

HARRIET'S EASTER HUNT

by Karen Haneely



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HARRIET'S EASTER HUNT

By Karen Hanely

CAST OF CHARACTERS

HARRIET (a young girl)

CHILD

HOSANNA THE DONKEY

STREAM

ROSE

DAFFODILS (one to three)

LILY

RUCKUS THE ROOSTER

TREE

EASTER BUNNY

ROCKY THE TORTOISE

SPEAKERS: 1, 2, 3, 4, I, S, E1, R, T, E2, and A.

One person could do all the parts, or the parts could be divided among two to eleven persons (making the total number of speakings parts as few as twelve or as many as twenty-four).

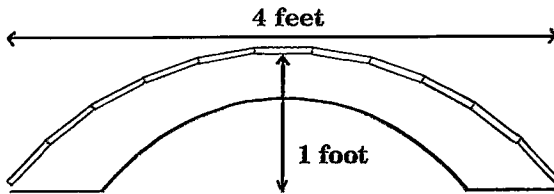
CHORUS: All the above, plus as many others as you wish.

PRODUCTION NOTES

SETTING: The stage is a garden. A backdrop painted with flowers and trees could be used, or large potted plants may be placed on the stage. Large Easter eggs cut out of cardboard and decorated should be scattered about. Center Stage is a bridge, which may be built according to the plan below. For an easier alternative, a wooden bench may be used. Use several yards of blue cloth to make a stream running under the bridge and off to one side. A podium should be positioned at Stage Right for the Speakers.

Bridge, side view.

Cut 2 from 3/4" plywood. Top boards are 1' x 4' x 20". Cut 12.



COSTUMES: Harriet, the Child and the Speakers should wear spring colors. They should dress as one would for Sunday morning.

The Donkey and Easter Bunny should have long ears on a headband and tails.

The Stream should wear blue. Tape blue streamers on him.

The flowers should wear brown and green. Make petals out of heavy paper folded over a headband (red for the Rose, yellow for the Daffodils, and white for the Lily) The colors are enough of a suggestion as to what flower each one is without a realistic rendering.

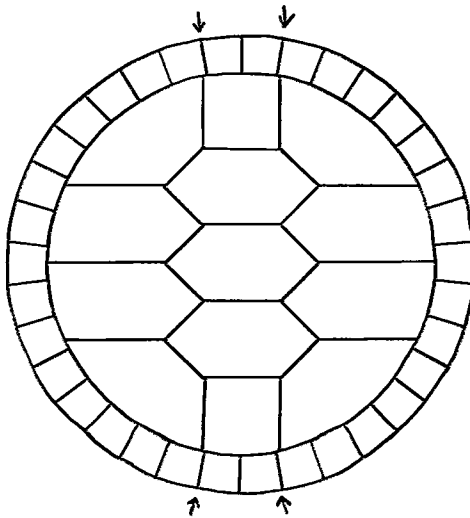
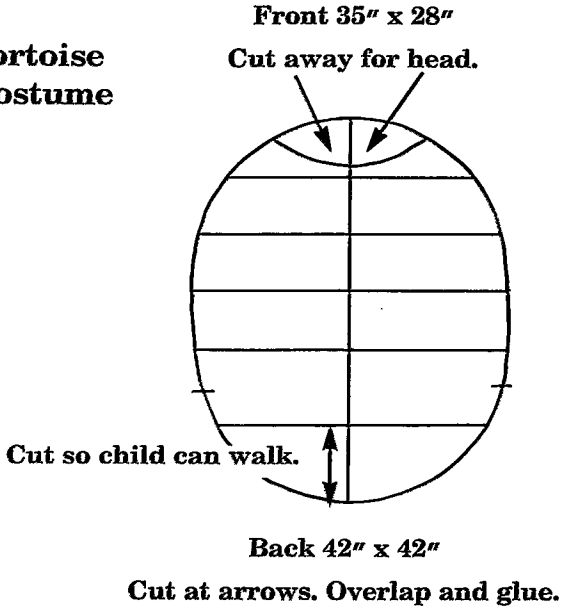
The Tree should wear brown pants and a green shirt.

The Rooster should have blue and green feathers taped on his arms and on a headband.

