

THE WORD



"AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US" (Jn 1:14)

Original Recorded Cast

Lionel De Leon.....Narrator
Skip Hahn.....Jesus
Adrian De Leon.....Disciple, Crowd, Soldier, Jew, Cleopas,
Spy, Jesus' Brother, Zebedee's Son, Angel
Felix Maluso.....Disciple, Crowd, Soldier, Jew, Jesus' Brother,
Zebedee's Son, Caiaphas, Peter, Angel
Joie De Leon.....Samaritan Woman, Crowd, Sick Woman.
Zebedee's Wife, Cleopas' Wife,
Weeping Woman
Bart Broadnax.....John the Baptist
Dan Waterman.....Satan
Raymond Genovese.....Pontius Pilate, Crowd, Soldier
Andrew Kirby.....Andrew, Crowd, Spy, Jesus' Brother, Jew
Rey Castillo.....Crowd, Soldier, King David, Angel
Daryl Smith.....Criminal on the Cross, Jew
Greg Sonnenberg.....Angel
Mike Webb.....Angel
Megan Sarich.....Mary Magdalene, Jew
Steve Quinn..... Criminal on the Cross
Phil Davis.....John the Baptist's Disciple
Phill Vournazos..... John the Baptist's Disciple, Crowd, Soldier
Christine Heacox.....Crowd, Weeping Woman
Mary Kate Kirby.....Crowd

Scenes, Singers, Songs & Scripture

ACT ONE

Scene One: Jordan River (narrator, John the Baptist, crowd, Jesus)

Children of God, Make Straight, Well Pleased

Jn 1:1-12; Isa 40:3, Mt 3:2 & 12, Jn 1:23, Rev 2:7, Mt 3:13-17

Scene Two: Desert, Temple, Mountain (narrator, Satan, Jesus)

If You Are The Son of God

Mt 4:1-11

Scene Three: Sea of Galilee (narrator, Jesus, John the Baptist, Andrew, disciples)

Follow Me, Lamb of God, Blessed Are, If I Just Touch His Clothes, Wind and the Waves, End of the Age

Mt 9:9, Mk 1:16-18, Jn 1:35-41, Mt 5:1-16, Mk 4:35-41, Mt 13:49-52

Scene Four: Jacob's Well, Temple (Jesus, woman, narrator, Jews, crowd, spies)

Living Water, Taxes to Caesar, I And the Father, My Teaching

Jn 4:7-26, Lk 20:20-25, Jn 10:22-30, Jn 7:16-19

Scene Five: Sea of Galilee (narrator, Jesus' brothers, Jesus)

Show Yourself to the World, The Right Time

Jn 7:1-8

ACT TWO

Scene One: **Bethany** (narrator, Sick Woman, Jesus, Judas)

What She Has Done, Satan Entered Judas

Mt 26:6-13, Lk 8:46-48, Lk 22:1-6

Scene Two: **Last Supper** (Jesus, narrator, Zebedee's Wife, disciples)

In Remembrance, To Serve

Mt 20:20-28, Mt 26:26-29

Scene Three: **Mount of Olives** (narrator, Jesus, disciples, crowd)

Take This Cup, When Darkness Reigns,

Lk 22:39-42, 48, 51-53

Scene Four: **Priest Courtyard, Praetorium, Golgotha** (narrator, Caiaphas, Pilate, crowd, soldiers, criminals)

No Reply, Crucify Him, Daughters of Jerusalem, Paradise, It is Finished

Mt 26:51-64, 66, Mk 15:1, Mt 27:11, 13-14, Mt 27:22-31, Lk 23:28-34, 39-43, Mt 27:45, Mk 15:34, Lk 23:46, Jn 19:26, 27, 28 & 30

Scene Five: **Empty Tomb, Road** (narrator, angels, Mary, Jesus, Cleopas & wife)

Early in the Morning, Why Are You Crying?, Road to Emmaus

Lk 24:1-7, Jn 20:10-18, Lk 24:13-33

Scene Six: **Jerusalem:** (Jesus)

What Is Written, Praising God, What Does This Mean?, Witnesses of the Fact

Lk 24:46-53, Acts 2:1-6, 11-12, 22- 36

THE WORD

Act One

The Narrator enters from behind closed curtains onto the proscenium and sings directly to the audience. He is wearing traditional Jewish clothing from the time of Christ (circa 1-30 A.D.)

