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**“’Twas the Week Before Easter”**

by  
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## SYNOPSIS

This 30-minute play is the story of Easter week told by a storyteller in familiar rhyme. Monologues and small scenes featuring people who were there for Holy Week are interspersed. Written for a live, socially distanced, or virtual performance for children.

## CAST

Storyteller  
Mary Magdalene  
Martha  
Jesus  
Money Changer (M Changer)  
Dove Salesman  
Judas Iscariot  
Peter  
Andrew  
Matthew  
Thomas  
James  
John  
Philip  
Bartholomew  
James son of Alphaeus (James A)  
Simon the Zealot  
Jude Thaddeus (Thaddeus)  
Soldiers (2)  
Pontius Pilate  
Mary, Mother of Jesus

## PROPS

Palm branches (2)  
Cage with dove  
Bag of money  
Goblets (12)  
Plates (12)  
Loaf of unleavened bread

## HOW

This play is easy to perform, with no special lighting or sound effects. A bench is center stage. A chair, stool, or rocking chair can be off to one side for the Storyteller to sit on, although this is not necessary. A table is required for the Last Supper and a large cross or silhouette of a cross is required for Mary's monologue. Otherwise, no set pieces are required.

### Author's Note on Casting:

Lines are assigned to all twelve disciples not only because the twelve were present at these events, but also for you as a ministry to have the opportunity to include additional actors in your show. If you do not have enough actors for all twelve disciples, or if some of your actors do not wish to have speaking lines, you can have

any Disciple perform the Last Supper monologues. You can also cast additional children or people for the Palm Sunday scene, or additional shopkeepers and money changers for the temple scene if you would like.

**Author's Note on Virtual Performances and Socially Distant Blocking:**

If there are stage directions that indicate characters should touch, such as the Dove Seller and the Money Changer bumping into one another, you can feel free to change that, perhaps having the Dove Changer suddenly turn and then be startled as she sees the money Changer, not realizing he was there. It gives you a similar effect to them bumping into one another without them actually having to touch.

In the last Supper scene, it is indicated to have the actors sit around a long table and have the actors performing the various monologues that occur step away from the table. In this instance, you could eliminate the actors sitting at the table, or find creative ways to seat them, so that they are spaced out. You could also eliminate the passing of the bread and wine that occurs by bringing the lights down on the table while monologues are being performed.

If you are performing this play virtually, you could use a shot of Da Vinci's "Last Supper" in between monologues to give the audience a frame of reference.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, you could eliminate the soldiers and just end the scene after the kiss.

Additionally, for virtual productions, recording scenes over platforms that allow you to insert a digital background is a great way to create a cohesive look for your program.

**TIME**

Approximately 30 minutes

*At start of scene, Storyteller enters and sits on rocking chair.*

**Storyteller:** What a beautiful day for a story. And what better story to tell than the greatest story ever told—the story of Easter! *(To audience)* This story is sometimes joyful and sometimes a little bit sad, and that's ok because it was God's plan to send Jesus to earth to save us from our sins—and that's exactly what he did. Are you ready to hear the story of Easter? *(Waits for audience, then opens book)* Then let's begin. *(Starts to read, dramatically)* 'Twas the week before— *(Stops and looks up at audience)* Now I know what you're thinking—that's not the right story! But I assure you it is. Just listen.

*Starts to read again, dramatically.*

'Twas the week before Easter and on the road to Jerusalem  
Traveled Jesus and his disciples, who were twelve loyal men.  
From city to city and from town to town  
Jesus' teachings had spread, and he had earned great renown.  
As he entered Jerusalem on that Sunday in spring  
His disciples were happy, they didn't suspect a thing.  
But Jesus knew God had great plans for him  
And on this day, Palm Sunday, they were about to begin.  
Jesus sent for a donkey, on its back he would ride  
He entered Jerusalem, the disciples by his side.  
His entry was triumphant! Crowds of people had amassed  
To catch a glimpse of their beloved Messiah as he passed.  
They waved branches of palms and with the sun at its brightest  
Their voices rang out, shouting, "Hosanna in the highest!"

