

THE FIRST EASTER MORNING

by Mary Peacock



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

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CAST OF PERFORMERS

Adult narrator
(can be Pastor or layperson)

Child Reader # 1

Child Reader # 2

Child Reader # 3

Junior Choir

PRODUCTION NOTES

This musical drama requires an adult narrator, a junior choir, several child readers and, if possible, one solo voice. The solo voice will add to the effectiveness of the song, "He Died That We Might Be Forgiven." No particular setting is required. Choir robes for all participants are suggested.

The general outline for this service is based on the following stanzas of verse:

Verse 1

I think on Thee, Lord Jesus,
And of Thy life on earth;
Of God, Thy Heavenly Father —
And of Thy human birth.

Verse 2

I think on Thee, Lord Jesus,
And of Thy holy death —
Assuring us, Thy children,
Eternal life, and breath.

Verse 3

I think on Thee, Lord Jesus,
And of Thy risen grace;
Of one who came to seek Thee,
And met Thee, face to face.

Verse 4

So may I, too, Lord Jesus,
Behold Thee at my side,
And evermore in Glory,
Within Thy House abide.

Please note, in the script, that the fourth stanza is *sung* and immediately follows the reading of the third stanza. The fourth stanza is called "A Prayer" in the manuscript.

JUNIOR CHOIR: (*Sings "This Is the Story of Easter,"
first verse.*)

This is the story of Easter, a story of truth
and of love,
Of Jesus who came to save us, and guide us
to heaven above.
So let us praise him, praise him, praise him,
Jesus the Lord of love!

NARRATOR: (*At conclusion of song*) The story of
Easter is a story of joy. . . and it began many
years before the first Easter day ever dawned. The
story had its beginning in the little town of
Bethlehem, where a Child was born in a lowly
stable. . . a Child who was the Son of God, and
was sent into the world to be our Savior.

CHILD READER #1:

I think on Thee, Lord Jesus,
And of Thy life on earth;
Of God, Thy Heavenly Father,
And of Thy human birth.

NARRATOR: It was an angel who told the shepherds
in the fields of the Holy Child's birth. The angel said :

CHILD READER #1: "For unto you is born this day,
in the city of David, a Savior which is Christ the
Lord."

NARRATOR: Birthdays are *happy* days, and if we had
been there, surely we would have journeyed with
the shepherds to Bethlehem, and sung our greetings
to the Child in the manger.

JUNIOR CHOIR: (*Sings "Happy Birthday, Little Christ Child."*)

Happy birthday, little Christ Child.
 Happy birthday, little king.
 On this glad and joyful morning, all our
 love to you we bring.
 While the star is still shining, and the
 angels still sing,
 Happy birthday, dear Christ Child, our
 Savior, our king!

NARRATOR: (*At conclusion of song*) The Christ Child's name was Jesus, and he grew as do all children, becoming taller and stronger as the years went by. We do not know much about his childhood, but the Bible says:

CHILD READER #1: "The Child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. . . . And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

NARRATOR: So we know that God was *pleased* with Jesus and the way he grew, and that the people who knew the growing boy were pleased, too. Perhaps, if we try, we can *all* grow as Jesus did . . . as God would have us grow.

JUNIOR CHOIR: (*Sings "Our Dear Lord Jesus Grew."*)

(*Verse 1*)

When Jesus was a child, we know,
 He grew as God would have him grow.
 Helpful, kind and loving, too,
 Our dear Lord Jesus grew and grew,
 Our dear Lord Jesus grew.

(Verse 2)

So may I and so may you
Try hard to grow as Jesus grew,
Helping others, loving, too,
Until we grow as Jesus grew,
As our Lord Jesus grew.

NARRATOR: (*At conclusion of song*) The years passed,
and the Child Jesus became a man — a man who
went about doing good. He gathered little children
close to him; he healed the sick; he preached to
great crowds of people; and he performed many
miracles. Many believed that he was indeed the Son
of God, the promised Messiah who had been sent
into the world to save people from their sins. So
it was that on a Sunday morning, just one week
before the first Easter Day, he made his way to
the temple in the city of Jerusalem, and great
throngs of people lined the roadside to catch a
glimpse of him as he passed by, riding on a donkey.
Some cut down branches from the palm trees
nearby, and threw them along the way.

CHILD READER #1: "And the multitudes that went
before, and that followed, cried, saying, 'Hosanna
to the Son of David; blessed is He that cometh in
the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the Highest!' "

JUNIOR CHOIR: (*Sings "Sing Hosanna!"*)

Sing hosanna, hosanna.
Glad hosannas let us sing!
Sing hosanna in the highest to our gracious
Lord and king!
Blessed is he that cometh,
Blessed is he that cometh,
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord!