Song: "CHILDREN OF GOD"

NARRATOR

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

The curtain opens. John the Baptist is standing in the Jordan River, baptizing followers. He is wearing a tunic made from camel's hair. The narrator walks toward John the Baptist as he sings.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Jesus enters from stage right and kneels in prayer.

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- he gave the right to become, he gave the right to become, he gave the right to become children of God, children of God.

Song: "MAKE STRAIGHT"

John the Baptist comes out of the river and begins to preach to his followers with enthusiasm.

JOHN THE BAPTIST and CROWD

He who has an ear, let him hear.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord.

A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord' make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. I am the voice of one calling in the desert,

John the Baptist returns to the river and begins baptizing his followers, who have formed a line.

Make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord.

CROWD

Repent!

JOHN THE BAPTIST

John the Baptist stops baptizing to preach again.

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

John begins baptizing his followers again, singing to each one twice (once before he baptizes and once as they depart).

Make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord, Lord, Lord

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Jesus stands and walks toward John, stopping a medium distance from him.

Make straight the way for the Lord,

CROWD

make straight the way

JOHN THE BAPTIST

make straight the way for the Lord.

JOHN THE BAPTIST and CROWD

He who has an ear, let him hear. He who has an ear, let him hear. He who has an ear, let him hear. He who has an ear, let him hear. He who has an ear...

John the Baptist stops singing abruptly when he notices Jesus, freezing for a moment in disbelief.

Song: "WELL PLEASED"

NARRATOR

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying

John kneels before Jesus.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?
I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?

Jesus pulls John to his feet.

JESUS

Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.

John resists Jesus at first, feeling unworthy.

Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.

John baptizes Jesus and the lights fade to a narrow bright spot that shines down on Jesus from above, symbolizing the Spirit of God.

NARRATOR

Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The stage lights flash in unison with the narrator, as if they are the voice of God.

This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased, I am well pleased, I am well pleased.

Song: "IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD"

Stage lights fade to one bright and narrow overhead spot. When the lights come up, Jesus is praying in the desert. Satan appears and paces behind Jesus, sizing up Jesus' condition and plotting temptations.

NARRATOR

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said,

The stage lights are reduced to two spotlights, one on Jesus and the other on Satan. Jesus is praying and Satan rudely interrupts him.

SATAN

If you are the Son of God, if you are the Son of God, if you are the Son of God, tell these stones, tell these stones to become bread.

Jesus stands and faces Satan.

JESUS

It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word, but on every word, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Satan brings Jesus to the top of the Temple and taunts him.

NARRATOR

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.

SATAN

If you are the Son of God, if you are the Son of God, if you are the Son of God throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'

Jesus faces Satan and calmly answers his dare.

JESUS

It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'
'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Satan takes Jesus to the top of a mountain and points to kingdoms on the horizon. He tries to tempt Jesus with worldly possessions.

NARRATOR

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

SATAN

All this I will give you, all this I will give you, all this I will give you if you will bow down and worship me, if you will bow down and worship me.

Jesus becomes angry at Satan and casts him away.

JESUS

Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'

Satan tries to come toward Jesus, but angels push him back. Satan realizes he can't win this battle and leaves.

ANGELS

Worship the Lord your God

JESUS

Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

ANGELS

Worship the Lord your God

JESUS

Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

ANGELS

Worship the Lord your God

JESUS

Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

The angels move toward Jesus after Satan leaves.

ANGELS

Worship the Lord your God

The angels touch Jesus and restore his power. They exit and the lights gradually dim to black.

NARRATOR

Then the devil left him, and angels came.

Song: "FOLLOW ME"

The stage lights come up to show Simon and Andrew casting nets. They are working hard, having a difficult time and not enjoying their day. Jesus walks toward them.

As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

Jesus stands at the shore and calls to Simon and Andrew.

JESUS

Come, follow me, follow me, follow me, come, follow me, follow me, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Simon and Andrew immediately drop their nets and follow Jesus.

