

## CARRY THE LIGHT | DISCOVER CHURCH

*CARRY THE LIGHT IS A STORY THAT FOLLOWS MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS, ON A JOURNEY TO FIND LUKE AND SHARE THE STORY OF CHRIST'S BIRTH. MARY REFLECTS ON HER PAST THROUGH VIVID FLASHBACKS, RECOUNTING HER SON'S STORY TO ENSURE HIS MESSAGE OF HOPE, PEACE, AND LIFE SHINES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. WITH POWERFUL MUSIC AND HEARTFELT STORY TELLING, CARRY THE LIGHT CELEBRATES THE ENDURING POWER OF CHRIST'S TRUTH.*

### CAST

#### (ACT I)

- SALOME // **PRIMARY ROLE**
- MARY (SOLO) // **PRIMARY ROLE**
- YOUNG MARY // **PRIMARY ROLE**
- GABRIEL // **NON-SPEAKING / AUDIO VOICE-OVER**
  - MERCHANT // **SECONDARY ROLE**
    - JOHN // **PRIMARY ROLE**
  - LUKE (SOLO) // **PRIMARY ROLE**
  - PAUL (SOLO) // **PRIMARY ROLE**
    - MOTHER // **SMALL ROLE**
  - JULIUS // **SECONDARY ROLE**
  - JOSEPH // **SECONDARY ROLE**
    - OWNER 1 // **SMALL ROLE**
    - OWNER 2 // **SMALL ROLE**
- HILA - INNKEEPER'S DAUGHTER (SOLO) // **SECONDARY ROLE**
  - ELAM - INNKEEPER'S SON // **SECONDARY ROLE**
    - MARCUS // **SECONDARY ROLE**
  - HAAMAH - INNKEEPER'S WIFE // **SMALL ROLE**
- EBNER - INNKEEPER (SOLO) // **SECONDARY ROLE**

#### (ACT II / FINAL ACT)

- TOWNSPERSON // **SMALL ROLE**
- SHEPARD 1 (SOLO) // **SECONDARY ROLE**
- SHEPARD 2 (SOLO) // **SECONDARY ROLE**
  - CASPAR // **SMALL ROLE**
  - MELCHIOR // **SMALL ROLE**
  - BALTHAZAR // **SMALL ROLE**
- ADULT JESUS (N/S) // **SMALL ROLE**
- TEENAGE JESUS (N/S) // **SMALL ROLE**
- BOY JESUS (N/S) // **SMALL ROLE**
  - BABY JESUS (N/S) // **N/A**

# ACT I

## SCENE 1

**[SCENE]** - DURING THE SONG, MARY WEEPS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS. SUDDENLY, TIME BEGINS TO REVERSE. THE CROSS IS LIFTED AWAY, AND WE SEE THE ADULT JESUS EMBRACING MARY ONE FINAL TIME BEFORE HIS CRUCIFIXION. TIME CONTINUES TO UNWIND, REVEALING A YOUNGER JESUS IN THE TEMPLE, REUNITED WITH MARY AND JOSEPH. THE SCENE REWINDS FURTHER TO THE MOMENT THE WISE MEN PRESENT THEIR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD. AT LAST, A MANGER ASSEMBLES CENTER STAGE, AND MARY CRADLES THE NEWBORN JESUS AS THE SONG REACHES ITS PEAK: OH, THIS IS CHRIST THE LORD. DURING THE OUTRO, THE STAGE SLOWLY DECONSTRUCTS. ONE BY ONE, CHARACTERS FADE AWAY, LEAVING ONLY AN OLDER MARY, HOLDING ON TO THE MEMORY OF IT ALL.

## FLASHBACK STARTS

### OPENING SONG: WHAT CHILD IS THIS? (3:35)

WHAT CHILD IS THIS, WHO, LAID TO REST  
ON MARY'S LAP, IS SLEEPING?  
WHOM ANGELS GREET AND ANTHEMS SWEET  
WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCH ARE KEEPING?

SO BRING HIM INCENSE, GOLD, AND MYRRH  
COME PEASANT KING TO OWN HIM  
THE KING OF KINGS, SALVATION BRINGS  
LET LOVING HEARTS ENTHRONE HIM

OH, RAISE, RAISE THE SONG ON HIGH  
HIS MOTHER SINGS HER LULLABY  
JOY, OH, JOY, FOR CHRIST IS BORN  
THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY

OH, THIS IS CHRIST THE LORD  
OH, THIS IS CHRIST THE LORD

## FLASHBACK ENDS

## SCENE 2

**[JOHN'S HOME]**- SALOME FINDS MARY LOST IN THOUGHT, HER EYES SET ON SOMETHING FAR BEYOND THE ROOM. CONCERN SETTLES IN AS SHE JOINS HER, ONE FRIEND WORRYING, THE OTHER ALREADY WALKING THE ROAD IN HER MIND.

**SALOME:** MARY, ARE YOU READY?

**MARY:** HOW COULD I BE READY? LOOK AT ME — MY YEARS ARE MANY. I HARDLY LEAVE MY HOME, LET ALONE THE CITY. SO NO, I AM NOT READY.  
(*PAUSES TO THINK*) BUT THEN AGAIN, I'VE SELDOM FELT READY FOR WHAT GOD HAS ASKED OF ME. WHY SHOULD THIS BE ANY DIFFERENT?

**SALOME:** (*CHUCKLES*) WHY INDEED — AND WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE DOING JUST NOW?

**MARY:** REMEMBERING.

**SALOME:** REMEMBERING — WHAT?

**MARY:** HIM. NOT A DAY PASSES THAT I DON'T THINK OF HIM. BUT I MUST ADMIT, IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE I TRAVELED THAT FAR BACK IN MY MEMORY.

**SALOME:** HOW DOES IT FEEL, REMEMBERING?

**MARY:** IT HURTS — AND IT HEALS. THOSE MEMORIES CARRY BOTH SORROW AND JOY. BUT THIS JOURNEY... IT'S ONE I MUST TAKE, SALOME.

**SALOME:** DOES THE DOCTOR KNOW YOU'RE COMING?

**MARY:** NO. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE KNOWS I'M STILL ALIVE. BUT I KNOW HE'S BEEN GATHERING STORIES — ACCOUNTS OF JESUS. HIS LIFE, HIS DEATH  
(*PAUSE*) AND HIS LIFE AGAIN. I HOPE I CAN ADD TO IT. SOMETHING ONLY I CAN GIVE.

**SALOME:** MARY, ARE YOU SURE? THE JOURNEY WILL TAKE WEEKS, AND ROME WALKS THE STREETS WITH EARS TO THE GROUND FOR WHISPERS OF HIS NAME. THEY'RE HUNTING FOLLOWERS OF YOUR SON. HOW WILL YOU KEEP YOURSELF SAFE?

**MARY:** THAT'S FOR GOD TO WORRY ABOUT.

**SALOME:** (*GIVING IN*) SO, WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING?

**MARY:** (*SMILES*) AS SOON AS YOU STEP AWAY FROM THE DOOR.

**SALOME:** WON'T YOU SAY GOODBYE TO JOHN? HE'LL BE UPSET IF HE MISSES YOU.

**MARY:** OF COURSE. YOU AND YOUR SON HAVE BEEN SO KIND TO ME — OFFERING WATER, FOOD, AND A ROOF OVER MY HEAD FOR SO MANY YEARS. SALOME, HOW COULD I EVER REPAY YOU?

**SALOME:** OH MARY (*LEANS IN WITH SINCERITY*) YOU CAN'T (*LAUGHS*). WHEN YOU MEET THE DOCTOR AND TELL YOUR STORY — WHERE WILL YOU BEGIN?

**MARY:** AT THE BEGINNING.

### FLASHBACK STARTS

### SCENE 3

[**YOUNG MARY'S HOME**] — A STILL AND PEACEFUL MOMENT. A YOUNG MARY ENTERS, CARRYING DRY LINENS INTO HER HOME. AS SHE STEPS INSIDE, THE LIGHT SHIFTS. THE ANGEL APPEARS. MARY FREEZES, AND DROPS THE BASKET.