1 So we will sing hosanna, yes, we will sing
2 hosanna.

3 Blessed is he that cometh in the name of
4 the Lord!

5
6 NARRATOR: (*At conclusion of song*) This was the
7 first Palm Sunday, and it was indeed a happy time.
8 But the happiness did not last for long, for there
9 were some people who did not like Jesus, nor
10 believe in him, and who were making evil plans
11 against him. They said he had no right to call
12 himself the Son of God, nor could he be the
13 promised Messiah, king of the Jews. So they
14 arranged to have him arrested, and stand trial
15 before a judge called Pilate. Now Pilate could not
16 find any fault in Jesus, and would have let him
17 go free; but the angry mob insisted that Jesus
18 be punished for claiming to be the Son of God,
19 and they cried out, all together:

20 ALL VOICES: Crucify him!

21 NARRATOR: So at last, Pilate gave in, and on the
22 day we call Good Friday, the Bible tells us:

23 CHILD READER # 1: "They took Jesus and led
24 Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went forth
25 unto a place called Golgotha, where they crucified
26 Him. And Pilate wrote a title and put it on the
27 cross. And the writing was, 'Jesus of Nazareth,
28 King of the Jews.' "

29 CHILD READER # 2:

30
31 I think on Thee, Lord Jesus,
32 And of Thy holy death —
33 Assuring us, Thy children,
34 Eternal life, and breath.

1 SOLOIST & JUNIOR CHOIR: (*Sing "He Died That*
2 *We Might Be Forgiven."*)

3
4 Christ walked the earth in springtime,
5 When all the world was fair,
6 But oh, he bore a burden
7 That no one else could share.
8 His cross was rude and heavy,
9 The hill was long and steep,
10 And Calvary was waiting,
11 God's promises to keep.
12 He died that we might be forgiven,
13 That we might live with him in heaven.
14 He died that we might be forgiven,
15 And live with him in heaven.
16

17 NARRATOR: (*At conclusion of song*) But Good
18 Friday was not the end of the story, oh, no!
19 For even though Jesus died on the cross to save
20 us from our sins, as God had said he would do,
21 God also promised that his Son would *arise* from
22 the dead and live forever. The Bible tells us that
23 the body of Jesus was removed from the cross,
24 and taken to a garden close by, where it was put
25 into a new tomb with a great stone placed in front
26 of it, so no one could enter.

27 But when Mary Magdalene went to the
28 tomb very early on Sunday morning, she was
29 surprised to see that the stone had been rolled
30 aside! The body of Jesus was no longer there.
31 She ran to tell Peter and John what had happened,
32 and then she stood alone at the tomb and cried.
33 She was sad, because she did not know where her
34 blessed Lord Jesus had been taken. Then suddenly,
35 Jesus himself stood beside her as she wept. Mary

1 thought he was only the gardener, and she begged
2 him to tell her where the body of Jesus had been
3 laid:

4 CHILD READER # 3: (*A girl*) "Sir, if thou hast borne
5 Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him!"

6 NARRATOR: Then Jesus quietly spoke her name, in
7 the voice she knew so well. "Mary!" He said
8 gently. And she, turning to him, cried out:

9 CHILD READER # 3: "Master!"

10 NARRATOR: Jesus had indeed risen from the dead, and
11 it was the world's first Easter morning.

12 CHILD READER # 1:

13

14 I think on Thee, Lord Jesus,
15 And of Thy risen grace . . .
16 Of one who came to seek Thee
17 And met Thee face to face.

18

19 JUNIOR CHOIR: (*Sings "A Prayer."*)

20

21 So may I, too, Lord Jesus,
22 Behold thee at my side,
23 And evermore in glory,
24 Within thy house abide.
25 And evermore in glory,
26 Within thy house abide.

27

28 NARRATOR: (*At conclusion of song*) So the Easter
29 story that began in Bethlehem so long ago, goes
30 on and on, for Jesus Christ still lives! He lives in
31 your heart and in mine, and in the hearts of all
32 who know and love him. And *because* he lives,
33 we believe his blessed promise that we, too, will
34 someday live *with* him, and all our loved ones,
35 in God's own heaven. This is the Easter story —

1 a beautiful story of life that never ends!
 2 JUNIOR CHOIR: (*Sings "This Is the Story of Easter,"*
 3 *second verse.*)
 4

5 This is the story of Easter, of one who
 6 both loves and forgives,
 7 Of Jesus our blessed Redeemer, who died
 8 on the cross yet still lives.
 9 So let us praise him, praise him, praise him,
 10 Jesus forever lives!
 11 So let us praise him, praise him, praise him!
 12 Jesus forever lives!

13
 14 *THE END*
 15
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31 *NOTE: The numerals running vertically down the left*
 32 *margin of each page of dialogue are for the convenience*
 33 *of the director. With these, he/she may easily direct*
 34 *attention to a specific passage.*
 35



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