NARRATOR

At once they left their nets and followed him.

Matthew is sitting at a tax collector booth. Jesus walks toward him. Simon and Andrew are leery of Matthew because he's a despised tax collector.

NARRATOR

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth.

Simon and Andrew leave with indignation when they see that Jesus wants to associate with tax collectors. Jesus calls to Matthew.

JESUS

Follow me, follow me, follow me, follow me, follow me, follow me, follow me.

Matthew leaves his booth and follows Jesus without caring what happens to his collected monies.

NARRATOR

And Matthew got up and followed him.

Jesus calls more disciples. Each one immediately follows him.

JESUS

Follow me, follow me, follow me, follow me.
Follow me, follow me, follow me, follow me. Follow me.

Song: "LAMB OF GOD"

Jesus and his followers walk by John the Baptist, who has Andrew and another disciple around him.

NARRATOR

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by,

John the Baptist points out Jesus to his disciples.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Look, the Lamb of God! Look, the Lamb of God! Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

John the Baptist's disciples follow Jesus, who turns around and confronts them.

NARRATOR

When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked

Jesus speaks to one disciple and then the other, then both as he questions their intentions.

JESUS

What do you want? What do you want? What do you want, do you want, do you want?

John the Baptist's disciples look at each other and then answer Jesus with a question.

JOHN'S DISCIPLES

Rabbi

NARRATOR

(which means Teacher)

JOHN'S DISCIPLES

where are you staying?

JESUS

Come, and you will see.

John the Baptist's disciples follow Jesus.

NARRATOR

So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus.

Andrew runs off to find his brother Simon.

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Christ."

Andrew, Simon, John the Baptist and the disciples are all following Jesus and attracting a crowd.

ANDREW

We have found the Christ.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Look, the Lamb of God!

ANDREW

We have found the Christ.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

The Lamb of God! The Lamb of God! Look, the Lamb of God!

ANDREW

We have found the Christ.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,
the sin of the world!

ANDREW

We have found the Christ! We have found the Christ! We
have found the Christ!

Song: "BLESSED ARE"

*A large crowd begins to follow Jesus, so he leaves with
his disciples to a quiet place where he sits and they join.*

NARRATOR

Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside
and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to
teach them,

*Jesus sings to his disciples. They are in awe of his
wisdom and knowledge.*

JESUS

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be
comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the
earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed
are the peace makers, for they will be called sons of God
Blessed are those who are persecuted because of
righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and
falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice
and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the
same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness,
how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for
anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You
are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.
Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead
they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the

house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Song: "IF I JUST TOUCH HIS CLOTHES"

A crowd gathers around Jesus, following him closely wherever he goes. A woman, walking in pain, tries to reach through the crowd to touch Jesus' clothes, but can't find any openings. The narrator is walking among the crowd and following the sick woman.

NARRATOR

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought,

SICK WOMAN

The woman tries to touch Jesus' cloak and misses.

If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.

The woman finally grabs Jesus' cloak in her hand.

If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.

NARRATOR

Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked,

Jesus looks directly at the woman.

JESUS

Who touched my clothes?

The disciples look at Jesus in disbelief.

DISCIPLES

You see the people crowding against you,

NARRATOR

His disciples answered,

DISCIPLES

and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'

NARRATOR

But Jesus said,

Jesus looks directly at the woman again.

JESUS

Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.

The woman runs toward Jesus and falls at his feet in fear. The narrator walks behind her and stops a short distance from her.

NARRATOR

Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed.

SICK WOMAN

The woman gets to her knees but keeps her head looking down at the ground, afraid to face Jesus.

If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.

The woman looks up at Jesus in awe and fear.

If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.

The woman looks at the crowd.

If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.

The woman looks to God in heaven.

If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.

NARRATOR

Then he said to her,

Jesus offers the sick woman his hand and helps her to her feet, sending her away in peace. The narrator stays next to Jesus.

JESUS

Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.
Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.
Go in peace. Go in peace.

Song: "THE WIND AND THE WAVES"

A large crowd begins to follow Jesus again.