The Tortoise is the most involved costume. (See diagram on p. iii.) He should wear green. Make a shell out of cardboard. The front is flat, while the back needs to be bowl-shaped. To achieve this, start with a flat, oval-shaped piece

of cardboard. Make three slits on each side. Overlap the cardboard along each slit. Cover the shell with a thin layer of papier mâché. Cut out arm and head holes as needed. A slit at the bottom of the front will make walking easier.

Tortoise Costume



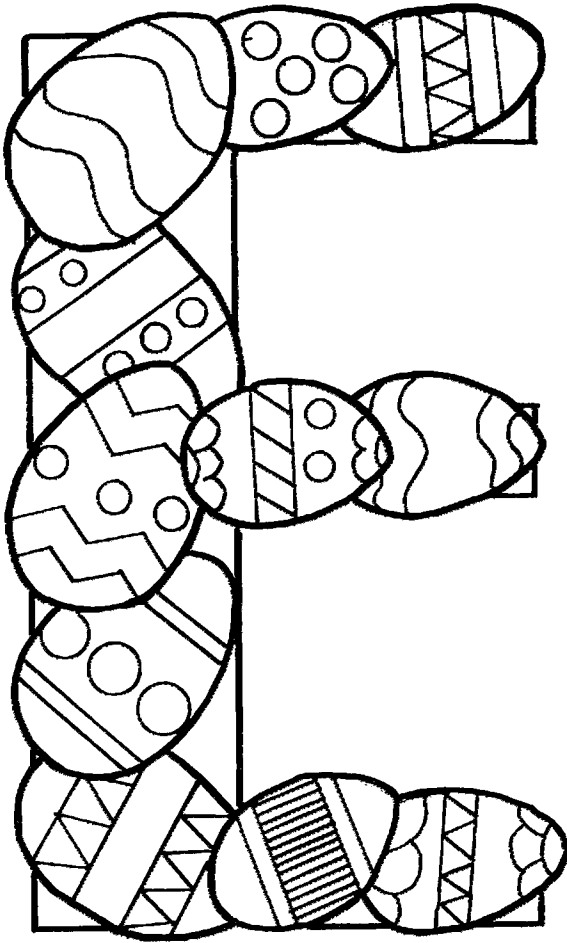
PROPS: Each child should have a palm branch. These could be real branches or made from construction paper.

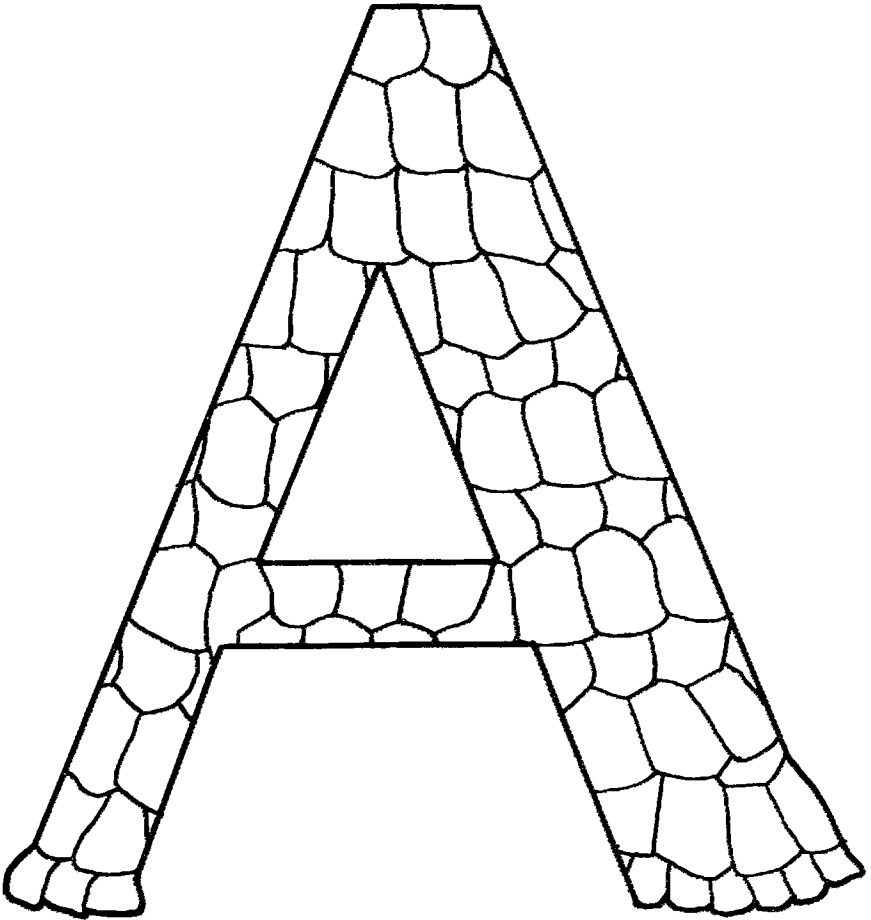
You will need seven posters to spell out EASTER! Make each a different color. Make the letters as follows: ! should be a donkey's head; S, wavy lines to look like water; E1 made with flowers; R made with feathers; T should look like a tree; E2 made with colored eggs; and A with a pattern to look like a tortoise shell. Add a head and a tail. (See illustrations on pages v-xi. They may be enlarged to the desired size on an overhead projector or copier and then transferred to posterboard.)