**GABRIEL:** GREETINGS, MARY. YOU ARE FAVORED. THE LORD IS WITH YOU.

**YOUNG MARY:** (*FEARFUL, UNSURE WHAT TO MAKE OF HIS WORDS.*)

**GABRIEL:** DO NOT BE FEARFUL. YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD. YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU WILL CALL HIS NAME JESUS. HE WILL BE GREAT — CALLED SON OF THE MOST HIGH. THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID, AND HE WILL RULE OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER. HIS KINGDOM WILL NEVER END.

**MARY:** (*CONFUSED*) HOW CAN THIS BE, SINCE I HAVE NOT BEEN WITH A MAN?

**GABRIEL:** THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU. THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL COVER YOU. AND THE CHILD YOU BEAR WILL BE CALLED HOLY — THE SON OF GOD. AND LOOK — YOUR COUSIN ELIZABETH, THOUGH OLD IN YEARS, IS CARRYING A SON. SHE WHO WAS CALLED BARREN IS IN HER SIXTH MONTH. FOR NOTHING WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.

**YOUNG MARY:** (*DEEP PAUSE*) I AM THE SERVANT OF THE LORD. LET IT BE TO ME JUST AS YOU HAVE SAID.

(*THE ANGEL DEPARTS. THE LIGHT FADES. FLASHBACK ENDS.*)

### FLASHBACK ENDS

### SCENE 4

[**JOHN'S HOME**]- AFTER MARY'S FLASHBACK, SHE AND SALOME CONTINUE TALKING, WAITING FOR JOHN'S RETURN.

**SALOME:** AN ANGEL OF THE LORD?

**MARY:** I MAY BE OLD, BUT WHEN AN ANGEL OF THE LORD COMES TO YOU – YOU DON'T FORGET THAT.

**SALOME:** SO WHAT DID YOU DO NEXT?

**MARY:** I WENT TO SEE ELIZABETH. THE ANGEL SAID SHE TOO WAS CARRYING A SON. NOT LONG AFTER THE VISIT, I SET OUT TO SEE FOR MYSELF... AND –

**SALOME:** AND?

**MARY:** THE ANGEL WAS RIGHT – ABOUT EVERYTHING.

**SALOME:** AND IT HAPPENED JUST LIKE THAT?

**MARY:** *(PAUSING TO THINK, SMILES)* JUST LIKE THAT.

*(JOHN MAKES HIS WAY HOME FROM TEACHING IN THE COURTYARD. ON HIS WAY, HE STOPS AT THE MARKET TO GATHER A FEW THINGS FOR MARY'S JOURNEY)*

**MERCHANT:** SHALOM, JOHN!

**JOHN:** SHALOM!

**MERCHANT:** HERE ARE YOUR THINGS – LOTS OF THINGS. ARE YOU PLANNING TO TRAVEL?

**JOHN:** ME, TRAVEL? WITH ALL GOD'S DOING *HERE*? NO, MY FEET ARE PLANTED.

**MERCHANT:** LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE DRAWING BIGGER CROWDS.

**JOHN:** *(SMILES)* WE ARE NOT *JUST* A CROWD. BUT YES – THE COURTYARD WAS FULL TODAY. THEY'RE HUNGRY – MORE THAN EVER. THEY COME FOR HIS WORDS – THEY HANG ON EVERY ONE.

**MERCHANT:** AND WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM?

**JOHN:** WHAT I SAW. WHAT WE ALL SAW. I TELL THEM THERE'S HOPE – THAT WORD WAS A STRANGER TO THEM – BUT THAT CHANGED WHEN HE CAME. JESUS IS GONE – BUT HE'S STILL SAVING THEM.

**MERCHANT:** *(SARCASTIC)* GOOD. OUR PEOPLE NEED SAVING.

**JOHN:** WE ALL DO. PERHAPS THAT'S WHY THE COURTYARD WAS FULL. I SHOULD GET HOME – EVEN AT MY AGE – MY EMA STILL WORRIES. THANK YOU.

*(JOHN LEAVES THE MARKET HEADED FOR HOME)*

**SALOME:** (*PANICKED*) I'M WORRIED. WHERE'S JOHN?

**MARY:** I'M SURE HE'S FINE. YOU KNOW YOUR JOHN — HE LOVES TO TALK.

**SALOME:** THAT'S WHAT WORRIES ME. ROME DOESN'T TAKE KINDLY TO THE SPREADING OF JESUS' NAME. THE LOUDER HE SPEAKS, THE MORE THEY GATHER — AND THE MORE ROME SEES JOHN AS A THREAT. THEY DON'T WANT HIS TRUTH. THEY WANT HIS SILENCE.

**MARY:** THAT'S WHY I MUST SEE THE DOCTOR — SO THE TRUTH CAN *NEVER* BE SILENCED. GOD DIDN'T SEND JESUS FOR JUST US — OR JUST NOW. HE CAME TO SAVE THE WORLD. TODAY, TOMORROW, AND FOREVER. PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW — AND WHAT THE DOCTOR'S GATHERING... MAYBE THAT'S IT.

(*JOHN ENTERS*)

**JOHN:** MAYBE THAT'S WHAT?

**SALOME:** JOHN!

**JOHN:** HELLO, EMA.

**SALOME:** PLEASE, TALK SOME SENSE INTO TO MARY. SHE WANTS TO LEAVE TO...

**JOHN:** TO SEE THE DOCTOR. YES I KNOW. AS A MATTER OF FACT, MARY I GOT YOUR THINGS FROM THE MARKET. THIS SHOULD BE EVERYTHING.

**SALOME:** (*BETRAYED*) YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?!

**JOHN:** (*BLISSFULLY UNAWARE OF SALOME'S ANGER*) OF COURSE! OK MARY, REMEMBER — SOME ROADS CUT NEAR THE ROMAN POSTS. THEY'LL ASK QUESTIONS. HAVE ANSWERS READY THAT DON'T DRAW *MORE* QUESTIONS.

**MARY:** THANK YOU, JOHN.

**JOHN:** OF COURSE. MAY GOD BLESS YOUR JOURNEY — AND PLEASE — TELL DOCTOR LUKE I SAY HELLO!

## **SCENE 5**

**[OUTDOORS]** — PAUL AND LUKE SHARE A MEAL. PAUL PREPARES FOR THE ROAD AHEAD, WHILE LUKE STAYS BEHIND — DRAWN TO HIS WRITING, HAVING DOUBTS, YET CONVINCED THESE WRITINGS COULD CHANGE THE WORLD.

**LUKE:** PAUL, IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME. OUR LAST JOURNEY WAS A LONG ONE — A GOOD ONE, YES, BUT STILL LONG. I'LL ADMIT, I'M GLAD TO BE BACK AND EATING GOOD FOOD.

**PAUL:** THE BREAD IN OUR LAST TOWN COULD HAVE PASSED FOR A STONE. I'M PRETTY SURE THEY USE THEM AS WEAPONS.

**LUKE:** *(CHUCKLES, SETS A SCROLL ON THE TABLE, BEGINS WRITING)* WEAPONS, INDEED.

**PAUL:** *(SMILES, LEANS BACK)* ALWAYS WRITING, LUKE.

**LUKE:** *(WITHOUT LOOKING UP)* ALWAYS TRYING.

**PAUL:** *(LEANING FORWARD)* SO, HOW ARE THE STORIES COMING? THE ACCOUNTS OF JESUS — HOW FAR ALONG ARE YOU?

**LUKE:** I WISH I WERE FARTHER. I'VE SPOKEN WITH THOSE WHO WALKED WITH HIM — SOME CLOSER THAN OTHERS. BUT THE STORY... IT STILL FEELS INCOMPLETE. LIKE GOD IS ASKING ME TO PAINT ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PICTURES IN HISTORY — ONLY, I'M BRUSHING IT STROKE BY STROKE, WITH A SINGLE BRISTLE.