NARRATOR

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples

JESUS

Let us go over to the other side.

Jesus and his disciples set out on boats. Jesus lies on a cushion at the back of the boat and falls asleep.

NARRATOR

Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

The wind and waves become dangerous and the frightened disciples rush to wake Jesus.

A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

DISCIPLES

Oooh, oooh. Oh! Oh! Oh!

NARRATOR

Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him

Jesus' disciples wake him and cry out.

DISCIPLES

Teacher, don't you care if we drown? Teacher, don't you care if we drown?

Jesus stands to rebukes the wind and waves, calming the storm.

NARRATOR

He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves,

JESUS

Quiet! Be still! Quiet! Be still!

NARRATOR

Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.
He said to his disciples,

*Jesus then rebukes his disciples for their lack of faith.
The disciples are frightened over what they just witnessed.*

JESUS

Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?

NARRATOR

They were terrified and asked each other,

DISCIPLES

Who is this? Even the wind and the waves, even the wind and the waves, even the wind and the waves obey him!

Song: "END OF THE AGE"

JESUS

Jesus addresses his disciples.

This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all these things? Have you understood all these things?

DISCIPLES

Yes

JESUS

Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who

brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old, new treasures as well as old, new treasures as well as old, new treasures as well as old. This is how it will be at the end of the age. This is how it will be at the end of the age.

Jesus sends the disciples off. He walks toward Jacob's well and sees a Samaritan woman coming to draw water.

Song: "LIVING WATER"

NARRATOR

He came to a town in Samaria. Jacob's well was there. A Samaritan woman came to draw water.

JESUS

Jesus holds out his hands to the woman.

Will you give me a drink?

The woman looks at him with indignation.

SAMARITAN WOMAN

You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?

Jesus sits at the well beside her.

JESUS

If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.

The woman suspects that Jesus is irrational and egotistical and maintains her indignation.

SAMARITAN WOMAN

Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?

Jesus speaks to the woman with authority.

JESUS

Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.

Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

The woman mocks Jesus in disbelief.

SAMARITAN WOMAN

Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.

Jesus baits the woman.

JESUS

Go, call your husband and come back.

The woman is offended by his assumptive remark and responds angrily.

SAMARITAN WOMAN

I have no husband.

Jesus shocks the woman with his intimate knowledge of her personal life.

JESUS

You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.

The woman concedes that Jesus is a prophet and changes the subject to avoid facing her sins.

SAMARITAN WOMAN

Sir, I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.

Jesus exposes the woman's ignorance.

JESUS

Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.

The woman tries to dismiss Jesus' testimony by reminding Jesus that the promised Messiah will come with answers to religious questions. The disciples arrive with a donkey.

SAMARITAN WOMAN

I know that Messiah is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.

Jesus frightens the woman by proclaiming to be the Messiah. She runs off, leaving her water behind. Jesus climbs the donkey and makes his Triumphal Entrance into Jerusalem. A crowd sings praise and places palm leaves and cloaks on the ground before him.

JESUS

I who speak to you am he.

Jesus rides a donkey into Jerusalem. Crowds sing praises while laying palms leaves in his path.

CROWD

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna!

Song: "TAXES TO CAESAR"

Some holy men among the crowd look at Jesus with indignation and suspicion. They plot among themselves and send two spies to trick him with a loaded question.

NARRATOR

Keeping a close watch on him, they sent spies, who pretended to be honest. They hoped to catch Jesus in something he said so that they might hand him over to the power and authority of the governor. So the spies questioned him:

The two spies feign reverence for Jesus' wisdom and try to flatter him as a lure for him with a trick question .

SPY ONE

Teacher, we know that you speak and teach what is right

SPY TWO

and that you do not show partiality

SPY ONE

but teach the way of God

SPY TWO

in accordance with the truth.

SPY ONE

Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

SPY TWO

in accordance with the truth.

SPY ONE

Is it right for us to pay taxes to Caesar or not?

The two spies look at each other and give a wink, thinking they have tricked Jesus into giving the wrong answer no matter what it is. Jesus responds to their question with another question.

NARRATOR

He saw through their duplicity and said to them,

Jesus addresses both spies, one-at-a-time.

