

LINCOLN MYSTERY PLAY 2022

Adapted from the N-Town Plays by Tom Straszewski

OPENING MUSIC: GREEN GROW THE RUSHES-O

PART ONE

1. CREATION OF HEAVEN; FALL OF LUCIFER

GOD SINGS V1- *"I'll sing you One-O/ One is One and All Alone" etc*

GOD

I am first and last, beginning and end.
My name you know, God and King.
My work now I'll make, now will I send
From myself, the rule of my reigning.
I have no beginning nor no end
And all that ever shall have being
It is kept close in my mind.
All tales shall be told through me.

First, I bring forth my angels full bright
In mirth and joy evermore to wake!

GOD AND THE ANGELS SING V2- *"I'll sing you Two-O/Two, two, the lily white boys"*

LUCIFER

To whose worship sing you this song?
To worship God or reverence me?

GABRIEL

We worship God of myth so strong
Who has formed both us and thee-

LUCIFER

A lovelier lord in truth am I
And greater than He will ever be!
I shall go sit in God's seat on high-
And prove that I am more worthy.

LUCIFER, TITIVILLUS AND BELYAL SING V3- *"I'll sing you Three-O/Three, three,
the rivals"*

Above sun and moon and stars in sky
I am now set, as you may see!
Now worship me as most mighty
And for your lord, now love me!

BELYAL God's myth we forsake
And fall down at thy feet!

GOD Foul Lucifer, for thy mickle pride
I bid thee fall from heaven to hell
And all those that clutch close at thy side-
In my bliss, nevermore shall dwell.

LUCIFER At thy bidding, thy will I work
In hell's dungeon my den is sought.
For fear of that fire, a fart I crack-
In endless pain I shall be caught.

LUCIFER EXITS THROUGH THE HELLMOUTH.

2. CREATION OF THE WORLD; FALL OF MAN

GOD Now let us show and tell together
What things I have wrought. Here shall be seen:

The first day and the first night!

The second day, water I make,
And sky above made fair and bright!

The third day, I part water from earth.
Now grow tree and each green thing!

And on the fourth day I shall call forth
Sun and moon and stars also!

The fifth day, fish that swim and go!
Birds and beasts, both wild and tame!

GOD STOPS AT THE CENTRE- TWO LOVERS SLEEP EMBRACED.

The sixth day, my true work I now know
And make the man- Adam by name.

ADAM AWAKENS.

In earthly paradise without woe
I grant thee abundance- unless thou do blame.

EVE AWAKENS.

Flesh of thy flesh, and bone of thy bone-
Adam, here is thy wife and mate.

Beasts, fish and fowls that swim and go
To every one of them, a name thou must make.

Ah! Thy wife! Give her a name also!

ADAM

Eve!

GOD

Good! Now, Eve and Adam, to paradise!
There you shall have all manner of thing
Both flesh and fish and fruit of price
All shall obey your least bidding.
Here is pepper, peonies, and sweet liquorice
Take them all at thy liking-
Both apple and pear, and gentle rice-
But touch not this tree of cunning.

GOD INDICATES THE TREE. BENEATH IT, IN THE HOLLOW, SLEEPS DEATH.

All things, save this, for thee is got
Yet eat not this fruit, and me displease,
For then thou die- Death slips his knot.

Now have I made all things from nought
Heaven and earth, man and beast
To all things that my hand has wrought
I grant my blessing to ever increase.
From working I will this seventh day cease
Likewise the seventh day, give work no thought.

Adam, Eve, be prince in my place
Whilst to heaven I speed my way.

GOD ASCENDS THE TREE.

ADAM

Holy Father, blessed thou be
For all this wealth you've given me!
Every fruit we'll richly name
And gather with glee and game!

EVE Let's taste the fruits of great plenty
That grow in paradise.

THEY EXPLORE, HAND IN HAND, AND THEN SEPARATELY, AND SUDDENLY-
EVE IS HOLDING LUCIFER'S HAND- IT POINTS OUT THE TREE-

LUCIFER Now, fair wife and lovely dame!
This fruit is best, I can thee tell.

EVE If that apple I eat, I were to blame-
From joy, our Lord would soon expel-

STILL, SHE APPROACHES THE TREE. DEATH STRAINS AGAINST ITS BONDS.

LUCIFER Of this apple- if you will bite-
Even as God is, so shall you be!
Take this apple in thy hand
With thy spouse bite it, and be without care-
All God's wisdom you'll soon share.

EVE As wise as God is- can it be?
And God's peer of might!

My lovely spouse, my good husband
Listen to me, sir, I pray
Take this fair apple all in your hand
And take a little bite, and say-

ADAM If we eat it, our selves we kill
As God told us, we shall be dead-

EVE A fair angel thus told me a tale:
"To eat that apple, fear not a lick
All cunning as God on Heaven's hill
Thou shall be soon within a tick"-
Therefore this fruit we'll eat.

ADAM Is all God's wisdom captured here?
Then I'll soon taste this sweet-

THEY HOLD THE APPLE AND BITE- DEATH'S BOND BREAKS. ALL FLEE.

DEATH Man, beasts and birds, wild and tame
When I pass over their presence I shall them kill!

Herbs, grass and trees strong, I take them all the same
Even the great mighty oaks with my scythe I fell.

EVE Alas that ever that speech was spoken-
That false angel lied to me-
Alas that our maker's bidding is broken
For I have touched his own dear tree-

ADAM Some leaves I shall quickly hunt
To shield us from death's prick-
Woman, cover up thy front
And I shall hide my-

GOD INTERRUPTS- DEATH HALTS.

GOD Adam, where has thou got?

ADAM Ah, Lord, for sin our flowers fade
I hear thy voice, but see thee not-

GOD One tree, just one, I kept for my own-
Life and death was in that tree.

ADAM The woman that thou made from me
She brought me low to moan and groan-

GOD Woman, that are this man's wife
Have thou stirred up this strife?
I made thee a great lady
In paradise to always play-

EVE Lord, when thou went from this place
Came a worm with angel's face
I did his bidding, alas! alas!
Now we are both bound in Death's grasp-

GOD Thou worm- with thy ill will's work-
Thy false fables, they are full thick.
Why have thou put death's prick
In Adam and his wife?

LUCIFER I am full of great envy
Of wrath and wicked hate

GOD

That they should live above the sky
Where long before I dwelled on high,
And now I am cast in Hell's sty
To long for Heaven's gate.
Adam, since thou that apple gnawed
And my sole bidding all ignored
Go toil and trudge with sorrow and sweat
Until thy life's end.
Woman, thou sought this sinning
And bade him break my bidding
Therefore thou shall be underling:
To man's bidding bend-
'Til, through a maiden, hope is born.
Then, thou wicked worm, full of pride
Through her, thy head shall be torn.
Now, on thy belly thou shall slide.

GOD ASCENDS THE TREE.
ADAM AND EVE ARE BANISHED, AND DEATH FOLLOWS THEM.

LUCIFER

At thy bidding, foul I fall,
I creep home to my stinking stall.
With a fart my breech I break.

LUCIFER EXITS INTO THE HELLMOUTH.

RE-ENTER ADAM & EVE. APPLAUSE. TWO CAST BECOME CAIN & ABEL.

3. CAIN AND ABEL

ADAM

When from paradise we were brought
Our weeping never grew stale,
Our short pleasures have been long bought-

ABEL

Father, no more tell that tale:
I, Abel, would know what to do
To serve my God to his pleasing.

CAIN

And yet I, Cain, hold it but vanity
To listen to Godly speaking.
For I have good enough plenty.

EVE

God you must love and dread

And what goods God has to you turned
The first fruit offer as a sacrifice, burned.

ABEL TAKES THIS TO HEART- FINDS HIS BEST SHEEP.

ABEL Accept this lamb, blessed Lord, I pray
My gift is but simple- yet the best I may-

CAIN To tithe the best- that is not sound
And keep the worst- is that your boast?
But I more wisely shall turn this round
And tithe the worst and make *no* boast!
Here I tithe a tattered sheaf
Let God take it or else leave.

ABEL Now Cain, brother, thou does full ill
For God sent thee both best and worst-

CAIN But keep myself the worst?
God will neither eat nor drink!
You stupid sheep- you likewise stink.
Now shut up, or you'll hear my curse.

CAIN CHUCKS HIS INTO THE HOLLOW; NOTHING HAPPENS.

ABEL I give to God that sits above
On whom is set my whole heart's love.

ABEL SACRIFICES HIS SHEEP IN THE HOLLOW; IT BURNS BRIGHTLY.

CAIN Hark, Abel, brother, what blaze is this?
Thy tithing burns as fire full bright!

ABEL Of the best was my tithing,
And of the worst was your offering-

CAIN What, thou stinking loser, is that what you say?
Thou shall be dead! I shall thee slay!

ABEL Mercy!

CAIN STRIKES ABEL DOWN.

CAIN With this branch I shall hide him.

GOD Cain! Come forth and answer me-
Tell your tale entirely true.
Thy brother, Abel, where is he?

CAIN Since when was I my brother's keeper?
I cannot tell where he might be.
He's always been a hearty sleeper-

GOD Cursed Cain, thou are untrue
And for thy deed, thou shall sore rue
Thy brother's blood that thou merciless slew.

CAIN Mercy!

GOD But- for Adam's love and Eve's strain,
If any shall thou slay
They shall have seven-fold more pain
And suffer by both night and day.

CAIN Now will I go and wend my way
To find where-ever best I may
From man's sight to hide.
My curse on you all, on every side!

APPLAUSE FROM THE TROUBLEMAKERS- CAIN LAPS IT UP.

4. THE FLOOD

NOAH'S WIFE The next tale, of Noah shall be!
How God was wroth with man unsound
Because from sin, man did not flee-

NOAH COMES FORTH

NOAH God, of his goodness and grace profound
By whose glorious power all things are wrought
Thy servants save, Lord, from sinful sound-

CLAMOUR FROM THE TROUBLEMAKERS, PLAYING SOME SINFUL GAME.

