

Jesus

(Premise – At the Last Supper)

(While washing Peter's feet) When you committed your life to me, your body was cleansed. Now it is only necessary to remove the dirt from your feet. *(The other disciples seem confused by Jesus' comments)* I know this seems strange. If I'm willing to do anything to serve you...even a humble task like washing dirty feet, then you should be willing to serve each other. I'm giving you an example of love. That's how I want you to love each other. *(Continues)* This bread represents my body, which will be broken for you. Each time you eat this, remember that my life was given so you could live. This represents God's promise of redemption through the shedding of my blood. *(Passes the cup to them. They drink)* Before I go, I tell you to love one another. Love each other the same way I love you. The world will know you're my disciples if you love one another." *(After the communion service, Jesus begins to look distressed/in deep thought)* One of you is about to betray me. *(Looks at them all)* The one who dips his bread in the bowl with me. *(pause)* This will happen just as the Scriptures said it would. But it would have been better for this man if he had never been born. He is causing his own destruction.

Peter

(Premise – The Introduction at the Church)

(Comes to the front of the Sanctuary, looking over his shoulder) John, what is taking you so long?!!! The roads to Jerusalem will be crowded for Passover and you are taking your precious time! Did I not TELL you that this year we must be there earlier than usual? *(Turns and sees audience)* Oh, my deepest apologies. My friend seems to think that the Romans will clear the roads for his personal use, hence his tardiness. *(Looking back over his shoulder)* John, there are a lot of people here and YOU are making them wait! Now, it looks like you're headed for Jerusalem as well. Good, good, you may travel with us. We're going to meet Jesus. *(Looks at the audience quizzically)* You do know who Jesus is, right? He has been preaching here in Judea and Palestine for the last three years, healing people and performing miracles. But I'll let you in on something. *(Peter lowers his voice in a conspiratorial manner)* This year, at Passover, I think He is *finally* going to declare His kingdom and drive out those accursed Romans! *(Raising his voice proudly)* And I, I will be His second-in-command! We should get started for Jerusalem. With this many people, it may take awhile. Oh, a bit of advice . . . For those of you with small children, beware the Roman Legions. They show no mercy, even to little ones who get underfoot. Come on, let's go and I will show you who this Jesus is! *(Peter heads down the center aisle).*

Peter's Apology *(written by Brandon Muniz)*

(Peter talking to his friends after the Crucifixion)

Who am I? I come before you a broken man. A man who denied everything he said he believed in...for what? Fear for myself? For my own skin? After everything I've learned, after all that time...did I really believe then? Who can say more than my brothers and I that we knew Him? We walked with Him. We talked and laughed with Him. We cried with Him. I even sent out demons in His name, but when it was time to stand firm, I ran away. LIKE A COWARD, I RAN AWAY BECAUSE I COULDN'T STAND FOR HIM! He knew it would happen and he still loved me. He still cared for me when He knew I would leave. I *(breaking down)* ran into darkness, away from the one true light. I led the lamb to the slaughter. He died for me and gave me the only way out. And now here I am before you, asking that you forgive me. Forgive me for denying Him when He needed me the most. Forgive me for being self-centered. Forgive me for being me. I have made my decision to carry on His message to the ends of the world. I have accepted the mission and I won't let His death be in vain. I am Peter, the Rock...

John

(Premise – Right before the Last Supper)

(Looking pensive) I thought today would go differently. Now, don't get me wrong, the Master's triumphal entry into Jerusalem was absolutely magnificent. The people were with Him today; I think they would have crowned Him king if only He would have allowed it. *(Now looking puzzled)* But He did not and I'm not too sure why. Is He not the One that has been prophesized? The One that will deliver us from the Roman oppression? But Jesus has never been . . . conventional, I suppose. The last three years have certainly been life changing. But now, now I thought He would have declared Himself King. Everyone has been confused by this. Peter, of course, is very upset. *He* thinks he should be second-in-command to the Master. Judas has been rather shifty, lately. I wonder why? *(Growing more serious)* Things are changing, though. Jesus has been more reserved. It almost seems that He's carrying the weight of the whole world on His shoulders. I wish I could do something, but I don't know what He wants me to do.

Mary Magdalene (choose one Mary Magdalene monologue to memorize)

(Sanctuary—Intro to the Pageant)

Have you heard of this man, Jesus? *(points to Him as she says His name)* I guess that's a silly question. Everyone seems to have heard of Him. He does miracles everywhere he goes! *(her excitement builds)* He heals people and causes the blind to see. He -

Oh I'm sorry, *(realizes she didn't introduce herself)* I got so excited talking about My Friend that I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Mary. When I met Jesus *(uncomfortable remembering her past)* I guess you could say I was going through a bit of a rough time. I was living my life in sin and it had finally caught up with me. *(gets more serious as she continues)* I was taken to Jesus to be judged. It was a trap. The law said that I should be stoned, but Jesus had been preaching about grace and forgiveness. They threw me in the dust at Jesus feet and asked what they should do. If Jesus said to stone me it would go against everything He taught. If He said I should be released He'd be branded a lawbreaker.

He simply started writing in the dirt. *(slowly and reflectively now)* Then He looked up and said, whoever is without sin should cast the first stone. *(shutters slightly) (energy slowly increases as line is delivered)* That's what's amazing about my friend Jesus! It still gives me chills to remember that day. He forgave me and drove out the evil spirits that were controlling me.