JESUS

Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?

The spies take a denarius and examine it with curiosity. They answer without knowing how it relates.

Show me a denarius. Whose portrait and inscription are on it?

SPIES

Caesar's

NARRATOR

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

SPIES

Caesar's

NARRATOR

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Jesus answers with authority.

JESUS

Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.

Segments of the crowd gather around Jesus feeling impatient and skeptical. They demand an immediate explanation of Jesus' identity.

Song: “I AND THE FATHER”

NARRATOR

Then came the Feast of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was in the temple area walking in Solomon's Colonnade. The Jews gathered around him,

A crowd of Jews close in around Jesus.

JEWS

How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly. How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.

Jesus preaches to the crowd.

JESUS

I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. I and the Father are one.

The Jews become upset at Jesus' words, so they grab him to throw him off a cliff, but freeze in suspended animation as Jesus meanders between them, delivering his message before walking away.

Song: "MY TEACHING"

JESUS

My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own. He who speaks on his own does so to gain honor for himself, but he who works for the honor of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him. Has not Moses given you the law? Yet not one of you keeps the law. Why are you trying to kill me? Why are you trying to kill me? Why are you trying to kill me? Why are you trying to kill me? My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me.

The Jews become animated again and are puzzled to how Jesus managed to escape.

Song: "SHOW YOURSELF TO THE WORLD"

Jesus' brothers gather around Jesus.

NARRATOR

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, Jesus' brothers said to him,

Jesus' brothers plead their case to Jesus.

BROTHERS

You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.

Jesus speaks to his brothers.

JESUS

The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right. The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil. You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come, for me the right time has not yet come, has not yet come, has not yet come.

End of Act One.

Act Two

Jesus and his disciples are in the home of Simon the Leper. The narrator joins the disciples at the table.

Song: "WHAT SHE HAS DONE"

NARRATOR

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper,

The healed sick woman enters with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume that she pours on Jesus' head.

a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.

Judas becomes upset because Jesus allows the perfume to be wasted.

When the disciples saw this, they were indignant.

JUDAS and DISCIPLES

The disciples address the woman.

Why this waste? This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor. This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor. Could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor. Could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor, the money given to the poor.

NARRATOR

Aware of this, Jesus said to them,

Jesus chastises his disciples.

JESUS

Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her. What she has done will also be told, in memory of her.

Judas leaves in anger. He goes to the Temple to meet with the chief priests with the intention of betraying Jesus. The narrator follows Judas. Satan enters and walks with Judas.

Song: "SATAN ENTERED JUDAS"

NARRATOR

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were looking for some way to get rid of Jesus, for they were afraid of the people, for they were afraid of the people.

Satan lays his hands on Judas and causes him to react violently, as if he were being electrocuted.

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.

Judas becomes possessed and displays Satan's mannerisms and movements in his personality. Satan stands in the distance, directing Judas with motions of his hands.

And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus, and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus.

Judas is rubbing his hands together and has a wide-eyed greediness, anticipating wealth. Satan is mirroring Judas' movements in the background, as if he is controlling his every thought and motion. The chief priests hold out their hands and welcome Judas into their fold. Satan leans back against a wall and crosses his arms and legs, smiling with contentment.

NARRATOR

They were delighted and agreed to give him money. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present. When no crowd was present.

The stage lights fade to a blackout, with a solo spot on the narrator, who has moved to the proscenium. The lights come up to the Last Supper.

Song: "IN REMEMBRANCE"

Jesus raises his hands to heaven in prayer, then the disciples begin to eat. Jesus takes bread and breaks it, handing it to his disciples.

NARRATOR

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

JESUS

Take and eat; this is my body. Take and eat; this is my body.

NARRATOR

Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying,

JESUS

Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it anew with you, until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father's kingdom.

Song: "TO SERVE"

NARRATOR

Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

Jesus addresses the mother.

JESUS

What is it you want? What is it you want?

Jesus addresses her sons (his disciples).

What is it you want? What is it you want?

The mother kneels at Jesus' feet and pleads with him.

ZEBEDEE'S WIFE

Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom, in your kingdom. Sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom.

Jesus lifts the woman to her feet and sends her away.

