary we are worn  
But this will be the night,  
when the Savior is born  
Holy is the place where He layeth,  
Holy is the cloth that He wears  
Holy is the Baby that cometh,  
Holy is the life that He shares  
This is God Emmanuel,  
this is God the light and the door  
This is God the King of all Kings,  
this is God the Lord of all Lords

(During this whole part of the song JOSEPH has been acting as if he is helping MARY deliver this new baby boy. When JOSEPH finishes singing "the Lord of all Lords" he should be slowly bringing the newborn to his chest wrapped in his own scarf that he had taken off to let MARY use.)

Honor Him and sing Hallelujah,  
the Christ is here, the Master has come

(People are now coming onstage in dimly lighted area behind JOSEPH and MARY who remain in a lone spotlight. The crowd enters from the left and right to slowly form a semi-circle around JOSEPH and MARY.)

Earth bow down the heavens shout Glory,  
praise His name above every one

(Here is where the chorus of the surrounding crowd begins their singing along with JOSEPH.)

Jesus Messiah, God lives within  
(JOSEPH hands the baby into the arms of MARY who has now found the strength to

sit up still behind the crib-like trough.  
She is embracing and cuddling the baby.)

Savior anointed who takes away sin  
Glory to God peace on earth and  
goodwill, God in the flesh  
He dwells among men

(At the crescendo of this part of the song,  
the surrounding witnesses move slowly to get  
closer and closer to see the baby tightening  
their semi-circle around JOSEPH and MARY.)

It is late in the evening,

(MARY slowly places the baby in the  
crib-like trough filled with hay as  
the song reaches its climax.)

we are weary we are worn

(MARY finishes laying the baby down and  
and then turns and smiles up at JOSEPH.)

But this is the night,  
when the Savior is born

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

**Act I**

**Scene 4**

(The crowd has left the stage but JOSEPH and MARY remain onstage and are still doting over the baby in very dim light. Spotlight comes up on LUKE who is standing between stage left and center stage. Also in dim light are now 3 shepherds standing downstage left.)

LUKE

And there were shepherds abiding in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of God shone all around them . . . and they were terrified.

(Spotlight fades down quickly on LUKE and comes up now on the 3 shepherds as GABRIEL'S voice suddenly booms out.)

**NOTE TO AUDIO ENGINEER:**

**You could add some reverb to GABRIEL'S microphone for effect.)**

GABRIEL

Do not be afraid. For I bring good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign for you. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths lying in a manger.

SHEPHERD

Come, let's go to Bethlehem and see the things the Lord has told us about.

(Spotlight goes down on SHEPHERDS who now cross over to downstage center to stand before the crib in front of JOSEPH and MARY. Spotlight has already come up on LUKE who speaks as the SHEPHERDS are crossing over in front of him. JOSEPH and MARY remain in dim lighted area as LUKE moves more to stage left and begins again to speak.)

LUKE

The shepherds hurried off to find Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

(We see the SHEPHERDS bowing before the crib and silently paying homage as JOSEPH and MARY stare down at the baby.)

LUKE

But Mary, pondered all of these things, treasuring them in her heart.

(MARY has picked the baby JESUS up in her arms and is cradling and gently rocking him in her arms.)

On the eighth day after he was circumcised, he was given the name Jesus. The name given to him before he was even conceived in the womb. The child grew in wisdom and strength. The glory of God was upon him.

(BLACKOUT OVER CRIB AREA)

(END OF SCENE)

Act I

Scene 5

(Stage is completely black except for lone spotlight on LUKE as he starts to move even further downstage left and begins this scene.)

LUKE

Every year . . . Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When Jesus was twelve he went with them, as was according to tradition. But, when the Feast was over, the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem, while his parents returned home. Thinking he was with their group, they continued on for another day's journey, before seeking him amongst their friends and relatives. When they couldn't find him they returned to Jerusalem and searched for him for three days. Finally, they found him . . .

(Lights come up full on the Temple area and the people are listening closely to the teachers of the law. Young Jesus is sitting on an elevated area along a wall upstage center so he will be able to be seen by everyone in the audience. Refer to video record for this type of scenic design and stage look.)

sitting in the Temple amongst the teachers of the law, listening to them and asking them questions. All were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

(Spotlight goes down on LUKE who exits stage left. Full stage lights on the Temple area.)

TEACHER 1

So then, since we are asked by God to hate evil, is not our hatred toward the Samaritans justified? For the Samaritans, in their evil ways, have become even as our enemies, and have rejected the perfect place of worship.

JESUS

Excuse me Rabbi.

(JESUS can be easily seen.  
As all eyes are now focused  
On him and his questioning.)

TEACHER 1

Yes my son?

JESUS

Where is this (pause) perfect place of worship?

TEACHER 1

Why . . . here, in Jerusalem of course. In this temple.  
What a question.

JESUS

So then, tell me Rabbi.

(JESUS stares slowly around at  
the crowd with all eyes fixed on him.)

Who is *really* right with God? The man who worships in the  
perfect "place"?

(Slight pause as JESUS gazes at  
his surroundings (as he says "place".)  
Then, he looks directly at the Rabbi.)

Or . . . the man who worships with the perfect heart?

(You hear a faint mumbling  
from the crowd in response to  
JESUS' question.)

TEACHER 1

The perfect heart? What man can have a perfect heart?

JESUS

Well, I know it would not be a man that teaches others to  
hate their own brothers.

(The crowd is showing signs of  
murmuring but quietly.)

TEACHER 1

Yong man, there is a long history here you could not  
possibly know about.

TEACHER 2

We understand. A young boy is not able to hate those that are enemies of God.

(Jesus looks directly at the Rabbi.)

JESUS

Oh, I am able to hate Rabbi. Just, not willing. Often, the people that are enemies of God are the ones standing right next to me.

(Jesus carefully gazes up at the TEACHER who draws his head back as he hears the words of JESUS. There's a very slight but uncomfortable pause. The TEACHER is not quite sure if JESUS' words are being directed at him.)  
**(NOTE: If this previous line elicits some laughter, obviously JESUS should wait to deliver His next line)**

So then, they are my neighbors. I owe them my love, not my hatred.

TEACHER 3

How old are you son?

JESUS

I'm twelve.

TEACHER 3

Twelve. And you, are going to teach us, the truth?

JESUS

Does truth only come from the mouth of the . . . very old?

**AGAIN (NOTE: If this line elicits some laughter, JESUS should wait to deliver His next line)**

TEACHER 1

No, but only the Law holds the answers to these questions.

JESUS

Then . . . should we not judge the spoken words of the Rabbi by that same law?

TEACHER 1

Young man, are you even familiar with the Law?

JESUS

Uh . . . yes. I am (pause) familiar.

(JESUS says the word "familiar"  
as if it were an incredible  
understatement since the truth  
is that He authored it all.)

May I read from the book of the Law from Moses?

TEACHER 1

Of course. Then we will know for a certainty that we will  
hear the truth.

(JESUS scrolls open a book and  
reads a verse from the book of  
Leviticus.)

JESUS

Do not hate your brother in your heart. Love your neighbor  
as yourself. I am the Lord.

TEACHER 1

We understand that young man. We know how to love our  
neighbors. (Pause) But everyone in here knows that the  
Samaritans, though our brothers . . . have become our  
enemies.

JESUS

Rabbi . . . even if your brother becomes your enemy . . .  
is he not still . . . your brother?

(The crowd rises to their  
feet and start milling around  
downstage center staring at  
JESUS who is now having  
full conversations with the  
TEACHERS of the law during the song.  
All during the song You can  
see they are pointedly  
arguing with the young boy  
JESUS, who remains calm and  
is answering their every  
question correctly which  
is observed by the crowd.  
The TEACHERS are all quite

astonished at this young boy.)

(SONG 3: How Does He Know These Things)  
(Sung by the People.)

How does He know these things,  
where did He learn the answers to tell  
How does He know these things,  
how can He share this wisdom so well  
To know the mysteries of the ages,  
to speak of secrets from Holy pages  
This knowledge is too deep for any man  
To teach with power and authority,  
to open hearts so they can see  
This boy must be a part of the Master's plan  
How does He know these things,  
where did He learn the answers to tell  
How does He know these things,  
how can He share this wisdom so well  
Is this the One who was to come,  
is this the Christ the Holy One  
The Son of David promised Savior King  
We can't deny the things we hear,  
if this is Him why should we fear  
If He's the Christ He would know everything  
How does He know these things,  
where did He learn the answers to tell  
How does He know these things  
How can He share this wisdom so well  
So well, so well  
How does He know these things

(As the song ends the TEACHERS are done talking to young JESUS and everyone exits either upstage right or upstage left. The lights stay up as JOSEPH and MARY enter from downstage left and move upstage center to a reunion with young JESUS as The next scene opens.)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

Act I

Scene 6

(Full stage lights are still on as MARY and JOSEPH reunite with their young son JESUS center stage.)

MARY

Son, why have you treated us this way? Your father and I have been searching for you.

JESUS

Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?

(The stage lights dim down on JOSEPH and MARY and young JESUS and a spotlight is now on LUKE who is standing downstage left.)

LUKE

But they didn't understand what he was saying. So, the boy Jesus returned home with his parents. His mother, Mary, treasured all of these things in her heart. And the boy grew in wisdom and strength.

(The spotlight goes down on LUKE. Stage lights up full on the young boy JESUS and his Dad JOSEPH talking together as MARY watches them. MARY is center stage while JOSEPH and young JESUS are more stage left as MARY begins singing. Refer to video record For actions only between JOSEPH and JESUS.)

(SONG 4: My Son Your Son)  
(Sung by Mary.)

My Son, Your Son,  
my child is Yours  
How can this one Son  
save rich and poor  
He loves You, He loves me,  
He does what we ask  
How can this young Son  
be up to this task  
Of saving a world

that is filled with the lost  
Does He know of the suffering,  
have You told Him the cost

**(Musical Interlude Before MARY'S last Verse)**

**(As the interlude begins here,  
JESUS crosses in front of MARY  
who motions for him to go play  
with some friends that have appeared  
At the same time, JOSEPH exits  
stage left.**

**AND before the interlude of the  
song is about to transition  
back to MARY singing, we need  
to see Mary motioning to  
Jesus to come to her. He does.  
She knows he is leaving to go  
play with His friends, so she  
reaches up to wipe some dirt  
from His face. He playfully  
resists (as any 12 year old  
would), and then as he begins  
to run away to join his friends  
He stops . . . and quickly runs  
back to give Mary His Mother a  
loving hug goodbye. Somehow,  
during their embrace, she is  
left holding an article of His  
clothing, whether his scarf or a  
hat or a belt. She is left holding  
that article as He exits  
joining His friends who are  
about to exit with Him upstage  
center. Mary should have  
completed her motherly  
actions with Him just a few  
moments before she starts singing  
her next verse. Timing is  
important here to make it all  
look very natural)**

My Son, Your Son,  
is my Savior too  
I pray when the time comes,  
I'll know what to do  
I'll watch them condemn Him,  
Oh without any crime

So I'll treasure each moment,  
and wish that we had more time

(There is a one second musical pause almost unnoticed, but the perfect opportunity for Mary in that moment on the underlined words in the song to acknowledge the piece of clothing she is embracing in her hands, almost as if she is telling herself she will soon have very little of anything that's left of Him, knowing in her heart, His future destiny)

My Son, Your Son,  
Love's perfect plan  
This Son, Your one Son,  
God's gift to man

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act I

Scene 7

(MARY has exited upstage left.  
Spotlight comes up on LUKE  
basically stage left.)

LUKE

In those days, John the Baptist came and preached in the Desert of Judea. John's clothes were made from camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around him. He ate locusts and wild honey. People went out to hear him from Jerusalem and all across Judea and the entire region of the Jordan. They would confess their sins to John, and he would baptize them in the Jordan River. John was the one who was described by the prophet Isaiah as a voice calling out from the desert.

(JOHN the BAPTIST is center stage and is baptizing people. Refer to video record to recreate this scene and imagery rather than work in water. There are PHARISEES nearby watching what JOHN the BAPTIST is up to. John can begin speaking immediately or after his first baptism.)

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Prepare ye the way of the Lord, and make His paths straight.

(As JOHN the BAPTIST preaches to the people, the PHARISEES, one stage left and the others stage right begin to heckle him.)

PHARISEE 1

If you're not the Christ, or Elijah, or a Prophet . . . why do you baptize?

PHARISEE 2

Who gives you the right? By what authority?

JOHN the BAPTIST

You brood of snakes! Who warned you to run from the coming wrath? Produce fruit worthy of repentance. And don't think you can say, "We have Abraham for our father." For I tell

you, that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is laid at the root of the tree, and every tree that fails to produce good fruit, will be cut down and cast into the fire.

(JOHN turns to continue his work baptizing people as he speaks his next few lines.)

I baptize you with water unto repentance. But among you stands one you don't know. He comes after me. And I am unworthy to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

(JOHN the BAPTIST moves downstage center as he begins singing his song out toward the audience. The PHARISEES can be seen leaving in disgust stage right and stage left.)

(SONG 5: Behold the Lamb)  
(Sung by John the Baptist.)

Behold the Lamb,  
the Lamb of God,  
behold the great I Am  
Behold the Lamb,  
the Lamb of God,  
behold the great I Am

(JOHN the BAPTIST moves back toward center stage and motions for another person to come to him for baptism and continues to sing his song. He will be able to baptize about two more people.)

