

Scene One

Heaven's halls. Gabriel meets up with Michael to tell him about his most recent assignment. Need two stages. Main stage is heaven. A smaller platform is the earth stage. An altar stands in the middle of earth stage.

Curtain opens; lights up on main stage

Michael: (standing about center stage looking out)

Gabriel: (enters from stage left) There you are, Michael.

Michael: (turns and greets his friend) Gabe, you look chipper.

Gabriel: Yes, I was given a new assignment.

Michael: Really? What was that?

Gabriel: (with excitement in his voice) It's time!

Michael: (confused) Time?

Gabriel: (nods his head) Yes, it's time. I get to go down and tell a priest that the King will be coming soon.

Michael: (with awe) It's time? Oh, wow! How long has it been since the Holy One sent someone down to communicate with them?

Gabriel: (laughs) That depends on what time line you use? Heaven's time it has hardly been any time at all, but according to their time, it has been over four hundred years!

Michael: Has it really been that long? It seems like just yesterday that I had that talk with Daniel down there. (pauses, contemplating) But then again, I've had several hundred conversations with him here.

Dim light on earth stage

Zacharias: (enters not yet on the earth stage and strikes a gong. Then slowly walks up to earth stage and spreads the coals and arranges the incense. Motions are slow as if in slow motion)

Gabriel: (agree) Well, I need to head down. I see the priest has arrived.

Michael: Good luck, Gabe. I'll watch from here.

Gabriel: (salutes Michael and turns to enter earth stage)

Sarah: (enters main stage, observes Michael watching and approaches) Hello, Michael. What are you watching?

Michael: (turns to Sarah) Oh, hi, Sarah. Gabriel is going to tell a priest that it is time.

Sarah: (pauses and then hope dawns) You mean, the promise?

Michael: (nods)

Sarah: Can I watch with you?

Zacharias: (lights the incense)

Michael: (shrugs) The promise was given to Abraham that through you, all nations would be blessed, so sure.

Both: (watch with eager anticipation)

bright light on Gabriel as he enters beside the altar.

Gabriel: (enters earth stage stands on right side of the altar)

Zacharias: (shows fear. His mind is disturb wondering what this is)

Gabriel: Zacharias, don't be afraid. The Holy One of Israel has heard your prayer.

Michael and Sarah: (lean closer as if to see better)

Gabriel: Your wife, Elizabeth, will become pregnant and bear a son.

Sarah: (beams) I remember what that was like. In my old age, I was given the promise, and God gave me Isaac.

Michael: (nods absentmindedly)

Gabriel: You will call him, John. You and your wife will have great joy, but others also will rejoice at his birth. He will be great in God's eyes. He will not drink any alcohol, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the time he is in his mother's womb.

Zacharias: (shocked expression as he hears this)

Michael: What is wrong with him? You would expect him to be happy and joyous?

Sarah: He doesn't believe.

Gabriel: Many of the children of Israel will come to the Lord their God through your son. He will herald the arrival of the Holy One just as Elijah did. He will prepare the people for God.

Zacharias: Do you expect me to believe this? I am an old man, and my wife is well beyond the child bearing years.

Michael: (slides sword partially from the sheath) How dare he address a messenger of the Holy One like that!

Sarah: Sh. Gabriel is speaking.

Gabriel: (with anger and power) I am Gabriel, the one who stands near the face of God. I was sent specifically to tell you this good news! Yet, because you do not believe me, you will be mute, unable to talk, until the day that your son is born. My words will come true in the Holy One's timing.

Zacharias: (realizing he has made a mistake, tries to talk. Mouth the words) But wait! (when the words do not come out, cover his mouth and glance down)

light on Gabriel goes off.

Gabriel: (exits back to main stage)

Zacharias: (looks back up wanting to see the angel, but he is not there. Exits slowly)

earth light fades.

Sarah: I feel sorry for him.

Michael: Sorry? Why?

Sarah: It is difficult to believe that a woman can bear children when she is past her child bearing years.

Michael: Yet, he has your example and Hannah and Sampson's mother who all received the child that they were promised.

Sarah: (nods her head in agreement) True.

Gabriel: (shaking his head) I can't believe it! Did you see that?

Michael and Sarah: (nod)

Gabriel: He flat did not believe me! I called him by name, I called his wife by name, and he was at the altar where a messenger of the Holy One would appear. Still, he did not believe me.