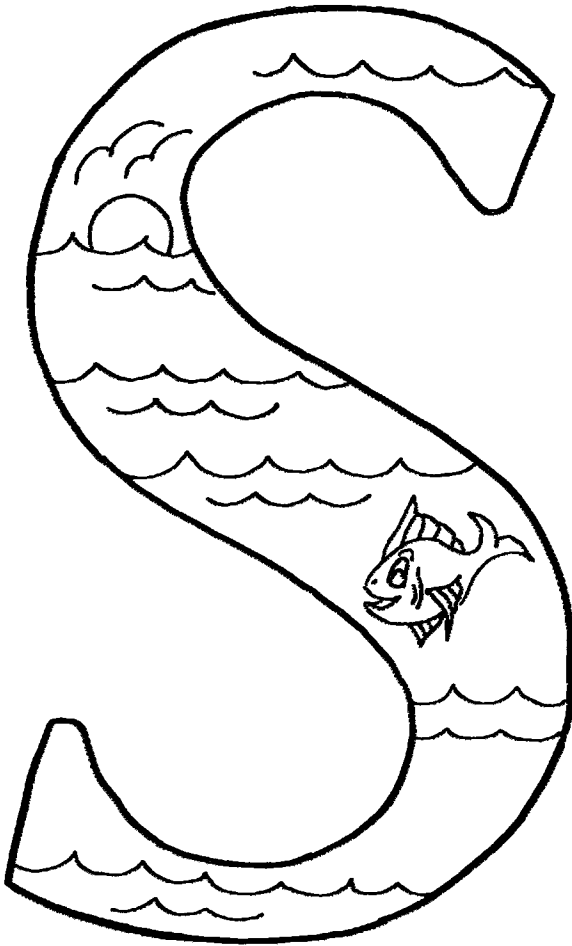
The Easter Bunny needs a basket of colorful eggs.

