

# **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.**