JESUS

You don't know what you are asking,

Jesus questions one of her sons.

Can you drink the cup I am going to drink? Can you drink the cup?

Jesus questions the other son.

Can you drink the cup I am going to drink? Can you drink the cup?

The sons look at each other with agreement.

ZEBEDEE'S SONS

We can,

The sons look at Jesus with confidence.

we can.

Jesus places his arms around their shoulders, one at each of his sides. The rest of Jesus' disciples enter. The narrator and Judas join them around Jesus. Zebedee's mother sets bread at the table.

JESUS

You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.

Judas looks at the two disciples with indignation and gossips among the rest, causing a stir of emotions.

NARRATOR

When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. Jesus called them together and said,

Jesus motions for his disciples to join him. They gather around the table and listen attentively to Jesus' every word, anticipating a rank of discipleship. Jesus instead teaches them the requirement to serve.

JESUS

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Jesus and the disciples leave together for the Mount of Olives. The narrator is walking behind them.

Song: "TAKE THIS CUP"

NARRATOR

Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. On reaching the place, he said to them,

Jesus raises his hand to stop the disciples from following him any further.

JESUS

Pray that you will not fall into temptation.

The disciples begin to pray together while Jesus walks off with the narrator following behind him.

Pray that you will not fall into temptation.

NARRATOR

He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed,

Jesus falls to his knees and stretches his arms to heaven.

JESUS

Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.

Jesus falls to his face and stretches his arms before him.

Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done,

Jesus rises to his knees, face down.

JESUS

not my will, but yours be done,

Jesus rises to his feet, head up.

not my will, but yours be done, not my will, but yours be done.

Jesus returns to his disciples, who are sleeping. A crowd comes up carrying clubs and swords and surrounds Jesus and his disciples. The disciples jump to their feet and Judas goes to kiss Jesus on his cheeks. Jesus looks at Judas.

Song: "WHEN DARKNESS REIGNS"

NARRATOR

When he rose from prayer, and went back to his disciples, he found them asleep. A crowd came up and the man who was called Judas, approached Jesus to kiss him.

JESUS

Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

A disciple lifts a sword in defense but Jesus stops him.

No more of this!

Jesus speaks to the crowd.

Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour--when darkness reigns. This is your hour--when darkness reigns.

During the music interlude, Jesus is bound and sent to Caiaphas. Peter follows at a distance.

Song: "NO REPLY"

NARRATOR

Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas. Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He sat down with the guards to see the outcome. The chief priest and Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though false witnesses came. The high priest stood up and said

CAIAPHAS

Are you not going to answer? Are you not going to answer?
Are you not going to answer? Answer!

NARRATOR

Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him,

CAIAPHAS

I charge you by the Living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.

JESUS

Yes, it is as you say.

CAIAPHAS

He is worthy of death! He is worthy of death! He is worthy of death!

Jesus is bound and sent to Pilate.

NARRATOR

They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him to Pilate. Jesus stood before the governor.

PONTIUS PILATE

Are you the king of the Jews?

JESUS

Yes, it is as you say.

PONTIUS PILATE

Are you the king of the Jews?

JESUS

It is as you say, it is as you say.

PONTIUS PILATE

Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?

NARRATOR

But Jesus made no reply. Jesus made no reply. Jesus made no reply.

Song: "CRUCIFY HIM!"

Jesus is led with Barrabas before a crowd. Both stand beside Pontius Pilate who addresses the crowd.

PONTIUS PILATE

What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ, who is called Christ?

NARRATOR

Pilate asked. They all answered,

The crowd answers in unison, raising their fists.

CROWD

Crucify him!

PONTIUS PILATE

Why? What crime has he committed?

NARRATOR

But they shouted all the louder,

The crowd answers in unison again.

CROWD

Crucify him!

Pilate gives up trying to talk sense into the crowd and washes his hands in a bowl of water.

NARRATOR

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd.

PONTIUS PILATE

I am innocent of this man's blood. It is your responsibility!

NARRATOR

All the people answered,

The crowd answers in unison again.

CROWD

Let his blood be on us and on our children!

Pilate releases Barabbas and has the soldiers flog Jesus.