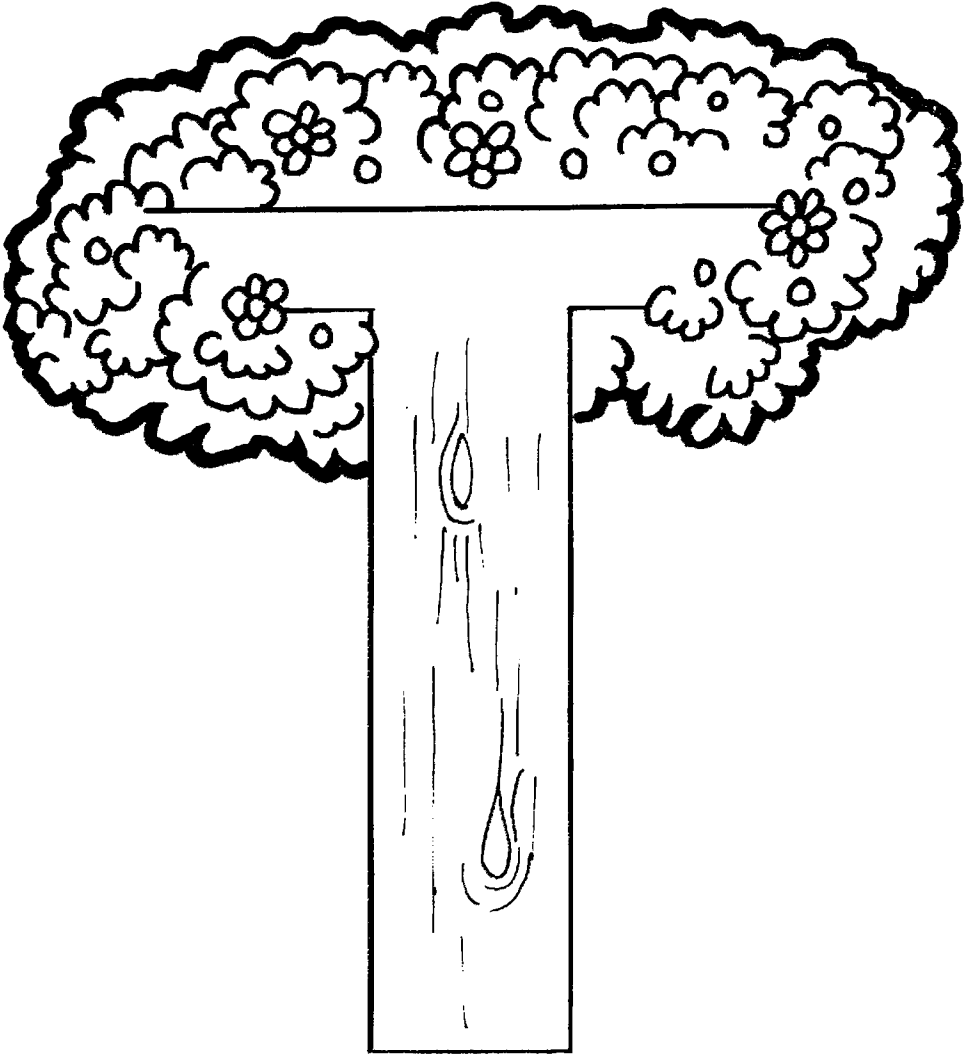
NOTE ON POSTERS: As each Speaker talks about a letter, that poster is held in front of the Speaker. If Speakers are doing more than one letter, have the character or another child hold it.

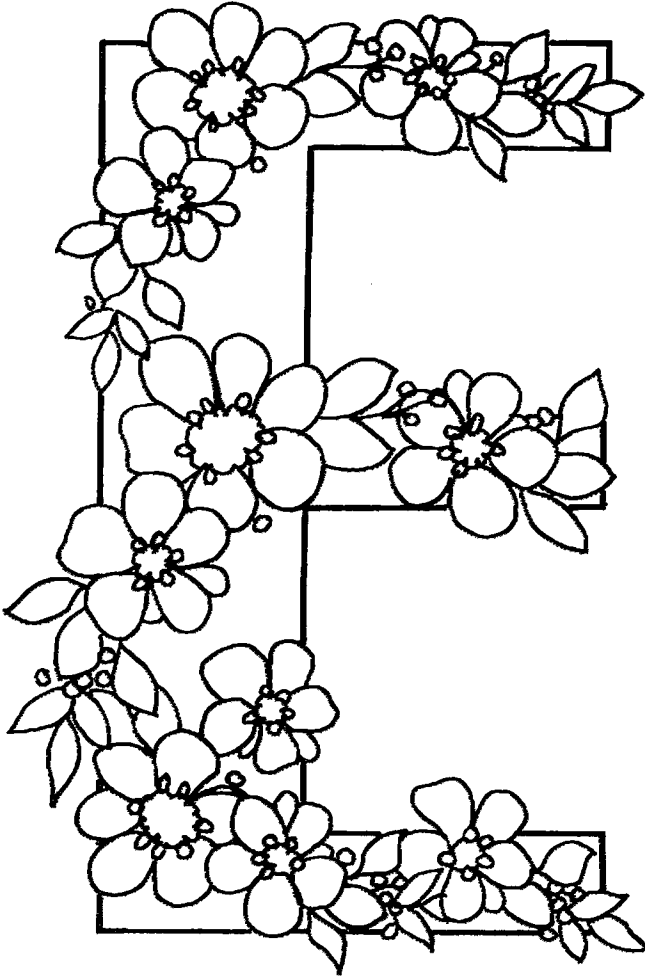
MUSIC: Most of the music is well-known. The songs are merely suggestions and may be replaced by other appropriate songs from your church's music library. "Hosanna! Be the Children's Song," (or "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna," which has different words but the same tune) may be found in most hymnals. It could be replaced by almost any song praising Jesus. "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," is also found in most hymnals. It should be performed as a solo or small group ensemble using older children. Any song with the cross as the theme could be substituted. "Alive, Alive" may be found in *Praise Him! 25 Praise Songs for Children* by Twin Sisters Productions, 1340 Home Avenue, Suite D, Akron, OH 44310, (800) 248-TWIN. It could be replaced by any song about Jesus having risen from the dead. "Jesus Loves Me" is the old standby that all children know, found in any number of Christian children's song collections. "Oh, How I Love Jesus" may be found in many hymnals. Any song about Jesus' love may be substituted. "Go Tell It on the Mountain," may be found in many hymnals or Christmas song collections. The lyrics (with original verses) are included.