Now may no man go about
But see sin reign in every rout
Cursedness does spring and spread-

NOAH'S WIFE I am your wife, your children these be
Unto us two it does belong
Them to teach in every degree
To forsake Sin and all works wrong,
So our God to please-

SHEM Ah, dear mother, God forbid
That we should work any sinful deed-

SHEM'S WIFE That should offend God's face-

CHAM That should aggrieve God in sight-

CHAM'S WIFE Nor offend him day nor night-

JAPHET And in virtuous living keep us-

JAPHET'S WIFE Lord God, now hear our cry-

LAMETH- ONE OF THE TROUBLEMAKERS- LEAPS UP-

LAMETH Alas, now I see not, for I'm old and blind
Great mourning I make, and great cause, no doubt
While I had sight, you might never once find
My peer of poaching in all this world about!

HE BURSTS INTO **SONG- LINCOLNSHIRE POACHER**

BOY It is true, master, what ye say, indeed
Your target you'd prick at half a mile- at speed!

LAMETH I still reckon no man could shoot better
Than I should do now, if my hand were set right.
Spy me some prey, boy!

BOY Under yon great bush, master, a beast do I see!
Draw up thy weapon, that beast to slay!

LAMETH, WITH THE BOY'S HELP, AIMS AND SHOOTS AT CAIN- DRAWN OUT
DEATH SCENE. CAIN MILKS IT FOR ALL HE CAN.

CAIN Out, out and alas! My heart is asunder!
With buckshot I am dead and slain-

BOY Aw no! It's Cain thou killed, I tell thee plain!

LAMETH Have I slain Cain? Alas, what have I done?
Upon all my blood God will revenge this deed-
Thou art the reason I slayed Eve's son
Therefore I shall kill thee!
LAMETH BEATS THE BOY TO DEATH IN COMICAL FASHION.

BOY Ow, ow, the agony! Oh the pain!

GOD IS WATCHING- LAMETH AND THE TROUBLEMAKERS HUSH DOWN.

GOD Now I am sorry that I have made man
That slays my handiwork and grieves me so.
With their sin, their death they brew.

Noah! Noah! A ship look thou make
Of every kind of beast a couple thou take
Within the shipboard, their lives to win
For I am sore grieved with these for their sin
That all this wide world shall be drowned with flood.

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY BUILD A SHIP, AND GATHER THE ANIMALS WITHIN.
A FLOOD. DEATH STALKS THROUGH THE WAVES.
MUSIC: CROSSING THE BAR

NOAH With doleful heart sighing, sad and sore
Great mourning I make for this dreadful flood
Man and beast are drowned in many a score
For the world would not end its spilling of blood.

NOAH'S WIFE Rustiness of sin was cause of this tide
Yet we are now saved, in life to abide.

NOAH Now God has ceased this forty days' rain
This crow I shall send out to seek some plain.

THE CROW FLIES OFF, AND DOES NOT COME BACK.

This crow has on some foul carrion set
Therefore a new messenger I will forth send
Fly forth, thou fair dove, over waters wet
And spy some dry land, our mourning to mend.

THE DOVE FLIES AWAY AND RETURNS WITH AN OLIVE BRANCH

A great olive bush this dove does bring
For joy of this token right heartily we sing.

THE SHIP IS DISMANTLED, THE ANIMALS BEGIN TO LEAVE- ALTHOUGH
ALREADY PEOPLE ARE SQUABBLING OVER THE PROPS.

5. ROOT OF JESSE

GOD

Enough!
Flesh and blood, my word shall be born
And from Death's grip you each shall be torn.

This is the Tree of Jesse's Root.
Out of that branch in Nazareth
A flower shall bloom of this Tree
The which, by grace, shall destroy Death
And bring mankind to bliss full free.

A CROWN IS PASSED FROM KING TO KING-

KING DAVID

I am King David of Jesse's Root
The fresh king by natural succession
And of my blood a child shall be-
Whose blood shall make us free.

KING SOLOMON

I am Solomon, the second king,
And God's worthy temple I built ever higher-
It prefigures that maiden young
The mother of the great Messiah

KING ROBOAN

My name is known, King Roboan
Of our kindred all men shall see
A clean maid tread down foul Satan-

KING ASA

I, King Asa, believe all this
Shall bring us to eternal bliss-

KING JEHOSEPHAT

And I, Jehosaphat, am certain-
That death shall be driven to endless damnation-

KING OZYAS

And I, Ozyas, of high degree-

THE CROWN IS BEING PASSED FASTER NOW- LINES OVERLAP: “ / ”

KING JOTHAM Of my kindred God will be man
Mankind to save/
KING ACHAS Of Jesse, King Achas/ is my name
That falsely worshipped /idolatry-
KING AMON King Amon, /for the last conclusion-

GOD Behold a virgin will conceive
And bear a son, Emmanuel.
To save your lives we shall suffer death
And buy you bliss, in heaven to dwell!

YOUNG MARY PICKS UP THE CROWN.

6. PRESENTATION OF MARY IN THE TEMPLE

ENTER JOACHIM AND ANNE. TODDLER MARY IS PUPPETEERED BY YOUNG MARY.

JOACHIM Blessed be our Lord! Fair fruit have we now!
We made to God a holy vow
That our first child, the servant of God should be.

ANNE Mary, will you tell them here your answer to me-
Will ye be pure maiden and God's wife?

YOUNG MARY You have made your vow, so truly will I,
To be God's chaste footmaid, while life is in me.
But to be God's wife, I was never worthy!

JOACHIM Now then, daughter, that was well said-
You answer as if you were twenty years old!

ANNE Sweet daughter Mary, think on your mother Anne.
Your leaving smites my heart deep.

YOUNG MARY Father and mother, I shall pray for you and weep
To God with all my heart specially.

BISHOP Come, good Mary. Come lass, I call!
Fifteen steps of pilgrimage thou must ascend
And as you do, the Pilgrim Songs extol.
It's a miracle if thou manages- now God defend.

THE MARY PUPPET ASCENDS THE LADDERS.

SONG: THE SEVEN JOYS OF MARY (V1 and 2)

BISHOP Ah, gracious Lord, this is a marvelous thing
That we have seen here by this sight
A babe of three years old- so young!
To come up these steps so upright
It is a high miracle!

YOUNG MARY Holy father, I beseech you forthright
Say how I shall be ruled in God's house.

BISHOP God loved you first; love him in return
For of love, in his own likeness, he made thee.
Then love thy neighbour as thyself without end.
Thou shall hate nothing but the devil and sin,
God bids thee love thy enemy.
And as for yourself here, thus shall you begin:
You must serve and worship God here daily.

YOUNG MARY This life I love as my own life.

MARY PUTS ON THE SHAWL.

Now, sovereigns, here have you seen
In the temple, my presentation.
And I beseech you of your patience
That we pass these matters so lightly away
If they should be done with good providence
Each one would suffice for a whole day.

7. MARRIAGE OF MARY AND JOSEPH

BISHOP Now Mary, child to the law, you must listen
And choose thee a spouse to be thy love.

YOUNG MARY Ere I was born, ye may me trust
Because my parents had no child
In God's temple, to serve evermore
They promised their first child should dwell.

BISHOP In law, all should wedded be-
Yet to break a vow to God would be dreadful.

This answer greatly troubles me.
Together to God now pray we
Knowledge in this to send us.

GABRIEL

Attend and understand-
This is God's own bidding-
That all kinsmen of David the King
To the temple shall bring an offering
With white branches in their hand.
Take heed whose branch sees flowers spring,
For he shall be the maiden's match.

BISHOP

It shall be done!
All manner of men to me attend
That are descended from David the King.
To the temple come with your offering-
A fair white branch, each one of you must bring!

A MAD SCRAMBLE FOR BRANCHES-

LAD 1

Did you not hear the bishop, old man?
Every lad of David's kin
With a branch shall come stand-

JOSEPH

Every lad? Then I've no need to hurry.
I pray you, friends, get on your way-

LAD 2

There is a merry maid whose name is called Mary
And one of us to Mary they'll marry-

JOSEPH

Marry me to merry Mary? I'll swiftly rule out me-
I've ever been a bachelor and ever more will be.
I've changed not a jot for all my long life
'Twould be a strange thing now to take a young wife.

SOMEBODY STRIKES UP MUSIC- STARTS A BROOM DANCE-

LAD 1

Come on grandad, let's go-

JOSEPH

I am old, and also cold. Walking does me woe-

HE IS WHIRLED INTO THE DANCE AND EMERGES, STICK NOW BLOOMING.

Now I wish I were at home in my cot

I am ashamed to be seen, truly-

BISHOP A dead stick bears flowers free!
Ah, gracious God on heaven's throne!
Joseph, in heart be blithe with glee,
A maid to wed thou has won!

JOSEPH What, should I wed? God forbid!
An old man may never thrive
With a young wife, so God me save.
Nay, nay, sir, let it be-

BISHOP Our Lord God wills that it shall be-

JOSEPH Against my God I cannot say nay.
Then warden and keeper will I ever be
But fair maiden I thee pray
Keep thee chaste, as I shall me
I am a man of age.
Therefore sir Bishop, I will that ye see
That in bed we shall never meet.

BISHOP Maria, will ye have this man
And keep to him all your life?

YOUNG MARY I shall him never forsake
But ever with him abide.

BISHOP Joseph, with this ring, now wed thy wife
And by her hand thou now her catch.
He blesses you that has no ending:
In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sanctus.

8. PARLIAMENT OF HEAVEN: SALUTATION AND CONCEPTION

GOD From us, good angel Gabriel, thou shall I send
Into the country of Galilee
To hail from me a maiden free
Called Mary, that all shall amend.

JESUS Say that she is without woe, and full of grace
And that I, the son of the Godhead, of her shall be born.

HOLY SPIRIT And if she ask thee how it might be,
Tell her I, the Holy Ghost, shall work all this.

