

A BANNER EASTER: THE MUSICAL

*Music and Lyrics by Christy Long
Based on the Program
by Gail Gaymer Martin*



CHRISTIANPUBLISHERS

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A Banner Easter: The Musical

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

The cast consists of seven children plus the Children's Choir. To expand the parts, Children 1-6 may each be divided between two children. The first child may do the commentary and Bible verse while the second child may carry the banner and speak the final summary line, "Easter reminds us ... " To further expand the roles, three children may be used — one to do the commentary, another to carry the banner, and a third to say the summary line.

Narrator

Child 1 — Arisen

Child 2 — Empty Tomb

Child 3 — Savior

Child 4 — Resurrection

Child 5 — Triumph

Child 6 — Eternal Life

Choir

PRODUCTION NOTES

A Banner Easter: The Musical focuses on six key words of Easter: Empty Tomb, Arisen, Savior, Triumph, Eternal Life, and Resurrection. A banner is created for each word, and as the children read and discuss the Easter story, they display the banners in random order. The first letter of each word will be larger and differently colored and will eventually spell out EASTER. These banners made by the children as a Lenten activity may be displayed for the weeks after Easter or throughout the year as a reminder that each Sunday is a "little Easter" as Christians celebrate the risen Christ.

The presentation may be used as part of the Easter worship service, or it may be the basis for a Sunday school or church school Easter program.

The Narrator and Children 1-6 comprise the longer speaking parts. Younger children may participate by holding the banner and/or speaking the single line that follows. The program will then involve 13-19 children, plus others who participate in singing the songs.

The construction of the banners is an excellent Lenten activity for Sunday school or church school children. Simple instructions for the design of these 1' x 3' felt banners is included.

This presentation focuses on the joy and exaltation Christians feel as they hear the Easter message. The program ends with shouts of "He is risen! Alleluia!" and may include the participation of those in attendance.

STAGING

The Children's Choir may be arranged on risers or simply grouped together at Upstage Center. Narrator will read from a microphone at the front center of the worship area or On-Stage (in front of the Choir). If a second microphone is available, it may be used by the other children who will come forward as indicated in the script. If two children are used for the speaking parts, they will use the microphone alternately as needed. A song follows the presentation of each word and banner, which is sung by all the children.

All children will remain On-Stage following their lines, and at the end of the presentation, they will move their banners into a line spelling EASTER. To conclude the performance, the Children's Choir may sing a reprise of the chorus of the first song, "Just As He Said." All children will then recess down the aisles at the conclusion of the presentation, with the banners following one after the other in order. The children will shout the joyous words, "He is risen! Alleluia!" as they exit.

PROPS

The banners will be constructed from 1' x 3' pieces of white felt with the longest side hanging downward. White is used to complement the Easter paraments and to provide contrast to the colorful felt letters spelling out six words: Empty tomb, Arisen, Savior, Triumph, Eternal Life, and Resurrection. The felt letters of each word will be cut out of bold-colored felt and glued in place, running downward on the banner. Each banner may feature a different color of lettering. The first letter of each word will be larger and in the same color, differing from the color and size of the rest of the words so they stand out. (See illustration.)

E M P T Y T O M B	A R I S E N	S A V I O R	T R I U M P H	E T E R N A L L I F E	R E S U R R E C T I O N
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SONGS

1. **Just As He Said**
2. **He Ain't Here**
3. **Beautiful Savior**
4. **He Rose Again**
5. **Victorious, Triumphant**
6. **Forever and Ever**

1 *(NARRATOR proceeds to center microphone or reads from the*
2 *pulpit or lectern.)*

3 **NARRATOR:** When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene,
4 Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so
5 that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on
6 the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on
7 their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who
8 will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

9 But when they looked up, they saw that the stone,
10 which was very large, had been rolled away. As they
11 entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a
12 white robe sitting on the right side, and they were
13 alarmed.