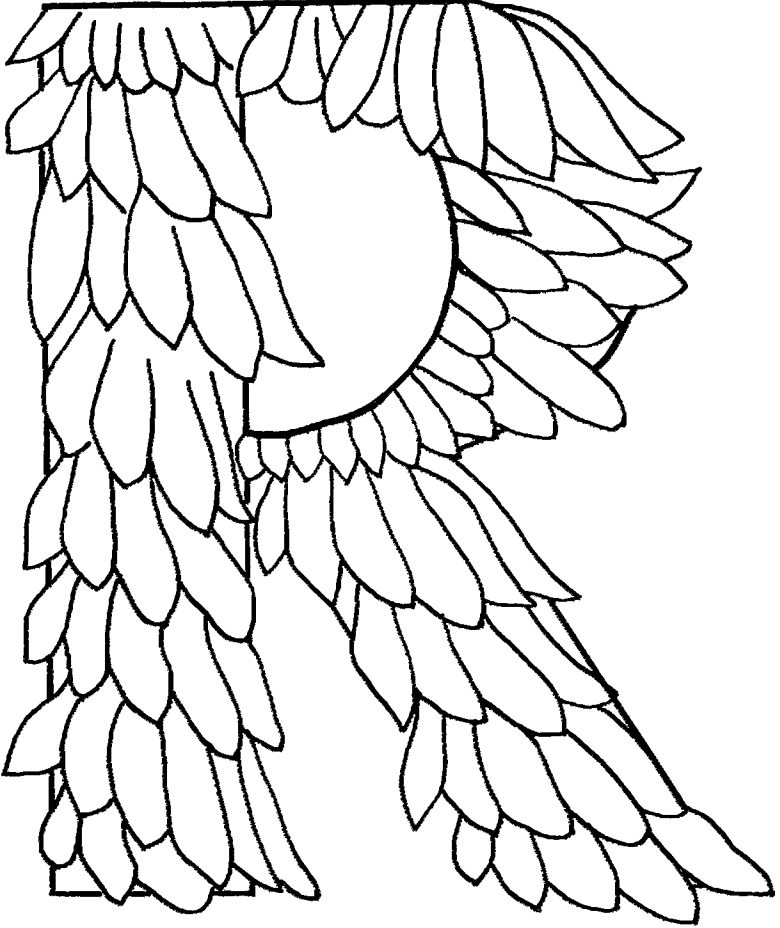


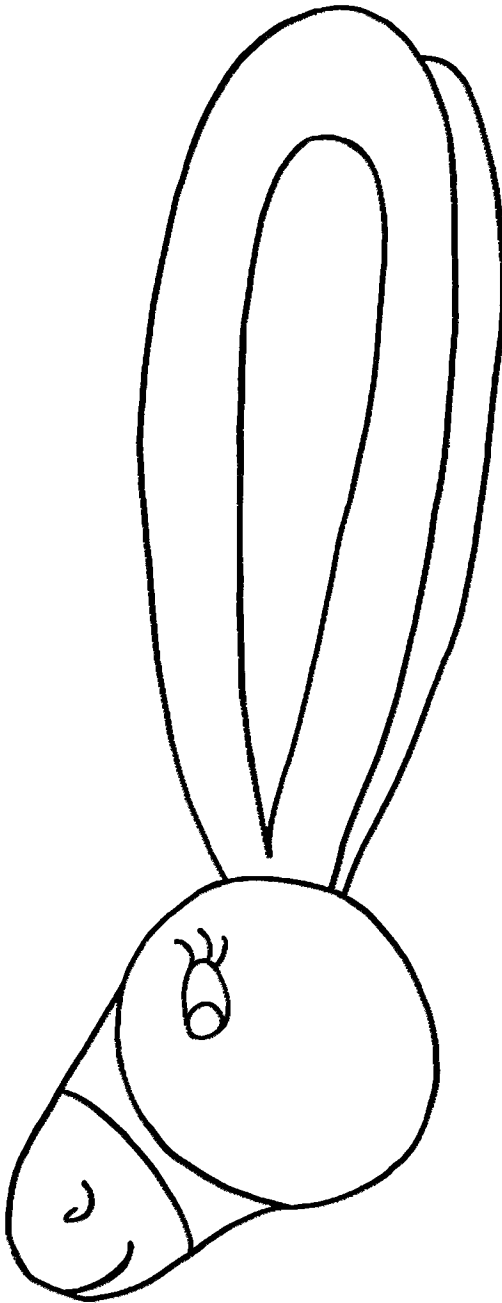












1 *(SPEAKER 1 stands at the podium. If SPEAKER 2 is done by*
 2 *a different person, he or she should be ready to step up. The*
 3 *poster with the exclamation point should be on the floor near*
 4 *where HOSANNA will stand.)*

5 **SPEAKER 1:**

6 **Harriet was a child who heard**
 7 **Half of what was said.**
 8 **“Pick up the toys and make your bed,”**
 9 **Became “pick up the bed.”**

10
 11 **Sent to the store for yogurt and jam,**
 12 **She’d buy a yam without fail.**
 13 **Easter egg hunt was Easter hunt,**
 14 **And thus begins our tale. *(SPEAKER 1 exits.)***

15 **CHILD: *(Runs On-stage, followed by HARRIET.)* Come on,**
 16 **Harriet. We’re going on an Easter egg hunt.**

17 **HARRIET: A what?**

18 **CHILD: An Easter egg hunt. *(Runs Off-stage and joins the rest***
 19 *of the CHILDREN waiting to march in.)*

20 **HARRIET: An Easter hunt? OK, I will hunt for Easter,**
 21 **whatever that is. *(Starts searching, looking at eggs but***
 22 *leaving them lie. SPEAKER 2 goes to the podium.)*

23 **SPEAKER 2:**

24 **Passing by eggs of orange and blue,**
 25 **Yellow, green and red,**
 26 **Lavender, purple, silver, gold,**
 27 **She looked for Easter instead.**

28
 29 **Harriet found a donkey small**
 30 **Standing in the yard.**
 31 **Finding this Easter sure was fun,**
 32 **and surely was not hard. *(SPEAKER 2 exits. DONKEY enters***
 33 *from opposite side than HARRIET and CHILD came from.)*