He comes in humble glory,  
He comes to tell the story  
Of grace and truth,  
teaching us to trust  
The Lamb of God,  
the sacrifice for us

(JOHN the BAPTIST now moves back toward downstage toward the audience to sing. The surrounding crowd now adds their chorus parts to the song.)

Behold the Lamb,  
the Lamb of God,  
behold the great I Am  
Behold the Lamb,  
the Lamb of God,  
behold the great I Am

(JOHN the BAPTIST now moves back up toward center stage toward the people. He baptizes two more people.)

His pure and Holy Spirit,  
what joy to just be near it  
His power can cleanse  
and save the soul within  
The Lamb of God,  
Who takes away our sin

(Now, JOHN the BAPTIST turns back toward the audience to finish singing the song and moves downstage center. The chorus continues to sing with him. JESUS is now seen for the first-time off stage coming up past the audience and entering up onto the stage from downstage right. JESUS slowly makes his way toward JOHN the BAPTIST who will meet JESUS near center stage as JOHN the BAPTIST finishes his song.)

Behold the Lamb,  
the Lamb of God, (the lamb of God)  
Behold the great I Am

(During the applause after the song JOHN the BAPTIST should drop to his knees before JESUS and bow his head. After a few moments, and when the applause is now silence, JESUS leans down to address JOHN the BAPTIST who looks up as JESUS Speaks to him.)

JESUS  
I'm here to be baptized by you.

(JOHN the BAPTIST immediately jumps up and clings to JESUS in shock. He looks JESUS directly in the face.) )

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I need to be baptized by you, and you would come to me?

JESUS

Permit this. For by doing this we will fulfill all righteousness.

(John carefully baptizes Jesus.  
After the baptism there is a short  
pause, and then, we hear the lone voice  
of God the Father. As the voice begins  
the crowd gathered around them falls  
to their knees and some stare into the sky.)

GOD'S VOICE

"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

## Act I

### Scene 8

(Spotlight comes up on LUKE  
who is downstage right.)

LUKE

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, to be  
tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and  
forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter . . . came to him.

(Spotlight fades down on  
LUKE. As the first ominous notes  
of the song begin to play,  
the stage is suddenly  
dimly lit up with people  
representing a group of  
angels that are far away  
from the DEVIL and JESUS but  
easily seen stage left and  
stage right. JESUS falls facedown  
center stage.

(You might choose here  
to recreate the choreography  
seen on the video record  
which would take place  
upstage center behind JESUS  
and the DEVIL.)

As JESUS falls to his face  
center stage, **The DEVIL enters  
in from stage right.**

The DEVIL is dressed  
in an all-black cloak, with a  
hood draped over his head.  
As the song begins, the DEVIL  
moves in closer to hover around  
and over the back of JESUS.

**The DEVIL circles around JESUS  
who is face down in prayer.)**

(The angels do not have to be  
the lead singers, the voices can  
be sung from offstage BUT please  
use males as leads for this song.)

(SONG 6: The Devil's in the Wilderness)  
(Sung by the Angels.)

Take liberty here to  
create as sinister a  
character as possible  
with Satan. You  
might have him  
wear special glasses  
that glow red  
whenever he faces  
the audience to  
create a very  
frightening look.  
Use your  
imagination here. If  
that seems cheesy,  
then just follow  
your heart, but make  
the Devil as sinister  
looking as possible.  
Creating an evil  
looking character is  
the final goal here.

**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**Angel 1 alone** (ooooh you better watch out brother)  
**Angel 1 and 2** 'cause the Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**Angel 1 alone** (and he's lookin' for you brother)  
**Angel 1 and 2** 'cause he knows when you are weak,  
**Angel 1 and 2** he knows when you're worn  
**Angel 1 and 2** He's wanted you to die  
**Angel 1 and 2** since the day you were born  
**Angel 1 and 2** He wants you to think  
**Angel 1 and 2** you can do this on your own  
**Angel 1 and 2** And he just can't wait  
**Angel 1 and 2** to get you alone, 'cause he's  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,

(The Devil drops down over the  
head of JESUS caressing his shoulder  
but Jesus appears unaffected as  
he looks upward now toward the  
heavens feeling exhausted.)

**Angel 1 and 2** and the Devil's in the wilderness  
**Angel 1 alone** (you better watch out brother)  
**Angel 1 and 2** 'cause the Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**Angel 1 alone** (and he's lookin' for you brother)

(The Devil moves around to the  
other side of JESUS but JESUS  
turns away (refer to video record)  
JESUS folds his hands in bowed  
prayer as the DEVIL begins to walk  
downstage center.)

**Angel 1 and 2** He's a snake, he's a thief,  
**Angel 1 and 2** who loves to intrude  
**Angel 1 and 2** He's a hungry lion  
**Angel 1 and 2** who's lookin' for food  
**Angel 1 and 2** He dresses like an angel,  
**Angel 1 and 2** but don't hold your breath  
**Angel 1 and 2** Cause if you look close  
**Angel 1 and 2** he's the angel of death, 'cause he's

(The DEVIL bows down and pops  
his head up to stare at the  
audience (refer to video record).)

**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** and the Devil's in the wilderness

(The DEVIL starts walking to  
center stage and around JESUS.  
JESUS now stands straight up.)

**Angel 1 alone** (ooooh you better watch out brother)  
**Angel 1 and 2** 'cause the Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness

(The DEVIL reaches down and  
picks up a stone and presents  
it to JESUS.)

**THE DEVIL** (I know you're hungry,  
**THE DEVIL** turn this stone to bread)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness

(Jesus merely turns his head  
and responds strongly to  
the DEVIL.)

**JESUS** (Man does not live by bread alone)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**JESUS** (But by every word  
**JESUS** from the mouth of God)

(JESUS shows no fear at the  
temptations the DEVIL is offering)  
(Refer to video record for the  
rest of the blocking instructions.)

**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**THE DEVIL** (Jump off, God will protect You)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**JESUS** (It is written,  
**JESUS** don't test the Lord your God)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**THE DEVIL** (All this is yours,  
**THE DEVIL** if you bow down to me)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness

**JESUS** (I worship and serve the Lord My God)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**THE DEVIL** (I will be back)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness

(JESUS steps toward the  
DEVIL and immediately the  
DEVIL is repelled as JESUS  
Approaches him.)

**JESUS** (And I will be ready)  
**Angel 1 and 2** The Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**Angel 1 alone** (oooh you better watch out brother)

(JESUS falls down to his knees and  
then bows his head in complete  
exhaustion.)(refer to video record)

**Angel 1 and 2** 'cause the Devil,  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness (softer)  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness (softer)  
**Angel 1 and 2** the Devil's in the wilderness (softer)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act I

Scene 9

(Spotlight fades up on LUKE  
who is standing downstage right.)

LUKE

Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began  
his ministry.

(The spotlight stays up on LUKE.  
The lights come up center stage  
on JESUS who walks downstage center.)

LUKE

Going into Capernaum on the Sabbath, he began to teach in  
their synagogue.

(JESUS is now downstage center  
and speaking out toward the  
audience.)

JESUS

The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good  
news!

(Entering in from offstage near  
the audience and walking up onto  
the stage to downstage right are PETER  
and ANDREW holding fishing nets.  
They get to near downstage center  
as JESUS addresses them both.)

Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

(JESUS turns to his left. JAMES  
and JOHN have entered from offstage  
and come up onto downstage left.  
JESUS now addresses them also.)

Follow me . . . and I'll make you fishers of men.

(All the men drop their nets.  
Spotlight down on LUKE as  
LUKE exits stage right as the  
others move together and meet with  
JESUS who sits down between them

far downstage center. Before  
the disciples are even seated  
JESUS starts speaking to them all.)

JESUS

You have heard it said to the people long ago, "Do not murder, because murderers will be subject to judgment." But I say, anyone angry with his brother will be in danger of the same judgment.

(The disciples need to be showing subtle reactions to everything He is teaching because they are hearing this kind of wisdom for the very first time.)

You have heard, "Do not commit adultery." But I tell you, anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. You have heard, "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy."

(Here the crowd needs to agree in unison when JESUS tells them to hate their enemy, and then look rather shocked when He encourages them to love their enemies.)

But I tell you the truth, love your enemy. And pray for your persecutors, so you will be called sons of your Father who is in heaven. He makes the sun rise on the evil and the good. He makes it rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

(JESUS should pause here as if to let them know that what He is about to tell them is of most importance. He might even look at one person directly as he appeals to their understanding.)

If you love those who love you, what's the reward in that? Isn't that what the tax collectors do? And if you greet

just your brothers, what are you doing more than the others? Don't the Gentiles do the same thing? Therefore, I ask you to be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.

(There are glances exchanged among the disciples as if to express that these are powerful words they have been hearing. Spotlight immediately fades up on LUKE downstage right.)

LUKE

All the people were amazed at his teachings, because he taught as one who had a spirit of authority, unlike the teachers of the law.

(LUKE starts to walk toward center stage behind the group and works his way to center stage as JESUS and the 4 disciples go from center stage to downstage right, and then move up to upstage right as LUKE finishes speaking.)  
(Refer to video record.)

Jesus then went throughout the entire region, healing many who had diseases.

(Stage lights come up upstage right as JESUS approaches the first group of people gathered upstage right. The other groups are in the shadows standing very still and waiting. Some PHARISEES have entered on both sides watching JESUS. They enter from stage left and stage right.)  
(Refer to video record)

CROWD

(Crowd yells out various words but in unison desperately seeking help from JESUS) Jesus! Jesus! Help us. He's unclean! Help!

(Leper gets down on his knees before JESUS begging.)

LEPER

Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.

JESUS

I am willing. Be clean!

(There is a way to have the arm of the leper be seen as diseased and then within a moment the man moves toward the crowd, and as he turns back to the audience his arm is completely restored. Refer to video record and notes at the end of the script.)

LEPER

It's a miracle! I'm clean! (Crowd banter here also)

(The leper celebrates with his friends and family as JESUS moves more center stage to the next group of people clamoring for his help. More lights come up to show the next group.) Refer to video record and notes at the end of the script.)

CROWD

(Crowd yells out various words but in unison desperately seeking help from JESUS) Help us. She's paralyzed! Help!

(JESUS leans down to hold the hand of a paralyzed woman who is sitting on a mat staring up at JESUS.)

JESUS

Daughter, your sins are forgiven.

(One of the PHARISEES is shaking his head in disgust.)

PHARISEE 1

Why does this fellow talk like that?

(Another PHARISEE adds his opinion)

PHARISEE 2

He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?

(JESUS addresses the PHARISEES.)

JESUS

Which is easier? To say to someone paralyzed, "Your sins are forgiven?" Or would it be easier if I said, "Get up, take your mat and walk?"

(JESUS now looks straight at the PHARISEES and speaks.)

So that you will know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . . I say to you . . .

(JESUS is now looking straight down at the paralyzed woman.)

Get up . . . take your mat and walk home.

(The woman gets up and leaps to her feet, loudly praising God!)

WOMAN IN CROWD

I can walk . . . I can walk . . . Oh thank you!!! (Crowd adds additional words) (We've never seen anything like this! It's a miracle!)

(JESUS moves further toward stage left to the next group. There a woman sitting down who Has a shriveled hand.)

JESUS

Stand up in front of everyone.

(As the woman rises, JESUS directs his question to the whole crowd including the PHARISEES.)

Which is lawful on the Sabbath? To do good, or to do evil? To save life, or to kill?"

(They remain silent.)  
After a good pause JESUS speaks)

Stretch out your hand.

(Jesus covers the woman's hand  
in his own hand and breathes a  
sigh. The lights dim onstage as  
if there has been power gone  
out from JESUS body to hers  
and immediately heals her hand.  
The crowd cries out in amazement)

WOMAN IN CROWD

I'm healed!! Oh thank you! (Crowd yells additional words)  
(How is it possible! She's healed! It's a miracle!)

(JESUS moves further stage left  
to the last group of people.  
A woman who is standing, but  
bent completely over comes  
from out of the crowd and  
approaches JESUS with her  
arm straight out almost  
as if she wants to touch  
Him. JESUS places his arm  
On her shoulder.)

JESUS

Woman, I am setting you free from your infirmity.

(The woman is healed.  
She straightens up and  
starts praising God. The crowd  
standing beside her begin to  
celebrate wildly. She then  
raises her hands in joyful gestures.  
One of the PHARISEES steps forward  
and shouts at the crowd.)

PHARISEE 1

There are six days allowed for work.

PHARISEE 2

Let her come and be healed on those days, but not on the  
Sabbath.

(JESUS almost cuts him off  
on the word Sabbath.)

JESUS

You hypocrites!

(JESUS is now walking further to center stage and addresses the PHARISEES who are being critical.)

Don't each of you go out on the Sabbath and untie your ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to water?

(JESUS gestures toward the woman still praising God and celebrating with Her family and friends.)

So then why shouldn't this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept tied up these eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?

(Immediately JOHN'S disciple comes running in from stage left and goes directly up to JESUS.)

JOHN THE BAPTIST'S DISCIPLE

John is in prison. He sent us to ask you.

(The PHARISEES exit stage left and stage right.)

Are you the one we should look for . . . or should we find another?

(Jesus looks directly at JOHN'S disciple and speaks.)

JESUS

Go back and tell John, the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cured, the deaf hear, and the dead are raised.