*Lights down on Storyteller and up on center stage where Mary and Martha are standing, looking to one side, trying to catch a glimpse of Jesus. They wave palm branches.*

**Mary M:** *(excited)* I think I see him!

**Martha:** *(craning her neck to see)* Where, Mary? I can't see him. There're too many people!

**Mary M:** *(pointing)* Look over there, Martha—on the donkey!

**Martha:** *(excited)* Oh! There he is! *(Waving her palm branch joyously)* I can't believe how many people have gathered in the streets to celebrate his arrival!

**Mary M:** I can. *(She smiles)* From the moment I first met him I knew he was special. He wasn't like any other man I had ever met. I was sure that once others heard word of his teachings that they would come to realize what I already knew—that Jesus is the Messiah!

**Martha:** That he is. *(She waves her palm branch and calls out)* Hosanna to the Son of David!

**Mary M:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Both:** Hosanna in the highest heaven!

**Martha:** *(dropping the palm branch down to her side)* We must hurry home now.

**Mary M:** But Jesus hasn't even passed by us. *(She waves her branch, ignoring Martha)*

**Martha:** All the reason to leave now. He and his disciples are staying with us tonight.

**Mary M:** *(excited)* They are! *(She drops her palm branch down to her side and turns to Martha)* In that case, I must head to the market to buy some perfume.

**Martha:** Perfume? What for?

**Mary M:** To anoint the feet of the Messiah, of course.

**Martha:** But perfume is so expensive.

**Mary M:** Nothing is too good for my Lord.

**Martha:** Very well, but hurry please. There is much to do to ready the house for Jesus. *(crosses her arms)* And this time I am *not* doing all the work by myself.

**Mary M:** *(chuckling)* I'll be there as soon as I can.

**Mary runs offstage excitedly as Martha watches, arms still crossed shaking her head as lights come down on scene and up on Storyteller.**

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* That night when he arrived Mary anointed his feet  
To show him her love with a perfume so sweet.  
One disciple, Judas, did not understand  
Why waste such a commodity, so expensive and grand?  
"The perfume could be sold! Money given to the poor!"  
But Jesus knew better. He would hear no more.  
"Leave her alone." He said, protective of Mary.  
"You will always have the poor. You won't always have me."  
The next morning Jesus and his twelve followers went  
To the temple where money was changed and was spent.  
Inside did he find people, hands folded in prayer?  
He did not. Let us hear what instead he found there.

Lights down on **Storyteller** and up on center stage where **Dove Seller** enters stage right, walking backward and holding a dove or a cage with a dove in it. **Money Changer** enters stage left, walking backward and holding up bag full of coins.

**Dove Seller:** *(taking a dove from a cage and holding it up)* Doves! Doves for sale.

**M Changer:** Money changed! Change your money here! *(shakes bag)*

**Dove Seller:** *(as she crosses closer to Money Changer)* I've got the best doves in all of Jerusalem right here. Come and get 'em!

**M Changer:** *(as he crosses closer to Dove Seller)* Taxes due? Pay 'em today. Only got Roman coins? Change 'em here for Jewish shekels... *(sneering)* and a small fee.

**Dove Seller:** *(close to Money Changer)* Doves! Get your doves right— *(stops as she bumps into Money Changer)* Oh, sorry, I— *(turns and sees it's the Money Changer)* Oh no! Not you again.

**M Changer:** What's that supposed to mean?

**Dove Seller:** The last time you and I were both here at the temple, things got...out of hand.

**M Changer:** And that's my fault?

**Dove Seller:** You're the one who's charging poor folks a fee to change their money when all they want to do is visit the temple to pray and offer their sacrifices.

**M Changer:** It's common practice to charge a small exchange rate.

**Dove Seller:** That exchange rate seems to get extra high around Passover when all the Jews come flooding into the temple.

**M Changer:** Yeah well, what about you? You're the one selling doves on temple grounds.

**Dove Seller:** I'm not different than those that sell sheep and cattle to the Jews for sacrifices. I just sell doves to those who are too poor to buy a sheep or cow.

**M Changer:** That doesn't stop you from charging a markup on the price of those birds.

**Dove Seller:** *(shrugs he shoulders)* What can I say? A girl's got to make a living.

**M Changer:** All I'm saying is, that Jesus fellow wasn't angry with just me.

**Dove Seller:** *(looking around, nervously)* He was really angry, wasn't he?

**M Changer:** Did you see him make a whip out of cords to drive out all the sheep and cattle?

**Dove Seller:** When he came to my table and saw my doves he said, "Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a market!" *(Looking around nervously again)* He called it his Father's house. Do you really think he's the son of God?