34 **HARRIET: Are you Easter?**

35 **HOSANNA: Who, me? No, my name is Hosanna.**

- 1 **HARRIET:** What a silly name! (*Laughs.*)
- 2 **HOSANNA:** Don't make fun of my name.
- 3 **HARRIET:** Sorry. I meant no offense. Could you help me
- 4 find Easter?
- 5 **HOSANNA:** Easter, well ... (*Pause*) I do know a little
- 6 something about Easter. In fact, my name, Hosanna,
- 7 comes from my great-grandfather. Before that, it was
- 8 the name of his great-great-grandfather on his mother's
- 9 side. Or was it his grandmother on his father's side?
- 10 Oh, I forget! Anyway, the name Hosanna goes back
- 11 many, many generations.
- 12 **HARRIET:** But what does the name Hosanna have to do with
- 13 Easter?
- 14 **HOSANNA:** That was how Easter started. The children were
- 15 calling and singing as Jesus rode into the city of
- 16 Jerusalem. He was riding on the back of one of my
- 17 ancestors.
- 18 **HARRIET:** And that was Easter?
- 19 **HOSANNA:** No, just the start. Here, let me give you
- 20 something to help you on your hunt. (*HOSANNA picks up*
- 21 *poster with exclamation point and holds it up high.*)
- 22 **HARRIET:** What is it?
- 23 **HOSANNA:** A sign of excitement. When you say "Hosanna!"
- 24 it should always be with excitement!
- 25 **HARRIET:** Thank you, Hosanna. I mean HOSANNA! (*The*
- 26 *children and SPEAKER 3 enter waving palm branches as*
- 27 *"Hosanna! Be the Children's Song" [also known as "Hosanna,*
- 28 *Loud Hosanna"] is played on the piano. After the children are*
- 29 *all On-stage, the following chant is done. It should be rhythmic*
- 30 *and without pause. Each line is spoken first by SPEAKER 3*
- 31 *who stands at the podium, then echoed by the CHILDREN.*)
- 32 **SPEAKER 3:** Hosanna!
- 33 **CHILDREN:** Hosanna!
- 34 **SPEAKER 3:** Hosanna!
- 35 **CHILDREN:** Hosanna!

1 **SPEAKER 3:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
2 **Lord!**

3 **CHILDREN:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
4 **Lord!**

5 **SPEAKER 3:** Hosanna!

6 **CHILDREN:** Hosanna!

7 **SPEAKER 3:** Hosanna!

8 **CHILDREN:** Hosanna!

9 **SPEAKER 3:** Blessed is the King of Israel!

10 **CHILDREN:** Blessed is the King of Israel!

11 **SPEAKER 3:** Hosanna!

12 **CHILDREN:** Hosanna!

13 **SPEAKER 3:** Hosanna!

14 **CHILDREN:** Hosanna!

15 **SPEAKER 3:** Hosanna in the highest!

16 **CHILDREN:** Hosanna in the highest!

17

18 **SONG:** "Hosanna! Be the Children's Song" (or "Hosanna,
19 **Loud Hosanna**")

20

21 *(CHILDREN and SPEAKER 3 sit down in front. Palm*
22 *branches should be placed on the floor. CHARACTERS take*
23 *places On-stage: the STREAM behind the bridge, the others in*
24 *the order HARRIET meets them. If your stage area is small,*
25 *have all sit in front of the stage and come on when needed.*
26 *SPEAKER ! takes the sign with the exclamation point from*
27 *HOSANNA and goes to the podium.)*

28 **SPEAKER !:**

29 **"Praise the Lord," the children sang,**

30 **Their voices raised as one.**

31 **"Blessed is he who comes this day,**

32 **Hosanna to the Son."**

33

34 **Then donkey Hosanna gave the child**

35 **His exclamation mark.**

1 **Harriet went on searching for Easter**
 2 **In a nearby park.** (*HARRIET crosses to the bridge and sits on*
 3 *it. SPEAKER ! stands at Stage Right, holding sign. SPEAKER*
 4 *4 goes to podium.*)
 5 **SPEAKER 4:**
 6 **Crossing the bridge, she stopped and sat,**
 7 **Paused to take a look.**
 8 **Removed her shoes to rest her feet,**
 9 (*HARRIET takes her shoes off.*)
 10 **Cooled them in the brook.**
 11
 12 **Gurgling gently over rocks,**
 13 **Water smoothly fell.**
 14 **Where is this Easter that she sought?**
 15 **Water, can you tell?** (*SPEAKER 4 exits.*)
 16 **HARRIET: Are you Easter?**
 17 **STREAM:** (*Gets up and stands in front of bridge.*) **Me? I'm just a**
 18 **small stream.**
 19 **HARRIET: Do you know where I could find Easter?**
 20 **STREAM: Find it? I'm not sure, but I do remember**
 21 **something about it.**
 22 **HARRIET: Please tell me.**
 23 **STREAM: Many years ago, some of my water was used by a**
 24 **man named Jesus to wash his disciples' feet.**
 25 **HARRIET: Was that Easter?**
 26 **STREAM: No, it was the Last Supper. But Easter was not far**
 27 **off. Go look in the garden.** (*HARRIET puts her shoes on*
 28 *and moves off the bridge. SPEAKER S goes to podium.*)
 29 **SPEAKER S:** (*Holding up "S" poster*)
 30 **Harriet this time took the S.**
 31 **Supper, stream so small.**
 32 **It was a clue to aid her quest.**
 33 **Soon she'd find them all.**
 34 (*HARRIET crosses to FLOWERS.*)
 35

