

Fulfilled

(A participation play for all ages)

This play was originally written for a special family event that took place at the church before Easter. All participants of *all* ages worked together to prepare and present the retelling of the story. Only the narrators and group leaders knew what was about to take place, but both adults and children quickly became a part of the action and brought the play to life. We usually presented this around a large circle in a gymnasium, but it could also be organized in a sanctuary. The only pre assigned roles were the Narrator who read the words of Jesus, the main disciple and group leaders.

On arrival the participants are divided into 4 groups:

- 1) People of Jerusalem and Pharisees***
- 2) Disciples***
- 3) Pilate and Court Crowd***
- 4) Reporters***

One leader takes each group for a 15-20 minute preparation time to make simple props and to work on chants.

When all groups have completed their preparations, main lights are dimmed to signal time for groups to assemble at their designated areas.

Narrator begins the play. Leaders bring groups in on chants at appropriate times.

INTRODUCTION

Narrator “It is written that Christ must suffer
and on the third day rise from the dead
and that in His name
all nations must be called upon
to turn from their sins
and gain God’s forgiveness.
You yourselves, beginning at Jerusalem
are to tell men about these things.”

Luke 24: 44-48

SCENE 1

Main lights on - crowd stands.

***All participants sing Hosanna, Loud Hosanna -
1 verse - (or appropriate chorus of choice)***

Disciple I remember well that day of happiness and joy
as we arrived in Jerusalem.
There was Jesus,
riding a donkey through the crowds.
We, His followers,
were overjoyed
at the wonderful reception;
people shouting,
wildly waving palm branches,
throwing down cloaks to cover the dusty road.
I can still hear the voices of the people
ringing in my ears!

Jerusalem crowd chants:

(standing, lining either side of the "road" into Jerusalem)

Hosanna! Hosanna!
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
The King of Israel. ***(Repeat 2-3 times)***

Action: spreading cloaks, waving palms, throwing flowers

Disciple What a triumph for the Lord -
we wished it could be a day
that would never end.
But in the crowd,
we could hear angry murmuring.
We knew that His enemies,
the Pharisees were not at all pleased
to see people flocking to Jesus.
They tried to stop the thunderous shouting, telling Jesus:

Pharisees chant:

“Make your disciples stop.
Tell them not to shout!” ***(Repeat 2-3 times)***

Disciple The Master carried on, however,
letting His followers welcome him to Jerusalem.
It was wonderful being with Him
in those days in the city -
listening to Him preach
and watching Him heal the sick.
Often, though, we were also afraid.
Time and again we saw his enemies try to trick Him
into saying something against their laws
so that they could have Him arrested.
Finally, they gave up
and the chief priests met with Caiaphas,
the acting High priest to plan.

Group from the Pharisees chant:

- 1) This Jesus must die!
- 2) He's doing no good.
- 3) The people love him too much!

All:

This Jesus must die!

Disciple I could hardly believe it at the time,
but one of our own people,
a disciple called Judas,
actually went to these priests
and offered to give Jesus to them
if they paid him 30 silver coins.
Which they did,
gladly.

Scene II

(Disciples takes places around a set table)

Disciple You can imagine our astonishment when,
as we met for our Passover Supper,
Jesus told us that one of us
would betray him.
Gathered together in that upper room,
we felt so close to him.
We still feel that closeness
every time we repeat his words for the Lord's Supper.

Disciples: (break bread)

"This is my body given for you;
do this in remembrance of Me."

(take cup)

"This cup is the new covenant in My blood
which is poured out for you."

Disciple None of us understood these words
completely at the time,
but their meaning was soon
to become much clearer.

(Disciples move to garden scene)

SCENE III

Disciple

I know it had to be that way,
but thinking back to that night
in the garden of Gethsemane -
what might we have done if -
well, none of us were prepared.
It was a quiet peaceful night.
Jesus went off to pray
taking only Peter, James and John.
The rest of us just sat down to wait,
How were we to know that
Judas would bring the soldiers
on that night to arrest the Master?

Disciples chant:
(sitting outside the garden gate)

We ran away.
We deserted Him.
We were frightened.
Don't you see?
(repeat twice pleadingly)

Disciple

Jesus knew us all too well.
He had told us
that we would leave Him.
Even Peter said three times that night
he wasn't one of Jesus' disciples.
Like us, Peter was afraid.
It was so much easier to say,
"I don't know Him."

SCENE IV

(Pilate and the court crowd stand.)

Disciple Before the chief priests and elders,
Jesus was accused of many things.
When asked, "Are You then the Son of God?"
He replied, "You rightly say that I am."
The priests thought they had all they needed
to send Jesus to Pilate for sentencing.
Pilate could find no reason, however, to kill the Master
and so sent Him on to Herod, the governor of Galilee,
hoping he might solve the problem.
I can hardly bear the thought of how He was treated.
Herod and his soldiers mercilessly made fun of Jesus,
sending Him back to Pilate.
He returned wearing a crown of thorns as the King of the Jews.
The crowds, stirred up by the priests, left Pilate no choice.