**PAUL:** THE MOST IMPORTANT WORKS OFTEN TAKE TIME. WHAT'S MISSING?

**LUKE:** THE BEGINNING. WHO HE WAS BEFORE THE CROSS, BEFORE THE CROWDS, BEFORE WATER WAS TURNED TO WINE.

**PAUL:** AND WHO COULD TELL THAT STORY?

**LUKE:** *(CHUCKLES)* GOD HIMSELF, PERHAPS. OR HIS MOTHER, RUMOR WAS SHE WAS LIVING WITH JOHN — THE ONE JESUS LOVED. PAUL, I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE.

**PAUL:** YOU AND I BOTH KNOW — WHEN GOD WANTS SOMETHING DONE, HE MAKES A WAY. WE'VE SEEN IT TIME AND TIME AGAIN. HE LAUGHS AT WHAT WE CALL IMPOSSIBLE. WITH GOD, YOU CAN CHANGE TOMORROW — NOT JUST YOURS, BUT A THOUSAND OTHERS STILL TO COME. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KEEP WRITING TODAY, AND TRUST GOD TO TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

### **IF YOU COULD CHANGE TOMORROW — PAUL**

*LOOK AROUND, LOOK AROUND, LUKE  
SEE ALL HE'S DOING AROUND YOU  
HE'S GOT A PLAN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND  
... BUT THE BEST PART?  
WHEN YOU TRUST HIM, YOU DON'T HAVE TO*

*SO WHY NOT HERE?  
WHY NOT NOW?  
HAVE YOU WRITTEN DOWN A TIME*

WHEN GOD HAS LET YOU DOWN?  
SEE? NO PROOF  
OF WHAT GOD CAN'T DO  
WE'VE SEEN IT WITH OUR EYES  
NOW YOU CAN SHOW THEM TOO

IF YOU COULD CHANGE TOMORROW  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO TODAY?  
WOULD YOU PICK UP THE PEN OFF THE TABLE  
OR GET UP AND WALK AWAY?  
WOULD YOU TAKE ALL THE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW  
AND GIVE THEM TO GOD AND LET GO?  
NO STANDING IN PLACE  
WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT YOUR RACE  
GO ON AND CHANGE TOMORROW

DON'T GROW WEARY  
DON'T GIVE UP  
JUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON GOD ABOVE  
WHAT HE STARTS HE FINISHES, AMEN!  
DON'T GROW WEARY  
DON'T GIVE UP  
JUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON GOD ABOVE  
WHAT HE STARTS HE FINISHES, AMEN!

SO WHY NOT HERE?  
WHY NOT NOW?  
HAVE YOU WRITTEN DOWN A TIME  
WHEN GOD HAS LET YOU DOWN?  
SEE? NO PROOF  
OF WHAT GOD CAN'T DO  
WE'VE SEEN IT WITH OUR EYES  
NOW YOU CAN SHOW THEM TOO

IF YOU COULD CHANGE TOMORROW  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO TODAY?  
WOULD YOU PICK UP THE PEN OFF THE TABLE  
OR GET UP AND WALK AWAY?  
WOULD YOU TAKE ALL THE THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW  
AND GIVE THEM TO GOD AND LET GO?  
NO STANDING IN PLACE  
WHEN YOU'RE RUNNING OUT YOUR RACE  
GO ON AND CHANGE TOMORROW

**LUKE:** THANK YOU, PAUL. FOR EVERYTHING.



**PAUL:** LIFT YOUR HEAD, LUKE — AND KEEP GOING. ONE SINGLE BRISTLE AT A TIME.

## **SCENE 6**

**[OUTDOORS]** — AS MARY JOURNEYS TO FIND LUKE, SHE ENCOUNTERS A YOUNG WOMAN WITH CHILD. THIS TRIGGERS A FLASHBACK — TO MARY'S OWN TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM WITH JOSEPH, LONG AGO, FOR THE CENSUS.

**MOTHER:** *(DESPERATE)* EXCUSE ME. EXCUSE ME!

*(SHE WEAVES THROUGH THE CROWD WITH FOOD. SHE ACCIDENTALLY BUMPS INTO A ROMAN GUARD)*

**JULIUS:** HEY! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

*(HER BAG SPILLS — FRUIT ROLLS ACROSS THE GROUND, A LOAF OF BREAD FALLS)*

**MOTHER:** I'M SORRY, TRULY, I DIDN'T MEAN..

**JULIUS:** DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU MEAN MUCH OF ANYTHING. HERE LET ME HELP YOU *(HE KNEELS, PRETENDING TO HELP, BUT GRABS AN APPLE AND TAKES A BITE)*. STAY OUT OF ROME'S WAY.

## **GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN INSTRUMENTAL (3:08)**

**MARY:** *(STEPPING FORWARD)* PLEASE — LET ME HELP.

**MOTHER:** *(WIPING TEARS, STILL GATHERING HER FOOD)* NO, THANK YOU. I'M FINE.

**MARY:** PLEASE — YOU'RE WITH CHILD. *(HELPING GATHER FOOD)* HOW BRAVE OF YOU TO BE ON THESE STREETS — WITH THESE CROWDS.

**MOTHER:** *(SOFTENING)* I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE BABY COMES. I JUST WANTED TO BE SURE WE HAVE WHAT WE NEED.

**MARY:** WELL, YOU'RE ALREADY A GOOD MOTHER. HERE YOU ARE *(HANDS HER THE REST OF HER THINGS)*. YOU SHOULD BE GETTING HOME.

**MOTHER:** YES, I SHOULD. ANY TRAVEL WITH CHILD IS NOT EASY.

**MARY:** *(SMIRKS)* I KNOW. *(LOST IN THOUGHT)* OH, I KNOW.

## **FLASHBACK STARTS**

**YOUNG MARY:** *(WINCING)* JOSEPH!

**JOSEPH:** JUST A LITTLE FARTHER, MARY. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

**YOUNG MARY:** PLEASE — HURRY. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

*(MARY STUMBLES, GRIPPING HER STOMACH)*

**JOSEPH:** HERE — SIT, JUST FOR A MOMENT. I'LL FIND US A PLACE. HOLD ON.

*(MARY NODS, BREATHING THROUGH THE PAIN AS JOSEPH RUSHES OFF, KNOCKING ON DOORS)*

**JOSEPH:** PLEASE — DO YOU HAVE ROOM? MY WIFE...

**OWNER 1:** ROOM? WITH THIS CENSUS? YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE TRAVELING! MOVE ALONG.

**JOSEPH:** SHE'S IN LABOR. PLEASE —

**OWNER 1:** EVEN MORE REASON TO STAY AWAY!

*(HE SLAMS THE DOOR. JOSEPH TRIES ANOTHER)*

**JOSEPH:** I BEG YOU — SHE'S IN PAIN — WE JUST NEED A PLACE TO REST.

**OWNER 2:** I'M SORRY. I HAVE NOTHING LEFT.

*(THE CROWD BEGINS TO THIN. THE STREETS THAT WERE ONCE ALIVE NOW FEEL EMPTY. MARY AND JOSEPH STAND ALONE, WHEN A YOUNG GIRL AND HER BROTHER COME UP TO MARY AND JOSEPH WITH AN OFFER)*

**HILA:** I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU — BUT MY BROTHER AND I WERE PASSING BY, AND... WELL, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOME HELP.

**JOSEPH:** YES. MY WIFE IS WITH CHILD — AND WE NEED A PLACE TO STAY. NOW.

**HILA:** (GLANCES PAST HIM, SEEING MARY) OH — YOU'RE NOT KIDDING. COME WITH US.

**JOSEPH:** WHO ARE YOU?

**HILA:** I'M HILA. THIS IS MY BROTHER, ELAM. *(SMILES)* BUT I DON'T THINK THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU'RE ASKING. *(SHE AND ELAM CHUCKLE)*. OUR FATHER RUNS AN INN WITH ROOMS — THEY'RE FILLING FAST, BUT... MAYBE HE HAS ONE FOR YOU.