GABRIEL It shall be done with a thought.

Ave, Maria, full of grace, God is with thee
Among all women blessed art thou
The fallen Eva is turned Ave,
So among all women, blessed art thou!

YOUNG MARY Ah, mercy, God! This is a marvellous hearing!
Yet your angel's words trouble me here-
Angels daily to me do appear
But not in the likeness of man, I fear.

GABRIEL Mary, in this have no dread
For from God, grace has found ye-
You shall conceive in your womb indeed
A child, the Son of the Trinity.

YOUNG MARY Angel, I say to you
In what manner of way shall this be?
For knowing of man I have none now
I have evermore kept my virginity
I doubt not the words ye have said to me
But I ask how is shall be done.

GABRIEL The Holy Ghost shall come from above to thee
And the virtue of him highest shall shadow thee so.

Thy answer all desire to hear
And thy consent to God's Incarnation.

YOUNG MARY With all meekness, I agree to this accord.

THREE BEAMS OF LIGHT DESCEND TO MARY.

I cannot tell what joy, what bliss
Now I feel through God's Word.
By the Holy Ghost, with joy, God's son to us has come
To all that dread him, now is he come!
All the poor and needy he fulfills with his goods
And the proud, he fells to the void.

SONG: BREAD AND ROSES

9. JOSEPH'S DOUBT

- JOSEPH** How, dame, how! Undo your door, undo!
Are ye at home? Why speak you nought?
- YOUNG MARY** Husband, right graciously now come ye be
It solaces me sore, truly, to see you in sight.
- JOSEPH** Sweet words mask bitter taste, I am afraid.
Thy womb too high does stand-
I dread me sore I am betrayed
Some other man has had thee in hand.
- YOUNG MARY** The Father of Heaven and yours it is
Other fathers has he none.
This child is God's and yours!
- JOSEPH** God's child- you lie, in faith!
God did never jape so with a maid
And I came never there, I dare well say!
So again I say: Mary, whose child is this?
- YOUNG MARY** God's and yours.
- JOSEPH** Now now, all old men to me attend
And wed no wife with wandering eyes.
- YOUNG MARY** The angel thus said he-
- JOSEPH** An angel? Alas, alas, fie for shame
Ye sin now in what ye say
To put an angel in so great blame-
- YOUNG MARY** Ah, gracious God in heaven's throne,
Correct my spouse in this hard case-
- JOSEPH** To the bishop, I will it tell
That he, the law, may to thee come
With stones thou to kill-
Nay, nay, yet God forbid
That I should do that dreadful deed-

HE FLEES. GABRIEL APPEARS.

GABRIEL Joseph, Joseph, thou weep shrill.

JOSEPH Good sir, let me weep my fill
Go forth thy way and let me alone.

GABRIEL I tell thee, God of thy wife shall be born
Of her, clean maid as she was before
To save mankind, that is forlorn
Therefore go cheer her, I say.

JOSEPH I might well have known,
So good a creature as she
Would never have done trespass.

Ah mercy, mercy, my gentle match
Mercy! I have said all amiss
All that I have said here, I forsake-
Your sweet feet, now let me kiss.

YOUNG MARY Nay, let my feet be, not those ye take-
My hand ye may kiss.
It was the work of God, as I told you.
Now blessed be that Lord so provided for me.

10. TRIAL OF MARY AND JOSEPH

BACKBITER Hark Raise-slander! What can you tell
Of any new gossip round about?

RAISE-SLANDER Backbiter, my sister of blood,
A short while ago, a thing befell-
I know you'll laugh right well to hear this riot-
If this be sown, much woe shall grow.

BACKBITER If you'll raise it to my ears,
I shall not spare seed to sow.

RAISE-SLANDER Sister, in this temple a maid there was
Called Maid Mary. The truth to tell,
She made a vow with man never to mingle
But to live a chaste and clean virgin-
That vow she broke! Her belly does swell,
And is as great as yours or mine!

BACKBITER Ah, that old shrew Joseph- my truth I plight-
Was so enamoured by that maid
That when of her beauty he had a sight
He ceased not 'til he'd her waylaid-

RAISE-SLANDER Ah, nay, nay, well worse she has him paid.
Some fresh young gallant she loved much more
That his bold legs between her have laid,
And that does grieve the old man sore.

BISHOP Hark you, gossips! Why speak you such shame
Of that good virgin, fair Maid Mary?

BACKBITER Shame on you, for your kin she be.
All great with child her womb does swell!
Call her here and yourself shall see
That this is the truth that I here tell.

ENTER MARY AND JOSEPH.

BISHOP Now Joseph, good day- and thy fair spouse.

BACKBITER Some beggar's told that in your house
A cuckold's bow each night is bent.

RAISE-SLANDER Fair maid, that tale you best can tell-
Did not that archer please you right well?

BACKBITER And you'll see by her belly's swell
"Rock-a-bye baby" she'll soon sing!

BISHOP Alas, Mary, what is this sinning?

YOUNG MARY Of God in heaven I take witness:
That sinful deed was never my thought.
Almighty God shall be our friend
When the truth is tried out.

RAISE-SLANDER Now then, Joseph, I am afraid
That you have done this wicked sin.

BACKBITER Now by my truth, you hit the pin-
Spill all, tell us how you her did win

JOSEPH Or acknowledge yourself a cuckold!
She is to me a true clean maid
And I to her am true also.

BISHOP Thou shalt not escape from us so.
First thou shall give us another play.
Here is the bottle of God's vengeance-
This drink shall be now thy purgation.
This has such virtue by God's ordinance
That whoever drinks of this potion
And goes seven times in procession
Here in this place, this altar about
If they be guilty, some pollution
Plain in their face shall show it out.

JOSEPH This drink I take with meek intent
As I am guiltless to God, I pray
Lord as thou art omnipotent
On me thou show the truth this day.

JOSEPH DRINKS AND GOES SEVEN TIMES AROUND THE ALTAR:

RAISE-SLANDER Lift up your feet! Set forth your toes!
Or by my truth I'll give you a clout!

BACKBITER What makes thy legs now so lame?
Did you put your old back out
When you dabbled with your young dame?

JOSEPH If I be worthy to suffer blame
O rightful God, my sin show out.

BISHOP Joseph, with heart, thank God thy lord
Whose high mercy does thee excuse.
But Mary, with child we see thee stand.
What type of man did you misuse?

YOUNG MARY I trespassed never with earthly lad.

BACKBITER In faith, I suppose this maiden slept
Shivering outdoors while it did snow,
And a snowflake into her mouth crept
And from it the child in her womb did grow.

YOUNG MARY Ah, dear Son, I pray you, help your mother mild,
Help me now, that my innocence is not lost.
SHE DRINKS, THEN PROCESSES ROUND THE ALTAR SEVEN TIMES.

BISHOP Almighty God, how is this set?
This woman with child is fair and clean
Without foul spot, immaculate!

RAISE-SLANDER By my father's soul, here is great guile!
Because she is one of your kindred
You've changed the drink by some false wile-

BISHOP Then before all these people drink thou the same!

RAISE-SLANDER (DRINKING:) Alas! Alas! What ails my skull?
Mercy, good Mary! I do repent
Of my cursed and false language.

YOUNG MARY Now, good Lord of heaven omnipotent
By your great mercy her sickness assuage.

RAISE-SLANDER IS HEALED.

BISHOP Now, blessed virgin, we thank you all
Of your good heart and great patience.
We all to you lowly incline
And take our leave of your worthy presence.

11. NATIVITY

JOSEPH Now my wife Mary what say you to this?
Octavian our Emperor sadly has declared
Our tribute him to bear- my folk must trudge
To the city of Bedlem, far hence from here.

YOUNG MARY My husband and my spouse, with you will I wend-
A sight of that city soon would I see,
It would bring great joy to me.

JOSEPH My spouse, you're with child- I fear you to carry
For I reckon it were works wild.
But you to please, right keen am I,
For women grudge easy when they are with child.

THEY TRAVEL.

YOUNG MARY Ah, my sweet husband, would you tell me
What tree is standing upon that hill?

JOSEPH Now then, Mary, it is called a cherry tree-
In summer, you might eat your fill.

YOUNG MARY Those cherries I would happily taste
If it pleased you to labour so little for me

JOSEPH To fulfil your desire I shall do surely,
But to pluck you these cherries, it is a work wild!
For the tree is so high that I cannot climb lightly.
Let him pluck you cherries who gave you that child.

YOUNG MARY Now good Lord I pray thee, grant me this boon
To have these cherries, if it be your will.

THE CHERRY TREE BOWS DOWN AND MARY PLUCKS A HANDFUL.
THE CHERRY TREE THROWS A HANDFUL AT JOSEPH.

JOSEPH Ow! I know well I have offended my God in Trinity
Speaking to my spouse these unkind words.

THEY APPROACH BEDLEM. PEOPLE SLEEP IN THE STREETS.

YOUNG MARY This city is beset with people everywhere
They lie full weary even in the street.

THE SOLDIERS CLEAR THE HOMELESS OUT.

JOSEPH Ah, sweet wife, what shall we do
Where shall we lodge this night?

YOUNG MARY Good husband, there's a house of horse over the way
Among the beasts will be our hostel.

JOSEPH God be thy help, spouse. It pains me sore
God's son among beasts to be born,
In a house so desolate, without any wall.

YOUNG MARY Joseph, my husband, abide here I shall
For here will be born the King's son of bliss.
Therefore husband, for your honesty

Get you hence out of this place
And I alone with humility
Here shall abide for God's grace

JOSEPH Wife, I'm ready you to please-
I will get out of your way,
And seek some midwives to give you ease.

YOUNG MARY God in heaven for you I pray.

JOSEPH Now God from whom comes all relief
And as all grace in thee is sound
So save my wife from hurt and grief
Until some... MIDWIVES for her I have found!

ON BOUND THE MIDWIVES, ZELOMY AND SALOME.