Sarah: (tentatively) Was I any different, when the King came and spoke with Abraham?

Gabriel: Yes, it was different. You had never seen anything like it before. Also, the King didn't speak directly to you, but to Abraham.

Sarah: (nods with understanding) And Abraham believed from the beginning. So, Zacharias should have believed as well.

Michael: Exactly.

Gabriel: I had better go report to the Holy One.

Sarah: I'm going to go tell Abraham. He'll be excited to hear that the promise is finally coming to pass.

Curtain closes; lights out

Narrator 1: And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has

done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."
Luke 1:21-25 English Standard Version

Narrator 2: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. Luke 1:26-27 English Standard Version

Scene Two
Heaven's Halls

Curtain opens to reveal Heaven's halls. Lights up full on heaven.

Angel 1 and 2: (enter from left stage walk across stage and exit at end of lines)

Angel 1: Have you heard the news?

Angel 2: What news?

Angel 1: It's time! The King is leaving!

Angel 3: (enters right stage)

Angel 4: (enters stage left, when he meets with Angel 3) Have you heard?

Angel 3: Yeah! It's time!

Angel 4: The King has left!

Angel 5: (enters and walks across stage)

Angel 3: He's left? (turns to Angel 5) Is it true? Has he really left?

Angel 5: Don't ask me. I'm always last to know anything.

Angels 3, 4, and 5: (exit)

Michael and Gabriel:(enter from opposite sides and meet in the center)

Gabriel: Michael, have you heard?

Michael: Have I heard? The halls are only buzzing with the news. The King has left us to go down to earth. The Holy One's plan is in full swing.

Gabriel: And you don't need to worry about the King. He's in capable hands.

Michael: (visibly relaxing) You know something?

Gabriel: I met the King's earthly parents.

Michael: What are they like?

Gabriel: The woman is just barely a woman. She is more a young girl than a young woman. She was so different from Zacharias when I talked with her. Naturally, she was curious how this was going to come about, but she didn't ask with unbelief, just curiosity.

Michael: (listening intently) What did she say?

Gabriel: Well, she just asked how it would happen. I explained that the Holy Spirit would come upon her. I, also, shared that Elizabeth is now in her sixth month of pregnancy. Do you know what her response was?

Michael: (shakes his head) No, what?

Gabriel: She said she was the Holy One's slave. He could do with her as He willed!

Michael: She said that?! But, that sounds like one of our responses.

Gabriel: (nodding head eagerly) I know! The Holy One picked well with this one.

Michael: And the father? What is he like?

Gabriel: (nodding head while thinking) Well, that was a bit different. I didn't get to have a conversation with him. I was sent in a dream.

Michael: I understand that. Often with Daniel that's how it was.

Gabriel: Anyway, the situation in Nazareth, that's their town, isn't the best. First off, Mary, the mother, isn't from a wealthy family. She is just a poor young woman outwardly, and you know how the created ones down there view wealth.

Michael: (nods agreement)

Gabriel: Then with her becoming pregnant before the betrothal period is over, they think she has been unfaithful.

Michael: (agitated) How dare they! (hand goes to his sword) And her betrothed?

Gabriel: Joseph. Well, he didn't believe her either.

Michael:(starts pacing wanting to take action)

Gabriel: But, he didn't want to hurt her any further either. He's a righteous man. He walks with the Holy One. He thought he would divorce her quietly. That's when I stepped in. I was able to explain things and he accepted them as fact. As soon as he awoke, he took her as his wife.

Michael: (stops pacing, places his hand on his chin) That sounds good. You say he walks with the Holy One?

Gabriel: Oh, yes. His faith is as great as Mary's.

Michael: Well, then maybe it will be alright. How is Zacharias doing?

Gabriel: (surprised) You haven't heard? John was born. Zacharias' first words were praise to the Holy One.

Curtain closes. Lights dim.

Narrator 3: Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your relatives is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And they all wondered. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. Luke 1:57-66 English Standard Version

Solo: 'Sleep Sound in Jesus' (either Zacharias or a woman, either with a baby in their arms)

Scene three

Earth: Shepherds are around fire with a few sheep.

Heaven: Michael is standing guard over the door to the throne room. Gabriel enters looking for Michael.

Curtain opens. Lights come on full on main stage, dim on earth stage.

