

Act Two, Scene One

BETRAYAL

[The second act opens with an entracte, during which the curtain is closed. During the introduction to this song, the curtain slowly opens revealing the temple, (or Caiaphas' house). The Pharisees are within and Judas enters to speak with Caiaphas.]

Judas: "Now Caiaphas, I have a proposition to make,
You said yourself; "This man should die for all of our sake."
You need an opportunity to make his arrest,
Just leave it to me, my friend and I'll do the rest.

When I first joined the band, it was a bit of a thrill,
Turning water to wine, feeding crowds on a hill,
Telling storms to be silent, causing waves to be still
And I did very well with my hand in the till."

Caiaphas: "Now Judas come in and relax in a chair, *[To Judas conspiratorially]*
Your coming here to us is an answer to prayer,
This Jesus must never be allowed to go free,
His presence is dangerous, I'm sure you'd agree.

We must not waste a moment, let us pounce on our prey,
We must see that this man is done away with today,
Before he leads more of our people astray,
Thirty pieces of silver is the price we will pay."

[Caiaphas shakes Judas' hand to seal the deal and gives him a purse of coins. Judas leaves and the scene changes during the play-out.]

Act Two, Scene Two

THE LAST SUPPER

[Jesus and the disciples are in a room, seated around a long table. Jesus in the centre. There is food and drink on the table. Among the food are a bread roll and a jug of red wine (or grape juice). Jesus stands and sings as the scene is lit and the song begins.]

Jesus: "I have long desired to eat this Passover with you,
Before I shall be led away to where you cannot come."

Disciples: "Oh Lord, where are you going? And why can't we come too?
We'll always be here by your side, no matter what you do."

Jesus: "The Son of Man will be struck down, you all will run away,
My friends, there's one among us here intending to betray me."

Peter: "Even if the rest all turn away, I will never leave your side,
I will follow all the way with you, even if I have to die!"

Jesus: "Peter, before the cock crows in the morning,
You'll swear that you don't even know me!
As for the one who will surely betray me,
It would be better if he never had been born!"

Judas: "Master can you mean me?"

Jesus: "Yes Judas!
Go now, your time has come! *[Judas exits]*
Do that which must be done!
But when I rise again, I'll meet you all in Galilee."

[Jesus picks up a bread roll, breaks it and puts the pieces onto a plate]

Jesus: "This is my body, broken for you.
Take it and eat with me, your life to renew.

[Pouring the wine into his own cup, Jesus continues:]
This is my blood, take and drink with me.
The new covenant, setting sinners free.

I will not drink again the harvest of the vine,
'Till the day we meet together up above.
So when you meet in fellowship,
Do this in remembrance of me
And recall how my love sets you free."

[During the flute solo, Jesus shares the bread and wine out among the remaining disciples.]

Jesus: "Soon it will be over. My task will be completed.
Satan will be overcome. Death's power will be defeated."

All: "Praise to God our father, who gives the gift of love.
Lift your hearts toward heaven and worship God above.
Praise to God, our Father. Author of perfect love."

[Jesus and the disciples start getting up from the table during the final stanza ("hymn"), then exit. The stage fades to black as the scene changes to the Garden of Gethsemane.]

Act Two, Scene Three

GETHSEMANE

[Jesus and the disciples enter up-stage during the introduction. All the disciples, except Peter and John, sit together up-stage, left, under a tree. Jesus takes John and Peter with him downstage, left and leaves them there. Jesus then moves to downstage centre alone to pray. The disciples settle down and all go to sleep.]

Jesus: "Dark the night and heavy the load,
Dark the night and heavy the load.
Oh, must I follow the path set before me?
Is there no other way?"

My friends will all disappear,
They'll run away in great fear.
One will deny me,
One will betray me,
When they take me away.

Dark the night and heavy the load,
Dark the night and heavy the load.
Oh, must I follow the path set before me?
Is there no other way?
Is there no other way?"

[Judas and the soldiers begin entering through the audience as Jesus delivers his last line. Jesus sees them and goes to wake first Peter and John, then the rest of the disciples.]

JESUS' ARREST AND TRIALS

Jesus: "Why are you sleeping? You should be praying,
So that you might not fall into temptation.
Quickly get up now, No more delaying.
Evil approaches in full confrontation.
See the betrayer, leading his forces.
See here they come, under cover of darkness.
Now is the hour, Evil rejoices."

Judas: "Greetings, Oh Rabbi."

Jesus: "Judas, how could you?
Using the sign of a friend to betray me.
Am I an outlaw that you should come here
Brandishing swords as your way to repay me?
Who are you seeking?"

Crowd: "Jesus Messiah!"

Jesus: "I am the one that you want, let these others go.
Put down your sword now. Don't try to fight them,
Angels would come to defend me if that were my wish."

[The soldiers drag Jesus away, against the revolve scene change, to the house of Caiaphas. The disciples all run away except Peter who follows at a distance and John who goes to Caiaphas' house by a different route, alone.]

Act Two, Scene Four

False Witnesses: "He said he'd destroy God's holy temple
And then in only three days it would be restored."

Caiaphas: "You've heard the charges. What is your answer?
Tell us all here. Now I charge you before the Lord!
Are you the Christ, God's holy Messiah?"