**JOSEPH:** WE'LL TAKE ANYTHING.

**HILA:** YOU MAY HAVE TO. COME ON.

**FLASHBACK ENDS**

**SCENE 7**

**[OUTDOORS]** AS MARY TRAVELS, SHE ESCAPES ROMAN DANGER WITH THE HELP OF AN UNLIKELY ALLY.

**MARCUS:** JULIUS.

**JULIUS:** GOOD EVENING, SIR.

**MARCUS:** HOW'S PATROL?

**JULIUS:** UNEVENTFUL, SIR. STREETS ARE SILENT.

**MARCUS:** I LIKE UNEVENTFUL. GOOD WORK.

**JULIUS:** *(SNEERS)* THANKS TO A LITTLE FEAR *(LOOKS TO HIS SPEAR)*. FEAR BREAKS THEM.

**MARCUS:** FEAR TAMES THEM, BUT IT CANNOT BREAK THEM. LIKE IT OR NOT THESE PEOPLE HAVE HOPE - A HOPE THAT NO ROMAN SPEAR CAN TAKE AWAY.

*(JULIUS NOTICES MARY APPROACHING.)*

**JULIUS:** WELL, ONE CAN TRY. *(SEES MARY)* HEY - YOU THERE!

*(MARY STOPS. JULIUS MOVES TOWARD HER.)*

**JULIUS:** LATE TO BE OUT ALONE, OLD WOMAN. THESE STREETS DON'T GET KINDER AFTER DARK. MAYBE YOU COME WITH US.

**MARY:** PLEASE - I'M JUST PASSING BY.

**JULIUS:** NO - YOU'LL DO AS I SAY.

**MARCUS:** JULIUS. STAND DOWN.

**JULIUS:** BUT SIR.

**MARCUS:** I GAVE YOU AN ORDER. STAND. DOWN.

*(JULIUS BACKS OFF. MARCUS TURNS TO MARY.)*

**MARCUS:** FORGIVE HIM. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. I'LL WALK YOU OUT OF THE CITY MYSELF.

**MARY:** THANK YOU.

**MARCUS:** I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

**MARY:** ... I'M SORRY?

**MARCUS:** I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. (*REASSURING*) IT'S OK. YOU'RE MARY - THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

**MARY:** (*UNSHAKEN*) I AM.

**MARCUS:** I'VE HEARD THE STORIES - THE ACCOUNTS OF WHO HE WAS.

**MARY:** AND?

**MARCUS:** WHO CAN DENY HE IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS (*PAUSES TO REFOCUS*) BUT WHY ARE YOU OUT HERE?

**MARY:** YOU KNOW WHY I'M OUT HERE - EVEN NOW, AT MY AGE. HIS STORY WAS NEVER MEANT TO STAY WITH US. IT WAS NEVER JUST FOR US. THAT'S WHY AN OLD WOMAN IS TRAVELING NORTHEAST, ALONE, TO MEET A MAN SHE'S NEVER MET - A MAN GATHERING STORIES OF HER SON - FOR THE WORLD.

**MARCUS:** LOOK AROUND - THE WORLD'S DARK, MARY.

**MARY:** (*SMILES*) NO. IT JUST NEEDS A LITTLE LIGHT.

**FLASHBACK STARTS**

**SCENE 8**

**[THE INN]** THE INNKEEPER AND HIS WIFE PANIC AS THE CENSUS LEAVES THEM WITH NO ROOM LEFT. IN THE MIDST OF THE CHAOS, HILA AND ELAM ARRIVE WITH SOME UNEXPECTED GUESTS.

**HAAMAH:** EBNER, WE HAVE NO ROOM LEFT.

**EBNER:** (*DESPERATE*) WE CAN MAKE ROOM. WE CAN PUT GUESTS IN THE STORE-ROOM!

**HAAMAH:** THE STORE-ROOM? ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO SLEEP ON CRATES?

**EBNER:** YES! PEOPLE LOVE CRATES. IT'S... RUSTIC? THEY'LL SURVIVE A NIGHT.

**HAAMAH:** SURVIVE?! THAT'S OUR BAR NOW?

**EBNER:** WE CAN ASK SOME TO SHARE ROOMS - SHIFT THINGS AROUND, MOVE SUPPLIES TO -

**HAAMAH:** WHERE? THE STABLE?! (*SHE GRABS HIS SHOULDERS TO STOP HIM*)  
EBNER. LISTEN TO ME. WE. HAVE. NO. ROOM.

**EBNER:** (*FRUSTRATED*) I KNOW... WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH LINENS FOR THE  
ONES WE *DO* HAVE.

(*HE PAUSES, NOTICING HER STILLNESS*)

**EBNER:** WHY AREN'T YOU RUNNING AROUND LIKE ME?

**HAAMAH:** I'M PRAYING.

**EBNER:** (*DRY*) FOR MORE LINENS?

**HAAMAH:** FOR HELP.

**EBNER:** (*SHAKES HIS HEAD*) I'M SURE GOD'S GOT BIGGER THINGS TO DO THAN  
SORT OUT OUR OVERBOOKED INN. SOMETIMES I WONDER IF HE EVEN *SEES* US...  
HE'S PROBABLY A MILLION MILES AWAY.

**HILA:** (*OFFSTAGE, CALLING*) ABBA?

(*HILA ENTERS, GUIDING MARY AND JOSEPH FORWARD*)

**HILA:** MEET MARY AND JOSEPH.

(*LONG PAUSE*)

**EBNER:** (*DRY*) ARE THEY HERE TO HELP?

**HILA:** NO - THEY NEED A ROOM.

**EBNER:** A ROOM?! HILA, CAN'T YOU SEE? WE CAN'T TAKE ON MORE GUESTS - WE  
CAN BARELY CARE FOR THE ONES WE *HAVE*! THEY NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.

**HILA:** ABBA!

**EBNER:** *ENOUGH.*

**HILA:** NO. THEY NEED OUR HELP!

**EBNER:** WHY WOULD YOU EVEN BRING THEM HERE?

**HILA:** BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO GO!

**JOSEPH:** PLEASE, SIR... MY WIFE - SHE'S ABOUT TO HAVE A CHILD.

**HAAMAH:** EBNER... WE CAN *TRY*. THERE *MUST* BE SOMETHING.

**EBNER:** *(RESIGNED)* I'M SORRY. TRULY. BUT I HAVE NO ROOM. UNLESS... YOU WANT THE STABLE, BUT THAT'S THE BEST WE CAN DO.

**JOSEPH:** WE'LL TAKE IT.

**EBNER:** ...WHAT?

**JOSEPH:** WE'LL TAKE IT. THANK YOU — FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

**HILA:** *(UPSET)* COME ON, ELAM. LET'S SHOW THEM TO THE STABLE... BECAUSE THAT'S THE BEST WE CAN DO.

**EBNER:** HILA...

**FLASHBACK ENDS**

## **SCENE 9**

**[OUTDOORS / LUKE'S PRACTICE]** — EXHAUSTED AND TRAVEL-WORN, MARY FINALLY REACHES LUKE.

**MARY:** *(EXHAUSTED)* FATHER... I'M SO WEAK. BUT YOU'VE BEEN WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY. I'VE MADE IT HERE. NOW FATHER — HELP ME FIND THE DOCTOR. HELP ME FIND LUKE. PLEASE...

*(MARY FAINTS, AND THE SCENE CUTS TO LUKE'S PRACTICE — SL)*

**LUKE:** *(CHEERFUL)* OKAY, LITTLE ONE — YOU'RE GOOD AS NEW. *(TO THE BOY'S MOTHER)* JUST MAKE SURE HE TAKES IT EASY FOR A FEW WEEKS. HE'LL BE OK, BUT I KNOW KEEPING A YOUNG BOY STILL WILL BE THE HARD PART.

