

THE CRY OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION

WORSHIP FOR THE WAY OF THE CROSS

by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

MARCH 28, 2021 11:00 A.M.

We are invited into the drama of Holy Week. There is no audience: we are all the cast. We watch, listen, speak, sing, feel ... In the space of a week we see celebration change into tragedy. We can't stop it. We are forced to remember that the joy of the Resurrection comes only after the agony of the crucifixion.

We are led by four narrators, a dancer, a drummer, and musicians. The "Narrator" tells the story and speaks the words of Jesus. The other three assume the roles of "Judas/the unrepentant criminal," "Peter/the repentant criminal," and "Pilate/the Pharisee." The dancer does not portray Jesus, but instead represents the changes he must have experienced.

Let us enter into the story. Let us never forget ...

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOISY PROCESSION: A Cheering, Chanting, Dizzy Crowd

- 1. A cheering, dancing, dizzy crowd had stripped the green trees bare,
And hailing Christ as king aloud, waved branches in the air.*
- 2. They laid their garments in the road, and spread the path with palms,
And vows of lasting love bestowed with royal hymns and songs.*
- 3. When day dimmed down to deepening dark the crowd began to fade,
Till only trampled leaves and bark were left from the parade.*
- 4. Lest we be fooled because our hearts have surged with passing praise,
Remind us, God, as this week starts where Christ has fixed his gaze.*
- 5. Instead of palms, a winding sheet will have to be unrolled,
A carpet much more fit to greet the king a cross will hold.*

DIALOGUE AND PRAYER

Philippians 2:5-11

- P** Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,
- C** ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.
- P** And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.
- C** ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,
- P** ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- C** ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

OFFERING INVITATION

1. The Entry into Jerusalem

NARRATOR: When Jesus drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent ahead two of his disciples, saying, "Go into the village opposite. There you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them . . .

PEOPLE: AND AS THEY WERE UNTYING THE COLT,

ITS OWNERS SAID TO THEM, "WHY ARE YOU UNTYING THE COLT?"

PETER: And they said, "The Lord has need of it." And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt, they set Jesus upon it.

NARRATOR: And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying:

PEOPLE (*Singing*)

**Refrain: ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR TO YOU, REDEEMER, KING,
TO WHOM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN MADE SWEET HOSANNAS RING.**

- 1. YOU ARE THE KING OF ISRAEL AND DAVID'S ROYAL SON,
NOW IN THE LORD'S NAME COMING, OUR KING AND BLESSED ONE.**

Refrain: All glory, laud and honor ...

- 2. THE COMPANY OF ANGELS ARE PRAISING YOU ON HIGH.
CREATION AND ALL MORTALS IN CHORUS MAKE REPLY.**

Refrain: All glory, laud, and honor ...

- 3. THE MULTITUDE OF PILGRIMS WITH PALMS BEFORE YOU WENT;
OUR PRAISE AND PRAYER AND ANTHEMS BEFORE YOU WE PRESENT.**

PHARISEE: And some of the Pharisees in the multitude cried to him,

“Teacher, rebuke your disciples! They’re calling you the Christ. Tell them to shut up!”

NARRATOR: He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent the very stones themselves would cry out.”

PEOPLE (*Singing*)

Refrain: All glory, laud and honor ...

- 4. TO YOU BEFORE YOUR PASSION THEY SANG THEIR HYMNS OF PRAISE;
TO YOU, NOW HIGH EXALTED, OUR MELODY WE RAISE.**

Refrain: All glory, laud and honor ...

- 5. THEIR PRAISES YOU ACCEPTED; ACCEPT THE PRAYERS WE BRING,
GREAT AUTHOR OF ALL GOODNESS, O GOOD AND GRACIOUS KING.**

Refrain: All glory, laud and honor

NARRATOR: And when he drew near and saw the city he wept over it, saying, “Would that even today you knew the things that make for peace! But now they are hid from your eyes. O Jerusalem!

The days shall come upon you, when your enemies will cast up a bank about you, and surround you, and hem you in on every side, and dash you to the ground, you and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another in you; because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

2. The Preparation and the Eating of the Last Supper

NARRATOR: Now, the feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover.

And the Temple Priests were seeking how to put Jesus to death; for they feared the people.

JUDAS: Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the Twelve;

he went away and conferred with the temple priests and officers how he might betray him to them.

And they were glad, and engaged to give him money. So he agreed, and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of the multitude.

NARRATOR: Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.

So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it.”

PEOPLE: **THEY SAID TO HIM, “BUT WHERE, LORD?**

WHERE WILL YOU HAVE US PREPARE IT, AND WHAT ARE WE TO DO?”

NARRATOR: He said to them, “Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the householder,

‘The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the guest room, where I am to eat the Passover with my disciples?’