NARRATOR

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers lead Jesus away and gather in a circle around him, shielding him from the audience's view.

NARRATOR

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him.

The soldiers kneel down in front of Jesus, who has a scarlet robe, crown of thorns and a staff.

SOLDIERS

Hail, king of the Jews!

The soldiers get up laughing and spit at Jesus, hitting him on the head with a staff.

NARRATOR

They said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again.

The soldiers remove the scarlet robe and toss Jesus' cloak to him.

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him.

The soldiers place a cross on Jesus' shoulders. A crowd follows that includes weeping women.

Then they led him away to crucify him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

During the music introduction, women are crying and following Jesus, who falls down. The soldiers grab Simon the Cyrene and force him to carry Jesus' cross. Jesus turns to the weeping women as he slowly walks toward his crucifixion.

Song: "DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM!"

JESUS

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, 'Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then 'they will say to the mountains, "Fall on us!" and to the hills, "Cover us!"' For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry? For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?

Jesus continues behind the man who is carrying Jesus' cross. The women are weeping and reaching out towards Jesus. He turns to them and repeats himself.

JESUS

Daughters of Jerusalem, Daughters of Jerusalem, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me.

Song: "PARADISE"

NARRATOR

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said,

Jesus cries out to heaven.

JESUS

Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

The soldiers nail Jesus to the cross and lift it into position, along with the two criminals.

NARRATOR

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:

The criminal mocks Jesus in disbelief.

CRIMINAL ONE

Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!

NARRATOR

But the other criminal rebuked him.

The second criminal shames the first criminal into silence and sorrow.

CRIMINAL TWO

Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.

The second criminal turns to Jesus, seeking mercy and forgiveness.

NARRATOR

Then he said.

CRIMINAL TWO

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

NARRATOR

Jesus answered him.

Jesus assures the second criminal of his salvation.

JESUS

I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise. I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise, in paradise, today you will be with me in paradise, today you will be with me in paradise, in paradise, in paradise.

Mary (the mother of Jesus) and a disciple stand at Jesus' feet. Jesus turns to his mother.

Song: "IT IS FINISHED"

NARRATOR

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and the disciple whom he loved.

JESUS

Dear woman, here is your son.

Jesus turns to the disciple.

Here is your mother.

Jesus turns to the Roman soldiers.

I am thirsty.

The soldiers dip a sponge in a jar and raise it to Jesus' lips by sticking it on a spear.

NARRATOR

A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

Jesus turns his head away from the sponge and looks up to heaven.

JESUS

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. It is finished. It is finished. It is finished.

Jesus releases his final breath and dies on the cross. The stage lights are blacked out during a brief music interlude, lights gradually fade up to reveal a tomb with a large stone rolled away. There is only a burial cloth where Jesus' body had been. There is 30 seconds of darkness with a deep synthesizer sound. When the next song begins, women disciples come to the tomb with spice jars.

Song: "EARLY IN THE MORNING"

NARRATOR

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

Two angels dressed in white appear to the women and they fall down in fright.

While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them,

The angels gently assure the women they have nothing to fear.

ANGELS

Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again. The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again. The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.

The angels sit down at the head and foot of Jesus' burial cloth while the women run off in surprise. Mary Magdalene stays at the tomb, crying.

Song: "WHY ARE YOU CRYING?"

NARRATOR

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

Mary Magdalene looks up and sees the angels by Jesus' burial cloth.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her,

The angels turn to Mary.

ANGELS

Woman, why are you crying? Why are you crying?
Woman, why are you crying? Why are you crying?

Mary Magdalene answers the angels with grief and worry.

MARY MAGDALENE

They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him. They have taken my Lord away, and I don't know where they have put him.

Mary Magdalene turns around and sees Jesus standing with his back to her in the middle of a garden, with a hood over his head.

NARRATOR

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

Jesus doesn't look at Mary.

JESUS

Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?
Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?

NARRATOR

Thinking he was the gardener, she said,

Mary slowly walks toward Jesus.

MARY MAGDALENE

Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.

Jesus turns around to face Mary and removes his hood.

NARRATOR

Jesus said to her,

JESUS

Mary.

Mary turns to face Jesus.