*(THE DOOR BURSTS OPEN. A TOWNSPERSON ENTERS, SUPPORTING A WEAK, DUST-COVERED WOMAN.)*

**TOWNSPERSON:** DOCTOR LUKE — PLEASE! SHE COLLAPSED NEAR THE CITY GATE. I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TAKE HER.

**LUKE:** WAS SHE ALONE?

**TOWNSPERSON:** YES. SHE HAD VERY LITTLE WITH HER — LOOKED LIKE SHE'S BEEN WALKING FOR DAYS.

**LUKE:** OR WEEKS. THANK YOU. I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE. *(TO MARY)* CAN YOU HEAR ME?

**MARY:** *(WEAKLY)* YES...

**LUKE:** *(HANDING HER WATER)* HERE. DRINK THIS — SLOWLY.

**MARY:** *(TAKES A SIP, THEN NODS)* THAT'S BETTER. THANK YOU.

**LUKE:** *(GENTLY)* WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE HAVE YOU COME FROM?

**MARY:** EPHESUS.

**LUKE:** EPHESUS?! THAT'S WEEKS AWAY. WHY WOULD YOU COME ALL THIS WAY - BY YOURSELF?

**MARY:** I CAME FOR YOU.

**LUKE:** *(CONFUSED)* FOR ME? *(STARING, STUNNED)* MARY?

**MARY:** *(NODDING GENTLY, SMILING)* YES?

**LUKE:** *(EXCITEMENT STIRRING)* THE MOTHER OF...

**MARY:** YES?!

*(IN TEARS THEY EMBRACE. LUKE STANDS QUICKLY, PULLS OUT A STACK OF SCROLLS, UNROLLING THEM ON THE TABLE IN A FLURRY)*

**LUKE:** TELL ME EVERYTHING.

**FLASHBACK STARTS**

**SCENE 10**

**[MANGER SCENE]** - A REVERENT AND HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL DEPICTION OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HUMAN HISTORY.

**IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR (4:48)**

*OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING  
OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING  
OUR KING HAS COME*

*IT CAME UPON A MIDNIGHT CLEAR  
THAT GLORIOUS SONG OF OLD  
FROM ANGELS BENDING NEAR THE EARTH  
TO TOUCH THEIR HARPS OF GOLD*

*PEACE ON THE EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN  
FROM HEAVEN'S ALL-GRACIOUS KING  
THE WORLD IN SOLEMN STILLNESS LAY  
TO HEAR THE ANGELS SING*

OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING, MM  
OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING  
(OUR KING HAS COME)

AND WITH THE WOES OF SIN AND STRIFE  
THE WORLD HAS SUFFERED LONG  
BENEATH THE ANGEL-STRAIN HAVE ROLLED  
TWO THOUSAND YEARS OF WRONG

AND MAN AT WAR WITH MAN, HEARS NOT  
THE LOVE SONG WHICH THEY BRING  
O HUSH THE NOISE, YE MEN OF STRIFE  
AND HEAR THE ANGELS SING

OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING, OH  
OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING  
OUR KING HAS COME

AND YE, BENEATH LIFE'S CRUSHING LOAD  
WHOSE FORMS ARE BENDING LOW  
WHO TOIL ALONG THE CLIMBING WAY  
WITH PAINFUL STEPS AND SLOW

LOOK NOW, FOR GLAD AND GOLDEN HOURS  
COME SWIFTLY ON THE WING  
OH, REST BESIDE THE WEARY ROAD  
AND HEAR THE ANGELS SING, OH

OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING, OH  
OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING  
OUR KING HAS COME

OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING, OH  
OH, HEAR THE ANGELS SING  
OUR KING HAS COME

## ACT II

### SCENE 11

[MANGER SCENE] - IN A SOFTLY LIT STABLE, MARY AND JOSEPH GAZE IN AWE  
AT THE NEWBORN JESUS. WITH TEARS OF JOY AND GRATITUDE, THEY CRADLE HIM  
CLOSE.

FLASHBACK STARTS



**YOUNG MARY:** MY LORD, YOU ARE *GOOD*. FROM THE DAWN OF THE AGE. TO THIS VERY MOMENT. UNDER THE STARS THAT YOUR HANDS SCATTERED ACROSS THE SKY. YOU ARE GOOD - AND YOUR WORD HAS BEEN *FULFILLED*. (*SMILES, SOFTLY*)  
HELLO, JESUS.

(*SCENE CUTS TO SL, WHERE HILA RUNS INTO ELAM IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT*)

**HILA:** ELAM, WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP? YOU SHOULD BE SLEEPING. ABBA AND EMA WILL BE UPSET.

**ELAM:** SHOULDN'T YOU BE SLEEPING?

**HILA:** I CAN'T SLEEP. I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT MARY AND JOSEPH.

**ELAM:** SAME.

**HILA:** SHOULD WE GO AND SEE THEM? I MEAN, THEY ARE GUESTS AT OUR INN...

**ELAM:** *GUEST* IS A BIT OF A STRETCH.

**HILA:** (*CHUCKLES*) LET'S GO.

(*JOSEPH COMES SC TO THE STABLE TO TALK WITH MARY.*)

**JOSEPH:** (*SIGH*) STILL NO LINENS, DO YOU NEED ANYTHING ELSE? ANYTHING AT ALL?

**YOUNG MARY:** (*PLAYFULLY*) LOOK AT ME, JOSEPH - WHAT COULD I POSSIBLY NEED? HERE, COME SIT. (*MARY AND JOSEPH BOTH LOOK DOWN AT JESUS*) NOT A DAY HAS GONE BY THAT I HAVEN'T REMEMBERED WHAT THE ANGEL SAID.

**JOSEPH:** TELL ME - ONE MORE TIME.

**YOUNG MARY:** DO NOT BE FEARFUL. YOU HAVE FOUND FAVOR WITH GOD. YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH TO A SON, AND YOU WILL CALL HIS NAME JESUS. HE WILL BE GREAT - CALLED SON OF THE MOST HIGH. THE LORD GOD WILL GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID, AND HE WILL RULE OVER THE HOUSE OF JACOB FOREVER. HIS KINGDOM WILL NEVER END. (*LOOKING DOWN AT JESUS, A SOFT SMILE*) AND TONIGHT, ON THIS HOLY NIGHT, WE'RE WATCHING THOSE WORDS UNFOLD BEFORE OUR EYES.

**HILA:** (*WHISPERING*) DID YOU HEAR THAT?

**ELAM:** (*SOFTLY*) DID SHE JUST SAY... THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH?

**HILA:** SHE DID. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?

**ELAM:** IT'S THE PROMISE THAT ABBA AND EMA TALK ABOUT. THE ONE WHO WAS TO COME.

**HILA:** THAT'S... THAT'S GOD'S SON.

**ELAM:** IN OUR STABLE?

*(HILA BEGINS TO SING O HOLY NIGHT TO ELAM. EBNER, WATCHING FROM NEARBY, IS MOVED TO TEARS. HE JOINS HIS DAUGHTER.)*

**OH HOLY NIGHT (5:13)**

**HILA:**

*O HOLY NIGHT  
THE STARS ARE BRIGHTLY SHINING  
IT IS THE NIGHT  
OF THE DEAR SAVIOR'S BIRTH*

*LONG LAY THE WORLD  
IN SIN AND ERROR PINING  
TILL HE APPEARED  
AND THE SOUL FELT ITS WORTH*

*A THRILL OF HOPE  
THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES  
FOR YONDER BREAKS  
A NEW AND GLORIOUS MORN*

*FALL ON YOUR KNEES  
O HEAR THE ANGEL VOICES  
O NIGHT DIVINE  
O NIGHT WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN  
O NIGHT DIVINE  
O NIGHT O NIGHT DIVINE*