ZELOMY Why do you make such a great mourning?

SALOME Tell me why you make such a great moan.

JOSEPH My wife is now in labour, alone.
If you midwives can do any good
Help my young spouse in haste, anon!

SALOME Be of good cheer and of glad mood
My name is Salome- all Bedlem's bairns I know
For I'm a midwife of worthy fame.

ZELOMY And I am Zelomy- mothers know my name.
We two with thee shall go today.

A MASSIVE BRIGHT LIGHT SHINES FROM THE TREE.

SALOME But we dare not enter this lodge in faith
There is within such great brightness-

ZELOMY Moon by night nor sun by day
Shone never so clear in their lightness.

JOSEPH STEPS UP TO THE TREE, TRIES TO LOOK IN- SHIELDS HIS EYES.

JOSEPH Without labour, a child she's had here!

ZELOMY Labour she must have endured
Or else no child of her was born.

SALOME All hail Mary and right good morn
Who was midwife of this fair child?

YOUNG MARY LAUGHS.

JOSEPH Why do you laugh, wife?
If ye have need of midwives,
From offence they will go hence.

YOUNG MARY AND BABY JESUS EMERGE.

YOUNG MARY Husband, I pray you, displease you not
Though that I laugh and great joy have-
Here is the child this world has wrought
Born now of me, that all things shall save.

ZELOMY With hand let me now touch and feel
If ye have need of medicine.
I shall you comfort and help right well
As other women, if ye have pain-

YOUNG MARY Of this fair birth that here is mine
Pain nor grieving feel I right none!
This child that is born will set his people free
Through me, clean maid, and therefore I smile.

ZELOMY I ask you grace, for I did rave.
O gracious child, I ask mercy-
As thou art Lord and I but knave
Forgive me now my great folly.

SALOME It is not true! It may never be,
That both be clean it cannot be said!
I shall never trust it without proof
That she has a child and is a maid.

SALOME TRIES TO INSPECT MARY- HER HAND WITHERS- SCREAMS-

Alas, alas and woe this day
For my great doubt and false belief
My hand is dead and dry as clay
Stiff as a stick and will not move-

YOUNG MARY Woman, thy sorrow to be delayed
Worship that child that here is born
Touch the cloths in which he is laid
For he shall save all that is torn.

SALOME TOUCHES JESUS'S SWADDLING CLOTH- HER HAND IS HEALED.

SALOME Ah, now blessed be this child evermore
The Son of God- for in truth he is-
Has healed my hand that was forlorn
Through false belief and doubt amiss.

YOUNG MARY As God's good news to all who hear,
My child is salve for every sore.
Farewell, good dames and God be your speed.

On this day of our joy, angels did sing
And told the shepherds this morn
Of the blissful birth of this king.

JOSEPH In good time came kings three
With gold, myrrh, and frankincense.
A star led them their way.

YOUNG MARY "Hail, king cold clad", one said,
"Hail, with maiden's milk succoured."
He came to my child with gold glad
And knew him for his lord.

JOSEPH Another knelt upon his knee-
"Sweet incense I offer up to thee
Thou shall be the first of high degree
None so mickle of might."

YOUNG MARY Yet the third, bitter myrrh to him he sent
For on the bitter tree my bairn shall be bent
Man and God omnipotent.
With bitter beating his flesh shall be rent
'Til all his blood be bled.
Such a sorrow both sharp and smart
That as a sword, pierce it shall
Even through his mother's heart.

JOSEPH Therefore to Egypt we must go

For jealous Herod his soldiers shall send-
He will never suffer his knees to bend
To this king of kings born low.

12. HEROD

ENTER KING HEROD, WITH BACKBITER, RAISE-SLANDER, REWFYN , LEYON.

KING HEROD Behold your lord, of royalty so rich
And ruler of all realms, in regal array!
I am the comeliest king, clad in glittering gold
I wield at my will all men on the Wold
And am worthily wrapped in a wonderful way.
You minstrels of mirth blow up a good blast
While I go to chamber and change my array.

SALOME ENTERS- STILL PRAISING THE NEWBORN LORD.

SALOME The greedy devil shall groan grisly as a grouse
When that bairn wins this world with his wide wounds.
To love that child is my del- Oh!

KING HEROD STORMS UP BEHIND HER.

KING HEROD What are you blabbering? A kingly bairn born
Among beasts so low?
I shall prune that paphawk and have him torn.

SALOME FLEES.

Such a carping is unknown,
Unreckoned in my reign!
I am a king of high degree-
There can none be above me!

To seek those sots, soldiers shall I send.
Whilst owlets hoot and robbers steal
Bairns shall bleed under cradle's bend.
Let no bairn be left unbeat
'Til that beggar boy bleeds by beast's bay.
Fools him call
King with crown-
My mighty hall
He shall never throw down

REWFYN I shall slay these churls
Though mothers squeal
Their knavish bairns
I shall drown.

LEYON With swords sharp
Mothers shall carp
And of sorrow sing.

A MASSACRE.

MOTHER 1 Long lullabies have I lost!
Alas, why was my boy born?
Sorrow I see behind and before
At midnight, midday, and at morn
Until the end of my life beckons.

MOTHER 2 Gone are all our good games
My little child lies all lame
That lulled on my paps.
My forty weeks groaning
Has sent seven years sorrowing.

MOTHER 3 I cry both eve and morn
Vengeance for the blood you spilt!

REWFYN Leave this place,
You whores, all at once-
Or by Satan's face
I shall make you skip lightly.

KING HEROD Now I am set as king of might most
Their love for me the whole world shall shout.
There is no lord alive to me worth a toast,
No king nor kaiser in this world about.

DEATH O! I heard a page make praising of pride
All princes he passes in boasting full free
He wants to be worthiest of all this world wide
But God's son does live- there is no lord but he-
Over all lords he is king.
I am Death, God's messenger,
Almighty God has sent me here
This braggart to break without fear

KING HEROD For his wicked works.
He is dead, I have no doubt,
Amongst all that great rout.
Therefore blow up a merry fit!

MUSIC. AMONGST THIS, DEATH KILLS HEROD.

DEATH King Herod all shall see here
That rejoiced in pomp and pride.
For all his boasts of bliss full bare,
He lies now dead here on his side.
For when I come, I shall not spare-
From me no creature may hide.

13. JESUS BEFORE THE DOCTORS

A TODDLER JESUS, IN THE SWADDLING CLOTH, RUNS AHEAD OF MARY AND JOSEPH- INTO THE CROWD- A YOUNG JESUS- ABOUT ELEVEN YEARS OLD- EMERGES IN THE ROBE. HE STOPS SHORT OF THE DOCTORS OF THE LAW.

DOCTOR 1 *Scripture sacre esse dinoscimur doctos*
We are the best of all manner of clergy

DOCTOR 2 *Velud rosa omnium florum flos:*
Like unto us was never lawyer so wise

DOCTOR 1 Look what science ye can devise
Of reading, writing, and true orthography-

DOCTOR 2 - Amongst all clerks we bear the prize
Of grammar, cadence and of prosody!

DOCTOR 1 Therefore in this temple we sit on high
And of wise worship, have the sovereignty.

YOUNG JESUS All wit and wisdom from God it is lent-
Of all your learning within your breast
Thank highly that the Lord has it sent.

DOCTOR 1 Go home, little boy, and sit on thy mother's lap-

DOCTOR 2 - And after find your cradle to take a little nap.

YOUNG JESUS If you two be so witty and wise
Can you owt tell how this world was wrought?
How long shall it last? Can you devise
An answer with all the cunning you've sought?

A CROWD BEGINS TO GATHER- EAGER TO SEE THE EXPERTS SHOWN UP.

DOCTOR 1 The world's ending no man can describe-

YOUNG JESUS How was it wrought, and how long shall it endure?
That I can tell by good deliberation-
Not only the world but every creature
Was wrought by God in an endless creation.

DOCTOR 2 How should a child that never letters did learn
Come by such wit and high cogitation?

YOUNG JESUS All things are brought to information
By three persons, one God in Trinity,
And one of those three has taken incarnation
Both flesh and blood of a maiden free.

DOCTOR 1 One God alone is persons three?
If you can prove it, then let us see.

YOUNG JESUS In the sun, consider you things three-
The splendour, the heat, and the light.
As those three parts but one sun be,
Right so three persons are one God of might.

DOCTOR 2 Then another question I ask you yet
You said one of these three took flesh and blood
And she was a maiden- I cannot believe it.

YOUNG JESUS Just as the sun pierces the glass
The glass is not hurt by its nature.

DOCTOR 1 This is a heavenly declaration!
This is the wisest lad that ever was born-

MARY AND JOSEPH PUSH THROUGH.

YOUNG MARY Ah dear child, dear child, what have you done?
For you we have had great sorrow and care
Thy father and I, three days from home have gone
Widely seeking you, when we found you not there.

YOUNG JESUS Why have ye sought me with heavy fare?
Know you not I must be
Amongst my Father's ware?

YOUNG MARY Your Father's will must be wrought
It is most worthy that it so be-
Yet of your mother have some thought!
Nevermore go so long from me.

YOUNG JESUS Now to please my mother mild
I shall you follow with obedience.

THE CROWD RUSHES IN- IN THE MIDST WE TRANSFER THE JESUS-ROBE.

14. BAPTISM

JOHN BAPTIST ENTERS.

JOHN BAPTIST A tree that is barren and will bear no fruit,
The owner will hew it down and cast it on the fire.
So shall it be for those that follow the foul suit
Of the devil of hell, and work his desire.

I am the voice of the wilderness
That here speaks and preaches to you!

JESUS John Baptist, my cousin, my friend
I thank you with all my mind.
I come to thee to be baptised
In the waters wide.

JOHN BAPTIST I should rather of thou have sought
Holy Baptism, than thou of me.
Yet thy bidding my Lord so dear
I obey with gladsome cheer
And baptise thee with water clear.