Mary.

NARRATOR

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic,

Mary looks at Jesus in disbelief, then runs to hold him tightly.

MARY MAGDALENE

Rabboni! Rabboni! Rabboni!

Jesus backs away from Mary and sends her to the disciples.

JESUS

Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'

Mary runs off to the front of the stage, facing the audience as if they were Jesus' disciples.

NARRATOR

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:

Mary sings to the audience.

MARY MAGDALENE

I have seen the Lord!"

NARRATOR

And she told them that he

MARY MAGDALENE

I have seen the Lord!"

NARRATOR

had said these things to her.

MARY MAGDALENE

I have seen the Lord!"

The stage lights fade to black while the music introduction for the next song begins. A light comes up on the narrator, who is walking with a man and woman.

Song: "THE ROAD TO EMMAUS"

NARRATOR

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened.

Jesus walks along side them.

As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

JESUS

What are you discussing together as you walk along?

The couple stops walking and turn toward Jesus.

NARRATOR

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him,

CLEOPAS AND WIFE

Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?

JESUS

What things?

CLEOPAS AND WIFE

About Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but

didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.

Jesus can't believe that they still don't understand the Scriptures.

JESUS

How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?

NARRATOR

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

Jesus explains Scripture to the couple.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly,

Cleopas takes Jesus by the arm.

CLEOPAS AND WIFE

Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.

Jesus agrees and enters the house and sits at the table with them. Cleopas' wife offers bread to Jesus, who prays to heaven and breaks the bread.

NARRATOR

So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.

The couple recognizes Jesus just as he disappears.

Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other,

The couple turn to each other in amazement.

CLEOPAS AND HIS WIFE

Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?

The couple jumps up excitedly and run offstage.

NARRATOR

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem.

A group of disciples are sitting together in a room, excitedly talking to each other. Jesus enters the room and he shows them the marks in his hands and feet.

Song: "WHAT IS WRITTEN"

NARRATOR

Jesus himself stood among them, he showed them his hands and feet. He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

JESUS

This is what is written, this is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

Jesus leads them to the vicinity of Bethany, where he blesses them and is taken up into heaven.

Song: "PRAISING GOD"

NARRATOR

When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven, taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him, then they worshiped him, then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God, praising God, praising God.

The disciples are praying together in one room when a wind startles them.

Song: "WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?"

NARRATOR

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house

Flaming tongues separate and rest on each disciple, causing them to speak in foreign tongues.

They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them, as the Spirit enabled them, as the Spirit enabled them, as the Spirit enabled them.

A crowd of Jews notice the commotion gather around.

Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

JEWS

We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues! What does this mean? What does this mean? What does this mean? What does this mean?

Song: "WITNESSES OF THE FACT"

Peter stands to address the crowd of Jews.

NARRATOR

Peter got up, raised his voice and addressed the crowd.

PETER

Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs; by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. David said about him:

King David appears as an apparition.

DAVID

I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices, and my tongue rejoices; my body also will live in hope, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, fill me with joy in your presence.

PETER

Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day, his tomb is here

to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact, we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

DAVID

The Lord said to my Lord: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet, a footstool for your feet.

PETER

Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ, both Lord and Christ, Lord and Christ.

CAST

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. He gave the right to become children of God. He gave the right to become children of God, children of God.

THE END

History of “The Word”

Lionel De Leon began writing verbatim songs from the NIV Bible in 1996. He was inspired to write a rock opera about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus taken directly from Scripture. This musical was developed over an eight-year period and completed in 2004. The lyrics are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION. NIV Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



About the Composer

Lionel De Leon was born on November 21, 1954, in Cherry Point, North Carolina and raised in Orange County, California. Interested in music from an early age, Lionel began writing songs in his early teens and pursued a career as a secular singer-songwriter. He is an alumni of the Los Angeles Songwriters Showcase and his music was showcased on Los Angeles radio stations. Lionel also received awards from the Billboard Annual Songwriting Contest. He started a nonprofit corporation in 2001, “Messenger Project,” that promotes the Bible through music and the recording arts. Lionel continues writing songs from the Bible and offers the music free at his website, messengerproject.com.