**EBNER:**

*TRULY HE TAUGHT US  
TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER  
HIS LAW IS LOVE  
AND HIS GOSPEL IS PEACE*

*CHAINS SHALL HE BREAK*

FOR THE SLAVE IS OUR BROTHER  
AND IN HIS NAME  
ALL OPPRESSION SHALL CEASE

SWEET HYMNS OF JOY  
IN GRATEFUL CHORUS RAISE WE  
LET ALL WITHIN US PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME

CHRIST IS THE LORD  
O PRAISE HIS NAME FOREVER  
HIS POWER AND GLORY  
EVERMORE PROCLAIM  
HIS POWER AND GLORY  
EVERMORE PROCLAIM

**HILA AND EBNER:**

FALL ON YOUR KNEES  
O HEAR THE ANGEL VOICES  
O NIGHT DIVINE  
O NIGHT WHEN CHRIST WAS BORN  
O NIGHT DIVINE  
O NIGHT DIVINE

**FLASHBACK ENDS**

**SCENE 12**

**[LUKE'S PRACTICE / OUTDOORS]** - MARY RECOUNTS THE BEAUTY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TO LUKE.

**LUKE:** AND IT HAPPENED JUST LIKE THAT?

**MARY:** (SMILES) JUST LIKE THAT.

**LUKE:** BEAUTIFUL. (GLANCING OVER HIS WRITINGS) EVERY WORD — ALL THE WAY TO THE BIRTH OF CHRIST IN A STABLE. A STORY ONLY GOD HIMSELF COULD WRITE — UNLIKELY, HUMBLE, AND UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL.

**MARY:** (WIPING AWAY TEARS) YES. UNLIKELY, HUMBLE, AND UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL. WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I CAN STILL SEE ME HOLDING HIM. I CAN STILL SEE THE SHEPHERDS, WATCHING FLOCKS NEARBY. COMING WITH EYES FULL OF WONDER TO SEE THE CHILD, WRAPPED IN SWADDLING CLOTHS AND LYING IN A MANGER.

**FLASHBACK STARTS**

*(SCENE CUTS TO THE SHEPHERDS RETURNING TO THEIR FLOCKS, FILLED WITH JOY AFTER WITNESSING THE BIRTH OF JESUS)*

**SHEPHERD 1:** *(AWE-STRUCK)* BROTHER... HOW DO WE EVEN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE JUST SAW?

**SHEPHERD 2:** THAT AN ANGEL OF THE LORD CAME TO US — OF ALL PEOPLE. NOT TO KINGS, BUT TO SHEPHERDS.

**SHEPHERD 1:** TO TELL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST THE LORD... THE HOPE OF ALL MANKIND.

**SHEPHERD 2:** BOTH FEEL LIKE MIRACLES.

**SHEPHERD 1:** BUT WHY *US*? HE COULD HAVE TOLD RULERS — MEN WITH CROWNS AND KINGDOMS. ALL WE KNOW ARE SHEEP.

**SHEPHERD 2:** *(THINKING)* MAYBE THAT'S THE POINT.

**SHEPHERD 1:** WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

**SHEPHERD 2:** MAYBE GOD DOESN'T LOOK AT STATUS — HE LOOKS AT THE HEART. HE CAME TO US BECAUSE OUR HEARTS WERE READY, AND NOT CROWDED WITH OTHER THINGS. MAYBE HE DOESN'T NEED US TO BE QUALIFIED — JUST QUIET. QUIET ENOUGH TO HEAR.

**SHEPHERD 1:** *(PAUSES TO THINK)* AND NOW THAT WE'VE HEARD... WHAT DO WE DO?

**SHEPHERD 2:** WE GO. AND WE TELL EVERYONE THE GOOD NEWS.

### **GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY**

**SHEPARD 1:**

*IF YOU WOULD HAVE TOLD ME  
HE'D COME TO THE LOWLY  
TO SHOW THE GOODNESS OF OUR GOD  
AND THE GOOD THING HE HAS DONE*

**SHEPARD 2:**

*I WOULDN'T BELIEVE YOU  
IF I HADN'T SEEN IT FOR MYSELF  
THE SON OF GOD, EMMANUEL  
COME LET US TELL...*

**SHEPARD 1:**

TO ANYONE WHO WANDERS  
TO ANYONE WHO'S LOST  
TO ANYONE WHO'S BROKEN  
IN YOUR BODY OR YOUR THOUGHTS

**SHEPARD 2:**

TO ANYONE WHO'S HURTING  
KNOW THE HEALING'S ON THE WAY  
LAYING IN THE A MANGER BED  
BORN TO YOU TODAY

**SHEPARD 2 MELODY / SHEPARD 1 HARMONY:**

I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY  
FOR A SHEPHERD BOY  
FOR A WEARY WORLD LOOKING UP  
FOR A LITTLE LIGHT  
OPEN UP YOUR EYES  
AND HOLD ON, HOLD ON  
I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY  
I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

**SHEPARD 2 SOLO, THEN HARMONY**

GLORY TO GOD  
GLORY IN THE HIGHEST  
CAN'T SIT STILL  
CAN'T LET THIS SONG STAY SILENT  
LONGING SO LONG  
FOR HOPE TO COME  
GLORY TO GOD  
THE STORY'S NOT DONE

**SHEPARD 2 MELODY / SHEPARD 1 HARMONY:**

FOR ANYONE WHO WANDERS  
FOR ANYONE WHO'S LOST  
FOR ANYONE WHO'S BROKEN  
IN YOUR BODY OR YOUR THOUGHTS  
FOR ANYONE WHO'S HURTING  
KNOW THE HEALING'S ON THE WAY  
LAYING IN THE A MANGER BED  
BORN TO YOU TODAY

*I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY  
FOR A SHEPHERD BOY  
FOR A WEARY WORLD LOOKING UP  
FOR A LITTLE LIGHT  
OPEN UP YOUR EYES  
AND HOLD ON, HOLD ON  
I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY  
I'VE GOT GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY*

**FLASHBACK ENDS**

### **SCENE 13**

**[LUKE'S PRACTICE / MARY AND JOSEPH'S HOME]** - MARY WALKS LUKE THROUGH THE DAYS AFTER JESUS' BIRTH — INCLUDING THE ARRIVAL OF THE WISEMEN FROM THE EAST TO WORSHIP JESUS.

**LUKE:** WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

**MARY:** WHEN THE TIME CAME FOR OUR PURIFICATION, WE WENT TO JERUSALEM — TO PRESENT JESUS AT THE TEMPLE, JUST AS THE LAW REQUIRED.

**LUKE:** (*JOTTING NOTES*) AND THE SACRIFICE?

**MARY:** WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH... SO WE OFFERED TWO TURTLE DOVES.

**LUKE:** DID ANYTHING UNUSUAL HAPPEN WHILE YOU WERE THERE?

**MARY:** YES. A MAN NAMED SIMEON TOOK JESUS IN HIS ARMS. HE PRAISED GOD AND SAID, MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION — A LIGHT FOR THE GENTILES, AND GLORY FOR ISRAEL.

**LUKE:** (*SOFTLY, AMAZED*) HE KNEW WHO JESUS WAS?

**MARY:** HE DID. AND THEN A PROPHETESS — ANNA — SHE THANKED GOD AND SPOKE ABOUT JESUS TO EVERYONE AROUND.

**LUKE:** MARY... IT'S AS IF EVERY STROKE OF MY PEN STRIKES LIKE LIGHTNING ACROSS THESE SCROLLS — EACH DROP OF INK REVEALING THE HEART OF GOD IN EVERY WORD. WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THE TEMPLE?

**MARY:** SOME TIME PASSED... AND THEN, *THEY* CAME.

**LUKE:** THEY?

**MARY:** THE WISE MEN.

## FLASHBACK STARTS

*(SCENE CUTS TO WHEN THE WISEMEN COME AND OFFER GIFTS TO JESUS)*

**YOUNG MARY:** JOSEPH, WE HAVE VISITORS.

*(JOSEPH ENTERS)*

**JOSEPH:** GOOD EVE- *(TAKEN BACK BY THE DRESS OF CASPAR, BALTHAZAR, AND MELCHIOR)* MARY, WHERE DID YOU SAY OUR... VISITORS ARE FROM?