(As JESUS speaks the crowd grows More and more excited to hear His words. The crowd moves toward Him surrounding Him and touching Him.)

Blessed is the man who does not stumble because of me.

(The first few notes of the song intro start and people are celebrating and mingling with Jesus together.)

(The opening 2 singers have  
moved far downstage left and  
right to start to sing the song.)  
(Refer to video record please.)

(SONG 7: The Miracle of Love)  
(Sung by the People.)

There's pain all around  
in both young and old  
Nothing is healed  
by silver and gold  
We are so weak,  
we are so frail  
Made of flesh  
so easy to fail  
Save us Lord  
we need Your Spirit  
Speak the Word  
we long to hear it  
Who is God  
to come visit man  
We need mercy  
by Your hand  
To heal the child who is dying,  
to wipe the tears of a mother's crying  
He came to earth  
and brought power from above  
It's the miracle of Love  
(The Miracle of love)  
It's the miracle of Love  
This world was once  
a Paradise  
Then sin came in  
and killed us twice  
Brought death to man,  
death to his soul  
Before man fell  
there was no getting old  
But now we fight  
for every breath  
We long for someone  
to conquer death  
It steals our joy,  
it's our darkest hour  
So show us Lord,  
That you have the power  
To heal the child

who is dying,  
to wipe the tears  
of a mother's crying  
He came to earth  
and brought power from above  
It's the miracle of Love  
(The Miracle of love)  
It's the miracle of Love  
To heal the child who is dying,  
to wipe the tears of a mother's crying  
He came to earth  
and brought power from above  
It's the miracle of Love  
(The Miracle of love)  
It's the miracle of Love  
(The Miracle of love)

(JESUS makes his way up through the crowd of singers as the last words are being sung in a climax. He ends up all the way downstage center on the last few notes to the end. (Refer to video record)

It's the miracle  
(The Miracle)  
The Miracle of Love

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

**Act I**

**Scene 10**

(LUKE enters stage right and sits down on the step back by the Temple stage right as the crowd begins to gather. JESUS now turns back to face the smiling and happy crowd and starts to announce the names of His chosen 12 disciples.)

JESUS

You are Simon son of John. You will be called Peter.

Center and be seated together. The 12 he chooses should be standing fairly close together stage right as JESUS walks over and addresses each one of them by name.)  
(Refer to video record)

You are Andrew. You are James and John. You will be called the "Son's of Thunder".

(The crowd around them takes a seat nearby stage right, stage left and stage center as the disciples continue to walk to their places downstage center and are seated together as JESUS continues to call them by their names.)

Philip. Bartholomew. Matthew. Thomas. James. Thaddaeus. Simon. Judas.

(The disciples are now sitting downstage center together and JESUS walks down to them and bends down slightly to address them for the first time as a group.)

I have chosen you twelve to preach the Kingdom of God and to have authority to cast out demons. I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore . . .

(JESUS goes down to one knee)

Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.

(JESUS now stands up and moves from center stage toward stage left and addresses the crowd and His 12 disciples.)

Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess him to my Father in heaven. But whoever denies me before men, I will also deny him before my Father in heaven.

(James and John start talking to each other almost not paying attention to JESUS. They are asking each other in secret who might be the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven)

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake, will find it.

(JOHN throws his hand into the air and yells out to JESUS.)

JOHN

Lord, who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

(JESUS pauses and looks at JOHN as if He knows what they've been talking about. He heaves a little sigh here, then turns right toward stage center to address the crowd that is seated all around him.)  
(Refer to video record)

JESUS

Jacob, come here please.

(A young 6 to 7-year-old boy comes running up and

stands to the right of JESUS.  
JESUS goes down again to one  
knee and looks over to the 12  
disciples.)

I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like  
this little child, you'll never enter the kingdom of  
heaven. Therefore, humble yourselves, like this child and  
you will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Make  
sure you don't look down on one of these little ones  
because their angels in heaven always see the face of my  
Father.

(JACOB returns to the crowd and  
sits down and JESUS stands up.  
JESUS starts to walk upstage left.  
PETER has been arguing with  
ANDREW quietly and suddenly he  
bursts out a question.)

PETER

Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he  
sins against me? Up to seven times?

(PETER asks this, as if  
seven times is a lot, and he  
would be surprised if JESUS  
said yes.)

JESUS

(Jesus chuckling a bit along with the crowd says) OH Noooo  
Peter not seven times . . . (good pause)

(Jesus starts to move away from  
PETER. Even further upstage right  
To sing the next song.  
PETER is reacting to his fellow  
disciples rather smugly as he  
turns to look at ANDREW  
as if to say, "I told you so."  
JESUS turns back suddenly and  
finishes His teaching.)

. . . but seventy times, seven times.

(Peter's head shoots around  
in complete shock from what  
he has just heard.

JESUS is all the way upstage  
right standing on a wall  
as He begins to sing  
to both the disciples and the  
crowd.)

**NOTE: This song is to be performed  
in sign language and can be taught  
by simply watching the way it was  
done on the video record, or taught  
by someone you bring in to teach the  
proper signs that go with the words.  
JESUS begins signing, and the disciples  
learn it next, and finally the crowd will  
sign the rest of the song together.)  
(Refer to video record)**

(SONG 8: Blessed)  
(Sung by Jesus.)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for heaven is their home  
Blessed are the ones who mourn,  
you'll never be alone  
Blessed are the gentle hearts,  
the earth is in their will  
Hunger and thirst for what is right  
and you shall have your fill

(The disciples are watching closely  
as JESUS signs the song and they  
start to move their hands as if the  
are trying to understand what He's doing)

Blessed are the merciful,  
it's mercy you'll receive  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
it's God you'll get to see  
Blessed is the child of peace,  
you will be called God's Son  
To those who are hurt for doing right,  
it's heaven you'll have won

(All the disciples except PETER, ANDREW,  
JAMES and JOHN get up and start mingling  
amongst the crowd seated. They are NOT  
signing the song . . . yet.)

You are the salt of the earth,  
the light of the world among men  
Good deeds will shine like the sun,  
and praise Him again and again

(The disciples are now signing along  
with JESUS.)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for heaven is their home  
Blessed are the ones who mourn,  
you'll never be alone

(PETER, ANDREW, JAMES and JOHN get  
up and now join the other disciples  
and are now signing along with JESUS.)

Blessed are the gentle hearts,  
the earth is in their will  
Hunger and thirst for what is right  
and you shall have your fill  
Blessed are the merciful,  
it's mercy you'll receive  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
it's God you'll get to see

(The disciples are now pulling the  
crowd slowly to their feet and some  
in the crowd join them in signing.)

Blessed is the child of peace,  
you will be called God's Son  
To those who are hurt for doing right,  
it's heaven you'll have won

(The whole crowd is now signing the  
song together and spreads out all  
across the stage.)(Refer to video record)

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for heaven is our home  
Blessed are the ones who mourn,  
we'll never be alone  
Blessed are the gentle hearts,  
the earth is in our will

(JESUS moves across the back wall

and goes to upstage center.)

Hunger and thirst for what is right  
and we shall have our fill  
Blessed are the merciful,  
it's mercy we'll receive  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
it's God we'll get to see  
Blessed is the child of peace,  
they will be called God's Sons  
To those who are hurt for doing right,  
it's heaven we'll have won  
Blessed are the ones who  
follow the Lord

(The whole crowd in unison turns on  
the last note and stares at JESUS.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act I

Scene 11

(LUKE stands up in spotlight as JESUS moves from upstage center to stage right and then walks to downstage center to look out over the audience to speak.)  
(refer to video record)

LUKE

After Jesus had finished teaching his twelve disciples, he moved on. He went throughout the entire region teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news.

(JESUS walks all the way downstage center with arms lifted up in the air.)

JESUS

I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and educated . . .

(JESUS looks back quickly at the crowd of people and chuckles then looks out again over the audience.)

. . . and given them to little children.

(Now JESUS looks out over all the audience with compassion.)

Come to me, all of you who are tired and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

(JESUS pauses slightly for just a moment, and then turns back around toward the people some who are sitting and many who are also standing and proceeds to tell a parable. He walks toward upstage center and then over to stage right to speak to a small group seated.)

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the trail, and the birds came and ate it up.

(JESUS now moves to another group  
that are seated over to his left (CS)  
and walks over to them still teaching)

Some fell on the rocks, with very little soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

(JESUS now moves to another group  
that are seated over to his left again  
(UL) and walks up to them still teaching)

Some seeds fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

(JESUS now moves to the last group  
that are seated over to his left (SL)  
and walks over to them still teaching.  
He leans down as He addresses them.)

Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop of a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was planted.

(JESUS now moves away and starts to  
walk all the way across the stage to  
stage right and sits down by PETER.)

He who has ears, let him hear.

(As the crowd begins to  
talk amongst themselves,  
they seem puzzled and curious.)

PETER

Lord, why do you speak to the people in parables?

JESUS

The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you . . .

(JESUS looks to his left for a second)

. . . but not to them.

(JESUS pauses for a moment and then starts to retell the meaning of the parable.)

Listen then to what the parable of the sower means.

(The disciples listen carefully as JESUS explains the parable to them.)

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it . . .

(JESUS rises again and begins to speak to the same group he started telling the parable to the first time.)  
(Refer to video record)

. . . the evil one comes and steals away what was planted in his heart. This is the seed sown along the trail. The one who received the seed that fell on the rocks is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trials or persecutions comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of riches choke it, making it unfruitful. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was planted.

(JESUS is now moving to center stage)

Peter . . . have you understood all these things?

(PETER has already risen from stage right and is moving to center stage to meet JESUS)

PETER

Yes Lord.

(As soon as Peter says the words "Yes Lord" he breaks right into the song. All the apostles contribute

to the singing of this song.)  
(Refer to video record  
for the rest of the blocking.)

(SONG 9: Parables)  
(Sung by Peter, and the Disciples.)

We understand  
what you allow us to see  
We comprehend  
what was a deep mystery  
We learn from you  
all the truths about life  
You have opened our eyes  
from the darkness to the light  
You teach in Parables, (Parables)  
lessons from the Spirit  
You teach in Parables, (Parables)  
so a good man's heart will hear it  
For the meaning of life (LIFE!)  
is what our hearts have yearned  
By Parables the Master helps us learn  
Bring Him a child,

Disciple 1

(Someone from brings JESUS  
a child. JESUS mouths some  
words silently to the group.)

He shows us how to be great

Disciple 1            Bring Him a candle,

(Someone from among them  
brings JESUS a candle.  
JESUS mouths some words  
silently to the group.)

He warns us not to be late

Disciple 1            Bring Him a coin,

(Someone from among them  
brings JESUS a coin.  
JESUS mouths some words  
silently to the group.)

we learn about lost and found

Disciple 1                      Bring Him a seed,

(Someone from among them  
brings JESUS a seed.  
JESUS mouths some words  
silently to the group.)

ALL SING

we learn our heart can be good ground  
You teach in Parables, (Parables)  
lessons from the Spirit  
You teach in Parables, (Parables)  
so a good man's heart will hear it  
For the meaning of life (LIFE!)  
is what our hearts have yearned  
By Parables the Master helps us learn  
You teach in Parables, (Parables)  
lessons from the Spirit  
You teach in Parables, (Parables)  
so a good man's heart will hear it  
For the meaning of life (LIFE!)  
is what our hearts have yearned  
By Parables the Master helps us learn  
By Parables the Master helps us learn  
(Big finish)

(As the song finishes, PETER and  
JESUS are center stage and as  
the applause starts, they give  
each other a big hug. Half the crowd  
exits stage left with JESUS and half  
exit stage right. The stage lights  
are still up full. LUKE will walk  
in from stage right.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act I

Scene 12

(LUKE walks in from stage right.)

LUKE

When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on . . . and coming to his hometown, he began to teach in their synagogues. And all were amazed.

(The spotlight fades on LUKE. Three woman are standing upstage right speaking out loud. There are also a few people whispering stage left. JESUS has entered from stage left and is headed toward the three women speaking stage right and can hear their questions.)

WOMAN 1

Isn't this the carpenter's son?

WOMAN 2

Isn't his mother Mary? And aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?

WOMAN 3

Aren't all his sisters with us? Where did this man get his wisdom and power?"

(JESUS pauses after the last question and stares at the three ladies that are asking questions. He is standing near them (SR).)

JESUS

Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor. I will not do many miracles here because of your lack of faith.

(The ladies look at JESUS for a moment and then turn and exit somewhat disgusted stage right. JESUS turns to his left and walks toward center stage when a CENTURION enters (SL)

and confronts JESUS loudly.)

CENTURION

Jesus, Jesus . . .

(JESUS stops in his tracks  
as the CENTURION stops about  
20 feet away from JESUS.)

I've heard of all the good things you've been doing and  
I've come to you with a request. My servant is very ill,  
and near death. He lies at home in terrible pain. He needs  
your help. I don't consider myself worthy to even come to  
you, but . . . I know you can save him.

(JESUS nods his head and says . . .)

JESUS

I will come with you.

(JESUS takes a step toward the  
CENTURION and the CENTURION  
Thrusts out his hand to stop  
JESUS from advancing.)

CENTURION

That's not necessary Lord.

(Follow the blocking for the  
CENTURION as seen in the  
video record.)

(SONG 10: Just Say the Word)  
(Sung by the Centurion.)