Gabriel: Ah! There you are. I'm off on another mission.

Michael: I envy you. You seem to be able to have all the action recently.

Gabriel: Well, I need your help this time. And with you, a host of your messengers.

Michael: Really? What are we doing?

Gabriel: You get to sing the praises of the Holy One. Meet me on earth as soon as you can.

King David: (enters walking slowly gazing off toward earth)

Michael: (exits)

Gabriel: (rushes off in opposite direction and runs into King David who is walking toward center stage) Oh, (looks up) I'm sorry David. I didn't see you.

King David: Oh, that's perfectly fine. You must be off on more of the Holy One's business.

Gabriel: (nods absentmindedly) Yes, I'm off to deliver the news to some (pauses with a bit of disdain when he says the next word) shepherds.

King David: Is there something wrong with shepherds?

Gabriel: (realizing who he is talking with) Oh, no. I meant no offense. It's just that the King should be greeted by nobility, not. . . (pausing looking for the right word)

King David: Not lowly shepherds.

Gabriel: (nods)

King David: But these lowly shepherds may very well be the ones who are reciting the Scriptures that tell of the promise of the coming one. When you sit out on the hills with nothing else to do, the Scriptures seem to come to light. (pauses, a thought strikes him) They are on the hills outside my town, aren't they?

Gabriel: Yes, and I need to go. Tell Michael to come as soon as he gets here. Can you do that for me?

King David: Sure.

Gabriel: (exits to earth and stands near the shepherds)

King David: (watching with pleasure of fond memories)

Full light comes on Gabriel as he enters earth stage.

Shepherds: (afraid as they see the light and the angel)

Gabriel: Do not be afraid. I bring you great news which is for everyone. Today, this very day, in the city of David, a Savior, a deliverer, has been born.

Michael: (enters with host behind him)

King David: (motions for them to be quiet and whispers) He's ready for you.

Michael and host: (follow and take places as soon as Gabriel finishes his words)

Gabriel: He is the Anointed One, the Lord. You will know it is right when you find a child wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Michael and host: (appear)

Lights brighter yet.

Angels choir: 'Angels from the Realms of Glory'

Lights fade on angels.

Angels: (exit to heaven)

Michael: (motions for host to exit off stage)

Shepherds: (exit)

Lights off on earth stage

King David: (with joy and excitement in his voice) Did you see their reaction? They quickly left for Bethlehem to find out what you had said. There was barely any arguing in it.

Michael: Well, Gabe, it looks like they had more faith than Zacharias did at first.

Gabriel: I guess you're right. I just don't understand what makes each of the created ones act the way they do. The ones you think should have faith, don't, and where you least expect it, you find it.

King David: That's the mystery of man. It always amazed me that God was mindful of us. He chooses us to do His will.

Curtain closes. Lights fade.

Narrator 4: And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. Luke 2:6-9 English Standard Version

Narrator 5: And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" Luke 2:10-14 English Standard Version

Narrator 6: When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Luke 2:15-20 English Standard Version

Preschool Choir: 'Away in a Manger'

Scene four

Heaven's halls: Michael and Gabriel watch as things unfold on earth.

Earth: The wise men come to see the newborn king

Curtain opens on heaven. Lights come on full to heaven with a small light on earth revealing Mary, Joseph, and young Jesus.

Michael: Hey, Gabe, look at the King. How can He do it? He went from this, (gesture to heaven) to that (gesture to earth scene).

Gabriel: I don't understand it at all, but do look. See how His parents adore Him?

Daniel: (enters from stage left and walks past the two angels)

Michael: True, but to go from King of all, to a helpless baby who needs parents to look after Him? It just doesn't make sense.

Gabriel: I know. Then there is the way He has been greeted down there. Only shepherds at His birth, and at His circumcision two elderly people to acknowledge Him. He should have had all of creation bowing at His feet.

Wise men: (enter at back of the auditorium center)

Michael: Now, that's more like it! Look!

Daniel: (pauses and looks where Michael points)

Gabriel: (looks) Ah! (with excitement) You're right.

Daniel: Aren't those Magi, the priests and magicians of Babylonia, Persia, and Media?

Gabriel: (nods) They are coming to worship the King.

Daniel: But how would they know to do that?

Michael and Gabriel: (look at Daniel but don't say anything)

Daniel: (understanding dawns) My writings? They had that influence?