*(MARY LOOKS TO CASPAR)*

**CASPAR:** EAST. *(SMILES)* WE COME FROM THE EAST.

**JOSEPH:** I SEE - AND WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR HOME?

**MELCHIOR:** *(BOLDLY)* WE HAVE BEEN A MONTHS-LONG JOURNEY TO SEE THE KING - OF COURSE.

**BALTHAZAR:** YES! FROM PLACES OF POWER WE CAME, BUT HERE WE ARE NOT TEACHERS, NOR AS WISE MEN; WE ARE SIMPLY MEN IN NEED OF THE SAME HOPE, PEACE, AND LIFE AS EVERYONE ELSE.

**MELCHIOR:** GOLD. A SYMBOL OF ROYALTY AND EVER-LASTING POWER.

**BELTHAZAR:** FRANKINCENSE. A SYMBOL OF JESUS' DIVINITY.

**CASPAR:** MYRRH. A SYMBOL OF GREAT SACRIFICE. HOPE, PEACE, AND LIFE COME WITH UNIMAGINABLE COST.

**MARY:** UNIMAGINABLE COST. YES, SOMEDAY - BUT NOT TODAY.

## FLASHBACK ENDS

## SCENE 14

**[LUKE'S PRACTICE]** - MARY REFLECTS ON THE UNIMAGINABLE COST JESUS PAID - AND WHILE HE LIVES FOREVER, A MOTHER'S HEART STILL HURTS.

**MARY:** *(TEARS STREAMING)* BUT THAT DAY CAME - AND WHEN IT DID, THE COST WAS UNIMAGINABLE. LUKE... HE WAS THE SON OF GOD. BUT HE WAS ALSO MY BOY. AND I WAS HIS EMA. THE BABY I PUT TO SLEEP EVERY NIGHT. THE LITTLE BOY WHO RAN TO ME WITH SKINNED KNEES AND TEARS RUNNING DOWN HIS CHEEKS. THAT LITTLE BOY - *(DEEP CRY)* THEY SPAT ON HIM. THEY BEAT HIM. THEY PRESSED THORNS INTO HIS BROW. AND THEY HUNG HIM ON A CROSS.

THE SON OF THE MOST HIGH. THE ONE GIVEN THE THRONE OF DAVID. THE KING WHO WOULD RULE FOREVER. GOD'S SON... MY BOY...

**LUKE:** (ENCOURAGING) BUT MARY... WE KNOW THE END OF THE STORY!

**MARY:** (WITH DEEP SORROW) YES. AND I REJOICE. HE IS ALIVE — NOW AND FOREVER. BUT I CAN'T TOUCH HIM. I CAN'T HOLD HIS FACE IN MY HANDS. NOT TODAY. BEFORE THE ANGEL CAME TO ME, I WAS JUST A GIRL — YOUNG, UNSURE, AND FEARFUL. HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN WHAT HE WOULD ASK OF ME? THAT ONE DAY I WOULD CARRY THE SON OF GOD. THAT I WOULD WATCH HIM GROW, WATCH HIM SUFFER, AND ONE DAY — (MARY CAN'T SAY IT). HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN WHAT LOVE WOULD COST... AND WHAT IT WOULD GIVE THE WORLD? COULD I EVER KNOW?

(AN ADULT JESUS, A TEENAGE JESUS, AND A YOUNG BOY JESUS CIRCLE AROUND MARY AS SHE REMEMBERS HER SON. ONE BY ONE, EACH ONE FADES AWAY UNTIL MARY IS LEFT HOLDING THE HAND OF HER LITTLE BOY. AS THE SONG DRAWS TO A CLOSE, JESUS LETS GO OF MARY'S HAND AND SLOWLY FADES AWAY)

#### **HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN? (4:09)**

HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN  
THAT MY BABY BOY WOULD ONE DAY WALK ON WATER?  
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN  
THAT MY BABY BOY WOULD SAVE OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS?  
COULD I KNOW  
THAT MY BABY BOY HAD COME TO MAKE YOU NEW?  
AND THIS CHILD THAT I DELIVERED  
WOULD SOON DELIVER YOU?

HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN  
THAT MY BABY BOY WOULD GIVE SIGHT TO A BLIND MAN?  
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN  
THAT MY BABY BOY WOULD CALM A STORM WITH HIS HAND?  
COULD I KNOW  
THAT MY BABY BOY HAS WALKED WHERE ANGELS TROD?  
WHEN I KISS MY LITTLE BABY  
I KISSED THE FACE OF GOD  
OH, HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?  
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?

OH, THE BLIND WILL SEE  
THE DEAF WILL HEAR  
AND THE DEAD WILL LIVE AGAIN  
THE LAME WILL LEAP



THE DUMB WILL SPEAK  
THE PRAISES OF THE LAMB

HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN  
THAT MY BABY BOY WAS LORD OF ALL CREATION?  
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN  
THAT MY BABY BOY WOULD ONE DAY RULE THE NATIONS?  
COULD I KNOW  
THAT MY BABY BOY IS HEAVEN'S PERFECT LAMB?  
AND THE SLEEPING CHILD I'M HOLDING  
HE IS THE GREAT, THE GREAT I AM

HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?  
HOW COULD I HAVE KNOWN?

## FINAL ACT

### SCENE 15

[OUTDOORS] - LUKE WALKS MARY OUT OF THE CITY AS SHE PREPARES FOR HER JOURNEY BACK HOME.

**MARY:** SO, NOW THAT YOU HAVE THE STORY, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

**LUKE:** I FELT GOD PULLING ME TO GATHER THESE WRITINGS — AND NOW, EVEN STRONGER, I FEEL HIM CALLING ME TO SHARE THEM. TO MAKE COPY AFTER COPY, AND SEND THEM TO ANYONE WHO NEEDS TO KNOW HIS TRUTH.

**MARY:** (GENTLY) ISN'T THAT ALL OF US?

**LUKE:** (SMILING) EXACTLY.

**MARY:** THANK YOU.

**LUKE:** FOR WHAT?

**MARY:** NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK OF HIM. BUT THIS... THIS FELT DIFFERENT. LIKE GOD ALLOWED ME TO STEP BACK INTO THOSE BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS, JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

**LUKE:** UNLIKELY, HUMBLE, AND —

**MARY AND LUKE:** (TOGETHER) UTTERLY BEAUTIFUL.

**MARY:** LUKE — YOUR STORIES, YOUR ACCOUNTS — THE HOPE THAT WAS BORN THAT NIGHT — THEY ARE MEANT TO REACH FAR BEYOND OUR LIFETIME.

**LUKE:** TO FIND THEIR WAY INTO THE HEARTS OF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD.

**MARY:** AS I TRAVEL HOME, I PRAY GOD'S BLESSING OVER YOU — AND OVER THESE WORDS. THAT THEY WOULD (DEEP PAUSE) CARRY THE LIGHT.

**LUKE:** (QUIETLY) CARRY THE LIGHT.

(MARY AND LUKE EMBRACE. SHE STEPS THROUGH THE CITY GATES, BEGINNING HER JOURNEY BACK TO EPHESUS.)