Just say the word, just say the word  
You are the Lord, you have the power  
Just say the word, just say the word  
My friend will live this very hour  
No need to come into my home,  
I am not worthy to have you there  
I don't deserve, so say the word,  
just say the word  
Just say the word, just speak it now  
It will be done just as you say  
I'm just a man, but I have power  
My slaves do everything I say  
So say the word and heal my friend,

I know you care and I have heard  
That you are God, and you can heal,  
just say the word  
Just say the word, just say the word  
You are the Lord You have the power  
Just say the word, just say the word  
My friend will live this very hour  
I know that others need to see,  
but I believe what I have heard  
That you are God, and you can heal,  
just say the word  
I know that others need to see,  
but I believe what I have heard  
That you are God,  
That you can heal,  
Just say the word

(JESUS grabs the CENTURION  
by the shoulders and shakes his head  
as if to say, "Yes I am pleased"  
and then speaks directly to the  
CENTURION.)

JESUS

I tell you the truth . . . I have not found anyone in all  
of Israel with such great faith.

(He gets very close to the  
CENTURION and says to him.)

Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.

(The CENTURION smiles at JESUS  
pauses for just a moment and  
then rushes offstage stage left.)  
JESUS is standing all along (CS)  
just as a PHARISEE traveling  
behind enters stage from right  
and yells toward JESUS.)

PHARISEE

Ahhh, Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you!

(JESUS turns and rebukes  
the PHARISEES immediately.)

JESUS

A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But the only sign you'll get is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a great fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

(JESUS continues his rebuke of the PHARISEES.)

Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. Woe to you Pharisees, because you love the most important seats in the synagogues and greetings in the marketplaces. Woe to you, because you are like unmarked graves, which men walk over without knowing it.

(The PHARISEES lift their proud heads as if they could not care.)

LAWYER

Teacher, when you say these things, you insult the experts in the law.

(JESUS immediately turns His head and walks over to the PHARISEE who has spoken to JESUS.)

JESUS

And woe to them, those experts in the law, woe to them, because they load people down with burdens they can hardly carry, but you won't lift one finger to help them.

(Suddenly, some people enter from stage right with a woman who was caught in adultery. She is screaming for mercy.)

ADULTEROUS WOMAN

Noooo . . . no, please, nooooooo . . . .

The PHARISEES thrust her down to the ground center stage near the feet of JESUS.)

PHARISEE 1

Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. In the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now, what do you say?

(The crowd subtly leans in toward JESUS as if they really want to hear His response. Jesus pauses, shakes his head very slightly back and forth. Then He bends down and starts to write on the ground with his finger. The next questions are being asked at the same time talking over one another hoping that Jesus will respond)

PHARISEE 2

Tell us what you would do.

PHARISEE 1

It's in the law. She's guilty of adultery.

(When they keep on questioning him, he waits for silence and then speaks to them.)

JESUS

If any one of you is without sin . . . let him be the first one to throw a stone at her.

(He stays down, and continues to write on the ground again. They wait for quite a long time gazing at what JESUS is writing on the ground. The people in the crowd one by one drop their stones and exit stage right with the PHARISEES until only JESUS and the ADULTEROUS WOMAN are left onstage alone. Jesus straightens up to His feet, then walks over to around her and above her and then bends down to her and carefully touches her shoulder. He asks her a simple question.)

JESUS

Woman, where are your accusers? Has no one condemned you?

ADULTEROUS WOMAN

No one, sir.

JESUS

Then neither do I condemn you. Go . . . and leave your life of sin.

(JESUS and the ADULTEROUS WOMAN embrace as she falls into his arms in tears of gratitude. They slowly and exit together stage left.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act I

Scene 13

(Spotlight comes up on LUKE who has entered from downstage right. The stage is now dimly lit up.)

LUKE

Jesus then went throughout the whole of Galilee, healing many who had diseases. And teaching in their synagogues. Preaching the good news of the Kingdom. And the report about him spread throughout all of Syria.

(The BLIND MAN is led onto the stage by a friend who enters with him from stage left. They move to far downstage left.)

And they brought him all those who were suffering with different ailments and torments, those who were demon-possessed and epileptic and paralyzed, and he cured them. One day, as Jesus went along . . .

(JESUS now enters from stage left and moves slightly toward downstage left where the two men are standing. The BLIND MAN now goes to the ground and is seated.)

he came to a man who'd been born blind.

(The spotlight goes down on LUKE. Stage lights come up slightly on JESUS and the two men as JESUS is greeted by the BLIND MAN'S friend who asks JESUS a question.)

DISCIPLE

Rabbi, who sinned . . . this man or his parents . . . that he was born blind?

JESUS

Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This happened so that God's glory could be displayed through him. While I am in the world . . . I am the light of the world.

(The entire stage immediately goes

to total darkness. The faster this occurs the better so you create an illusion of blindness and shock the crowd if possible into thinking about what it would be like to be able to see . . . nothing.

The first note is played immediately as the blackout happens and the BLIND MAN begins his song. The stage and auditorium should remain completely in the dark until the next verse starts with the words, "I long to see the stars.")

(SONG 11: Let Me See the Light)  
(Sung by the Blind Man.)

All my life I've heard of  
something called the light  
And all my life they tell me  
of darkness and the night  
I know not what they mean,  
I know not what they say  
All I know is what I see  
Is nothing every day  
Oh please open my eyes  
And let me see the light  
I hear that there are colors  
And there is beauty within sight  
If there is only one thing  
That you might give to me  
Let me see the light

(The stage lights can come up now ever so slowly as if to indicate that the light is coming. But only about a third of the way. The stage needs to remain dimly lit until his sight has been restored.)

I long to see the stars  
and the face upon the moon

(The BLIND MAN rises to his feet and JESUS and the BLIND MAN'S friend move Downstage left to be beside the BLIND MAN.)

To gaze upon a sunset  
and the flowers when they bloom

To understand a rainbow  
And view the paths I've trod

(JESUS reaches out and touches  
the right shoulder of the BLIND MAN  
and pulls him in toward him.)

To stare into a baby's eyes  
and see the face of God  
When people walk in darkness they  
stumble and they fall  
Even those who see,  
it happens to us all  
But if I could see like others,  
I promise this I'll do  
Walk within your spirit,  
and lead them all to you

(JESUS now leaves the side of the  
BLIND MAN and leans down to the ground  
preparing the mud in his hands that  
He will soon rub onto the BLIND MAN'S eyes.)

Oh please open my eyes  
And let me see the light  
I hear that there are colors  
And there is beauty within sight  
If there is only one thing  
That you might give to me  
Let me see the light

(JESUS stand back up and returns to  
the side of the BLIND MAN and places  
His hand back onto his shoulder.)

If there is only one thing  
That you might give to me  
Let me see the light

(The BLIND MAN turns toward JESUS  
and falls into His embrace weeping.)  
As the applause dies down, JESUS  
reaches up toward the BLIND MAN and  
while holding onto the back of his  
neck, rubs mud on his eyes.)

JESUS

Go . . . and wash in the Pool of Siloam.

(The spotlight comes up immediately on LUKE downstage right. The BLIND MAN and his friend head from downstage left to downstage center as JESUS moves near upstage left, and then turns to watch.)

LUKE

So . . . the man went . . . and washed his eyes in the Pool of Siloam . . . and . . .

(The BLIND MAN dips his hands down into an illusion of water and wipes it away from his eyes.)  
**(STAGE LIGHTS IMMEDIATELY UP FULL)**

BLIND MAN

I can see!!! . . . I can see!!!!

The BLIND MAN is leaping up and down and kissing his friend as they hug each other. They turn and head to upstage center where people and friends have entered from stage left to see him, while JESUS exits stage left.)

LUKE

He came home seeing.

(The PHARISEES enter from upstage right and walk toward upstage center.)

All the people were amazed. And they asked themselves could this be the same man we have seen begging every day. Some said that he was. Others said that he only looked like the man . . . but he himself said . . .

(The blind man should speak his line immediately as LUKE finishes his line.)

BLIND MAN

I am the man.

(Spotlight down on LUKE.  
LUKE exits stage right)

WOMAN

How were your eyes opened?

BLIND MAN

The man they call Jesus put mud on my eyes. And told me to go wash in Siloam. So I went and I washed . . . and . . . . now I can see!!!

MAN IN CROWD

Where is this man?

BLIND MAN

I don't know.

PHARISEE 1

Tell me again how you received your sight?

BLIND MAN

He put mud on my eyes. Then I went and washed . . . and, now I can see!!!!

PHARISEE 2

Surely this man cannot be from God, for he did this work on the Sabbath.

MAN IN CROWD

A sinner could not perform such a miracle, but, what do you say of him?

BLIND MAN

He's a prophet.

PHARISEE

Where are his parents?

PARENTS

We are here.

(His parents rush in across the stage from upstage right to upstage center and embrace him with great joy!! Everyone is gathered upstage center now.)

PHARISEE 1

Is this your son? And if he was really born blind, how can he now see?

FATHER OF BLIND MAN

He is our son. And he was born blind. But how he can see or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age. Ask him.

PHARISEE 1

What did he do? How did he make you see?

BLIND MAN

I already told you and you didn't listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to be his disciples too?

(The PHARISEES are livid now  
and scream in the face of the  
BLIND MAN.)

PHARISEE 2

You are this fellow's disciple! We are the disciples of Moses. You have been steeped in sin at birth. How dare you lecture us!!

(JESUS has now entered from upstage  
left and has followers behind Him.  
He walks toward the BLIND MAN.)

JESUS

Do you believe in the son of man?

(The BLIND MAN approaches JESUS  
and they are all now standing  
upstage center.)

BLIND MAN

Tell me who he is, so I may believe in him.

JESUS

You have now seen him. In fact, he is the one standing in front of you.

(Formerly BLIND MAN falls  
immediately to his knees  
in front of JESUS.)

BLIND MAN

Lord, I believe.

(Pharisees move closer to Jesus)

PHARISEE 2

Who are you?

(A PHARISEE walks behind  
and around JESUS almost  
as if he is examining him.)

JESUS

Exactly what I have been claiming to be. When you have  
lifted up the Son of Man, you will know that I am who I  
claim to be.

(A man shouts from the crowd.)

MAN IN CROWD

There are many of us who do believe in you Lord!!!

(The crowd erupts with "YES" and  
emphatic cries of "we believe", etc,  
and JESUS responds walking toward  
them and speaking at them with a  
loud voice.)

JESUS

Truly I tell you . . . if you hold to my teaching, then you  
are my disciples. And you will know the truth, and the  
truth will set you free.

(The PHARISEE now confronts  
JESUS as if looking to  
cause some trouble and as  
he speaks, his fellow  
PHARISEES move down from  
stage left to join him  
near stage center facing  
stage right looking at JESUS.)

PHARISEE 1

We descendants of Abraham. We have never been enslaved by  
anyone. How can you say the truth will set us free?

PHARISEE 2

Are you greater than Abraham? He died, and so did the  
prophets. Who do you think you are?

(JESUS moves center stage and  
is standing between the 2 PHARISEES  
that are questioning Him.)

JESUS

If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, who you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. You do not know him. But I know him. And keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day. He saw it, and was glad.

(These guys are now scoffing at JESUS like He's the biggest fool on the planet. But JESUS is ready for their last attack.)

PHARISEE 1

You are not yet fifty years old . . . and yet you say you have seen Abraham!

JESUS

I tell you the truth . . . before Abraham was born, I am!

(The Pharisees are now so furious that they move toward JESUS intending to do Him harm. But the crowd moves in to stand between the PHARISEES as JESUS slips within the crowd and back through them to exit stage left. The song begins and the people sing directly at the PHARISEES.)  
(Refer to the video record for the rest of the blocking and suggested choreography.)

(SONG 12: Pharisee)  
(Sung by the People.)

There is a song that some people sing  
Just like the Pharisee  
It is a song of jealousy and hate  
Written in the key of hypocrisy  
There is a spirit of envy and strife  
It leads to death and doom  
A spirit looking to steal your heart  
But don't you ever give it any room  
Oh, oh, Pharisee Pharisee  
looking down on others  
Pharisee Pharisee

your religion is pretend  
Pharisee Pharisee  
you love the praise of people  
Practicing all the rules of men  
You love the place of pride and honor  
You sit in Moses' seat  
You love to hear them call you Rabbi  
You love to see the crowds  
down on Market Street  
To keep the law you'll tithe some dill  
But leave a bitter taste  
Neglecting more important things  
That people long to have  
justice, mercy and faith  
Oh, oh, Pharisee Pharisee  
looking down on others  
Pharisee Pharisee  
your religion is pretend  
Pharisee Pharisee  
you love the praise of people  
Practicing all the rules of men  
You're a Pharisee Pharisee  
looking down on others  
You love to quote  
all the rules of men.

(BLACKOUT FRONT STAGE LIGHTS ONLY)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act I

Scene 14

(The back lights onstage remain up. The spotlight fades up on LUKE who has entered from stage right. Martha has left the group that exited the stage after the song PHARISEE and has now wandered over to where her sister Mary is sitting weeping with her Friends and family near the tomb of LAZARUS which is downstage left.)

LUKE

Now there was a man named Lazarus who was sick. He was from Bethany, the same village as Mary and Martha.

(One of the men who came from MARY and MARTHA is downstage left talking to JESUS and telling him about LAZARUS.)

So, Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus.

(The spotlight fades down on LUKE who exits stage right. More stage lights come up. In rushes a man from upstage left all the way across to upstage right where JESUS and some disciples are standing.)