14 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for
15 Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He
16 is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go,
17 tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into
18 Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you'"
19 (Mark 16:1-7). *(CHILD 1 with rolled-up "Arisen" banner*
20 *proceeds to Center Stage. The banner is unrolled and displayed*
21 *when indicated.)*

22 **CHILD 1:** The women who came to bless Jesus with oils after
23 his burial were frightened and surprised when they
24 entered the tomb. An angel appeared to them,
25 announcing the wonderful news that Jesus had arisen,
26 just as he had promised. But the women trembled and
27 were afraid. They didn't understand, and they ran from
28 the tomb and didn't tell anyone. But Jesus had told them
29 he would rise, and he kept his promise. *(CHILD 1 unrolls*
30 *the "Arisen" banner.)* Easter reminds us that Jesus has
31 Arisen from the dead.

32

33 **SONG:** "Just As He Said"

34

35 **CHOIR:** *(Singing)* He is not here, just as he said.

1 Jesus, risen from the dead.
2 An empty tomb, no one inside.
3 Just as he said, he is alive.

4

5 Chorus:

6 Go and tell, he is alive.
7 He is alive just as he said.
8 Death couldn't hold him down in the grave.
9 He is alive, he is alive,
10 Just as he said.

11

12 You can go and you can see,
13 He isn't where he used to be.
14 Three days have passed with this sunrise,
15 Just as he said, he is alive.

16

17 Go and tell, he is alive.
18 He is alive just as he said.
19 Death couldn't hold him down in the grave.
20 He is alive, he is alive.

21

22 *(Repeat chorus)*

23

24 *(CHILD 1 with "Arisen" banner steps aside, but remains at the*
25 *front.)*

26 NARRATOR: Early on the first day of the week, while it was
27 still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw
28 that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So
29 she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple,
30 the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the
31 Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they
32 have put him!"

33 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.
34 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter
35 and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in

1 at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then
2 Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into
3 the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well
4 as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head.
5 The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen
6 (John 20:1-7). (*CHILD 2 with rolled-up "Empty Tomb" banner*
7 *proceeds to Center Stage. The banner is unrolled and displayed*
8 *when indicated.*)

9 **CHILD 2:** Jesus' followers were frightened when they saw the
10 empty tomb. They thought someone had taken away his
11 body. But one disciple remembered Jesus' words at the
12 Mount of Olives. Then Jesus had told them, "The Son of
13 Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be
14 crucified and on the third day be raised again" (Luke
15 24:7). The empty tomb proves God's promise to us that
16 Jesus would rise from the dead. (*CHILD 2 unrolls the*
17 *"Empty Tomb" banner.*) Easter reminds us of the Empty
18 Tomb.

19
20 **SONG:** "He Ain't Here"

21
22 **CHOIR:** (*Singing*) There's plenty of room in this empty tomb,
23 'Cause he ain't here, no, he ain't here.
24 Oodles of space in this empty place,
25 'Cause he ain't here, no, he ain't here.

26
27 No one has stolen him away,
28 No thieves been thievin' here today.
29 Not much more that I can say,
30 'Cept he ain't here, no, he ain't here.

31
32 **Chorus:**
33 Jesus lives.
34 He rolled the stone away.
35 Yes, Jesus lives.

1 Celebrate, it's Easter day!
 2
 3 See his blanket where he lay, but
 4 He ain't here, no, he ain't here.
 5 An empty bed so neatly made.
 6 He ain't here, no, he ain't here.
 7
 8 Didn't you hear the angel say,
 9 "This is resurrection day.
 10 Go and tell, don't be afraid,
 11 'Cause he ain't here, no, he ain't here"?
 12
 13 *(Repeat chorus)*
 14
 15 There's plenty of room in this empty tomb,
 16 'Cause he ain't here, no, he ain't here.
 17
 18 *(Repeat chorus)*
 19
 20 There's plenty of room in this empty tomb,
 21 'Cause he ain't here, no, he ain't here.
 22 Oodles of space in this empty place,
 23 'Cause he ain't here, no, he ain't here.
 24 He ain't here, no, he ain't here.
 25 He ain't here, no, he ain't here.
 26
 27 *(CHILD 2 with "Empty Tomb" banner steps aside, but remains*
 28 *at the front.)*
 29
 30 NARRATOR: But Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb
 31 crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb
 32 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body
 33 had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.
 34 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"
 35 "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I

1 don't know where they have put him." At this, she
2 turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she
3 did not realize that it was Jesus.