JOHN BAPTISES JESUS.

All men may take example, so
Of lowly meekness baptised here.

JOHN BAPTIST LEAVES.

JESUS

Into the desert I pass my way
For man's sake, and for to think.
Forty nights and forty day
I shall neither eat nor drink.
And now to do penance, I shall begin
And usher in the kingdom of heaven.

JESUS STRIDES OFF- TO LUCIFER'S SARDONIC APPLAUSE.

INTERVAL

ENTR'ACTE- PARLIAMENT OF HELL

LUCIFER

Now wisest of council amongst all the riot
Hear now what I say- a tale I shall tell
That troubles my stomach and gives me great doubt.

BELYAL

Tell us now thy question all out and out.

LUCIFER

This doubt that I have, it is of Christ
Born a bairn in Bedlem, it is said
And many men reckon that God's son he is
Born of a woman- a virgin maid-
And all that he preaches is heaven's bliss.
All our good days then should soon be few
And all our love and our laws he will hew
He will be lord over heaven and hell
And fetch away all our cattle.
Therefore- give me some good counsel.

BELYAL

If he sins, he's no king of bliss
So tempt him thrice as he walks thy way.
For mankind is but frailty
And quickly falls away.

LUCIFER

To get a thousand souls in an hour me thinks it but scorn
Since I won Adam and Eve on the first day.
Take heed to your prince then, my audience care-worn
And see what masteries on earth I shall play.

PART TWO

15. THE TEMPTATION

LUCIFER

I am your lord Lucifer that out of hell came
Prince of this world and great Duke of Hell.
I am nourisher of sin to the confusion of man
To bring him to my dungeon, in fire to dwell.
Who ever will serve me, reward him I can
That he shall sing "Woe is me" in pains fell.

But now, marvelous minds, let me tell you my remembrance.
This Christ clopped from a stable- Mary's son-
Thrice I tempted him by right subtle insistence
After he fasted forty days against temptation
His hunger I sated, as he turned stones to bread.
Then from this pinnacle we flew, with angelic assistance.
His answers were marvelous- I knew not his intention-
And at the last to vainglory, I led him with success-
I showed him my possessions- all Lincolnshire-
Louth and Lincoln,
Horncastle, Heckington
Grimsby and Grantham,
Sleaford and Spilsby
And even- nay- *especially* [VENUE TOWN]-
All this belongs to me.
I said if he would kneel down to the ground
And worship me now in this land
I would give it to him-

JESUS STORMS ON, FURIOUS AT THE LIES- THROWING STONES-

JESUS

Turn *this* to bread! Get back, foul Satan!
In Holy Scripture written it is
Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God!

LUCIFER

Ooh! ow! harrow! alas alas!
For sorrow I let a crack.

EXIT LUCIFER WITH A FART.

JESUS

Now all mankind, from me example take
Believe not his lies but what I tell thee-
How that the devil of hell so bleak

In sin was busy to tempt me,
Yet for all he tried, no success did he make.
He is overcome and now does flee.

16. PROCESSION OF SAINTS

JESUS ASSIGNS PARTS AND EMBLEMS TO THE TWELVE APOSTLES:

To the uneducated, I stand as a teacher
Of this collection, to give information.
Who shall be the Apostles, the glorious choir?

First, Simon Petyr, my rock, prince and president
And Andrew, his brother that first followed my ascent.

PETYR

Then the twin luminaries, James and John,
Both burning as bright as the sunbeam,
With the sheen of charity, both knit in one.
From fishing they found us, beside Jordan's stream.

JESUS

Welcome, Philip, that converted Samaritan,
With Little James of Jerusalem.

JOHN

Hail, Matthew, sheriff and evangelist,
And Bartholomew that fled all carnal temptation.

JAMES

Hail Simon the Zealot, thus be your name-

JOHN

And Jude of Lost Causes, that loves our Lord-

JAMES

And never had strife, but good accord,

PETYR

Hail, Thomas, of whom the Gospel says
In Christ's wound was your reflection.

JESUS

Hail, Judas.

JUDAS EMBRACES JESUS.

I do not wish the death of a villain,
So for thy sins make repentance.
If you mend what is broken
Then heaven shall be your inheritance.

JESUS AND THE DISCIPLES DISPERSE.
LUCIFER STRIDES FORTH- VIEWS HIS BAD SOULS WITH CONTEMPT.

LUCIFER Give me your love! grant me your affection!
And I will unclothe the treasure of love's alliance
And give what you desire, after your intention.
No poverty shall trouble you, only plenteous abundance!

I have brought you new names- and you will see why.
For sin is more pleasant when it flatters man's intent-
You shall call pride "honesty", and "affection" not lechery,
And coveting, "wisdom", where treasure is present.
Wrath- "manhood"- and envy, call "chastisement",
When the courts are in session, let "perjury" be chief.
Gluttony- "rest"- and let abstinence be absent.
And he that will exhort thee to virtue, put him to grief.

To rehearse all my servants, my matter is too brief
But these shall enter the division eternal-
Annas, high priest! My liars and louts!
And my lost Judas I shall call back!
Remember, my servants, that your souls are immortal.
I cherish them at all times, whenever you call.

17. WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY

ANNAS Alas, alas, our law is torn
By a false hypocrite, Jesus by name
That of a shepherd's daughter was born.
He breaks our law and makes it lame
All our laws he does defame-
That stinking beggar is wonderfully bold.

BACKBITER Hark Sir Annas-

RAISE-SLANDER A right good sport we can you tell-

BACKBITER A fair young lass nearby does dwell
Both fresh and- ooh- upon to look-

RAISE-SLANDER And a lusty man with her does mingle-
The way to her chamber right swiftly he took.

ANNAS We shall have our game if this is true-
We will bring her before Jesu
And of her life the truth present
How in adultery her life is spent.

Of grace and mercy ever he does preach
And that no-one should be vengeful.
Against the woman, if he say "Wretch!"
Then his preaching is unstable.
And if he hold still his commutation
And preach of mercy- her to save-
Then we have our vindication
To kill him and doom him to the grave.

For Moses bids in our law
That every adulterer we should kill-

RAISE-SLANDER Ye tarry overlong, sir, I tell
Let us go take them in their lust-

THEY LOOK IN THE HELLMOUTH.
THE GOSSIPS ARE IMPRESSED- PHWOAR! ANNAS LESS SO.

ANNAS Taken in the filth of their sin!

A YOUTH RUNS OUTSIDE NAKED, CLUTCHING CLOTHES.

Stow that harlot!

THE YOUTH DROPS HIS CLOTHES AND RAISES HIS FISTS-

YOUTH If any man stow me this night
I shall him give a deadly smite!

BACKBITER With such a lad I will not fight.

YOUTH That same blessing I give you all
And bequeath you to the devil of hell!

(ASIDE:) In faith I was so sore afraid
Of those shrews, the truth to say
My breeches were not yet tied
I had such haste to run away ...

RAISE-SLANDER THROWS HIS CLOTHES AFTER HIM-

RAISE-SLANDER Make yourself decent!

BACKBITER Come forth thou stot! Come forth thou slut!
Come forth thou broodmare, brothel bold!

RAISE-SLANDER We shall teach thee with cares cold
A little better to keep thy cut-

MARY MAUDLIN EMERGES.

MARY MAUDLIN Oh mercy, mercy, sirs, I pray
For God's love, have mercy on me-

ANNAS Sinners we'd be, as much to blame-
To save such sluts? it shall not be.

MARY MAUDLIN Then if you will not grant me grace,
I pray you kill me here in this place.
Let not my people know my shame-

ANNAS Against the law thou did offence.
Therefore of grace speak thou no more.

A CROWD SLOWLY GATHERS. JESUS IS AMONGST THEM.

Now, Sir Prophet, we all pray
Give true doom and just sentence
Upon this woman, which this day
In sinful adultery has done offence-

JESUS WRITES ON THE GROUND WITH HIS FINGER.

In Moses' law, rightly we're taught
That such false lovers shall be slain.
Shall we let her go sin again,
Or to her death shall she be brought?

JESUS AGAIN WRITES ON THE GROUND.

MARY MAUDLIN I have been fouled by field and fen,
And sought sin in many a city.

ANNAS A, mercy, Lord, and salve my sin!
Maiden's flower, wash me free.
Good sir, awake, tell us your thought
Shall she be stoned? tell us your wit.

JESUS HANDS STONES OUT TO THE ACCUSERS, THEN THE CROWD.

JESUS Those of you that never sin sought
Cast your stones, and spare her not-
If clean from every sin ye be.

THE CROWD DISPENSES.

MARY MAUDLIN Mary Maudlin is my name.
O holy prophet, grant me mercy.
Of my betrayals and sinful shame
With all my heart I am sorry.

JESUS For those sins that thou has wrought,
Has any man condemned thee?

MARY MAUDLIN No.

JESUS Then thou shall not be condemned by me.
Go home again, and walk at large
Look that ye live in honesty
And no more sin. This is thy charge.

MARY MAUDLIN For my penance, King of Grace,
With this ointment that is so sweet,
Let me anoint thy holy feet.

SHE DOES SO, AND WASHES THEM WITH HER HAIR.

JESUS Sorrowful heart may sin amend.
All thy prayer I shall fulfil.
To thy good heart, I will attend
And save thee from thy sin so fell.
In my grace, she shall ever flower
'Til Death does take her to die.

MARY MAUDLIN I thank thee, Lord, of this great grace!
I shall never forfeit nor do trespass
In word, nor deed, nor will, nor wit.

JUDAS Lord, I think thou does right ill
To let that ointment so spill!
To sell it, it were better skill,
To buy food for poor men.
Such oil was worth good money —
Three hundred pence, fair and free!
This might have bought food plenty
To feed those in poverty.

JESUS Against the woman thou speaks wrong.
Soon I shall pass forth from this life-
This mercy is her mourning song.