- 1 **Next she skipped down the garden path,**
 2 **Turning to her right.**
 3 **Daffodils, roses, lilies too,**
 4 **Flowers blooming bright.** (*SPEAKER S stands at Stage*
 5 *Right holding sign.*)
 6 **HARRIET:** (*To ROSE*) **Are you Easter? You are so beautiful,**
 7 **you must be.**
 8 **ROSE:** **Who, me? I am a rose. Watch out for my thorns.**
 9 **HARRIET:** (*Touches ROSE, then draws hand back quickly.*) **Ouch!**
 10 (*Turns to DAFFODILS.*) **Are you Easter?**
 11 **DAFFODIL:** **No, silly. We are daffodils.** (*All laugh.*)
 12 **HARRIET:** **Why are you laughing? I don't see anything**
 13 **funny.**
 14 **DAFFODIL:** **Because we are daffy. We can't help but laugh.**
 15 (*Laughs.*)
 16 **HARRIET:** (*Turns to LILY.*) **Then you must be Easter.**
 17 **LILY:** **I am an Easter lily. Easter was long ago. It started in**
 18 **a garden where Jesus went to pray with his eleven**
 19 **disciples.** (*SPEAKER E1 goes to podium.*)
 20 **SPEAKER E1:** (*Holding up flowery "E" poster*)
 21 **Harriet now was given an E,**
 22 **For eleven men.**
 23 **Sleeping while Jesus prayed all night**
 24 **To free the world from sin.**
 25 (*HARRIET crosses to RUCKUS.*)
 26
 27 **Hearing the sound of barnyard friends,**
 28 **Cock-a-doodle-doo!**
 29 **Harriet turned to find a bird,**
 30 **Feathers green and blue.** (*SPEAKER E1 stands at Stage*
 31 *Right, holding sign.*)
 32 **HARRIET:** **Are you Easter?**
 33 **RUCKUS:** **I'm just a simple rooster. Ruckus is my name.**
 34 **HARRIET:** **Do you know where I can find Easter?**
 35 **RUCKUS:** **Well, I do know it was a rooster's crow that let**

1 **Peter know that he had denied Jesus.** (*SPEAKER R goes*
2 *to podium.*)

3 **SPEAKER R:** (*Holding up "R" poster*)

4 **Ruckus the rooster gave her an R.**

5 **Cock-a-doodle-doo.**

6 **Harriet smiled and went her way.**

7 **Followed a trail new.**

8 (*HARRIET goes to the TREE.*)

9

10 **Coming upon a tall, old tree.**

11 **Gnarled, twisted, scarred.**

12 **Easter was near, she knew it was,**

13 **Yet finding it was hard.** (*SPEAKER R stands at Stage Right,*
14 *holding sign.*)

15 **HARRIET:** Are you Easter?

16 **TREE:** Me? I'm just an old tree. I give shade in the summer
17 and firewood for the winter. Children climb in my
18 branches. That's enough for me.

19 **HARRIET:** Then you know nothing about Easter.

20 **TREE:** Know something? Yes, I know it was a tree long ago
21 that was cut down.

22 **HARRIET:** Cut down? How sad.

23 **TREE:** The tree was made into a cross.

24 **HARRIET:** Like the cross on our church? How nice!

25 **TREE:** It was the cross Jesus died on.

26 **HARRIET:** How sad.

27 **TREE:** Yes, very sad. That is why trees like me are weeping
28 willows.

29

30 **SOLO:** (Optional) "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

31

32 (*SPEAKER T goes to podium.*)

33 **SPEAKER T:** (*Holding up "T" poster*)

34 **Tears of the tree gave her a T,**

35 **Sad his story told.**



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