DISCIPLE

Lord, Lord . . . the one you love, Lazarus . . . he's . . . he's sick.

(The man is crying into JESUS arms. JESUS pulls the man away and looks into the man's eyes.)

JESUS

His sickness will not end in death. No. This is for God's glory. So that God's Son may be glorified through it. Come . . . let's go back . . . to Judea.

(JESUS starts to cross the stage  
and THOMAS intercedes.)

THOMAS

Teacher, a short time ago the Jews tried to stone you  
there, and yet you want to go back?

JESUS

Thomas . . . are there not twelve hours in a day? The man  
who walks by day does not stumble, because he sees by this  
world's light. It is the man that walks by night that  
stumbles, because he is shrouded in darkness. Our brother  
Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him  
up.

(JESUS starts to cross the stage  
again and this time PETER intercedes.)

PETER

But Lord if he sleeps, then he'll get better.

(JESUS pauses for a second and  
looks down, and then answers.)

JESUS

Lazarus is dead. And for your sake I'm glad I was not  
there, so that you'll believe. So come, let's go to him.

THOMAS

We'll go with you, even if we die with you.

(The spotlight fades up on LUKE.  
JESUS and the disciples start heading  
over to the where LAZARUS is buried.)

LUKE

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she ran out to  
meet him.

(MARTHA meets JESUS and the  
disciples upstage center.  
MARY, MARTHA'S sister is in  
Front of the tomb with family  
And friends in dim light  
Downstage left.)

MARTHA

Lord, my brother has been in the tomb four days. If you would have been here he would not have died.

(MARTHA falls to her knees in front of JESUS and continues.)

But I know that even now, God will give you whatever you ask.

(JESUS leans down to MARTHA.)

JESUS

Your brother will rise again.

MARTHA

I know he will rise again in the resurrection, on the last day . . .

JESUS

Martha . . .

(JESUS kneels down with MARTHA and starts singing the song by looking right at MARTHA. JESUS can do a myriad of things here with his hands, etc. as He tells the crowd present that He has the ultimate power over death.)  
(Refer to blocking and other actions on recorded video.)

(SONG 13: Life is in My Hands)  
(Sung by Jesus.)

I am the resurrection and the life  
He who believes in me will live  
even though he dies  
I am the one with power over death  
I give permission to man  
for every breath

(As JESUS sings these next words he raises Martha up from the kneeling position they've been in.)

Arise Arise and see this very hour  
Arise Arise this death it has no power  
Even the tomb,  
the tomb hears my commands  
For the gift of life  
Life, is in my hands

(JESUS now starts walking over toward  
LAZARUS tomb downstage left and leans  
down next to MARY who is weeping in  
front of the tomb.)

I am the one who was and is and will be  
Nothing lives or moves or breathes  
except by my decree  
I want you to see  
this death is only sleep  
I will bring joy  
to all of those who weep

(As JESUS sings these next words  
he raises MARY up from the kneeling  
position they've been in.)

Arise Arise and see this very hour  
Arise Arise this death it has no power

(The whole group is now standing.  
JESUS then moves further downstage left  
to sing out toward the audience.)

Even the tomb,  
the tomb hears my commands

(JESUS turns back now to MARTHA.)

For the gift of life  
Life, is in my hands

(JESUS reaches out for MARTHA'S hands  
and holds them in front of Him.)

Even the tomb,  
the tomb hears my commands  
For the gift of life

(JESUS wipes a tear from MARTHA on the word "Life".)

Life, is in my hands  
For the gift of life  
LIFE, is in my hands

(As the song finishes JESUS and MARTHA hug each other tightly. As the applause is dying, LUKE (who has been with the group in the back this whole time) moves back toward center stage. JESUS walks up to the entrance of the tomb and cries out in a loud voice.)

JESUS

Lazarus . . . . come out!

(After a moment of apprehension, Lazarus comes out from the tomb. At first sight of him, they all scream. But JESUS shows no fear.)

JESUS

Lazarus! (laughter)

LAZARUS

Jesus!

(JESUS and LAZARUS embrace.)

JESUS

Take off his grave clothes and let him go!

(The spotlight comes up on LUKE as the entire group is hugging and kissing and rejoicing loudly at the sight of LAZARUS being alive again. (Refer to the video record.)

LUKE

Therefore many of the Jews who had gone to visit Mary and Martha that day, and had seen what Jesus had done, came to believe in Him. (Pause) But some . . . went to the Pharisees and told them what had happened.

Everyone has exited the stage left except for LUKE who has moved downstage center, and JESUS, who is still standing near the empty tomb of LAZARUS. LUKE drops his head for one second and shakes it back and forth in disbelief.)

This man . . . Jesus . . . has just brought a dead man back to life. And what is His reward for this amazing miracle? The Jewish leaders will now . . . plot to kill Him!"

**TOTAL DARKNESS ALL LIGHTS OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY**

**WHEN CURTAIN IS CLOSED HOUSE LIGHTS CAN GO UP FOR**

**INTERMISSION**

# **INTERMISSION**

## Act II

### Scene 1

(The spotlight comes up  
on LUKE who enters alone  
from stage left.)

LUKE

Every day, Jesus was teaching at the temple. But the Pharisees and leaders among the people were trying to convict him.

(Luke crosses over to center stage)

But they couldn't do it. Because the people hung to his every word. One day, a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to have dinner at his house. So, Jesus went and reclined at his table.

(The spotlight stays up  
on LUKE and the stage lights  
come up only on JESUS and a  
group of people reclining  
at a table, downstage right.)

When a woman who had lived a very sinful life, heard that Jesus was at Simon's house, she went to Him, and brought with her an alabaster jar of perfume. The most valuable thing she owned.

(The SINFUL WOMAN enters DR and  
Sits down at JESUS feet, and  
Starts weeping, and her tears are  
wetting his feet. And she is  
wiping His feet with her hair.)

She knelt near Jesus' feet . . . weeping . . . and wet his feet with her tears.

(Spotlight down on LUKE who  
exits in the dark stage right.)  
(SIMON THE PHARISEE looks  
over at JESUS in complete disgust  
as the SINFUL WOMAN continues  
to wipe JESUS feet with her hair.)

SIMON THE PHARISEE

If you were really a prophet, you would know who is touching you. And what kind of woman she is. That woman, is a sinner.

(JESUS looks directly at SIMON.)

JESUS

Simon, I have something to tell you.

SIMON THE PHARISEE

Tell me teacher.

JESUS

Two men owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii. The other, just fifty. Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he canceled the debts of both of them. Now . . . which of these two men will love him more?

SIMON THE PHARISEE

I suppose . . . the one the larger debt.

JESUS

You have judged correctly.

(JESUS turns toward the woman.)

Do you see this woman? I came into your house but you gave me no water for my feet. But she has wet my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.

(JESUS looks back at Simon.)

You gave me no kiss . . . but she has not stopped kissing my feet. You put no oil on my head, but she has put perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins are forgiven . . . because she loved much. But those who have been forgiven little . . . love little.

(JESUS leans forward and touches the woman on her arm and looks directly into the woman's eyes.)

Your sins are forgiven.

(The guests have been carefully watching these events

and when they hear him they  
want to engage JESUS. One of  
The GUESTS speaks out so everyone  
can hear her ask mockingly.)

WOMAN GUEST

Who is this who even forgives sins?

(The group at the table gets  
up and exits downstage right.  
JESUS continues to look straight  
at the SINFUL WOMAN and says.)

JESUS

Your faith has saved you. Go in peace.

(As the song begins she  
looks up at JESUS who is  
sitting down still, waiting  
to see what she will do.)  
(Refer to video record)

(SONG 14: I Am Free)  
(Sung by the Sinful Woman.)

So many nights I have hurt you  
By so many men I have known  
So many names I've forgotten  
Who came and then left me alone

(JESUS pulls His legs toward Him  
and leans in even a bit closer to  
what she is singing to Him.)

Now I've been shown what true love is  
It's more than a soft human touch

(JESUS reaches out and holds her hand  
on the word SOFT and lets it go after  
the word TOUCH.)

With all of the sins I had gathered

(JESUS stand up near here)

How could a man love me this much

(JESUS extends His hand to her

on the word OFFER. She quickly shakes her head slightly saying no.)

To offer mercy to me  
My eyes were blind now they see

(Now JESUS reaches down to her with both hands and pulls her up to a standing position in front of Him.)

How amazing is grace,  
I am cleansed by my faith  
I am saved, I'm forgiven, I am free

(She now embraces JESUS with a genuine hug. Then she continues to sing toward the audience as JESUS slowly moves over to pick up his sandals.)

For so many years I was empty  
Searching for love in the night  
Now my soul is reborn by your power

(JESUS has walked away behind her and now looks back at her before exiting.)

Exposing my heart to the light  
(JESUS is exiting through the door downstage right but stops in the doorway and looks back at her again.)

My body of flesh is your temple  
Redeemed from the pleasures of lust

(JESUS exits completely.)

I will speak of salvation to others  
And in Jesus my spirit will trust  
He offered mercy to me  
My eyes were blind now they see  
How amazing is grace,  
I am cleansed by my faith  
I am saved, I'm forgiven, I am free  
How amazing is grace,  
I am cleansed by my faith  
I am saved, I'm forgiven, I am free  
(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

## Act II

### Scene 2

(The spotlight comes up center stage on LUKE standing in front of the curtain.)

LUKE

Many Jews were at Simon's house that day. They had come not only to see Jesus, but to see Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. Their hearts, had become so hardened by hatred, that they could think of only one solution. They must . . . kill Jesus.

PHARISEE 1

What are we accomplishing? This man is performing many miraculous signs. If we let this go on, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

You don't know what you're talking about! It's better for one man to die for the people, rather than that the whole nation perish.

PHARISEE 1

All I know is he must be stopped now! Even if people believe Him to be the Messiah or a Prophet, we believe Him to be worthy of death!

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

Is blasphemy not worthy of death?

PHARISEE 1

We've all heard His speeches against us and our ways. Blasphemy is indeed punishable by death.

PHARISEE 2

How will we arrest him? If we arrest Jesus during the Feast, there will be a riot. We cannot afford to fail.

PHARISEE 1

We will arrest Him in secret. When he is away from the people.

PHARISEE 2

We should arrest Him at night.

PHARISEE 1

How will we find him at night?

(Judas has entered in from  
upstage left as the members  
have been talking.)

JUDAS

I know how to find him.

(When they hear JUDAS speak  
they become silent. CAIAPHAS  
turns back and toward JUDAS.)

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

And who are you sir?

(JUDAS moves further downstage  
left between the PHARISEES and  
stops next to CAIAPHAS.)

JUDAS

I am Judas Iscariot. I travel with Jesus.

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

Judas Iscariot. How can you help us?

JUDAS

Jesus wastes our money on the poor, and He expects me to  
constantly share with others. I don't even know these  
people we help. I am tired of all this giving and giving  
without receiving. (pause) What are you willing to give me  
if I hand Him over to you?

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

What are we willing to give a good man who helps bring a  
blasphemer to justice?

PHARISEE 1

We will give you 30 pieces of silver if you can bring this  
Jesus to us.

JUDAS

I want the 30 pieces now!

PHARISEE 1

You will get your silver when you bring Him to us.

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

Gehazi, go get the good man his silver now.

(One of the PHARISEES exits  
stage left. There's hesitation  
and an uncomfortable pause as  
CAIAPHAS steps toward JUDAS.)

Judas, this must be done in secret?

JUDAS

In two days, we're eating the Passover together. At evening, after supper, Jesus spends the night at the Mount of Olives, to rest and pray. We often meet him there in an olive grove in the Gethsemane garden. When I can get away from the Feast . . . I will come find you . . . and I will take you to where He is.

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

I cannot go with you, but I will send some of the temple guards. But beware. It's very dark out there. Do not bring us the wrong man.

JUDAS

Give your guards this signal. You tell them that when I take them to see Jesus; I will greet Him . . . with a kiss.

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

A kiss? Yes . . . a kiss.

(GEHAZI the PHARISEE reenters SL  
and is carrying a small bag. He  
moves up next to JUDAS.)

Your silver.

(GEHAZI slaps the silver pouch  
up against JUDAS' chest.)

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

We will see each other again after the Passover meal, now go . . . go!

(JUDAS takes the bag and the  
they all exit stage left  
as the lights over them fade.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act II

Scene 3

(Stage lights come up as curtain opens up to reveal all the disciples and Jesus sitting outside the Temple. Stage right and near center stage.)

JOHN

And that's when James tipped the boat.

(They all break out into laughter. They are kidding each other and after the laughter dies down, JESUS grabs some bread from JOHN and begins to teach.)

JESUS

Suppose you have a hundred sheep and you lose one. Don't you leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until you find it?

MATTHEW

Bartholomew wouldn't . . .

(The disciples break out into laughter again. JESUS then continues His parable.)

And when you have found it, you joyfully put it over your shoulder and take it home. Then you call your friends and neighbors and say, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep."

(More laughter)

Truly, I say to you, in the same way, there is more rejoicing in the Kingdom of heaven over one sinner who repents, than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

(There's a small pause as the disciples contemplate the parable they have just heard. JESUS then continues.)

There once was a man . . .

(JESUS pushes JOHN out in front  
of all the disciples.)

. . . who had two sons.

(JESUS pushes 2 more disciples  
out in front of the others.)