Michael: Watch with us and see what happens.

Wise men: (come down aisle, turn off to stage left in front of the auditorium. Pause. Shake their heads, then turn, point to the sky, and head toward earth stage)

Michael: (gritting teeth and reaching for his sword) I would run Herod through, if I could. He should have been the one to greet the King. He has no intention of worshipping the King. He thinks that he is the one in charge of Israel.

Daniel: Doesn't he know that all authorities are placed there by God? He hasn't read his history of Babylonia then. Has he?

Gabriel: (shakes his head) No, but look. The Magi have found the King.

Wise men: (mount earth stage, bow before the child and His parents and present their gifts)

The Holy One: (voice only) Gabriel!

Gabriel: Yes? (walks over to entrance to throne room, stage right, and kneels)

The Holy One: Go, warn the Magi that Herod would destroy My Son. Warn them to return home a different way.

Gabriel: Yes, Holy One. (exits to earth stage to wise men, pause for a while, then exits back to heaven stage, at throne room door, pause as if hearing a voice. Bow and then exit back to earth to warn Joseph, then return to heaven)

Wise men: (watch Gabriel, then rise and leave down aisle stage right)

Daniel: Will that be enough to protect the Promised One? I have seen many a proud monarch. Will Herod still try to harm the child?

Mary and Joseph: (exit down right aisle with Jesus after seeing Gabriel)

Michael: (drawing sword) Look!

The Holy One: Michael, stop! Do not interfere.

Michael: (pauses in mid-stride of advancing to earth)

Gabriel: (surprised at seeing Michael's sword) Michael, they are safe. Look, the King's family got off safe and sound. See? (points to the house)

Michael: Yes, He did, but look! (using sword to point to earth) All those young ones are not safe. Herod has sent his soldiers to kill them all!

Daniel:(shakes his head) How sad. I cannot bare to look. (turns away and exits)

Gabriel: I think Daniel had the right idea. This just does not make sense.

Michael: Does anything having to do with the created ones make any sense?

Curtain closes, lights dim.

Narrator 7: Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Matthew 2:1-6 English Standard Version

Narrator 8: Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there

until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." Matthew 2: 7-15 English Standard Version

Solo: 'Mary Did Know?'

Scene Five

Heaven's Halls: Michael and a host of angels with drawn swords are ready to descend on earth

Earth: Jesus with a few disciples in the garden. Mob comes to take him.

Curtain opens. Lights brighten on Heaven, dim on earth.

Michael and host: (watching)

Disciples: (curled up asleep with heads against their knees)

Jesus: (comes to the few disciples) Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not be put to the test.

Soldiers: (enter from earth stage right and approach earth stage)

Judas: (greeted Jesus with an exaggerated kiss)

Jesus: Judas, will you be false to the Son of Man with a kiss?

Gabriel: (enters from stage right heaven)

Michael: I'd like to get my hands on that created one!

Gabriel: Sh, Micheal. The King knows what He is doing.

Peter: (takes his sword and swings at a person in the mob)

Malchus: (ducks to avoid the swing, raise hands to ear and cry out as drop down onto knees)

Jesus: (as He speaks, He reaches down to the man, touches the ear, and raises the man back up) Peter, put away your sword! He who lives by the sword dies by the sword. Don't you

know that if I asked the Father, He would even now send an army of angels?

Michael and host: (war cry, unsheathe their swords) Yes! Let's go!

The Holy One: No! Stay put!

Michael and host: (keep swords out, but restrain themselves)

Disciples: (run off earth stage left and exit up the aisles)

Soldiers: (take Jesus and exit earth stage right)

Lights dim on earth stage.

Angel warrior 1: Don't they realize who He is?

Michael: That is the whole problem. The created ones do not recognize their creator.

Angel warrior 2: But those are the religious rulers; they should know better.

Gabriel: They should, but they don't.

Angel warrior 1: Now it is the political ruler's turn. Will he do any better?

Michael: I would hope so, but after what Herod did at the King's birth, I doubt this one will treat the King any better.

Angel warrior 2: Michael, can't I go take care of those soldiers? Please?

Michael: (placing hand on warrior comfortingly) No. You heard our orders. We must not interfere.

Angel warrior 1: But why? I do not understand.

Gabriel: It is part of the Holy One's plan. I do not understand it at all.

