

ACT I

Scene i The Old Testament message of the Christ who is to come as heard in the prophets, Naham, Isaiah, and Zechariah. “BEHOLD...NOW IS THE TIME...RETURN TO THE LORD. WHOSOEVER CALLS...SHALL BE DELIVERED!”

Scene ii John the Baptist brings his stirring call to repentance as he prepares the way for the lamb of God, the Messiah. Jesus appears to awaken all from spiritual slumber. “AWAKE! REPENT! BEHOLD THE DAY WE’VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR.” At Simon the Leper’s home in Bethany, Jesus explains to his disciples, “THE HOUR HAS COME...THE SON OF MAN WAS BORN TO DIE...IN THREE DAYS WILL RISE. BELIEVE! FOLLOW ME.” The disciples reflect, “DO YOU REMEMBER HOW ALONE WE USED TO BE?” Women followers respond with their concern, “A WARNING CRY.” Judas closes the scene with his reflection, “HOW CAN THEY BELIEVE?”

Scene iii The strains of “HOSANNA” turn into shouts and cheers of “YOU’RE THE SAVIOR WE PRAY FOR...SAVE US!” as the crowd presses forward to meet Jesus upon his arrival in Jerusalem. He is left alone to cry “O JERUSALEM...IT’S ALMOST TIME.”

Scene iv The money changers and vendors, the prayerful, the teachers, musicians, and noisy children, maintain business as usual at Jerusalem’s Temple. Jesus, enraged, drives them from the Temple saying, “IT IS WRITTEN: ‘MY HOUSE IS A HOUSE OF PRAYER.’” He leaves the Sadducees, the priests, in a discussion about Jesus’ activities. The scene closes with them in prayer, “LORD HEAR US...SAVE US OR WE DIE.”

Scene v Jesus teaches the crowds—giving the command to “LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH HEART, SOUL AND MIND.” The crowd is moved to lift their voices high and “PRAISE GOD!”

Scene vi Judas and the Sadducees discuss Jesus and the problem he has precipitated. Judas cannot resist the logic of the high priests’ argument, a bargain is struck and money changes hands.

- INTERMISSION -

ACT II

Scene i Jesus and the disciples are gathered in the Upper Room to celebrate the passover meal. He washes the feet of his astonished followers as he tells them of serving, believing, and betrayal. Judas leaves and the others are bewildered...“IS IT I, LORD?” The meal is prepared and the Passover celebrated. The familiar strains of the Passover song,

Scene ii Jesus and the disciples enter the Garden in Gethsemane for prayer. He asks them to “STAY, WATCH, AND PRAY.”

Scene iii At Governor Pilates’ quarters, Caiaphas, the high priest, interrupts Pilate and his wife Claudia, to discuss the movements of the man Jesus.

Scene iv Jesus continues to pray in the garden, “FATHER THY WILL BE DONE.” He is interrupted by a band of citizens, members of the guard and Judas, and is arrested.

Scene v Jesus is brought before Annas, former high priest and leader of the Sadducean Party. Caiaphas and members of the Sanhedrin enter to expedite the legal proceedings against Jesus and the death sentence is pronounced. Nearby, a small group accuses Peter of knowing Jesus. He sees Jesus being led away from Caiaphas, and recalls the warning of “PETER’S DENIAL.”

Scene vi Judas meets again with leaders of the Sadducees saying, “I CAN’T KEEP THE MONEY.”

Scene vii Claudia is awakened by a distressing dream and sends a warning of eminent danger to Pilate, “...have nothing to do with their plan!”

Scene viii, ix, x Jesus’ trial before Pilate, and briefly, in Herod’s court.

Scene xi The trial continues and Pilate, seeing Jesus as an innocent man, tries to release him. However, the crowd demands the release of Barabbas, a robber. Pilate then says Jesus will be punished and released, but the crowd cries out, “CRUCIFY HIM!”

Scene xii It is Friday, outside Jerusalem, on a hill called Golgotha. The crowd of weeping supporters hears the mockers crying out to Jesus, “SAVE YOURSELF.” Alone, above friends and tormentors, Jesus cries, “FATHER, I’M DYING.” — and as all sin is brought to bear on this one man, he cries, “IT IS FINISHED!” He is removed from the cross and buried by Joseph of Arimathea in a nearby tomb.

Scene xiii On the third day, a group of women and the guards at the tomb are startled by news from an angel. “HE IS NOT HERE, HE IS RISEN.”

Scene xiv The disciples gather a week later. They are trying to convince Thomas that Jesus is alive, when suddenly, Jesus appears to them saying, “Peace to you.” Then he gives a great commission and a great promise.

Finale “TURN! RETURN TO THE LORD! HE DIED—NEW LIFE TO PROVIDE!”

UPPER ARLINGTON LUTHERAN CHURCH

2300 Lytham Road
Columbus, Ohio 43220
presents

CAST

PROPHETS

NahumAnne Burkhart
IsaiahLori Maish
Zechariah..... Angie Long

JOHN THE BAPTIST Don Long

JESUSAndy Jones

APOSTLES

Judas Tom Conrad
Peter..... Greg Adams
ThomasAnne Burkhart
Matthew Judy Brundage
JohnJeff Allen
James Brian Erickson
Philip Angie Long
Simon..... Greg Johnson
AndrewDebbie Barrett

WOMEN

MaryTracy Hickerson
Magdalene Jenny Nicklas
CleophasLori Maish
Salome Megan Sullivan

SADDUCEES

CaiaphasGary White
Annas.....Matt Burkhart
Theophilus Frank Combs

PHARISEES

Nimrod.....Mike Davis
JeribaiAmy Foster
Phineas..... Brett Erickson
Matthias Jennifer Olsen

ROMANS

Pilate Wade Gilliam
Claudia..... Ingrid Erickson
AdinaKara Maish
Manlius Maureen Sullivan
GuardsDon Long (Cpt.), Jeff Davis,
Mark Gebhart, Scott Sloan

OTHERS

Herod Ann Scott
Balak..... Steve Nicklas
Rachel..... Rebecca Dillard
Lydia.....Jennifer Stancel
Barabbas Liz Doughty
Joseph of ArimatheaPhil Erickson

JEWES & GENTILES

Dianne Amato, Amy Brogan, Joanna Cole, (

PRODUCTION STAFF

DIRECTOR Buff Delcamp
MUSIC DIRECTOR Dulcy Delcamp
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Dave King
STAGE Don Long
PROPS & COSTUMES Judy Long
SOUND Dave King
LIGHTS Mike Long
MAKE-UP Joy Hovinga, Dulcy Delcamp
STAGE MANAGER Frohne Erickson
ADMINISTRATOR Frohne Erickson
FINANCES Phil Erickson
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An Original Contemporary Musical Depicting the Trial, Execution, and Resurrection of JESUS the MESSIAH

Libretto by

Joel G. Nagy

Music by

Russell E. Nagy

with Joel Nagy, David Fullen and Rick Schenk