**M Changer:** I don't know. But I do know he came to my table to turned it over, spilling my money everywhere. When I asked him to give me a sign to prove his authority to overturn my tables he said, "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days."

**Dove Seller:** But it took forty-six years to build the temple! How could he raise it again in three days?

**M Changer:** I don't know. All I know is I don't want to run up against this Jesus again.

**Dove Seller:** Me neither! *(Looks around nervously)* Maybe we'd better get out of here before he comes back.

**M Changer:** Let's go!

**Money Changer and Dove Seller** exit in opposite directions, looking around nervously as they do. Lights down on scene and up on **Storyteller**.

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* The following day Jesus and the twelve Went to the Mount of Olives where Jesus would delve Into teachings he felt the disciples must hear But little did they know that a traitor was near. That same day, a disciple named Judas would venture To the high priests where, for a price, he would indenture Himself to their services. Jesus he would deliver. The price Judas was paid? Thirty pieces of silver.

Lights down on **Storyteller** and up on center stage where **Judas** stands, holding a bag of money.

**Judas:** *(rolling the bag around in his hand and looking at it)* Thirty pieces of silver. *(Opens the bag up and looks inside it)* You'd think it would look like so much more than this. *(Bounces bag up and down in his hand, feeling its weight)* Feel like so much more than this. *(holds bag up to his chest and closes his eyes)* Hurt so much less than this. *(Opens his eyes and looks at bag, squaring his shoulders, resolute)* But this is what must be done. I know it. I can feel it. *(Looks down at money again)* Besides, I can do a lot of good with this money—feed the poor,

help the old and the ill. *(Looks away from bag, suddenly distressed)* But what will happen to Jesus once he is turned over to the authorities? I don't wish him to come to any harm. *(Shakes his head)* He's Jesus Christ! The Romans wouldn't be foolish enough to hurt the Messiah, himself! *(Holding up bag of money and looking at it, suddenly anxious)* But Caiphas and the other priests sounded so angry. They view Jesus as a threat and think he undermines their authority. If they would be willing to pay me, Judas Iscariot, a loyal follower of Jesus, to betray him then who's to say what lengths they will go to stop him once and for all? *(turns and starts to walk away)* Maybe I'd better just give the money back—put this whole thing behind me. *(Stops, suddenly)* No. It's too late. This is what must be done. I know it. I can feel it. *(Holds bag up to his chest and closes his eyes)* I just wish it hurt so much less than this. *(Opens his eyes and bounces bag up and down in his hand, feeling its weight)* Feel like so much more than this. *(Opens the bag up and looks inside it)* Look like so much more than this. *(Rolls the bag around in his hand and looks at it)* Thirty pieces of silver. *(Looks up at audiences, sadly)* Thirty pieces of silver.

*Lights down on scene and up on Storyteller.*

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* Now the time came for the twelve to gather  
Not on a hill or a temple, but rather  
In a small upper room, devoid of adornments  
Just simple and quiet, away from informants.  
For the twelve knew there were those who wanted Jesus gone  
But didn't know Judas planned to betray him before long  
So on this night, in this room, for this Passover feast  
At a table with wine and bread made without yeast  
The twelve disciples came and filled their plate and their cup for  
What they would later find out would be the Last Supper.

*Lights down on Storyteller and up on center stage where a long table is present. On the table are plates and goblets. Behind the table is a basin, towel, and pitcher. There is a loaf of unleavened bread on a plate. Around the table sit Judas Iscariot, Peter, Andrew, Matthew, Thomas, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, James son of Alphaeus, Simon the Zealot, Jude Thaddeus. Jesus is standing in the center. Jesus will say his lines from his place at the table. All others will step away from the table and come center stage to perform their monologues.*

**Jesus:** I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.

*Jesus sits as Andrew stands and crosses to center stage. Lights can come down on table or Disciples and Jesus can pantomime conversation.*



**Andrew:** *(to audience)* I'm so glad to be eating this Passover meal with my friends and my teacher. Tensions have grown here in Jerusalem. There are many who are not happy with Jesus and his teachings, so we have been trying to lay low for the past couple days. But today is a day to come together, to celebrate the freeing of the Jews from slavery under Moses and to reflect on all that God has done for us. *(Looking back at Jesus)* Jesus seems so solemn tonight. He has been talking a lot lately about the suffering he will endure and about the day when he will leave us. What does he know that he isn't telling us?

