

YOU ARE PRESENT

by Judy Gattis Smith



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A Collection of 4 Holy Week Scenes

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SYNOPSIS: Transport yourself on the wings of imagination to the scenes of Holy Week. Be present with the Palm Sunday crowd; observe the circling group of enemies in the Temple; listen to the wind through the Olive trees in Gethsemane; share Peter's agony in the courtyard. Sense the prevailing atmosphere. Allow the vibrations of word and sound to enter your body and awaken your feelings. Discover how sound, invisible and intangible, can strongly affect us.

DURATION: 4 skits, 2 or 3 minutes per skit.

TIME: In the time of Jesus

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(3 either gender; 5-10+ extras)

PASTOR (m/f) Leads short scripture passage at
the beginning of each skit. (4
lines)

FIRST READER (m/f)..... (84 lines)

SECOND READER (m/f) (83 lines)

EXTRAS:

MUSICIAN

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OF CHILDREN, any number

SOUND EFFECT CHOIR, at least 4 people who make the sounds of breeze
in trees

SOUND EFFECT ACTOR, An actor off stage who can make the sound of a
Rooster crowing

SETTING

SKIT 1: On the road from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem

SKIT 2: In the Temple

SKIT 3: In Garden of Mount of Olives

SKIT 4: In courtyard outside Pilot's home

PROPS

- palm branches (SKIT 1)
- noise makers (SKIT 3)
- someone who can make the sound of a rooster crowing (SKIT 4)

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: To maximize the feeling level, these skits are written in the form of a spoken duet. Sounds from Nature and Animal sounds join in.

AT PALM SUNDAY PARADE

AT START: *The PASTOR welcomes the people and introduces the two spectators: READER 1 and READER 2. The purpose of this skit is to touch the familiar Bible story in a new way, at a different level. It attempts to add the music of joy and excitement to what may have become mundane. Listen to this Scripture and imagine you are present.*

PASTOR: Mark 11:9&10. "Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted "Hosannah." "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" (*PASTOR sits.*)

MUSICIAN begins playing a lively hymn such as "Hosanna. Praise the Lord." SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS OF CHILDREN rush in, waving palm branches and shouting. They continue until the music stops. Then they exit.

FIRST READER: Palm Branches

SECOND READER: Palm Branches waving

FIRST READER: Waving fast

SECOND READER: Palm branches shaking

FIRST READER: Shaking

SECOND READER: With joy

FIRST READER: Waving

SECOND READER: And shaking

BOTH READERS: Saluting with glad triumph

FIRST READER: Back and forth

SECOND READER: Up and Down

FIRST READER: Side to Side

SECOND READER: Back and forth

BOTH READERS: Palm Branches

FIRST READER: Palm

SECOND READER: Branches

FIRST READER: Palm fonts

SECOND READER: Fonts

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FIRST READER: Flourishing

SECOND READER: Flaunting

FIRST READER: Brandishing

SECOND READER: Undulating

BOTH READERS: By joyful children in honor of a King

FIRST READER: Children

SECOND READER: Jumping

FIRST READER: Shouting

SECOND READER: Lining the roadside

FIRST READER: Crowding the narrow path

SECOND READER: Crowding

FIRST READER: Waving

SECOND READER: Moving

FIRST READER: Children

SECOND READER: Children

FIRST READER: Children shouting

SECOND READER: Jumping

FIRST READER: Gleeful

SECOND READER: Zestful

FIRST READER: Waving

SECOND READER: And expressing

FIRST READER: The sweetness of life

SECOND READER: The point of celebration

BOTH READERS: With exuberance

FIRST READER: Celebration

SECOND READER: Sweetness

FIRST READER: Sweetness and swiftness

SECOND READER: Swiftness of life

FIRST READER: Before it's too late

SECOND READER: As he passes now

FIRST READER: Hosanna!

SECOND READER: Hosanna

BOTH READERS: Palm branches waving in honor of a King.

IN THE TEMPLE

AT START: *Slowly, READER 1 and READER 2 approach the left section of the stage. MUSICIAN plays Lenten hymn such as “Amazing Grace.” The PASTOR rises to read the second Scripture passage*

PASTOR: Luke 19:47&48. “Every day he was teaching in the Temple. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people kept looking for a way to kill him. But they did not find anything they could do for all the people were spellbound by what they heard.”

FIRST READER: Priests were there

SECOND READER: I saw them

FIRST READER: Purple robed

SECOND READER: Haughty countenance

FIRST READER: Haughty countenance

SECOND READER: Richly robed

FIRST READER: Eyes Peering

SECOND READER: Eyes Piercing

FIRST READER: Half-hooded eyes

SECOND READER: Half hidden glances

BOTH READERS: At the young man

FIRST READER: Priests watching

SECOND READER: Priests circling

FIRST READER: Priests approaching

SECOND READER: Lifting skirts from the dust

FIRST READER: Stepping daintily

SECOND READER: Mincingly

FIRST READER: Menacingly

SECOND READER: Slowly circling

FIRST READER: Haughty priest

BOTH READERS: Approaching

FIRST READER: Mouths tight

SECOND READER: Noses in the Air

FIRST READER: Slightly Sniffing

SECOND READER: Tight lipped

FIRST READER: Stone faced

SECOND READER: Granite

FIRST READER: Cold

SECOND READER: Stone faced

BOTH READERS: With piercing eyes

FIRST READER: Watching

SECOND READER: That young man

FIRST READER: Peering

SECOND READER: Intensely

FIRST READER: I saw them

SECOND READER: There in the Temple

FIRST READER: Watching with interest

SECOND READER: Great interest

BOTH READERS: Watching Jesus

IN THE GARDEN

AT START: *READER 1 and READER 2 walk slowly to the right side of the stage, the Garden of Gethsemane. MUSICIAN plays a hymn such as "Into the Woods"*

NOTE: The purpose of this spoken duet is to present a familiar Holy Week event (Jesus praying at Gethsemane) in a new way. This snippet of Scripture seeks to capture a moment in time and to recreate that moment with sounds.

PASTOR: *(Rises and reads.) Luke 22: 43 & 44. "An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground."*

NOTE: This spoken duet uses two solo voices, LEFT READER and RIGHT READER, and the SOUND EFFECT CHOIR.

The SOUND EFFECT CHOIR recreates the rustling of leaves in the garden of Gethsemane in any way you choose. Experiment with sounds. Be creative. Rubbing palms together is a possibility as is the shaking of tambourines or the use of wire brushes on drums. You may want to use one implemented sound all the way through or vary the sounds. The SOUND EFFECT CHOIR part is centered and written in italics.

FIRST READER: In the city called Jerusalem

Olive leaves rustle: Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

SECOND READER: Outside the walls

Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

FIRST READER: Stands a dark Garden

Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

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SECOND READER: where gnarled trees grow

FIRST READER: Leaves rustling like silk

READER 2: a whispering sound

FIRST READER: A quick rubbing sound

READER 2: a soft stirring sound

Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

SECOND READER: Where Jesus knelt praying

FIRST READER: In that holy grove

SECOND READER: Twisted olive grove

FIRST READER: Ancient trees of Gethsemane

SECOND READER: Gnarled trees of Gethsemane

Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

FIRST READER: Where Jesus prayed blood

SECOND READER: Where he cried for release from what the future
would hold.

Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

FIRST READER: Unquestioning leaves

SECOND READER: Gently assuring

FIRST READER: Dark, silky leaves

SECOND READER: Faithfully stirring

Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

FIRST READER: Alone in his agony

SECOND READER: Seeking relief

Schwoosh – Schwoosh.

SECOND READER: Jesus understood.

Beat.



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