One day . . . the younger one said to his father . . .

(JESUS walks over and whispers  
into the ear of the disciple who  
is acting as the younger son. Then  
he sits back down with the others.)

YOUNGER SON

Father, give me my share of the estate.

JESUS

So, the Father divided his property

(JESUS throws a small loaf of  
bread up into the arms of the  
Father to be divided.)

between the sons.

(The Father tears a piece of bread  
in half and hands it to the younger  
son, as the older son moves over to  
the other disciples and sits down.)

Not long after that, the younger son took all his  
inheritance, went to a distant country . . . and squandered  
his wealth in wild living.

(The younger son, acts like a wild  
man and crazily moves across the stage  
to stage left where he awaits the  
next instructions from JESUS. All  
the disciples roar in laughter at  
his portrayal of being wild.)  
(This is where the father sings  
the first part of the song  
Come Home.)

(SONG 15: Come Home) (First Part)  
(Sung by the Father and the Son.)

(From the moment the Father starts to sing this song he walks down to get closer to the front of the stage as if to sing the song to the audience so they hear the song he is singing.)

Father sings                    When a father loves his family  
    It is hard to see them leave  
    And when his son follows after evil  
    It will cause his heart to grieve

(As the father finishes singing the words "his son" JESUS gets up and moves over to where the younger son is standing.)

JESUS

After he had spent all that he had, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

(JESUS now moves back over to where the other disciples are sitting stage right, and leans down to grab a hold of PETER.)

So he hired himself out to a citizen of that country,

(He pushes PETER gently over toward the younger son who is now standing about center stage.)

who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

(PETER grabs the younger son by the collar and throws him down toward the ground. Then, as PETER makes his way back (SR) the others start to make some pig sounds like grunting which elicits more laughing. JESUS is still standing.)

He longed to fill his belly with the food that the pigs were eating,

(He looks at the pods like he wants to eat them and then falls to the ground.)

but no one would give him anything. Then he remembered how well the servants under his Father were treated. So he came to his senses . . . and said . . .

(The younger son is on his knees and recites his prayer hoping for mercy. JESUS sits back down with the disciples to watch.)

#### YOUNGER SON

My father's hired men have food to spare, and, I'm left starving to death! I must go back to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired men."

(The father sings the next part of the song Come Home.)

(SONG 15: Come Home) (Second Part)  
(Sung by the Father and the Son.)

Come home, come home  
Ye who are weary come home

(When they finish, JESUS quickly rises.)

#### JESUS

So he got up and went to his father.

(JESUS goes over to the younger son but gestures for the younger son to wait and not move yet.)

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him

(JESUS now crosses over center stage toward the Father addressing the Father.)

and had compassion for him.

(JESUS gestures for the Father to go and run toward his younger son.)

He ran up to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

(The Father and son are barely stage left and the Father plants a kiss on the younger son's cheek.)

And the younger son said to him . . .

(The younger son drops to his knees before his Father and begs. He buries his head down in tears onto his Father's feet. The disciples are now all very serious as they watch.)

YOUNGER SON

Oh Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired men.

(Suddenly, the Father turns back toward the disciples and yells!)

FATHER

Quick! Bring me my best robe . . . Bring a ring for his finger and sandals on his feet! Kill the fatted calf for tonight we are going to celebrate!

(As the disciples scurry into action, the happy father shouts this last line before they sing the last part of Come Home, up toward God in Heaven. All the disciples are center stage watching and JESUS is almost stage right.)

For my son was dead and now he is alive! He was lost, but now he's found!!

(SONG 15: Come Home) (Third Part)  
(Sung by the Father and the Son.)

Father sings                    My son was lost to sin  
   But now I'll take him in

(The Father and Son are now  
standing together center stage.  
They sing in harmony.)

Son sings	Amazing grace How sweet the sound That saves a wretch like me
Father sings	My son was lost But now he's found He was blind But now he sees

(END OF SCENE)

Act II

Scene 4

(Stage lights remain up full.  
JESUS starts to make his way  
slowly contemplating what he is  
about to tell his disciples. He  
walks away from them toward downstage  
center as he speaks to them.)

JESUS

As you know, the Passover is two days away

(JESUS looks back at his disciples  
then turns back to speak out  
over the audience.)

and the Son of Man will be betrayed . . . into the hands of  
sinners . . .

(JESUS pauses for just a moment  
with a contemplating look.)

. . . and . . . crucified."

(JESUS then turns back to them.  
MATTHEW steps forward out from  
the disciples toward JESUS.)

MATTHEW

Lord . . . where should we prepare these things for you to  
eat the Passover?

(JESUS calls for JAMES and  
PHILIP and they come and  
Stand near JESUS center stage.)

JESUS

Go into the city and find a certain man. Tell him the  
Teacher says, "I will celebrate the Passover with my  
disciples in your house." Go.

(JAMES and PHILIP leave.  
They exit to stage right. As  
soon as they exit JESUS looks  
at the Temple and starts speaking.)

JESUS

Do you see this great Temple?

ANDREW

Why yes Lord, the buildings are magnificent, and the stones are massive.

(Jesus is looking at the walls surrounding Jerusalem and the Temple. He and ANDREW are now together center stage.)

Andrew, I tell you the truth. Every stone you see will be thrown down.

(More of the townspeople are now making their way onstage entering from stage left and right.)

MATTHEW

Tell us Lord, when will these things happen? And what signs will tell us these things are being fulfilled?

JESUS

Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, "I am he," and will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, don't be alarmed. These things must happen, but the future is still to come.

(JESUS is wandering amongst all the people moving around as He is speaking to them all. He eventually makes His way back to center stage when he delivers his final words of warning to "watch, be ready.")

Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in different places, and famines. These are just the beginning of birth pains. I tell you, that first the word will be preached to all nations. This generation will not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words, will never pass away. No one knows the day or the hour, not the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. So be on your guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. **So watch . . . be ready!**

(As JESUS exits stage left

the music begins and the people  
move into position to sing the song.)

**NOTE: During this song there  
are some very distinct moves  
that are suggested in the  
Choreography notes.**

(SONG 16: Watch Be Ready)  
(Sung by the Disciples and the crowd.)

Watch, be ready  
You wanna be ready  
when he comes for you so  
Watch, be ready  
Burn your candle bright, oh  
Watch, be ready  
He might come back, this hour so  
Watch, be ready  
Cause He comes like a thief,  
in the night  
He might return in the morning  
He might come back when it's noon  
He might be sent in the evening  
You better pray it's not too soon,  
unless you  
Watch, be ready  
You wanna be ready  
When he comes for you so  
Watch, be ready  
Burn your candle bright, oh  
Watch, be ready  
He might come back, this hour so  
Watch, be ready  
Cause He comes like a thief,  
In the night  
Don't get tired or lazy  
On the watch He told you to keep  
You want Him to come and to find you  
Awake and not asleep, you better  
Watch, be ready  
You wanna be ready  
When he comes for you so  
Watch, be ready  
Burn your candle bright, oh  
Watch, be ready  
He might come back, this hour so  
Watch, be ready

Cause He comes like a thief,  
In the night  
Cause He comes like a thief,  
In the night

(COMPLETE BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE IF NEEDED)

Act II

Scene 5

(Spotlight comes up on LUKE alone.  
He has entered from stage left.)

LUKE

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and to return to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything under his power . . .

(LUKE reads this next line  
with emphasis so the audience  
understands him clearly.  
This sentence was the seed  
from which the title Heaven  
to Heaven grew out of.)

**and that he had come from God, and would soon, return to  
God;**

(The disciples are all seated  
behind a low table covered with  
some baskets of bread, some cups  
and some bread. They are upstage  
center. JESUS is just finishing  
washing the feet of MATTHEW who  
is seated on the floor out in  
front of the table.)

JESUS

Matthew . . . you do not understand now what I am doing.  
But someday . . . you will.

MATTHEW

Thank you Lord.

(Jesus gets up and carries a basin  
and his towel around to the back  
of where they are all sitting and  
is standing up as MATTHEW joins the  
other disciples and JESUS teaches.)

JESUS

Listen to me. You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. And now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I set this example so you will do as I did for you, to one another.

(JESUS pauses ever so slightly.)

But I tell you the truth . . . one of you is going to betray me.

(His disciples stare at one another. Peter leans over and whispers to John.)

PETER

Ask him which one he means.

(JOHN leans in toward JESUS and asks Him . . .)

JOHN

Lord, who is it?

JESUS

It's the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.

(He dips a piece of bread in the dish and then walks over toward stage right to where JUDAS is seated. JESUS slowly stretches out his hand to offer the bread to JUDAS.)

What you are about to do . . . do it quickly.

(As soon as Judas takes the bread, he gets up and quickly walks out (SR). There is a fairly long pause here as the disciples are staring up at JESUS wondering about what just happened.)

A new commandment I have for you. Love one another. As I have loved you, so you too must love one another. This is how all men will know you are my disciples, if you love one another.

(JESUS now has seated Himself in the very center of the table (CS).)

PETER

Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.

JESUS

Would you really lay down your life for me Peter?

PETER

Of course.

JESUS

The truth is, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times!

(PETER is repelled by these words he is hearing as if he cannot believe what JESUS has just said.)

Let not your hearts be troubled. You trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms; if this were not so I would have told you. I'm going back there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place, I'll come back and take you to be with me, that you can all be where I am. And you know the way to the place I'm going.

THOMAS

Lord, we don't know where you're going, so how can we know the way?

JESUS

I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him, and have seen him.

PHILIP

Lord, show us the Father and that'll be enough for us.

JESUS

Don't you know me, Philip, even after I've been with you for so long? Anyone who's seen me has seen the Father. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe the evidence of the miracles. I will ask the Father, and he'll will send another Counselor to guide you forever. The Spirit of truth. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

(Jesus picks up the bread and breaks it. Looking up toward the Heavens he speaks.)

Father . . . thank you for this bread. Take and eat. This is my body.

(JESUS hands it to the disciples next to him and they all partake in eating some of the bread. Then, JESUS picks up the cup.)

Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant. It's poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine again, from now on, until that day when I drink it brand new with you in my Father's kingdom.

(SONG 17: This Is How Much I Love)  
(Sung by the Jesus and His Disciples.)

(JESUS sings alone.)

This is My body,  
this is My blood  
My life for your life,  
this is how much I love  
Drink and eat all of me,  
share in this meal  
Remember My sacrifice,  
and know what I feel  
No greater love can  
a man give in the end  
Then to lay down his life  
His life for his friends  
On this very night,  
you'll all be afraid  
By lips I created,

I will be betrayed  
People will witness,  
how envy can kill  
My death proves love for man,  
this is My Father's will

(Disciples sing together with harmony and music)

No greater love can  
a man give in the end  
Then to lay down his life  
His life for his friends

(Disciples sing together acapella)

No greater love can  
a man give in the end  
Then to lay down his life  
His life for his friends

(JESUS sings alone.)

This is My body,  
this is My blood  
My life for your life,  
this is how much I love

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

(SHORT MUSICAL INTERLUDE)

**Act II**

**Scene 6**

(Spotlight comes up on LUKE alone.  
He has entered from stage left.)

LUKE

Jesus knew of the rejection that was about to take place,  
even from amongst those who had claimed to be His brothers.  
These same brothers who had publicly vowed that they would  
die with Him. So . . .

(Spotlight follows LUKE as  
he now moves to center stage.)

these thoughts . . . and His impending betrayal led Jesus  
to seek the comfort He found in pouring out His soul to the  
Father, in the most beautiful place on earth. The Garden of  
Gethsemane.

(Spotlight down as LUKE  
quickly exits stage left.  
The stage lights dimly come up  
over on the downstage left area,  
but only light enough to see  
JESUS and His DISCIPLES gathering.  
It must give the illusion  
of nighttime. Once they have all  
entered, then JESUS turns to speak  
to all of His disciples.)

JESUS

Come . . . all of you . . . (Pause)  
Stay vigilant and sit here, while I go over there and pray.

(JESUS moves away from  
His disciples who sit down  
on the ground to rest  
while JESUS moves toward  
far downstage right.  
The lights stay dim over the  
Disciples and when JESUS arrives  
Downstage right, the spotlight  
Comes up on him.  
JESUS stands alone for a moment  
in solitary thought facing away  
from the audience and then

suddenly whirls around and falls  
face down to the ground.  
You can hear complete agony  
in JESUS' voice.)  
(Refer to video record)

(A loud groan) . . . My soul is burdened with sorrow . . .  
to the point of death.

(JESUS is bowed with His face  
still facing the ground and prays  
in earnest with his breathing  
getting louder and louder.  
There is a time here  
of sincere anguish before  
JESUS calls out to His  
Father.)

Father!!!! (Loud wailing cry)

(JESUS has His eyes closed but  
has jerked his body upward in  
a serious cry for help. Then,  
JESUS bows his head back down  
With His face in His hands.  
He has composed Himself as  
He speaks the next few words.)  
(Refer to video record)

Father . . . (weeping sounds) . . . If it be your will,  
take this cup from me . . .

(We hear very real weeping  
sounds and finally, a loud or  
long sigh or breath of relief.)

**NOTE:** (There is no hurry to finish  
this scene. Allow JESUS to collect  
His thoughts and recompose His  
Spirit before he gently looks up  
And finishes His prayer.)

But not my will . . . (pause) . . . your will be done.