And he will show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready.”

And they went and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

And when the hour came, he sat at table, and the apostles with him.

And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

For I tell you, I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

Jesus said to the disciples, "Behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table.

For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

**PEOPLE: AND THEY BEGAN TO QUESTION, "WHO, LORD? WHO IS TO BETRAY YOU?
IS IT I? IS IT I?"**

NARRATOR: He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.

Oh, it would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

JUDAS: Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Is it I, Master?"

NARRATOR: Jesus said to him, "You have said so."

PETER: Simon Peter was indignant. "But not I!" he said.

And he declared, "Though they all fall away from you, I will never leave you."

NARRATOR: "Peter, truly I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

PETER: Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you!"

PEOPLE: AND SO SAID ALL OF THE DISCIPLES, OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

3. The Agony in the Garden

PEOPLE: (*Singing*)

**GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE, ALL WHO FEEL THE TEMPTER'S POWER;
YOUR REDEEMER'S CONFLICT SEE, WATCH WITH HIM ONE BITTER HOUR;
TURN NOT FROM HIS GRIEFS AWAY; LEARN OF JESUS CHRIST TO PRAY.**

NARRATOR: And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him.

And when he came to the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

PEOPLE: LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US, DELIVER US ...

NARRATOR: And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

"Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done."

PEOPLE: OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME.

THY KINGDOM COME; THY WILL BE DONE, THY WILL BE DONE, THY WILL BE DONE—

NARRATOR: And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow,

and he said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

PEOPLE: LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL,

EVEN THE EVIL WITHIN OURSELVES.

JUDAS: While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them.

He drew near to Jesus to kiss him,

NARRATOR: But Jesus said to him, "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

JUDAS: Judas said, "Hail, Master."

PEOPLE: WHEN THE DISCIPLES SAW WHAT WOULD FOLLOW, THEY SAID,

"LORD, SHALL WE STRIKE WITH THE SWORD?"

PETER: And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

NARRATOR: But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him,

PEOPLE: FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US.

NARRATOR: Jesus said to those who had come out against him, "When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

4. The Judgment

PEOPLE: (*Singing*) **FOLLOW TO THE JUDGMENT HALL, VIEW THE LORD OF LIFE ARRAIGNED;**

OH, THE WORMWOOD AND THE GALL! OH, THE PANGS HIS SOUL SUSTAINED!

SHUN NOT SUFFERING, SHAME OR LOSS; LEARN FROM HIM TO BEAR THE CROSS.

NARRATOR: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him to the high priest's house.

4

PETER: Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

PEOPLE: **THEN A MAID, SEEING HIM SIT IN THE LIGHT, SAID, "THIS MAN ALSO WAS WITH HIM."**

PETER: But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him."

PEOPLE: **AND A LITTLE LATER SOMEONE ELSE SAW HIM AND SAID,
"YOU ALSO ARE ONE OF THEM."**

PETER: But Peter said, "Man, I am not."

PEOPLE: **AN HOUR LATER ANOTHER INSISTED, SAYING,
"CERTAINLY THIS MAN ALSO WAS WITH HIM; FOR HE IS A GALILEAN."**

PETER: But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!"

NARRATOR: And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

PETER: And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him,

"Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and he wept bitterly.

NARRATOR: Now the men who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they blindfolded him and demanded:

PEOPLE: **"PROPHECY! WHO IS IT THAT STRUCK YOU?"**

NARRATOR: And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him.

When the day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together and led him to their council.

PEOPLE: **AND THEY SAID, "IF YOU ARE THE CHRIST, TELL US."**

NARRATOR: But he said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you now, you will not answer.

But from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God—"

PEOPLE: **AND THEY SAID, "ARE YOU THE SON OF GOD, THEN?"**

NARRATOR: And he said to them, "You say that I am."

PEOPLE: **AND THEY SAID, "BLASPHEMY! WHAT FURTHER TESTIMONY DO WE NEED?**

WE HAVE HEARD IT OURSELVES FROM HIS OWN LIPS. BLASPHEMY! OH, BLASPHEMY!"

5. Dawn Friday: Jesus before Pilate

NARRATOR: Then the whole company of them arose, and brought him before Pontius Pilate.

PEOPLE: **AND THEY BEGAN TO CURSE HIM, SAYING, "WE FOUND THIS MAN PERVERTING
OUR NATION, AND FORBIDDING US TO GIVE TRIBUTE TO CAESAR,
AND SAYING THAT HE HIMSELF IS CHRIST THE KING!"**

PILATE: And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

NARRATOR: And he answered him, "You have said so."

PILATE: And Pilate said to the Chief Priests and the multitudes, "I find no crime in this man."