18. CONSPIRACY; ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

JESUS Friends, behold the time of mercy,
Which has come now without doubt
Man's soul in bliss, now we shall edify,
And the Prince of the World shall be cast out.

SONG: HARD TIMES OF OLD ENGLAND (VERSE 1)

PETYR O, ye people despairing, be glad!
For great cause ye have, if ye can see:
The Lord that all things from nowt made
Is coming your comfort to be!
He shall cure the blind so they shall see,
The deaf to hear, the dumb to speak!
They that are crooked, shall go swiftly.

That some of you be blind, it may not be denied,
For him, your maker, with your ghostly eyes you will not see.
Of his commandments, in you great negligence is spied-
Wherefore deaf to the Spirit, I call you now.

JOHN And some of you may not go, you are so crooked.
Two true feet everyone should have-
The first foot is to love God above all other pleasures;
The second foot is to love thy neighbor as thy own self.

PETYR Many of you are dumb. Why? For ye will not redress

By mouth your deeds mortal, but instead you perjure.
And of all these maladies, you may have ghostly cure,
For the heavenly healer is coming now to visit.

And as for payment, he will demand no bill,
For with the love of your hearts, he will take his fill.

JOHN

And to fulfill the prophets' prophesy,
Upon an ass he will here ride
Showing you example of true humility,
Devoid of the abominable sin of pride
Which has nigh conquered all the world wide!

SONG: HARD TIMES OF OLD ENGLAND (VERSE 2, 3)
CHRIST ENTERS ON A DONKEY.

ANNAS

Will ye see what a power of people he gathers
With the marvels that he has wrought?
Some other subtlety must be sought,
For we may not leave him to speak-
Then, to a bloody conclusion we'd be brought,
For the Romans will else punishment wreak.
You must agree it is most expedient
That one man for the people should die
Than all our people perish for his dissent.
Upon a gibbet, let him hanged be,
So all the country may his corpse see
And beware of his great treason.

SONG: HARD TIMES OF OLD ENGLAND (VERSE 4)

JESUS

Friends, behold the time of mercy,
Which is come now, without doubt!

BLIND MAN

Thou Son of David! On us have mercy!
I lie blind here and may not see.

JESUS

Your belief has made you see
And delivered you from mortal pain.
Blessed be all those that believe in me,
Yet see me not with mortal eyes.

BLIND MAN

I that was blind now may see!
Grant mercy, Lord of thy great grace!

JESUS ADDRESSES THE CROWD, PICKING OUT INDIVIDUALS.

JESUS

When you come before the high justice
On the Day of Doom
There is no help of no gloss:
The truth full truly, he will toss,
And send you to heaven or hell.

I find here written on thy forehead
Thou would not give a poor man bread
But from thy door thou would him chide.

And in thy face here do I read
That if a thirsty man came in need
Drink from him thou would ever hide.

In wrath, thy neighbours thou did backbite,
For to anger them was thy delight.
Ever in envy was all thy mind.

To the refuge-seeker, thou were unkind;
Thou would never help a child in danger.

The homeless, with villainy
Thou thrust forth from their rest.

As you do to the least of them, so you do to me.
Now ask yourself- what mercy would you have?
What have you done, your soul to save?
To whom have you done any merciful deed
Mercy for to win?

THE CROWD LEAVE, EMBARRASSED AND ANGRY.

O, Jerusalem, woeful is the ordinance
Of the day of thy great persecution!
Yes, you that live in the city
You shall curse the day you were born!
This path is paved by the Spirit's ordinance,
To convey us where we must be.
For man's love, this way I take.
With ghostly eye, I truly see
That man, for man, an end must make.

19. THE LAST SUPPER

THE DISCIPLES SPREAD OUT BLANKETS, WITH BREAD AND WINE.

PETYR All ready, Lord, is our Maundy supper.

JESUS Friends, this lamb set before us
That we shall eat this night,
Was commanded by my Father to Moses
When they fled from Egypt.
Like them we eat the sweet bread
And likewise the bitter root.
And as they stood, so do we stand,
With shoes on their feet and staves in their hand.
Companions, this bread is my body,
Not bitter bread, of hate and envy,
But the sweet bread of love and charity.

Now have I taught you how ye shall eat
Your Paschal lamb that is my meat.

PETYR Lord, to receive this ghostly sustenance
In this form, it exceeds my intelligence.
But if I have trespassed in word, thought or deed
With bitter contrition, Lord, I ask thee mercy.

JESUS SHARES THE BREAD WITH HIS DISCIPLES:

JESUS This is my flesh, my blood and my body
That shall die upon the Tree for thee.

AND ASIDE, BEFORE HE HANDS BREAD TO JUDAS:

Judas, do you know what it is you take?

JUDAS Lord, thy body I will not forsake.

JESUS My body to thee I will not deny.

HE HANDS THE BREAD TO JUDAS.

My heart is right sorry, and no wonder it is.
To death I shall go that never did trespass.

But yet, what most grieves my heart is this:
One of my brethren shall work this menace;
One of you is busy, my death here to buy.

PETYR My dear Lord, I pray thee, the truth to tell:
Which of us is he that treason shall do?

JOHN If there be one that would sell you so,
Good master, tell us now clearly his name!

MATTHEW For that false treason, to hell he shall sink!
Alas, my dear Lord, what man is so mad
For gold or for silver himself so to spill?

THOMAS That traitor that does this horrible menace,
Both body and soul, I hold he is lost —

LITTLE JAMES Rest shall he none have, but evermore wake,
Burning in hot fire, in prison ever shut.

JUDAS STEALS AWAY TO THE CONSPIRATORS.

JUDAS Like coin counterfeited, I have a hidden treason,
My master's power to fell.
I, Judas, desire for good reason
That to the priests I might him sell.
I know full merry I shall them make!

Hail, princes and priests that be present!
Good tidings to you I come to tell!
If you will follow mine intent,
My master, Jesus, I will you sell,
His intent and purpose to topple-
For I will no longer follow his law.

ANNAS Judas, what shall we for thy master pay?

JUDAS Thirty pieces of silver, if you accord.
ANNAS The payment shall have no delay,
But be laid down here within a word.

REWFYN Yet by a token we must him know
So that we might recognise his face.

LEYON Yea, beware of that, for any thing!
For you disciples look alike in apparel,
And since ye dress alike in clothing,
So might we our purpose fail.

JUDAS As for that, sirs, have ye no doubt.
I shall ordain, so ye shall not miss.
When that ye come, hide all about,
And take the man that I shall kiss.
I must go to my master again.
Doubt not, sirs. This matter is sure enough.

THE SOLDIERS GATHER.

LUCIFER Ah! Ah! Judas, darling mine!
Thou art the best to me that ever was born!
Thou shall be crowned with hell's pain,
And shall be mine forevermore!
Thou has sold thy master and eaten him also.
I would thou could bring him to hell every day-
But yet I fear he should do there some sorrow and woe
That all hell shall cry out to make me pay.
No. Speed up the matter that thou has begun!
I shall go to make Hell ready for thee.
For when thou comes there, thou shall groan —
In fire and stink to sit by me.

JESUS PASSES THE CUP, AND THE APOSTLES DRINK.

JESUS This is my blood, that for man's sin,
Out of my heart shall run.
With my body and blood, I have you fed.
For your love, I may do no more.
Now, Petyr, and everyone
If you love me, feed my sheep.

Another example I shall you show,
How ye shall live in community.
Sit down here with words few
And what I do, you suffer me.
This night, I shall be led from you all
And ye, for fear, from me shall flee.

PETYR Lord, I will never forsake thee
Nor for no perils from thee flee.

JESUS Petyr, promise no more than thou know.
For before the cock has thrice made crow,
Thrice thou shall deny me.

Humankind, my delight, I may not forsake,
Nor show you unkindness, or mercy deny.
In pain for you, my body shall shake,
And for love of you all, God shall die.

ENTER JUDAS. WITH A KISS, HE WRAPS THE CLOAK AROUND JESUS'S
SHOULDERS.

JUDAS Welcome, Jesus, my master dear!

LEYON Bring forth this traitor! Spare him not!
To the judges we shall him lead.

REWFYN Thou shall be hanged upon the Tree-
A million of gold shall not save thee!

20. THE FIRST TRIAL (ANNAS)

ANNAS Jesus, thou are welcome in our presence!
Full often we have thee busily sought.
We paid thy disciple for thee thirty pence,
And, as an ox or a horse, we truly thee bought.
Therefore thou art ours now, as thou stands us before.
Say why thou troubles us and subverts all our law.
What are thy disciples that follow thee about
And what is the doctrine that thou does preach?
Tell us now, and bring us out of doubt
That we may to other men thy preaching teach.

JESUS All times that I have preached, openly it was done,
In the synagogue or temple where all of us come.
Ask them what I have said and what I have done.
They can tell thee my words. Ask them, everyone.

RAISE-SLANDER Sirs, this I heard him with his own mouth say:
"Break down this temple without delay,

And I shall set it up again
As whole as it was, by the third day.”

BACKBITER Yea, sir, and I heard him say also
That he was the Son of God,
And yet many a fool reckons they are so,
I dare wager upon my hood!

ANNAS What say you now, Jesus?
Why answer you not?
Hear not what is said against thee?
Hear not how many things they accuse thee of?
Now, I charge thee and conjure by the sun and the moon
That thou tell us if thou be God’s Son!

JESUS I shall not say nay to thee. God’s Son I am.

LEYON Shall thou speak so to a bishop?

HE SMITES JESUS ON THE CHEEK.

ANNAS Think ye not he is worthy to die?

ALL Yes, yes, yes! He is worthy to die! Yes, yes, yes!

INTERLUDE: PETYR DENIES CHRIST

BACKBITER What, love, how take ye on with this man?
Is he not one of these disciples?

RAISESLANDER Ah, good man, tell me, are thou one?

PETYR Ah woman! I saw never that man
Since this world first began!

THE COCK CROWS.