Angel warrior 1: Is the Holy One just going to sit back and let those created ones crucify the King?

Angel warrior 2: I can't stand it any more. I can't look. (exits stage left)

Angel warrior 1: This is torture! Must we watch? (shakes his head and exits stage left)

Angel host: (one by one leave shaking heads and placing swords back into sheathes)

Gabriel: I don't blame them, Michael. I would do the same in their sandals.

Michael: I know, Gabe. It is my duty to stay, though.

Gabriel: I'll keep you company.

Lights out.

Michael: Gabe? What is this?

Gabriel: I don't know. It's dark down there as well.

Jesus: (gasping) My God, my God! Why have you deserted me?

Curtain closes.

Solo: How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Narrator 9: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. Matthew 27:57-61 English Standard Version

Narrator 10: Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Matthew 28:1-8 English Standard Version

Scene Six

Heaven's Halls: Jesus walks with Gabriel and Michael and explains why it had to happen.

Curtain opens. Lights up on heaven.

Jesus, Michael and Gabriel are standing chatting. Jesus shows them the scars in his hands and feet.

Michael: (trying to control some righteous anger) What I don't understand is why? You are the King! Why would you do this?

Jesus: (smiles, sadly and knowingly) Well, let's go back to the beginning, Michael. You remember what it was like when the Father and I first created humans?

Gabriel: I remember wondering what you were doing. You took them out of the dust of the ground. Everything else was made by your word.

Jesus: (nods) That's right. They are a special creation. They were created to bring happiness to the Father.

Michael: (still a bit put out) I didn't see happiness here when (points to Jesus' scars) THAT happened. It was dark and miserable.

Jesus: Yes, Michael it was. (pauses with the weight of the memory) It was not happiness. It was sin. To understand it, we must realize who Man was created to be. Remember what it was like when Adam walked with me in the garden.

Michael and Gabriel: (exchange glances and nod)

Gabriel: That's something else we don't understand.

Jesus: (laughs) Let's work on one thing at a time. The Father intended humans to have a relationship with Him; yet at the same time, He didn't want them to be robots doing what they were programmed to do. He wanted them to be able to truly love, and to love, you have to have choice.

Michael: But they chose to go against the Holy One. Isn't that it?

Jesus: Michael, from before creation, the Father and I had the plan. We agreed on what we would do. The humans were chosen to be holy and free from evil, to be sons of God, and to

enjoy this (spreads his hands to encompass heaven).

Gabriel: But they chose not to.

Jesus: (sadly nods his head) Yes, but that was part of the plan as well. The Father and I planned for their rebellion. We made a way for them to come back to all of this. That is why I had to leave to go to their homeland.

Michael: The plan said you had to go there?

Jesus: That's right. When they rebelled, it caused a huge gap between the Father and them. They could never be good enough on their own to come here. So, I became one of them so that I could take their punishment.

Gabriel: But you are innocent.

Jesus: Exactly! The Father and I set up a system for them until I came that had them sacrifice a perfect lamb. That lamb was a picture of me. Then, I went there, and took their punishment. All of their rebellion was heaped on me while I hung on that cross. That is why the Father looked away. That is why it was so dark. But it wasn't the end. The Father gave me power to overcome death. The thing that humans fear the most is no longer a threat. All they have to do is turn to me.

Michael: I still don't understand why.

Jesus: (smiles) Well, now, humans can be free; they can enjoy the inheritance that the Father has planned for them. They are given life and set free from sin. They have the same power that raised me from the dead to help them live a holy life. The way is clear for them to come to the Father and be His children, (saddens) but look at them (points out to the audience). They wander around like sheep without a shepherd. They think they can manage life without me. (voice grows stronger as he pronounces judgment) One day, though, I will return. They will no longer be able to ignore me. They will look upon Me, whom they pierced (motions to hands and feet and side). They will have to make a choice. (voice softens like when He called out to Jerusalem) How much better if they would but come to me now, before it is too late. They must realize that I am the way, the truth, and the Life, and NO one comes to heaven without me. What do you think? Will they turn? Will they come to me?"

Curtain closes. Lights dim.

Solo/choir: "Born to Die" by Ron Hamilton or Apologetics "Angels Long to Look into These Things"

Narrator: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! Though you do not see him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. 1 Peter 1:3, 8-12 English Standard Version