He totally changed my life that day and He can change yours too. He and His disciples will soon be making their way into Jerusalem for Passover really soon, they may be headed there already! *(motions them to come with her)* If we hurry, we can catch up and I'll introduce you to Him. *(begins running down center aisle)* Come on, I know He'd love to meet you. Let's go.... *(excitedly gestures for the audience to follow. She makes eye contact and gestures to attendees as she hurries out)*

Mary Magdalene (choose one Mary Magdalene monologue to memorize)

(Closing—Jesus ascends and curtain closes after Resurrection scene. Mary is in front of curtain on stage.)

So now you have heard the story of my friend Jesus. Maybe you are hearing His story for the first time today or maybe you are returning to get to know Him again. Either way, Jesus is welcoming you with open arms. The choice is yours. Please, accept Jesus into your life today and you will be changed forever. I know I was. Jesus loves you. He died to pay the price of our sins and He will return for us someday soon. If you would like to make a decision to start a new life with Him and be ready for His return, there are those outside that will help you begin this journey. The victory is won! Jesus has conquered death! Christ has risen!

Mary, Mother of Jesus

(Premise – At the Burial of Jesus)

I don't understand. Why did this have to happen? I was told that I would give birth to a King and that His Kingdom would be forever. *(Clutching chest, face grimaced in sorrow and pain)* This, this . . . This is NOT forever! He wasn't even allowed to begin. God of Jacob, God of Moses, how can you let this happen? He didn't do anything against anyone. He *healed* people; he even raised Lazarus from the dead! He was supposed to lead us against Rome, free us from our oppressors! He was supposed to rescue us! *(Collapsing to the ground)* Why, why, why? Look at what they did to Him! Why didn't He use His powers to stop this horror, this travesty? No, John, I don't want to leave, I can't leave! Don't you understand? I'm His mother and I just can't leave Him like this . . .

Satan at Gethsemane

(Premise – Speaking to Jesus)

(Speaks in a suave manner, yet with a deadly undertone) Hello, Jesus, it has been awhile. *(Displaying concern, half-heartedly)* What's the matter, Jesus? You seem somewhat distressed. *(A cruel smile suddenly appears)* Of course, of course! You are about to make this so-called "ultimate sacrifice!" *(Raises voice)* Do you actually think this putrid scum *(points towards audience)* will actually care about your "gift" of salvation? You and I both know how weak-minded they are, how easily I can turn them to my side. So go back to heaven, Jesus. Go back to your ever-so-loving father. *(Voice undergoes a change, becoming sinisterly evil)* Humanity is mine. Give up while you still can!

Gabriel at Gethsemane

(Premise – On Jesus' Impending Sacrifice)

(With a calm expression) Ever since Adam and Eve fell into sin at the Garden of Eden, humanity was supposed to fall to Lucifer's domain. Except, of course, that God the Son had to make the ultimate sacrifice for this not to happen. *(Voice grows stronger)* Now that time is very near and we are about to witness something that has never happened before. God the Son will lay down His life to save mankind. But can He go through with it? He will be separated from the Father's love and strength. And Lucifer will be there, suave and contemptuous at the same time. Will Jesus prevail against the Serpent?

Salome

(Premise – At the Burial)

(With a sorrowful expression) This is so terrible . . . The Master is dead. Was it only a few days ago that He made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem? Why, oh why, did He not declare Himself King, our liberator from Roman rule? Now His mother is overcome with grief and Mary Magdalene can barely cope with this new reality. We have to bury Him soon, though. May Joseph and Nicodemus be forever blessed for their kind actions given on this day of horror. *(Looking up with concern)* What will happen to us now, those of us who still believe in what Jesus talked about? Where do we go from here? Do we run and hide? If so, where? What must we do?

Thief on the Cross

(Premise – In his prison cell before the Crucifixion)

(Moodily staring off into space) You know, I was once a good person. My parents were proud of me, especially since I was studying to be a Rabbi. Then, I don't know what happened, the wrong friends I suppose. Youthful indiscretions led to darker deeds, and now . . . now I must face the consequences of my actions. *(Turning towards the audience)* I admit, I am afraid of death, but after what I have done, well, it is to be expected. So this is how my life will end, with no hope of redemption or forgiveness. *(Lowers head in shame)* Not that I deserve any of that. Learn from my mistakes and live well the rest of your lives.

Pilate

(Premise – Pilate reminiscing about when Jesus was brought before him)

I addressed them *[those who brought Jesus to him]*: "What charges do you bring?" They replied: "If this man were not a sinner, we wouldn't have brought him before you." They had nothing to charge him with! Preposterous. I knew why they brought him before me. He had dared to challenge their authority, their reverence, their position. This man was on trial for petty jealousy. I stared at him. Bruised. Beaten. Confidence oozing from every pore. We both knew the likely outcome. . Yet, why was I the one trembling? They finally brought the charges: Misleading the people. . Starts riots. . Claims to be a king. If they wanted me to kill all those who misled the people, I'd have to clear out half the universities . . and 90% of the Sanhedrin . . . them.

(excerpt from *What Will You Do With Jesus Christ?* Monologue; http://bibletheater.org/clientimages/55501/easter_stories_pdf_doc/a-pilate_script_16.pdf)