(JESUS now slowly gets back up  
and goes back to look  
at His disciples who  
are all resting and asleep.

Spotlight goes off JESUS  
as He returns downstage left.)  
**NOTE:** The disciples  
Should have all been sleeping  
by the time JESUS is deep in prayer.  
They must do this slowly under  
dim light and without attracting  
the attention being paid to JESUS.)  
(JESUS is rather irritated here.)

Are you resting and sleeping? Look, the hour is near, and  
the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise,  
and let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

(Another dim light rises over  
center stage area as JUDAS and  
some SOLDIERS come in from stage right  
and crossover to center stage,  
JESUS moves away from his  
disciples and meets JUDAS downstage  
center in the light. They are the only  
ones there. The SOLDIERS remain  
at center stage for now, while  
the disciples are downstage left.

JUDAS

Greetings, Rabbi!

(Judas kisses Jesus.)

JESUS

Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

(JUDAS looks into the eyes  
of JESUS for a moment and then  
quickly lets him go and turns  
to go downstage right.  
JESUS then turns to look  
center stage and addresses  
the SOLDIERS standing there.)

Am I leading a rebellion that you come out with swords and  
clubs to arrest me? Every day I sat in the temple courts  
teaching, and you didn't arrest me.

(Then all the disciples  
desert him and flee. They exit  
downstage left quickly.)

While JUDAS moves to downstage center and follows the SOLDIERS out as they grab JESUS and push Him through the closed curtain upstage center. Then, as the stage lights go black, the spotlight comes up on LUKE who has come in stage left.)

LUKE

When they had arrested Jesus they took him to Caiaphas, the High Priest, where the elders and the teachers among the people had assembled. But Peter was following closely behind, right up to the courtyard of the High Priest.

(The stage lights now come up full. The curtain is closed but there are people entering both sides to hold court in CAIAPHAS' courtyard.)

All of the Teachers of the law, and the leaders among the people, the entire Sanhedrin was looking for false evidence to convict Jesus. They could find none. Finally, two false witnesses came forward.

(The spotlight fades down on LUKE as LUKE simply backs up toward upstage left watching the proceedings. JESUS is pushed through the curtain area and then thrust onto the ground by the SOLDIERS. Following close behind JESUS enters CAIAPHAS and also some PHARISEES. The false witnesses are on both sides of the court, downstage right and downstage left.)  
(Refer to video record)

WITNESS 1

This fellow said, "I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days."

WITNESS 2

Yes, I heard him say that too!

(JESUS has already been abused physically and is bent over in pain. CAIAPHAS slowly approaches JESUS who has stood up and is doubled over. They are standing downstage center.)

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

You refuse to answer? Even to the testimony being brought against you? And still nothing?

(JESUS remains silent. CAIAPHAS is standing near JESUS leaning into Him.)

I charge you under oath . . . by the living God: Answer me! (Yelling) Are you the Christ? Are you the Son of God.

(JESUS slowly straightens up.)  
There is a pause here as JESUS is in obvious agony from being physically abused.)

JESUS

Yes . . . . (pause to catch His breath) . . . it's as you say. But I say to everyone here . . . in the future you'll see the Son of Man coming on the right hand of the Mighty One . . . on the clouds of heaven.

(CAIAPHAS is now furious.  
He tears through his own clothes.)  
(Refer to video record.)

CAIAPHAS THE HIGH PRIEST

BLASPHEMY!!! (Yelling) He speaks blasphemy! Why do we need further evidence? What would you say we should do?

CROWD IN UNISON

He is worthy of death. He should die for this! Kill him.

(Then CAIAPHAS walks straight up to the face of JESUS and spits in his face, and then exits upstage left. All the while LUKE remains onstage and we see PETER watching it all from downstage left. The PHARISEES have thrown a hood over the head of JESUS and begin to play a prophecy game with him.)

PHARISEE 1

Prophecy to us Christ.

(He slaps JESUS' face hard.)

If you're a prophet, you should know who hit you.

PHARISEE 2

Yes, tell us who hit you.

(They are laughing as he also  
slaps JESUS hard across the face.  
Suddenly a woman cries out to PETER.)

WOMAN 1

You were also with Jesus of Galilee.

(Peter answers her immediately)

PETER

I was not!

WOMAN 2

You also are one of them.

PETER

Woman, I am not!

WOMAN 3

Surely you are one of them.

PETER

I have no idea what you're talking about!

(A rooster crows)

(They had already removed the hood from  
JESUS who now looks directly at Peter.  
Peter breaks down, and runs away  
weeping off the downstage left.  
The PHARISEES drag JESUS up through  
The curtain upstage center and  
The lights onstage remain up.)

(END OF SCENE)

Act II

Scene 7

(The spotlight comes up  
on LUKE and the stage lights  
are still up.)

LUKE

When they arrested Jesus, they bound him, and took Him to  
Pilate the Governor. When Judas, who had betrayed Jesus saw  
that He was condemned, he was overcome with remorse and  
went to return the thirty silver coins.

(As the spotlight fades  
down on LUKE, JUDAS enters downstage  
right and slowly walks toward  
two PHARISEES who are standing  
center stage. There are lights up  
on both JUDAS and the PHARISEES.)

JUDAS

I've sinned. (There's recognizable sorrow in his voice)  
I've betrayed innocent blood.

PHARISEE 1

(Rather nonchalant) What's that to us?

PHARISEE 2

That is your responsibility.

(JUDAS pauses, looks at  
the PHARISEES, then looks  
at his bag of coins, then  
looks up and throws the bag  
at the feet of the PHARISEES.  
JUDAS quickly runs away exiting  
Stage right.)

PHARISEE 1

It is against the law to put this money into the treasury,  
since it is blood money.

(The PHARISEE hands the  
coins to the other PHARISEE  
and they both exit, one stage  
left and the other stage right.  
As the lights go down onstage.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

**Act II**

**Scene 8**

(The spotlight comes up on LUKE  
who is standing stage left.)

LUKE

Then Judas went away (pause) . . . and hanged himself.  
So, they took the money and they bought the Potter's Field  
as a burial place for foreigners. That's why it's been  
called "The Field of Blood" to this very day. Then what was  
said by the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled. "They took the  
thirty silver coins, the price set on Him by the people,  
and they bought the Potter's Field as the Lord commanded."  
Meanwhile, Jesus was asked many questions before Pilate the  
Governor.

(The curtain rises to reveal PILATE  
standing waiting for JESUS. They are all  
center stage. (Refer to video record.)  
(The SOLDIERS then throw JESUS to  
the ground as they bring Him in stage  
left. The SOLDIER lifts a lifeless  
JESUS to his feet and drags him over  
And stands Him up next to PILATE.)  
(Refer to video record)

PILATE

Are you aware of these accusations? The charges they have  
brought against you? Do you have anything to say?

(JESUS makes no reply)

Have you heard all these charges? Inciting the crowds?  
Opposing payment of taxes to the Emperor? What do you say  
to all this?

(JESUS makes no reply)

There's more . . . claiming to be the Christ?

(JESUS remains silent)

And what about this? Claiming to be the King of the Jews?

(JESUS remains silent. Pilate  
walks over and grabs JESUS by

the scruff of His neck.  
He is in His face now only  
inches away.)

Tell me . . . are you the King of the Jews?

JESUS

Yes . . . (a sigh of exhaustion) . . . it is as you say.

(PILATE lets Him go and  
is in complete surprise  
that JESUS has answered.)

PILATE

So . . . you do have a voice.

JESUS

Is that your own idea . . . or have others talked to you  
about me?

PILATE

Am I a Jew? Your own people and your chief priests handed  
you over to me.

JESUS

My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants  
would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But  
now, my kingdom is from another place.

PILATE

So you are a king, then?

JESUS

You say I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and  
came into this world is to testify to the truth. Everyone  
on the side of truth, listens to me.

(PILATE pauses as he ponders  
Jesus' statement about truth.)

PILATE

What is truth?

(PILATE shakes his head  
back and forth in disgust.)

I know why they want to kill you. They're envious of you.  
Obviously afraid of you. They hate you. (pause) And I don't

like you much myself, but . . . (exhales a sigh) you've done nothing worthy of death. I know how we can stop this. It's the Festival, and we always release a prisoner so this year I'll let them choose. They can choose between the murderer or you. They'll have to let you go. Come . . .

(Pilate turns toward stage center to address the waiting crowd outside his quarters. The cast has situated themselves around the audience down in the areas where the audience would walk alongside those seated. PILATE begins shouting to the crowd.)

People of Judea . . . in honor of your Festival, I always release to you a prisoner, and this time, you must decide. Do I release to you Barabbas the murderer, or this Jesus who is called the Christ?

(The crowd immediately screams out.)

CROWD IN UNISON

Barabbas ! Barabbas!!!

(PILATE lifts his hands up in surprise and asks the next question.)

PILATE

Why? What has He done?

(The crowd continues screaming the name of Barabbas.)

What do you want me to do with this Jesus?

(The crowd immediately screams.)

CROWD IN LOUD UNISON

Crucify him! Crucify him!

(PILATE yells over their voices.)

PILATE

Why? (Still yelling) He's done nothing worthy of death.

(The crowd ignores his words and grows even louder.)

CROWD IN LOUD UNISON  
Crucify him! Crucify him! Crucify him!

(PILATE yells at the crowd and shows them his hands.)

PILATE  
I am innocent of this man's blood. Take Him away!

(PILATE motions for the guards. LUKE enters in from downstage right and is now in a spotlight. PILATE exits with a SOLDIER SL. The SOLDIERS take JESUS toward upstage center as some PHARISEES enter stage right and hand a purple robe to the SOLDIERS who drape it over JESUS. The PHARISEES wheel the wall that PILATE was using offstage stage left.)

LUKE  
They took Jesus into the palace, and they called together the whole company of soldiers.

(They take JESUS upstage center where a company of soldiers begin to abuse and assault Him. You can hear JESUS' cries of pain as they kick him and throw Him down.)

They put a purple robe on him,

(They throw a robe on Him and put a crown of thorns on His head. The scrim starts to lower and the lights are starting to come down.)

Then they led him out . . . to be crucified.

(Now the only light is the spotlight on LUKE who is walking

across from downstage right to  
center stage as he speaks.)

They took Him to a place known as Golgotha, which means The Place of the Skull. It was the third hour when they crucified him.

(The spotlight is on LUKE alone who is standing center stage in front of the scrim.)  
As this song is sung the crucifixion will take place. You could easily follow the suggested directions for this scene, which worked great. If you have better ideas to portray this scene you have artistic freedom but please note:  
**NOTE: Please use wisdom when portraying the crucifixion. Gratuitous violence is not necessary, and the use of blood should be carefully applied in how you decide to portray this cruel and torturous death.**

(WATCH THE VIDEO RECORD TO SEE HOW THE SHADOW EFFECTS WERE DONE. NOTICE AT WHAT POINTS IN THE SONG THEY USED THE HAMMER WITH THE BEAT OF THE MUSIC, ETC. THIS PORTRAYAL IS PREFERRED BY THE PLAYWRIGHT.)

(SONG 18: He Gave It All)  
(Sung by LUKE.)

There is no more male or female  
There is no more Jew or Greek  
There is no more slave or free man  
Because Jesus died for me  
The righteous for the sinner  
The Savior for the lost  
The good man for the enemy

(On the next line LUKE slowly moves toward stage left and as he hits the big note on the word

"cost", the spotlight fades down  
as the shadow effects lights come  
up full and the song continues.)

My Lord how great the cost

(The crowd or disciples sing  
the parts noted as crowd, and the  
lead (LUKE) sings the answers.)

Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	not a drop was wasted
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	He traded His life for mine
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	every breath every heartbeat
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	He knew this was His time
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	the perfect act of mercy
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	the perfect gift of grace
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	the blood of Jesus is offered
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	to save the whole human race
Lead	Very rarely would anyone die for a righteous man And for a good man someone might possibly dare to die But God has shown just how much He loved us By letting His Son die for sinners We are saved from God's wrath We are saved through His life
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	not a drop was wasted
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	He traded His life for mine
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	every breath every heartbeat
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	He knew this was His time
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	the perfect act of mercy
Crowd	He gave it all,
Lead	the perfect gift of grace
Crowd	He gave it all,

Lead                    the blood of Jesus is offered  
Crowd                  He gave it all,  
Lead                    to save the whole human race  
Lead                    He gave it all,  
Lead                    He gave it all,

(As the songs reaches its climax,  
on the very last line, the scrim  
is raised to reveal the crowd  
totally surrounding the cross  
and weeping at the horror of  
the crucifixion.)

Lead                    He gave it all

(You see everyone on stage distraught  
with sadness and fear. The SOLDIERS  
leave the area first, followed by all  
JESUS' followers including JESUS mother  
MARY and JOHN. The last one's to leave  
Might actually be MARY who would be  
escorted away by a few people.)

**(Bottom line, you have some artistic  
freedom to portray the crucifixion,  
BUT my desire is that you please try to  
avoid anything that looks gratuitous  
or overtly bloody, etc. to avoid  
offense, and to guarantee this  
stage play can be viewed, as it was  
intended, by all ages in the audience.)**

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

**Act II**

**Scene 9**

(The lone spotlight comes up on LUKE who has walked out from stage left.)