BACKBITER What, thou cannot say nay!
Thou art one of these men!
By thy face we may thee ken!

PETYR I know him not, I promise thee!

THE COCK CROWS.

REWFYN Now, fellow mine, well met!
Have no fear, my good cousin yet!

When thy master in the yard was took,
Then all thy fellows him forsook.

PETYR Sir, I know him not, by him that made me,
Will you not believe my oath?

THE COCK CROWS.

Ah! Shame on me! Shame on me!
False heart, why will thou not burst?
Since thy master, so cowardly, thou did forsake!
Alas, where shall I now on earth rest
'Til he, in his mercy, to grace will me take?

INTERLUDE: THE REMORSE OF JUDAS

JUDAS I, Judas, have sinned and treason have done
For I have betrayed this rightful blood!
Here is your money again, the full sum-
For sorrow and guilt, I am grown mad.

LEYON What is that to us? I'll advise thee now —
Thou did with us a covenant make;
Thou sold him to us, like a horse or a cow;
Therefore thy just rewards thou must take.

JUDAS AND PETYR LOOK AT EACH OTHER. PETYR PICKS UP THE JESUS-ROBE. JUDAS REFUSES, AND FLEES.

21. THE SECOND TRIAL (PYLAT)

JESUS IS THROWN DOWN BEFORE PYLAT.

ANNAS Sir Pylat, take heed to this thing-
Jesus we have before thee brought,
Who our law would down bring,
And much shame has shamefully wrought.

RAISE-SLANDER Yes sir, and another, worst of all:
Against Caesar, our emperor free,
King of us all he does him call.
So our Emperor's power, nought should be.

PYLAT What do you say to these complaints, Jesu?
Jesu, are thou a king?

JESUS So you say now to me.

PYLAT Tell me, then, where is thy kingdom?

JESUS My kingdom is not of this world.
I tell thee truly,
If my kingdom was here,
I should not have been delivered to thee.

PYLAT Sirs, advise now I can:
There is no fault in this man.

ANNAS Sir, this is a grave mistake! Take heed to me
And know the great mischief of this man,
And not only over a day or three-
It is many years since he began.
Most excellent Pylat, ye must take heed
He will destroy all this country, both old and young
If he one month more proceeds!

PYLAT What shall I, then, with Jesus do?
Shall he abide or go?

ANNAS Jesus shall on the cross be done!
Crucify, we cry each one.

BACKBITER If thou let Jesus from us pace
Then we will see your downfall
Thou shall answer for his trespass
And traitor to the emperor we shall thee call!

PYLAT Now, then, since ye desire no other way
But are all wise that Jesus must die —
As I wash with water my hands clean
So guiltless of his death I must be.

PYLAT WASHES HIS HANDS IN THE WATER; THEY EMERGE BLOODY.

Then to the tree ye shall him bring.

A PAUSE- THEN A RUSH TOWARDS JESUS, TO BEAT AND PARADE HIM.

22. THE CRUCIFIXION

REWFYN Cast him down here in the devil's way!
How long shall he stand on his feet?

LEYON Pull him down, or evil find thee,
And take his arm in haste.

BACKBITER Give his other arm to me!
Another take heed to his feet.

LEYON Drive in the nails anon! Let's see-
And look that the flesh and sinews will last.

REWFYN Sirs, set up the cross within a spate
That we may look him in the face.

THEY HAUL HIM UP.

RAISE-SLANDER Lo, fellows, here's a guide-light tacked to a tree!

BACKBITER Ah, good sir— tell me now —
What help are thy prophecies to thee?

RAISE-SLANDER Yea, or any of thy false preaching?

JESUS O Father Almighty, maker of man!
Forgive these ones that have done me woe!
Forgive them, Father. Forgive them then,
For they wit not what they do.

MOTHER MARY O, my son, my son, my darling dear!
What? Have I offended thee?
Thou has spoken to all those here,
Yet not one word thou speaks to me!
A, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!
Why should you suffer this tribulation?
How can this sadness I ever sustain?
The sword of sorrow has sundered my mind.
Alas, what may I do? Alas, what may I say?
Why may we not be saved by some other kind?

JESUS I took this manhood of thee, Adam's ransom to pay.
For this is my will and my Father's intent:

That I shall thus die to deliver all from death's prey.
Now, since it is the will of my Father, it should thus be.
Why should it displease thee, mother, my death so sore?
To suffer all this for man, I was born of thee,
So the bliss that man had lost, the Son of Man might restore.

MOTHER MARY I pray you all, let me die here
And hang me up here on this tree,
By my friend and son that to me is so dear
For where he is, there would I be.

MARY MAUDLIN Oh, good lady, why do you this?
Your doleful cheer now chafes us sore.
And for the pain of my sweet Lord Jesus,
That he sees it in you, it pains him more!

JOHN Gentle lady, now leave your mourning
And go with us now, we pray.

MOTHER MARY Now, dear son, since thou have ever been so full of mercy,
That will not spare thyself, for the love thou has for all-
On all mankind, now have thou pity,
And think on thy mother, whose heart is sorrowful.

THEY TAKE MOTHER MARY OFF.

ANNAS Look, then, look! Behold and see!
Here hangs he that helped many a man!
Now, if thou King of us all be,
Come down off the cross among us all,
And if thy God delivers thee,
Then our king we will thee call!

JESUS Heloy, heloy! Lamazabathany!
My Father in heaven on high!
Why does thou abandon me?
For thirst my lips crack;
For dryness, they cleave.

RAISE-SLANDER Your thirst, Sir Robber, for to slake,
Hazel and gall I'll have thee take.
What? Me thinks a moan ye make!

Is this not good drink?

BACKBITER We greet you well with a scorn-
Take good heed to our corn
And scare away the crow!

JESUS Into your hands, Lord,
Holy Father, in heavenly seat,
I commend my spirit to thee,
It is done! It is done!

HE DIES. BELOW, THE SOUL OF CHRIST APPEARS.

23. HARROWING OF HELL

SOUL OF CHRIST I am the soul of Christ Jesu,
And I am King of all virtue!
My body is dead - you saw me slew —
That hangs yet on the rood,
Rent and torn, all bloody red.
For your sake my body is dead.
Though my body be now slain,
The third day — this is certain —
I shall raise my body again
To life, as you shall see.

Now will I go straight to hell
And fetch from the fiends fell
All my friends that therein dwell
To bliss that lasts eternally.

HE ENTERS THE DEPTH OF THE TREE- DEVILS POUR OUT.

LUCIFER Alas! Alas! Out and harrow!
Unto thy bidding we must bow
Thou art God, we know now!

SOUL OF CHRIST Against me, it were but waste
To hold or to stand fast.
Hell's lodge may not last
Against the King of Glory!

LUCIFER Alas! Harrow, now am I bound
In hell ever to lie in this ground!
In endless sorrow, now am I wound;
In chains evermore to dwell.

SOUL OF CHRIST Come forth, Adam, and Eve, and all with thee,
To paradise come forth with me,
In bliss to ever dwell.

FROM THE TREE, A PROCESSION OF FREED SOULS EMERGE AND EXIT.

24. THE BURIAL

DISCIPLES BRING DOWN JESUS'S BODY. MARY ANOINTS HIM WITH MYRRH.
THEY LIE HIM IN THE GRAVE, AND LEAVE.

PYLAT Now, liars and louts, listen to me!
I shall tell thee tidings new.
Of one thing we must wary be
Or else hereafter we might it rue.
Thou wits well that Jesu,
He said to us with words plain,
He said we should find it true —
The third day, he would rise again.
If his disciples come secretly
And out of his grave steal him away,
They will go preach and plain say
That he is risen on the third day!

This is the counsel that I give here:
Keep watch on the grave
Until the third day has gone.

REWFYN Sir Pylat, we shall not cease!
We shall keep it strong.

LEYON Yea, if a hundred put him in press,
They shall die- I make a vow.

BACKBITER A hundred? Even a hundred and a hundred more!
There is none of them shall us withstand!

RAISE-SLANDER Yea, and there come a hundred thousand and more,
I shall them kill with my hand!

PYLAT On this corner, my seal shall sit
And with this wax, I seal this pit.

25. APPEARANCE TO MOTHER MARY

SOUL OF CHRIST All hail, mother, with glad cheer.
This is the third day that I you told
When I should rise from the clay so cold.
Therefore no more ye weep.
For had I not of you been born,
All had been lost in hell.
Now, dear mother, my leave I take.
Joy in heart and mirth ye make,
For Death is dead, and life does wake.

MOTHER MARY Farewell, my son! Farewell, my child!
Farewell, my Lord, my God so mild!
Now, all mankind be glad with glee,
For Death is dead, as ye may see!
And life is raised, endless to be
In heaven dwelling above.

26. PILATE AND THE SOLDIERS

BACKBITER Awake! Awake! The hills do quake!
And trees do shake
Full near in two!
Stones are cleaved;
Wits are bereaved
Ears are deaf- hear me say so!

REWFYN He is arisen, this is no lie
That was dead and cold in clay.

RAISE-SLANDER Yes, yes! Hark, fellows what I shall say!
Let us not cease by night nor day,
But tell the truth right as it lay
Wherever we might go.

LEYON Then let us go tell with one assent —
He is risen up this day.

PYLAT What? What? What? What?
Thou does my heart right great grief!
Thou lie about him, false thief!

How should he rise again to life
That lay dead, enclosed in clay?
Gentle knights, I you pray,
A richer truth you shall say:
Say the corpse was caught away
By his disciples by night.

REWFYN We dare not so for a thousand pound,
No, not for all this world so wide!

PYLAT Now fie upon your worthless boast!
All your honour shall be torn,
And every man will you soon scorn,
And bid you go sit in the corn
And scare away the crow.

RAISE-SLANDER Now now now, Sir Pylat-
No tales shall be told.
We make thee a vow.

PYLAT Then come, soldiers bold
And feast with me now.

27. APPEARANCE TO MARY MAUDLIN

MARY MAUDLIN APPROACHES THE GRAVE AND WEEPS.