*Andrew crosses back to table as Jesus stands, holding the basin, pitcher and towel. He crosses to Peter, kneels, and pours water from the pitcher into the basin. He then takes Peter's foot and removes his sandal. \*\*\*If socially distant, just have Peter say his line as Jesus starts to cross with the basin and pitcher.*

**Peter:** Lord, are you going to wash my feet?

**Jesus:** You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.

**Peter:** *(standing, suddenly)* No! You shall never wash my feet.

**Jesus:** Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.

**Peter:** *(sits and holds out his hands)* Then Lord, not just my feet but my hands and my head as well.

**Jesus:** *(washing Peter's feet)* Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

*John crosses to center as Jesus begins to wash the other Disciples' feet.*

**John:** *(to audience)* Jesus must love us all very much if he would perform an act of service like washing our feet. Even though he is the son of God he humbles himself when he kneels before us to wash our tired, dirty feet. In doing this he teaches us to show love to others in the same way that he shows his love for us—and in doing so, teaches us the lesson of humility. *(Looking back at Jesus)* What a wonderful teacher he is. How lucky we all are to have him here with us.

*John crosses back to table as Jesus returns to his place behind the table, replacing the pitcher, basin and towel. Jesus picks up the bread and breaks it.*

**Jesus:** This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

*He passes one half of the bread down each side of the table. After **James** gets a piece of bread he crosses to center.*

**James:** *(to audience, looking at piece of bread)* His body. This bread symbolizes the body of the Son of God. What a gift he has given us all, to give us a piece of himself so that we will always remember him.

***James** eats the bread then returns to his seat at the tables as **Jesus** stands and holds up a cup.*

**Jesus:** Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

*He passes the cup and each **Disciple** drinks. When it reaches **Philip**, he takes the cup and crosses to center.*

**Philip:** *(to audience, looking at the cup)* This cup is filled with wine that symbolizes Jesus' blood—the very thing that gives him life. What a gift he has given us all, so that we might have new life in His name.

***Philip** drinks from the cup then returns to his seat at the table and passes the cup as **Jesus** looks down, sadly.*

**Jesus:** Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.

***Disciples** become alarmed.*

**Bartholomew:** Surely you don't mean me?

**James A:** I would never betray you, Jesus.

**Simon:** Nor I!

**Judas:** *(standing and turning to audience, fearful)* Does he know? Can he hear the thirty pieces of silver weighing down my pockets? Weighing down my heart? Could he possibly know what I'm about to do?

***Judas** sits and rejoins scene as action resumes.*

**Peter:** *(to **Matthew**)* Ask him which one he means.

**Matthew:** Lord, who is it?

**Jesus:** *(crossing to **Judas**)* What you are about to do, do quickly.

***Judas** stands, nervously, looks **Jesus** in the eye, sadly, then turns and runs offstage. **Thomas** stands and crosses to center.*

**Thomas:** *(to audience)* Judas! How could he? When we have lived like brothers, following the Messiah and spreading his teachings throughout the land! When Jesus' love for us was never in doubt! How could he sit at the table of Jesus, only to turn around and betray him! It's unthinkable.

*Thomas returns to his seat at the table.*

**Thaddeus:** I would never betray you, Lord!

**Peter:** Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.

**Jesus:** Truly I tell you, today—yes tonight—before the rooster crows twice you yourself will disown me three times.

**Peter:** Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you!

*Disciples begin to become anxious, miming arguing as Jesus sits, sadly. Lights down on scene and up on Storyteller.*

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* That night, after the meal, under the shade of a tree Jesus and his men went to Gethsemane.  
Jesus told them to pray, to stay awake and to guard  
But they did not heed, his words they'd discard.  
Their bellies full of food; their eyes heavy with sleep  
The Disciples, they slumbered, while Jesus did creep  
Away into the garden for some solitude  
To speak to his Father about what he must do.  
His heart was heavy with what must now be done.  
He had only God now; he was his Father's son.