LUKE

Now there was a man . . . named Joseph of Arimathea. He was a good and upright man who had not consented to the Council's decision, and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate, and asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate agreed. So Joseph took the body, and wrapped it in clean linen cloth and laid it in a tomb which had been cut out of the rock, and which no one had been laid yet.

(The spotlight goes down on LUKE. The stage lights come up on PILATE and two PHARISEES all standing stage center.)

PILATE

Well what is it now? Is there some other innocent man you want me to crucify?

PHARISEE 1

Sir, we remember that while this Jesus was still alive, that deceiver said, "After three days I will rise again."

PILATE

Rise? From the dead? (Smirk) You believe this?

PHARISEE 1

We don't believe it. But that's what His disciples believe . . . and hope for.

PHARISEE 2

We're asking you to give the order. To make the tomb he's in completely secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples might come and try to steal His body, and then tell everyone he's been resurrected. This last deception will be worse than the first.

(PILATE places his hand on his chin as if he's thinking about saying no, heaves a little sigh and then says . . .)

PILATE

You're right. Alright . . .

(PILATE yells for the Centurion.)

Centurion!!!

(As soon as the CENTURION enters  
stage right, PILATE begins his  
commands for him.)

Take your men and secure the tomb in which Jesus is buried. I want that tomb completely sealed. You're to watch over it every minute, day and night. If anyone comes near that tomb before three days is up, you may arrest them. Guard it well, because if those disciples manage to steal his body, you and your men will be sentenced to death. Now go!

CENTURION

Yes sir!

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

## Act II

### Scene 10

(As soon as the lights fade, we begin to hear piano notes that are ominous.

The Music Director should decide how many times we hear "In the tomb" being sung before the lead singers start singing the full song. It should be enough for the audience to hear those words "In the Tomb.")

(Refer to video record)

**NOTE:** This song is performed on such a dark stage, that the most important thing is all the words to the song. The words that are sung between the continual chants "in the tomb" are vital to creating the total hopeless mood that death so often creates.)

(SONG 19: In the Tomb)  
(Sung by the People.)

Crowd	In the tomb, in the tomb,
Crowd	in the tomb, in the tomb
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	it's dark
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	pitch black
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	what will we do
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	no breath
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	no life
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	He's done He's through
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	no sight
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	no light
Crowd	In the tomb,
Lead	there's not a sound

Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead He's dead  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead He's done  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead cold in the ground, oh  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead cold in the ground, oh  
Crowd In the tomb, in the tomb,  
Crowd in the tomb, in the tomb  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead it's dark  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead pitch black  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead what will we do  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead no breath  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead no life  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead He's done He's through  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead no sight  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead no light  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead there's not a sound  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead He's dead  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead He's done  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead cold in the ground, oh  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead cold in the ground, oh  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead cold in the ground, oh  
Crowd In the tomb,  
Lead cold in the ground, oh

(There is much weeping as the  
people again exit from the stage.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

Act II

Scene 11

**SUDDENLY THERE IS HEARD THE SOUND OF A VIOLENT EARTHQUAKE**

(Follow the video record of the resurrection as portrayed. As Jesus exits the tomb, He walks over to the SOLDIERS who are on the ground shaking in fear, and reaches to help them up. After they are on their feet they run off stage quickly exiting stage left. JESUS calmly and quietly exits stage right.)

(Two women enter from stage left and cross over toward the tomb. Suddenly the lights shine down on an angel standing above the tomb. The women gasp in fear and one of them falls to the ground.)

ANGEL

Do not be afraid, for I know that you're looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen. Look, see the place where he was laid.

(Both Mary and Mary Magdalene peek into the tomb and see that it is empty. They gasp in amazement as the angel speaks to them again.)

Now go, and tell his disciples, that Jesus has risen, and is going ahead of you into Galilee.

(Both Mary and Mary Magdalene rush from the stage, SR.)  
The angel looks upward as the lights fade down on him.)

(BLACKOUT)

(END OF SCENE)

## Act II

### Scene 12

(Spotlight comes up on LUKE  
who has entered stage right.)

LUKE

While the women went off to tell the disciples that the Lord had risen, the soldiers went to the chief priests and told them all that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the Elders, they devised a plan. They gave the guards a large sum of money and told them to say, "His disciples came during the night while we were asleep and took the body." They said that if the report reached the Governor, they would satisfy him and keep them out of trouble. So, the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been circulated among the Jews to this very day.

(The spotlight down on Luke  
and the lights comes up on about  
10 or 12 disciples gathered together  
in a room upstage center.  
Suddenly in runs MARY with MARTHA  
from stage right.)

MARY

We have seen the Lord, he has risen from the dead!

(In runs CLEOPAS from stage right.)

CLEOPAS

He appeared to us on the road to Emmaus, and he showed Himself to Simon.

(In runs PETER from stage left.)

PETER

It's true, I've seen him too!

(The whole crowd is muttering  
and shaking their heads in  
disbelief. Suddenly Jesus appears  
out from among the crowd and  
speaks to them.)

JESUS

Peace be with you.

(The crowd is completely startled and they all gasp in shock as if they're seeing a ghost. They all move away from him as someone in the crowd immediately yells . . .

DISCIPLE 1

It's His ghost!

DISCIPLE 1

Yes, a ghost!!!

JESUS

A ghost? Does a ghost have flesh and bones as I have? Come, touch me and see. This has happened as I said it would when I was still with you. Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms. This is what is written . . . the Messiah will suffer . . . and rise from the dead on the third day. And repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, starting at Jerusalem.

(JESUS leans down and speaks directly to MARY MAGDALENE who is holding on tight to the bottom of JESUS garment.)

You are my witnesses to all these things . . .

(Mary begins singing the song as if she is trying to teach them that life can be reborn. Then they all join her in the chorus after she sings the word "reborn".)

(SONG 20: The Son Has Risen)  
(Sung by Mary and the Disciples.)

Mary                    Like the dawn from darkness  
                          Like the burst of morn  
                          Like the springtime flower  
                          Life can be **reborn**

Chorus                 The Son has risen,  
                          praise God Hallelujah

	Jesus was dead, and now He is alive The Son has risen, praise God Hallelujah Jesus was dead, and now He is alive
Mary	See His hands and see His side See He has life and nothing can hide
Chorus	The Son has risen, praise God Hallelujah Jesus was dead, and now He is alive The Son has risen, praise God Hallelujah Jesus was dead, and now He is alive
Mary	Victory has won and death has lost Nothing more is owed for Jesus paid the cost
Chorus	The Son has risen, praise God Hallelujah Jesus was dead, and now He is alive The Son has risen, praise God Hallelujah Jesus was dead, and now He is alive Praise God Hallelujah Praise God Hallelujah Praise God Hallelujah Praise God Hallelujah

(When the song has finished  
JESUS is downstage center and  
The whole crowd is surrounding  
Him on all sides. When the  
applause has stopped JESUS  
addresses the disciples.)

JESUS

As the Father has sent me, I am also sending you. Because  
you've seen me, you've believed . . .

(JESUS now turns around to  
face the audience as He

finishes his speech.)

blessed are all those who have not seen, yet still believe.

(The disciples gather closely to touch and speak joyfully to Jesus. The curtain rises to reveal the temple area for the last time and as Luke addresses the audience for the last time, Jesus is speaking silently to all His followers and encouraging them as Luke continues to narrate.)

(The full stage lights remain up. The spotlight stays up on LUKE who is standing on a high point on the wall addressing the audience.)

LUKE

Jesus performed many more miracles in the presence of his disciples, that are not recorded in this book. But these are written, so that you may know with certainty, that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in his name.

(The spotlight goes down on LUKE)

(Jesus speaks His final words to his disciples who are now sitting on the ground surrounding Him as He addresses them all.)

JESUS

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

(Refer to the video record for JESUS' blocking and choreography for this title song.)

(SONG 21: Heaven to Heaven)  
(Sung by Jesus and the People.)

Let not your heart be troubled,  
let not your face be sad  
Comfort will come from the Spirit I send,  
your hearts will be exceedingly glad  
I promise that soon I'll come back for you,  
I go to prepare a place  
To take you to be with me forever,  
and share in My Father's embrace  
I came from Heaven to Heaven,  
this was His plan so you could be there  
With me in heaven, with all of its glory  
and blessings to share  
I came from Heaven to Heaven,  
I left it all so you could be free  
So go tell the lost, tell them of Heaven  
and bring them to me  
I go to be with My Father,  
I promise to hear your prayer  
Stay humble and meek, if love you will seek,  
I promise to always be there  
I want you to come be with me,  
but first you must find My sheep  
So go everywhere, with good news to share,  
this is the trust you must keep  
I came from Heaven to Heaven,  
this was His plan so you could be there  
With me in heaven, with all of its glory  
and blessings to share  
I came from Heaven to Heaven, I left it all  
so you could be free  
So go tell the lost, tell them of Heaven  
and bring them to me

(JESUS is now helping His disciples  
to their feet and encouraging them  
and as they now rise they move forward  
and all across the stage to appeal  
to the audience)

Disciples            He came from Heaven to Heaven,  
                         this was His plan so we could be there  
                         With Him in heaven, with all of its glory  
                         and blessings to share  
                         He came from Heaven to Heaven,  
                         He left it all so life could begin  
                         So go tell the lost, tell them of Heaven  
                         and bring them to Him  
                         Go tell the lost, tell them of Heaven

and bring them to Him.  
Bring them to Him.  
Tell the world of Jesus Christ  
and bring the lost  
and lonely souls to Him.

(There is exactly a one or two second pause after the last word "HIM", and then a complete blackout of every light in the auditorium. (ALL LIGHTS, HOUSE AND STAGE *IF HOUSE LIGHTS WERE UP.*) After 8 full seconds of applause the stage lights burst back up and the music starts playing the instrumental reprise version of Heaven to Heaven as the actors and actresses return up to the stage for a final curtain call.

They will time their bows to finish around the time the title song starts repeating the ending lines of "Bring them to Him", that's where the cast will rejoin in the chorus ending and repeat the ending of the song as their finale!

(Watch the video record to understand the timing of this. It works beautifully in my opinion and sends the audience home on a very positive and encouraging note.)

The End

## **Additional Lines for WOMEN (If desired)**

**ON Page 50** . . . Underneath this line from JESUS . . .

JESUS

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the trail, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on the rocks, with very little soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Some seeds fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop of a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was planted. He who has ears, let him hear.

A WOMAN from the crowd could say this line as JESUS crosses over to PETER,

**"I am puzzled by this story. What could it mean?"**

**ON Page 64 & 65** . . . Underneath this line from a PHARISEE . . .

PHARISEE

Where are his parents?

A WOMAN (the MOTHER) can say these 2 lines below in bold . . .

**PARENTS**

**We are here.**

PHARISEE

Is this your son? And if he was really born blind, how can he now see?

**MOTHER OF THE BLIND MAN**

**He's our son. And he was born blind. But how he can see or who opened his eyes we don't know. He's of age, ask him.**

**ON Page 66** . . . Underneath this line from JESUS . . .

JESUS

Just what I have been claiming all along. When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be.

(A man shouts from the crowd.)

A WOMAN Can shout from the crowd . . .

**WOMAN IN THE CROWD**

**Many of us do believe in you Lord.**

**ON Page 69** . . . Underneath this line from LUKE . . .

So Mary and Martha sent word to Jesus.

(The spotlight fades down  
on LUKE.)

**WOMAN**

**Lord, the one you love, Lazarus, is sick.**

(JESUS looks at the WOMAN and replies...)

A WOMAN can speak that line . . .

### **Choreography Notes:**

You can reinvent the wheel here, OR simply use the choreography that was laid out in the first performance found at [www.heaventoheaven.com](http://www.heaventoheaven.com)

**List of all solo roles, and those members of the cast that can play other roles by using changes of facial looks through makeup and through different costuming.**

**Luke** / solo

**Jesus** / solo

**Joseph**, husband of Mary, can come back to play the part of the disciple **John**

One of the **Shepherds**, can return to be chosen as the disciple **Andrew**

The **Innkeeper** in Bethlehem can then take on the role of the disciple **Bartholomew**

**Zechariah** (bearded and old) then becomes **John the Baptist**, and can return as **Judas**

The disciple **Thaddeus** can be seen briefly later as **Simon the Pharisee**

The first **Lepers** cured, can later be chosen as the disciple **Simon the Zealot**

One of the **Shepherds** can play the **Devil** and then be chosen as the disciple **Matthew**

One of the **Shepherds** can be chosen to play the disciple **Thomas**

The angel **Gabriel** can assume the role of **James the Lesser** and also play the **Centurion**

**Philip** can also be the voice of an Angel backstage during the shepherds scene

**James** can share the role of the **Blind Man** with costume changes and/or makeup

**Peter** / solo

**Mary**, the mother of Jesus / solo

**Mary Magdalene** / solo

**Mary**, the sister to Lazarus and Martha / solo

**Martha** / solo

**Lazarus** / solo

**Rebekah**, lead singer on the song Pharisee / solo

**Young Jesus** at 12 / solo

**Pontius Pilate** / solo

**Caiaphas** / solo

**3 Soldiers** / solo

**2 Pharisees** / solo

**Elizabeth** / solo

There are approximately 42 roles to fill.

We performed the World Premiere using about 29 actors PLUS we were able to add people on stage as townspeople, including several children in some scenes. The ensemble added even more opportunities to use members of the University choir for singing and choreography. Plus a few members of the Faculty were willing to play roles.