JESUS Woman that stands here alone,
Why does thou weep and mourn and weep so sore?

MARY MAUDLIN With hearty sorrow, my heart breaks,
With weeping tears I wash my face.
Alas, for sorrow I may not speak.
My Lord is gone that herein was
My own dear Lord and King of Grace.

But, gentle gardener, I pray to thee,
If thou him took out of his grave,
Tell me where I may him see
That I may go, my Lord to have.

JESUS Maria!

MARY MAUDLIN A! Master and Lord, thee I crave!

JESUS Touch me not as yet, Mary,
For to my Father I must soon ascend-
But say to my brethren that I intend
To stay a little in this bower.
Then to our Lord, Father and friend
I will ascend to heaven's tower.

MARY MAUDLIN There can no tongue my joy express
Now I have seen my Lord alive!
Gracious Lord, at your bidding,
To all my brethren I shall go tell
How that ye be man living
Quick and breathing, of flesh and fell.

EXIT MARY MAUDLIN

28. ROAD TO EMMAUS; APPEARANCE TO THOMAS; ASCENSION

CLEOPHAS A, brother Lucas, I am sore moved
When Christ's death comes to my mind.

LUCAS Alas, for sorrow, what was their thought?
For he did help both lame and blind
And all those sick that were to him brought-
Alas, alas! Why did they so?

JESUS Well overtaken, sirs.
Might I walk in fellowship with you?

CLEOPHAS Welcome, sir in God's name —
Of good fellowship we shall not say nay!

JESUS What talk have you together, you two?
Your mirth is gone. Why is it so?

LUCAS A! In Jerusalem they have slain a man for nought:
Guiltless he was, as we tell thee.
Yet him to scorn, they had great game
And nailed him straight to the tree.

CLEOPHAS Yet, wonderful tidings of him we have
From a woman that sought him before daylight.

Whether she tells the truth or raves,
We cannot tell the true verdict

JESUS Of Christ's death, didn't prophets speak words brave
How he should rise out of his pit?

LUCAS And live again? Man, keep your peace!
How should a dead man ever arise?

JESUS By Jonas the prophet I prove the same
That was in a whale's body three nights and three days.

CLEOPHAS But Jonas was alive all along, wasn't he,
Whilst Christ was slain upon a tree.

JESUS Why are you so hard of trust?
Did not Christ raise through his own might
Lazarus, that dead lay under the dust?

CLEOPHAS To life Christ raised him again full right,
Out of his grave — this is certain.

JESUS Then why may not Christ himself thus quit
And rise from death to live again?

CLEOPHAS Now truly your words are good.
I pray you, sir, dwell with us this night.

LUCAS But after your labour and far walking,
Take this loaf, and eat some bread.

JESUS With my hand this bread I bless
And break it here as you may see
This bread to eat, and blithe to be.

JESUS BREAKS BREAD; THEN VANISHES.

CLEOPHAS Brethren! Even to Emmaus, this great castle,
From Jerusalem with him we've walked —

LUCAS In breaking of bread together,
Our master we knew. Our Lord is alive!

THOMAS Keep thy peace! Thou begin to rave!
How should a dead man that cold lay in grave
With quick flesh and blood to life again rise?

PETYR Nay, Thomas, doubt thee not our master is alive.

THOMAS I may never in heart trust that it is so.
He was dead on the cross and buried cold in the pit
Kept by knights four — his grave sealed also.
How should he live again that so sealed was shut?
I may never believe these marvels
'Til that I have sight of every great wound
And put in my finger in place of the nails.

JESUS APPEARS.

JESUS Then take heed of mine hands, my dear brother Thomas.

THOMAS My God and my Lord! Night and every morn
I ask mercy, Lord, for my great trespass!

JESUS Touch now, Thomas, my wounds so wide
Which I have suffered for all mankind.

THOMAS As a ravaged man whose wit is all gone
Great mourning I make for my dreadful doubt.
I trusted no tales that were me told
'Til that mine hand did in his heart blood wade.
The preaching of Petyr could not convert me—
Better those who believe yet do not see.

JESUS The times and the month you may not know
When my Father shall return in his power.
But you shall take, within a short day,
Of the Holy Ghost a virtue clear,
Through which shall ye
To the world's end utterly,
My witness each of you be.
Love no wrath nor no wrong,
But live in mercy with both foe and brethren.
Now I pass straight from you to heaven.

29. PENTECOST

THE HOLY SPIRIT LIGHTS EACH APOSTLE'S CANDLE AS THEY SPEAK.

PETYR Honour,
JOHN worship
JAMES and reverence
THOMAS Glory,
MATTHEW grace,
LITTLE JAMES and goodness
PETYR/JOHN Beauty
JAMES/THOMAS blessing
MATTHEW/LITTLE JAMES and brightness
PETYR Be to that Lord high worthiness
ALL Say we all together, amen! amen!
RAISE-SLANDER Now, fellows, take heed! For by my truth
Here sits a drunken fellowship.
BACKBITER Dust in their brain so slyly does creep
That they chitter and chatter as if they were mice!
LEYON It were sport to bear them to the river
And them baptise!
PETYR Why scorn ye now God's grace?
There is no drunk man in this place!
REWFYN Peace now your blabbering in the devil's name!
You paltry preachers that our laws defame,
You shall be slain, as the law says, or must flee!

THE APOSTLES ARE CHASED OFF.

30. ASSUMPTION OF MARY

JOHN Now friends, foes, bystanders, all shall be told
Of the Assumption of Mother Mary.
After her son's death on earth, twelve years did she tarry.
All the holy places in earth that Christ dwelled,
Devoutly Mary journeyed to each of them, praying.
Now, how she departed, here shall we be playing —
I pray of you all, take heed!

OLD MARY I have shown you the place where Christ was christened,
Flume Jordan:
Where he fasted and resisted malicious falsehood;
Where he lived, died and was buried, and rose in victory alone;
Where he ascended the heavens, God in his throne.
All my life I have travelled,
And now I prepare for my final pilgrimage.
I pray to God, that my brethren were here by me
To bear my body that bore Jesu, our Saviour.

THE ENSEMBLE GATHERS.

OLD MARY Jesu, my Son, for my sake I seek this,
As thou art gracious and great, grant me thy grace.
All who come from my kind, give them thy bliss,
And specially thou speed and spare them.
My soul and my body shall be unknit
But this knot shall last in eternity;
Thus have I raised you well, thou wit,
This gathering in unity.

JOHN Twelve years of tribulation the Lord did ordain
Since our master and our comfort from us ascended

ANNAS Indeed, our wisdom was to shorten his ending-
Who climbs over high, he earns a foul fall.

LEYON Sure, if he had lived, he'd have made us his thrall.

JOHN Then our comfort from us God has rended-
And now our joy, our mother, in heaven shall be

REWFYN We stand in great doubt, then, what comfort this might be.

OLD MARY Let none of you for my death show bitter speech
As if you feared death, against what we teach.
We shall ever live, and not die — this truly we preach.
I return to my son- now be glad, everyone!
There is a grave arrayed for me,
I go to rest eternal, my Son once more to see.

INSTRUMENTAL: SEVEN JOYS

THEY BRING ON A BIER. MARY LIES ON IT.
TWO CAST LIFT THE BIER UP BETWEEN THE TWO LADDERS.

OLD MARY Love no wrath nor no wrong,
But live in charity with humble speaking
With mirth and melody and angel song,
Now I stray straight from you to heaven.

THE ENSEMBLE COME FORWARD TO KISS HER FOREHEAD, OR TOUCH
HER HAND, PLACE A FLOWER OR SAY FAREWELL AS THEY WISH.

SHE DIES. JOHN AND MARY MAUDLIN COVER HER WITH A SHROUD.

MARY MAUDLIN Now rest, mother, in this plain place.

JOHN Each of you a candle take now right
And busily let us watch in this virgin's sight.
Then when our Lord comes in his promise pure,
He may find us waking and ready with our lights
For we know not the hour of his coming sure.

PETYR So must we, John, as ye say.
Then bide us together here and pray,
Seeking what comfort that best may,
Resting here about this grave.

THEY SING SOLEMNLY: "SEVEN JOYS" (VERSE SIX)
JESUS ENTERS FROM AUDIENCE.

JESUS Arise now, my dove, my mother, sweet friend!

FROM BEHIND THE BIER EMERGES YOUNG MARY. THE ENSEMBLE
SING JOYOUSLY "SEVEN JOYS OF MARY" (VERSE SEVEN).

JESUS AND MARY EMBRACE. THEY AND THE ENSEMBLE, CARRYING THE
BIER, DEPART INTO THE AUDIENCE.

GOD THE FATHER IS LEFT ALONE ON THE THRONE-TREE.

EPILOGUE

GOD

In unknown time the last pageant will play
And Doom's day that pageant shall be.
Who sees that play shall be aghast
To grieve God and fellow, either night or day
The earth shall quake, both break and burst
Burials and graves shall open upright,
Dead men shall rise and go hence in haste
And fast to answer, their lines shall prepare
Before God's face.
So print this well in your mind
Who shall to the wretched are sore unkind
Friendship there they shall none find
Nor get there my grace.
Yet those who do good to the least of thee
Shall come to my kingdom to dwell in glee.

ALL RETURN FOR BOW- FULL VERSE OF "GREEN GROW THE RUSHES O":

I'll sing you twelve, O
Green grow the rushes O!
What is your twelve, O?
Twelve for the twelve Apostles
Eleven for the eleven who went to heaven,
Ten for the ten commandments,
Nine for the nine bright shiners,
Eight for the April Rainers,
Seven for the seven stars in the sky,
Six for the six proud walkers
Five for the symbols at your door,
Four for the Gospel makers,
Three, three, the rivals,
Two, two, the lily-white boys,
Clothed all in green, O-Ho
One is one and all alone
And evermore shall be so.

END OF PLAY.