*Lights down on Storyteller and up on center stage where Jesus stands.*

**Jesus:** *(looking upward, anguished)* My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.

*He falls to his knees and begins to pray. Perhaps a bright line shines down upon him. As he does, Judas enters followed by two Soldiers. They stand and wait just outside of the circle of light round Jesus. When Jesus is done praying, he looks up at Judas, then turns to audience.*

The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. *(Jesus stands)* Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer.  
*(Judas crosses to Jesus and pauses a moment)* Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?

**Judas:** Rabbi!

**Jesus:** Do what you came for, friend.

*Judas leans in and kisses Jesus on the cheek then looks at Jesus. Jesus maintains eye contact with Judas as Judas steps back and the Soldiers step forward and each take one of Jesus' arms. And lead him offstage, with Judas watching, sadly. Judas falls to his knees as lights out on scene and up on Storyteller.*

**Storyteller:** Jesus was arrested, awaiting his trial  
But what of his prophecy of Peter's denial?  
Morning was coming, the sun arose  
What will Peter do before that fateful rooster crows?

*Lights down on Storyteller and up center stage where Peter stands.*

**Peter:** I can't believe what has happened! Jesus has been arrested and taken away! He was right all along. One of us *did* betray him! *(He looks around nervously)* Does that mean they are going to come for the rest of us too? Are we all to be imprisoned for our connection to Jesus? And if we are all imprisoned, how will we carry on the necessary work that needs to be done? How will we carry on the word of God? Maybe it would be better to lay low for a little while and let some of the hysteria die down.

*Sound of rooster crowing is heard. Peter looks around nervously then starts to exit as Dove Seller enters. She looks at Peter.*

**Dove Seller:** You were with Jesus of Galilee.

**Peter:** I don't know what you're talking about.

*Peter turns away and starts to exit hurriedly in the opposite direction as Dove Seller exits. Soldier enters and looks Peter over.*

**Soldier:** This fellow was with Jesus of Nazarene.

**Peter:** I don't know the man!

*Peter turns away and starts to exit hurriedly in the opposite direction as Soldier exits. Money Changer enters and encounters Peter.*

**M Changer:** Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.

**Peter:** *(yelling)* I don't know the man!

*Immediately after Peter's line the sound of a rooster crowing is heard. Money Changer exits as Peter falls to the ground weeping. Lights down on scene and up on Storyteller.*

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* The soldiers mocked Jesus and brought him to trial; it was to be judged before Roman governor Pontius Pilate. Pilate was troubled; he did not understand

What the priests and Jews had against this poor man  
And besides, his wife had warned him, "that man is innocent"  
"I saw in a dream. Please have nothing to do with this."  
So questioned Jesus, and deep down he hoped  
To set Jesus free. But Jesus never spoke.

*Lights down on **Storyteller** and up on center stage where **Jesus** stands off to one side, arms tied. A **soldier** can also be standing nearby. **Pilate** stands center, facing audience.*

**Pilate:** *(to **Jesus**)* Tell me, why have you been brought before me? *(He waits for an answer, but **Jesus** does not respond)* Do you plead innocent to the charges that have been brought before you? *(He waits for an answer, but **Jesus** does not respond. **Pilate** starts to become upset)* If you are innocent, then just tell me! *(He waits for an answer, but **Jesus** does not respond. **Pilate** is very upset now)* Why won't you answer regarding the charges against you? Why won't you answer me?!

*He waits for an answer, but **Jesus** does not respond. **Pilate** turns to the audience.*

Why won't he answer me? Can't he see that I'm just trying to do my job? The Jewish leaders brought him before me to be judged even though I protested. *(He looks back at **Jesus**)* This man doesn't look like a criminal to me. I can't imagine what harm he's caused to anyone. If he would only speak up for himself, I might be able to help him. *(He looks at **Jesus**, who looks back)* This doesn't feel right, but my hands are tied. If he won't refute the charges then I must pass judgement—whether I want to or not. *(He turns back to **Jesus**)* Are you the king of the Jews?

**Jesus:** You have said so.

**Pilate:** *(turning to look offstage)* I find no basis for a charge against this man. Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?