PEOPLE: **BUT THEY WERE URGENT, SAYING, "HE STIRS UP THE PEOPLE,
TEACHING THROUGHOUT GALILEE EVEN TO THIS PLACE."**

PILATE: And when Pilate heard that he was a Galilean, of Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod,

NARRATOR: Where he was vehemently accused, and treated with contempt and mocked, and arrayed in gorgeous purple, and then sent back again.

PILATE: Pilate said to the rulers of the people, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him, behold, I did not find him guilty of any of the charges against him.

Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore chastise him and release him—"

PEOPLE: **BUT THEY ALL CRIED OUT TOGETHER, "AWAY WITH THIS MAN! AWAY! AWAY!
RELEASE TO US BARABBAS—"**

NARRATOR: Barabbas — a man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and for murder.

PILATE: Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus—

PEOPLE: **BUT THEY, SHOUTED OUT, "CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM!"**

PILATE: “Why? What evil has he done? I’ve found no crime in him deserving death. I’ll chastise him. I’ll release him—”

PEOPLE: **BUT THEY WERE URGENT, DEMANDING WITH LOUD CRIES THAT HE SHOULD BE CRUCIFIED.**

NARRATOR: And their voices prevailed.

PILATE: So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted.

He released the man who had been jailed for murder. But Jesus he delivered up to their will.

6. Friday Morning: Crucifixion

PEOPLE: *(Singing)*

**CALVARY’S MOURNFUL MOUNTAIN CLIMB. THERE, ADORING AT HIS FEET,
MARK THAT MIRACLE OF TIME, GOD’S OWN SACRIFICE COMPLETE.
“IT IS FINISHED!” HEAR HIM CRY. LEARN FROM JESUS CHRIST TO DIE.**

NARRATOR: But Jesus he delivered over to their will.

ALL *MEN*: **AND AS THEY LED HIM AWAY, THEY SEIZED ONE SIMON OF CYRENE,
WHO WAS COMING IN FROM THE COUNTRY, AND LAID ON HIM THE CROSS,
TO CARRY IT BEHIND JESUS.**

ALL *WOMEN*: **AND THERE FOLLOWED HIM A GREAT MULTITUDE OF WOMEN
WHO BEWAILED AND LAMENTED HIM—**

NARRATOR: But Jesus, turning to them said,

“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming, when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it dries!”

SOLO: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

NARRATOR: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called the Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.

SOLO: *Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

NARRATOR: And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

ALL *WOMEN*: **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.**

ALL *MEN*: **AND THEY CAST LOTS TO DIVIDE HIS GARMENTS.**

ALL *WOMEN*: **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.**

ALL *MEN*: **AND THE PEOPLE STOOD BY, WATCHING.**

**BUT THE RULERS SCOFFED AT HIM, SAYING, “HE SAVED OTHERS; LET HIM SAVE HIMSELF,
IF HE IS THE CHRIST OF GOD!”**

ALL *WOMEN*: **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.**

ALL *MEN*: **THE SOLDIERS ALSO MOCKED HIM, COMING UP AND OFFERING HIM VINEGAR.**

ALL *WOMEN*: **THERE WAS AN INSCRIPTION OVER HIM: “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.”**

ALL *MEN*: **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES. FORGIVE US, O LORD, OUR TRESPASSES!**

JUDAS: One of the criminals who were hanged with him railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

PETER: But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence, and we justly? But this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

PEOPLE: **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES. DELIVER US FROM EVIL. THINE IS THE KINGDOM –**

NARRATOR: And Jesus said to him –

PEOPLE: **AND THE POWER –**

NARRATOR: Truly, truly, I say to you –

PEOPLE: **AND THE GLORY –**

NARRATOR: “Today you will be with me in Paradise.”

PEOPLE: **FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN!**

SOLO: *Were you there when he cried out at the end?*

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when he cried out at the end?

NARRATOR: It was now about the sixth hour—and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit!”

And having said this, he breathed his last.

And all the multitudes who had assembled to see the sight,

PEOPLE: **WHEN THEY SAW WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE, THEY RETURNED HOME,
BEATING THEIR BREASTS.**

ALL *WOMEN*: **AND ALL HIS ACQUAINTANCES AND THE WOMEN WHO HAD FOLLOWED HIM
FROM GALILEE STOOD AT A DISTANCE AND SAW THESE THINGS.**

7. Late Friday Afternoon: Burial

SOLO: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

PILATE: Now there was a man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea, a good man, and a righteous man, one looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid.

NARRATOR: It was the Day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning.

ALL *WOMEN*: **THE WOMEN WHO HAD COME WITH HIM FROM GALILEE FOLLOWED,
AND SAW THE TOMB AND HOW HIS BODY WAS LAID.**

THEN THEY RETURNED, AND PREPARED SPICES AND OINTMENTS.

NARRATOR: On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.