4 "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you
5 are looking for?"

6 Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you
7 have carried him away, tell me where you have put him,
8 and I will get him."

9 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

10 She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic,
11 "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher) (John 20:11-16).
12 *(CHILD 3 with rolled-up "Savior" banner proceeds to Center*
13 *Stage. The banner is unrolled and displayed when indicated.)*

14 **CHILD 3:** When Mary Magdalene said, "Teacher!" she knew
15 the stranger was Jesus. Jesus had explained why he had
16 come to earth and why he had to die so he could save
17 the world from sin, but his followers didn't understand.
18 Humans don't always understand how God does things.
19 *(CHILD 3 unrolls the "Savior" banner.)* Easter reminds us
20 that Jesus is our Savior.

21
22 **SONG:** "Beautiful Savior"

23
24 **CHOIR:** *(Singing)* What a plan, oh, what a plan,
25 Make a way for God and man
26 To have communion once again,
27 Rip away the wall of sin.
28 Jesus' death has paid the price,
29 A perfect, holy sacrifice.
30 Wash my sin and make me white.
31 Turn the darkness into light.

32
33 **Chorus:**

34 Beautiful Savior, wonderful Lord.
35 Willing to die to make sacrifice.

1 Gave up his life so that I might have mine.
2 Beautiful, wonderful Savior divine.

3
4 For years, a lamb was sacrificed
5 To try and clean a sinful life.
6 Jesus' death once and for all
7 Throws wide open heaven's door.
8 Jesus' death has paid the price,
9 A perfect, holy sacrifice.
10 Wash my sin and make me white.
11 Turn the darkness into light.

12
13 *(Repeat chorus)*

14
15 *(CHILD 3 with "Savior" banner steps aside, but remains at the*
16 *front.)*

17 **NARRATOR:** Jesus said to Mary, "Do not hold onto me, for I
18 have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my
19 brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and
20 your Father, to my God and your God.'"

21 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:
22 "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had
23 said these things to her (John 20:17-18). *(CHILD 4 with*
24 *rolled-up "Resurrection" banner proceeds to Center Stage. The*
25 *banner is unrolled and displayed when indicated.)*

26 **CHILD 4:** When Jesus said he had "not yet returned to the
27 Father," he was talking about his resurrection. Jesus
28 said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes
29 in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives
30 and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). *(CHILD*
31 *4 unrolls the "Resurrection" banner.)* Easter reminds us that
32 because of the Resurrection, we will also rise from the
33 dead.

34
35

1 **SONG: "He Rose Again"**

2

3 **CHOIR:** *(Singing three times)* Jesus my Savior died for all my
4 sin.

5 He was dead and buried, but he rose again.

6 Hallelujah! He saved me from my sin,

7 'Cause he was dead and buried, but he rose again.

8 Yes, he was dead and buried, but he rose again.

9 Resurrected, yes, that's what he is.

10 Resurrected, my Jesus now lives.

11

12 Took the keys from Satan's hand, and now he wins.

13 He was dead and buried, but he rose again.

14 *(First and third times add)*

15 Yes, he was dead and buried, but he rose again.

16

17 *(CHILD 4 with "Resurrection" banner steps aside, but remains*
18 *at the front.)*

19

20 **NARRATOR:** Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again:

21 Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord
22 is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in
23 everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
24 present your requests to God. And the peace of God,
25 which transcends all understanding, will guard your
26 hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4-7). And
27 thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal
28 procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere
29 the knowledge of Jesus (2 Cor. 2:14). *(CHILD 5 with rolled-*
30 *up "Triumph" banner proceeds to Center Stage. The banner is*
31 *unrolled and displayed when indicated.)*

32 **CHILD 5:** Jesus overpowered death and the devil by coming
33 back to life. The Bible says, "When you were dead in
34 your sins ... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave
35 us all our sins ... he took it away, nailing it to the cross"



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