Court crowd chants:

*"Crucify Him, crucify Him,
Kill the King of the Jews."*

Pilate: *"Why? What has he done?"*

Crowd: *"Crucify the King of the Jews."*

*(Pilate goes to cross and hangs up the sign, "King of the Jews"
and the crown of thorns)*

Disciple How much the Master must have suffered
that day - nailed to a cross
in the company of two robbers,
mocked and jeered at by rulers and soldiers
who were dividing up His clothing -
shouting, "Save yourself - King of the Jews."
Mary, His mother and other mourners
watched as the sky grew dark
signaling the end of Jesus' time
as a man on earth.

(All sing “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?”)

Scene V

Narrator *“Now is the time of your grief,
but I will see you again and you will rejoice
and no-one will take away your joy.”*
John 16:22

Disciple I hardly need to explain how we felt.
We had run away from our Master, and now
He was dead. We gathered together to talk about
our sadness and sorrow at having lost Him.
Someone reminded us that Jesus said,
“In a little while you will see Me no more,
and then after a little while you will see Me.”
It didn’t help.
We didn’t understand what it meant.
Then strange reports started coming to us.

Reporters chant:
(They show empty tomb.)

The tomb is empty.
His body is gone! ***(Repeat 2-3 times)***

Other disciples and Reporters chant:

Jesus is risen.
He’s spoken to us. ***(Repeat 2-3 times)***

Disciple There was a spark of hope,
but some of us still didn’t believe
what the reports had said.
How could we not have believed?
When He appeared to all of us and showed the marks
in His hands and feet we knew it was the Master.
Our sadness seemed as if it had never been there.
His return brought an endless joy.
Jesus is alive!

All sing: Jesus Christ is Risen Today vs 1&2

(Lights out. Spotlight on the cross.)

Narrator *“All authority has been given to Me
in heaven and on earth.
Go you, therefore,
and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all things whatsoever
I commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always,
even to the end of the world.”*
Matthew 28:18-20

(Spotlight out)

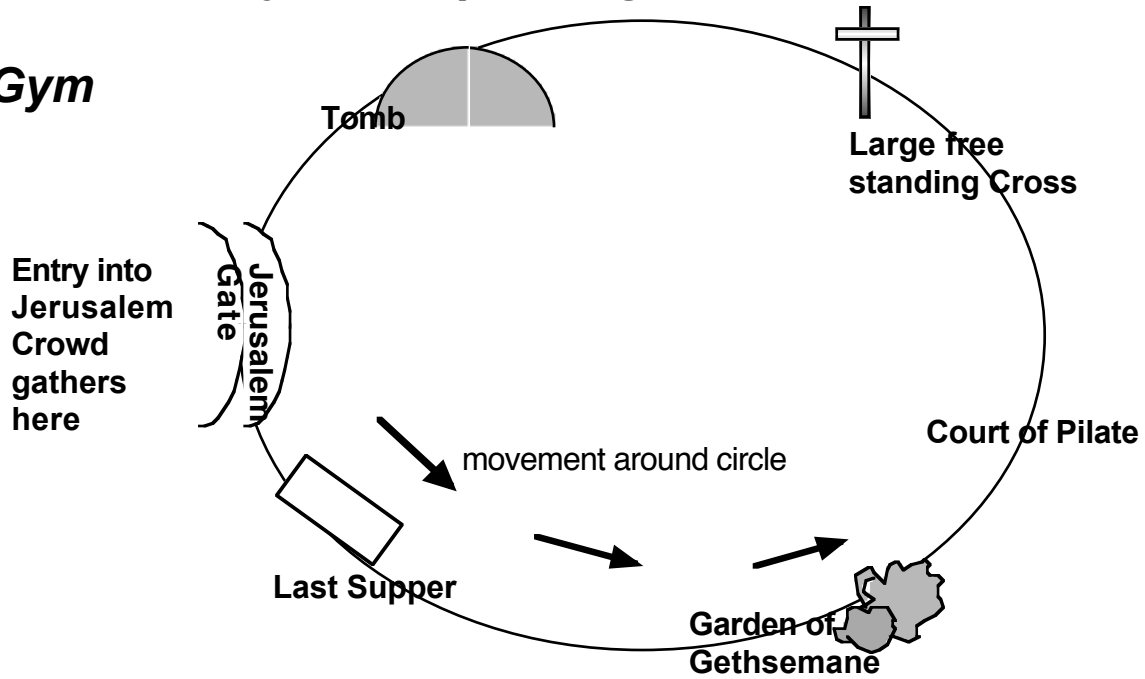
Group Preparation Time

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>Scene I - Jerusalem Crowd:</i> | <i>-make palm branches
-make small flowers
-simple gate or sign for
Jerusalem</i> |
| <i>Scenes II & III - Disciples:</i> | <i>-set table
-make trees, shrubs etc.
for garden scene</i> |
| <i>Scene IV - Pilate and Court:</i> | <i>-paint paper pillars
- sign “King of the Jews”
- crown of thorns</i> |
| <i>Scene V - Reporters:</i> | <i>-paint tomb with stone
rolled away</i> |

***Leaders may also wish to provide materials for
simple costumes for each group.***

Possible layouts depending on the location of event.

Gym



Sanctuary