### **CARRY THE LIGHT**

CAN YOU HEAR THE ANGELS SINGING GLORY? (GLORY)  
SEE WHAT OUR GOD HAS DONE!  
FROM A MANGER BED ON A NIGHT SO HOLY (HOLY)  
A GIFT OF HIS GREAT LOVE

COULD YOU FEEL THE WORLD AROUND YOU CHANGING (CHANGING)  
WHEN THIS GOOD NEWS CAME TO YOU?  
IF IT CHANGED YOUR LIFE NOW AND FOREVER (FOREVER)  
IT COULD CHANGE ANOTHER'S TOO

TELL OF THE WAY, TELL OF THE TRUTH, TELL OF THE LIFE  
TELL OF THE BABE, TELL OF THE MAN, TELL OF THE CHRIST

TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD  
TO EVERY HEART THAT'S HURT FOR A WHILE  
EVERYWHERE YOU GO - CARRY THE LIGHT  
TO ALL GENERATIONS  
TO THE CORNERS OF THE MAP YOU'RE ON  
WHATEVER YOU DO - CARRY THE LIGHT

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN  
GO TELL IT TO THE VALLEY  
JESUS IS BORN, AND SO IS THE LIGHT  
THAT SHINES TO BRIGHT IN YOU AND ME X4

TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD  
TO EVERY HEART THAT'S HURT FOR A WHILE  
EVERYWHERE YOU GO - CARRY THE LIGHT  
TO ALL GENERATIONS  
TO THE CORNERS OF THE MAP YOU'RE ON  
WHATEVER YOU DO - CARRY THE LIGHT X2

CARRY THE LIGHT!

## SCENE 16

[OUTDOORS] - MARCUS CREATES A DIVERSION TO DISTRACT JULIUS, GIVING MARY THE CHANCE TO KEEP ON WITH HER JOURNEY HOME UNNOTICED.

MARCUS: JULIUS.

JULIUS: GOOD EVENING, SIR.

MARCUS: HOW'S PATROL?

JULIUS: UNEVENTFUL, SIR - LIKE ALWAYS.

MARCUS: UNEVENTFUL? (*SMIRKS*) FUNNY - A CROWD OF JESUS FOLLOWERS CAUSING A STIR AT THE CITY GATES DOESN'T SOUND VERY UNEVENTFUL TO ME.

JULIUS: (*HESITATES*) SIR, THE STREETS WERE SILENT JUST MOMENTS AGO.

MARCUS: (*LEANING IN*) REMEMBER, JULIUS - FEAR CAN TAME THEM, BUT IT CAN'T BREAK THEM. I SUGGEST YOU GO SEE WHAT ALL THIS *SILENCE* IS REALLY ABOUT.

JULIUS: (*SNAPPING TO ATTENTION*) YES, SIR. RIGHT AWAY.

(JULIUS RUNS OFF AS MARCUS QUIETLY SIGNALS FOR MARY TO STEP OUT OF HIDING.)

MARCUS: THAT GOT YOU SOME TIME.

MARY: THANK YOU.

MARCUS: (*LOW, SINCERE*) DID YOU DO WHAT YOU SET OUT TO DO?

MARY: I DID.

MARCUS: (*NODS*) GLORY TO GOD. (*PAUSE*) GET HOME SAFE.

## SCENE 17

[OUTDOORS] - PAUL READS A LETTER ALOUD - HIS RESPONSE TO NEWS FROM LUKE THAT MARY FOUND HIM AND SHARED HER STORY.

PAUL: (*READING BACK HIS OWN LETTER*) LUKE, GLORY TO GOD - GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE. HE MADE A WAY FOR THE MOTHER OF OUR LORD, EVEN IN HER OLD AGE, TO FIND YOU AND COMPLETE YOUR WRITINGS. (*LAUGHING*) WHEN GOD WANTS SOMETHING DONE, HE MAKES A WAY - AND LAUGHS AT WHAT WE CALL IMPOSSIBLE. WHILE I TRAVEL ON, I HOPE AND PRAY THESE WORDS REACH YOU. I REJOICE WITH YOU - AND WITH ALL MANKIND - TODAY, TOMORROW, AND

FOREVER, FOR THE GOOD NEWS OF THE BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH, AND LIFE  
EVERLASTING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. PAUL. (*PUTS DOWN LETTER*) GLORY TO  
YOU, MY GOD. MAY LUKE'S WORDS BE LIKE LIGHT TO THOSE STILL IN SHADOW.  
OPEN EYES, LORD — JUST AS YOU OPENED MINE.

## **SCENE 18**

**[JOHN'S HOME]** - BY GOD'S GRACE, MARY FINALLY RETURNS HOME SAFE AND  
SOUND. SHE, JOHN, AND SALOME REJOICE TOGETHER, GIVING THANKS FOR ALL  
THAT GOD HAS DONE.

**JOHN:** EMA, IF I HAD A COIN FOR EVERY TIME YOU OPENED THAT DOOR LOOKING  
FOR MARY, I COULD BUY A NEW ONE (*UNDER HIS BREATH*) MAYBE EVEN ONE WITH  
A STRONGER LOCK.

**SALOME:** AND WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

**JOHN:** (*DEFLECTING*) SHE'S FINE. WE KNEW HER JOURNEY WOULD TAKE TIME —  
AND TIME, IT'S TAKEN. HAVE YOU EVER TRUSTED GOD AND FOUND HE'S LET YOU  
DOWN?

**SALOME:** NEVER.

**JOHN:** THEN DON'T START DOUBTING HIM TODAY.

**SALOME:** BUT JOHN... WHEN IS SHE COMING HOME? IT'S BEEN WEEKS.

(*MARY ENTERS QUIETLY, SMILING*)

**MARY:** RIGHT AFTER YOU STEP AWAY FROM THE DOOR.

**SALOME:** (*GASPS*) MARY! YOU'RE HOME — AND YOU'RE SAFE.

**MARY:** I'M HOME, AND I'M SAFE.

(*SALOME EMBRACES MARY. THEN JOHN EMBRACES HER AS WELL*)

**JOHN:** DID YOU FIND HIM? THE DOCTOR — LUKE?

**MARY:** BY THE GRACE OF OUR GOD.

**JOHN:** WAS HE DOING WHAT WE'D HEARD? GATHERING EVERY STORY AND ACCOUNT  
OF JESUS HE COULD FIND?

**MARY:** HE WAS.

**JOHN:** AND DID HE HAVE IT ALL? WAS IT COMPLETE?

**MARY:** ALMOST.

**SALOME:** (*REALIZING*) HE WAS MISSING... THE BEGINNING.

**MARY:** (*SMILES, NODS*) THE BEGINNING.

**JOHN:** AND NOW?

**MARY:** NOW, AS WE ALWAYS HAVE, WE TRUST THAT GOD WILL CARRY THESE WORDS — THE HOPE, PEACE, AND LIFE FOUND IN THEM — TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH, FOR NOW AND FOREVERMORE.

## **SCENE 19**

**[OUTDOORS]** - LUKE SETS DOWN HIS PEN AND READS A PORTION OF MARY'S ACCOUNT, LIFTING HIS EYES TO HEAVEN IN GRATITUDE. ONE BY ONE, VOICES — YOUNG AND OLD, FROM NOW AND GENERATIONS TO COME — BEGIN TO SAY THE SAME WORDS, AS IF ALL THE EARTH WERE JOINING IN TO GIVE GLORY TO GOD. A JOYFUL, FITTING END.

**LUKE:** 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!

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.

## **JOY TO THE WORLD (4:02)**

JOY TO THE WORLD  
THE LORD IS COME  
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING  
LET EVERY HEART  
PREPARE HIM ROOM

AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING  
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING  
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING  
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

O JOY TO THE WORLD  
HE IS COME  
HE IS COME  
HE RULES THE WORLD  
WITH TRUTH AND GRACE  
AND MAKES THE NATIONS PROVE  
THE GLORIES OF  
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS  
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE  
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE  
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE  
AND WONDERS OF HIS LOVE

O JOY TO THE WORLD  
HE IS COME  
OH, HE IS COME

JOY TO THE WORLD  
THE LORD IS COME  
LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING  
LET EVERY HEART  
PREPARE HIM ROOM  
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING  
OH AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING  
AND HEAVEN, AND HEAVEN  
AND NATURE SING  
OH, HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

HE IS COME (OH)  
HE IS COME (HE IS COME, JOY, JOY)  
HE IS COME

**FIN**