**Voices:** *(offstage)* No, not him! Give us Barrabas!

**Pilate:** *(to offstage voices)* What shall I do, then, with the one you call king of the Jews?

**Voices:** *(offstage)* Crucify him!

**Pilate:** Why? What crime has he committed?

**Voices:** *(offstage)* Crucify him!

**Pilate:** *(to **Jesus**)* Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?

**Jesus:** You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.

**Pilate:** Very well. *(He turns to look offstage, upset)* Crucify him then. But I am innocent of this man's blood.

*Pontius Pilate rubs his hands together as if washing and then flicks them apart, as if drying them, then turns to look at Jesus. Lights down on scene and up on Storyteller.*

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* A large wooden cross they made him carry.  
While looking on was his poor mother, Mary.  
And when they arrived at that place on the hill  
Mary knew there was more suffering for her son Jesus still.  
They nailed him to the cross, through his hands and his feet.  
Nothing for Mary to do, then to wait and to weep.  
A crown of thorns they placed on his head  
On the cross Jesus waited until he was dead.  
And his sweet mother, Mary, who thirty-three years before  
Had given birth to Jesus underneath a bright star,  
She wept for her son and for what might've been  
But she knew in her heart this was all part of God's plan.

*Lights down on Storyteller and up on center, where Mary, Mother of Jesus stands, facing the audience. If possible, behind her is a large cross, or the silhouette of a large cross.*

**Mary:** My son. My baby boy. A true gift from God—not just for me but for the entire world. To many people he was the Messiah, the one the world had been waiting for, and of course he was those things to me too. But also, he was my son, and while nothing will take away the pain of losing him, I take comfort in knowing that his life has brought a new understanding of God's word to the world and his death will bring forgiveness of all our sins. *(She turns to the cross)* After he died, Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took his body down from the cross, wrapped it in clean linen cloths and brought it to a tomb. When they were done placing Jesus' body, they rolled a large stone in front of the entrance to the tomb. *(She turns to audience)* And that is where he now rests. My son...my baby boy...my Messiah...my Jesus.

*Lights down on Mary and up on Storyteller.*

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* So on that bright and glorious morn'  
The martyred Messiah with crown of thorn  
Lay in the tomb—or so Mary Magdalene thought.  
As she walked toward her savior with the oils that she brought  
To anoint Jesus' body, as was custom to do.  
So she gathered her courage and went to the tomb.  
But a surprise was to greet her the moment she arrived

For that giant stone that was placed had been rolled aside!  
What could this mean? Surely something must be wrong.  
Why, the tomb was empty! Jesus' body was gone!

Lights down on **Storyteller** and up on center where **Mary Magdalene** stands.

**Mary M:** *(to audience, excited)* The most amazing thing has happened! I went to the tomb today to anoint Jesus' body with oils. I was expecting to find the large stone in front of the entrance to the tomb but when I arrived it had already been rolled aside! Well, I must tell you I was immediately distressed. So I cautiously entered and do you know what I found? Nothing! Jesus' body was gone. As you can imagine that was a very upsetting sight! I thought someone must have taken Jesus' body. I stood outside the tomb, crying. After a moment I decided to look inside the tomb once more and do you know what I saw this time? Two angels dressed in white! I could hardly believe what my eyes were seeing. The angels asked, "woman, why are you crying?" So I told them, "they have taken my Lord away and I don't know where they have put him." Just then I turned away from the angels and saw a man. The man said to me, "woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking the man was the gardener, I replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." The man simply smiled and said, "Mary." *(She smiles)* In that moment I knew who he was. It was Jesus! He had risen from the dead. He said, "go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Jesus wanted me and the Disciples to spread the good news of his resurrection. He knew that the world would soon discover the true miracle of this day, that in giving his life here on earth, Jesus has given us the greatest gift of all—the forgiveness of all our sins and eternal life with God in heaven.

Lights down on **Mary Magdalene** and up on **Storyteller**.

**Storyteller:** *(reading)* A miracle has happened! A great gift was given  
On this Easter morn' on the day Jesus had risen  
From death so that we would all know of his wondrous love  
And the love of his Father in heaven above.  
So spread the good news of Jesus and say  
Happy Easter to all and to all a good day!

Lights down on **Storyteller**. End of play.