

THE CRY OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION

WORSHIP FOR THE WAY OF THE CROSS

by Walter Wangerin, Jr.

MARCH 29, 2025 9:45 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 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."*

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

PRELUDE: SIMON ZEALOTES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

⬆ **DIALOGUE AND PRAYER**

Philippians 2:5-11

- Ⓟ 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,
- Ⓞ ⁷**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.**
- Ⓟ And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross.
- Ⓞ ⁹**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,**
- Ⓟ ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- Ⓞ ¹¹**and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

NOISY PROCESSION: HOSANNA

**Hosanna, Hey-sanna, Sanna, Sanna, Ho
Sanna, Hey, Sanna, Hosanna
Hey JC, JC won't you smile at me?
Sanna, Ho, Sanna, Hey Superstar**

**Hosanna, Hey-sanna, Sanna, Sanna, Ho
Sanna, Hey, Sanna, Hosanna
Hey JC, JC you're alright by me?
Sanna, Ho, Sanna, Hey Superstar**

**Hosanna, Hey-sanna, Sanna, Sanna, Ho
Sanna, Hey, Sanna, Hosanna
Hey JC, JC won't you fight for me?
Sanna, Ho, Sanna, Hey Superstar**

1. The Entry into Jerusalem

OPENING SONG: JESUS

Verse 1

**And then I saw Him in the crowd
A lot of people had gathered 'round Him
The beggars shouted, the lepers called Him
The old man said nothing, he just stared about Him**

Chorus

**All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down**

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:

Verse 2

**Then came a man before his feet he fell
Unclean, said the leper and rang his bell
Felt the palm of a hand touch his head
Go now, go now, you're a new man instead**

Chorus

**All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down**

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."

Chorus

**All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down**

Verse 3

**It all began with the three wise men
Followed a star, took them to Bethlehem
And made it heard throughout the land
Born was a leader of man**

Chorus

**All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down**

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."

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."

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*Cu'vj g'r cuqtu'cpf 'y qtuj kr 'vgco 'eqo o wpg. 'r rgcug'lqkp'vj go 'cpf 'vj g'y j qrg'Ej wt ej O'
Cvj qo g.'eqo o wpg'gcej 'qyj gt l qwt ughly kj 'vj gug'cpekpv'y qtf u'ql'r t qo kug<
ōVj g'dqf { 'qh'Ej t kw'lqt '{ qwō 'cpf 'ō Vj g'drqf 'qh'Ej t kw'lqt '{ qwō*

COMMUNION SONG: DIE ON THIS HILL

Verse 1

Got me to stay, said that you need me

Starved for your words

But they don't hear them

No, they don't, at least not to me

There'll be a day I'll be more creative

A poetic way to say I'm not leaving

To the world, no, I won't be gone, mm

Chorus

I'll take my pride, stand here for you

No, I'm not blind, just seeing it through

I'll give my life just for your will

I'll take tonight and die on this hill

I always will

Verse 2

**I know that I look stubborn, impatient
But you wrote the book, I just turn the pages
To be loved, to be loved and nothing more**

**And you kept your word, should I want a medal?
The way that someone leaves this world is all just levels
To me now, oh, to me now**

Chorus

**I'll take my pride, stand here for you
No, I'm not blind, just seeing it through
I'll give my life just for your will
I'll take tonight and die on this hill
I always will**

Bridge

**I'll be here the whole night I'll be here just for you
Yeah, I know you still care
I know nothing could change it
God, I wish you would change it for me**

Chorus

**I'll take my pride, stand here for you
No, I'm not blind, just seeing it through
I'll give my life just for your will
I'll take tonight and die on this hill
I always will, always, I always will**

NARRATOR: 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

Chorus

**All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down to see the Lord Jesus
All going down**

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

5

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: ALL GOING DOWN TO SEE THE LORD JESUS
ALL GOING DOWN TO SEE THE LORD JESUS
ALL GOING DOWN**

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

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: ALL GOING DOWN TO SEE THE LORD JESUS
ALL GOING DOWN TO SEE THE LORD JESUS
ALL GOING DOWN**

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!”

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.

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!

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

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.

We depart in silence . . .