Jesus: "Yes it is true and I'll soon be with God above."

Caiaphas: "You've heard his blaspheming, what more is required.
Jesus must die! Let us take him to Pilate at once!"

[The soldiers drag Jesus away, again against the revolve scene change, to the Governor's palace. The crowd follows, but remain outside, joined by other onlookers.]

Act Two, Scene Five

Pilate: "I see no reason I should condemn him,
Jesus is innocent. I find no fault in him.
Shall I release your "Jesus - Messiah"?
Or would you rather I gave you Barabbas?"

Crowd: "Give us Barabbas, We want Barabbas!"

Pilate: "What shall I do with the one that you call your king?"

Crowd: "Our king is Caesar! Crucify Jesus!"

Pilate: "You take the blame, I refuse to be part of this thing!"

[Pilate washes his hands in a bowl of water as he sings his final line. The soldiers drag Jesus to another part of the stage, off the revolve, as Pilate's palace revolves off. All except Jesus and the soldiers exit.]

Act Two, Scene Six

SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS

Soldier: So, you're a king?
Behold your kingdom,
And we, your servants bow before your royal throne.
So you're a king?
Behold your sceptre,
Your Royal Highness, let us see just how you moan!

[Centurion strikes Jesus]

So, you're a king?
But you look awful,
Perhaps my friends and I can find you something nice.
So you're a king?
Some say a prophet,
Now tell me Jesus, have I hit you once or twice!

[Centurion strikes Jesus]

So you're a king?
There's something missing
That is required by a man so highly born.
You have your robe
And Royal Sceptre,
But to complete the look, you need a crown of thorns!

[Centurion jams crown of thorns on Jesus' head, pulls Jesus' robe off and throws "sceptre" away. The other soldiers grab Jesus and tie him to a stake and the Centurion begins whipping Jesus, giving thirty-nine lashes.]

[On the final lash, the lights black-out.]

Act Two, Scene Seven

JUDAS REPENTS

[As the introduction is played, the soldiers slowly take Jesus off stage, then the scene changes with the temple (or Caiaphas' house) on one side of the stage. The lights slowly come up, reaching 100% at the point where the music changes to a compound rhythm, when Judas enters obviously very distraught, questioning the Pharisees.]

Judas: "What have I done?
Have I condemned an innocent man to die?
How can I face tomorrow
When I'm living a blatant lie?
How could I ever think
I'd get away with this crime scot-free?
All of my sanity's gone out the window,
What will become of me?"

Caiaphas: "Judas, we have paid you for your help in this affair, *[Condescendingly]*
How you feel about it now, Quite frankly we don't care!
Don't come crawling back to us, it's none of our concern.
Go away and leave us here and don't you dare return!"

[The Pharisees begin exiting while Caiaphas is singing. All are gone by Judas' third line]

Judas: "Take the money
That you paid me! *[Judas throws money at the Pharisees]*
Is there no-one
Who can save me? *[Scene begins changing.]*
I should never
Have betrayed him!
Now I'm lost for eternity and there's nothing anyone can do!"

[Judas delivers last line while exiting. The lights blackout on his final word. On the final chord of music, a shadow of Judas hanging himself is projected onto backdrop. The projection fades with music and the stage is blacked out.]

Act Two, Scene Eight

THE JOURNEY TO GOLGOTHA

[The scene on stage is changed to Golgotha. The lights slowly come up, revealing several people including Several Pharisees and some soldiers. Other soldiers, Jesus, the two thieves, the Pharisees and the rest of the crowd, including a small group of women (Jesus' mother, Mary and Martha) and the disciple John enter through the audience (if possible). The procession needs to reach the stage by the time the soldiers begin gambling for Jesus' cloak. Soldier #1 is at the head of the group, clearing the road. Soldier #2 is behind, or alongside Jesus. Peter is also there, but away from everyone else. Several people take up vantage-points ahead of the procession and are moved on by the soldiers as they arrive.]

Soldier #1: "Out of the way there!" *[Clearing the roadway of people]*
[Jesus collapses under the weight of his cross.]

Soldier #2: "Get on your feet now!" *[To Jesus]*
You there, come help him!" *[Simon of Cyrene is pressed into carrying Jesus' cross for him.]*

Soldier #1: "Move down the street now!" *[Moving the crowd along.]*

Crowd: "Save yourself Jesus, *[Sarcastically to Jesus]*
Then we'll believe you.
Do something special,
Then we'll reprieve you.

Women in the crowd: *[Pleading with the soldiers.]*
"Please let him go, we beseech you,
Why must you take him away?"

Jesus: "Weep for yourselves and tomorrow *[Addressing the women]*
For then all their hate will be worse than today."

[They arrive on stage.]

Soldier #2: "Give us your cloak now *[To Jesus.]*
You'll no longer need it."

Soldier #1: "Let us draw lots to *[To the other soldiers.]*
See who'll receive it."

[A small group of soldiers gamble for Jesus cloak off to one side as the others begin nailing Jesus and the thieves to the crosses. The two thieves' crosses are raised first, during the horn/trombone duet section. Jesus' cross is then slowly raised when the timpani, strings and guitar come in. The lighting is at maximum on Jesus when the cross reaches vertical.]

[Segue into Father Forgive Them-]

Father Forgive Them

Jesus: *[Praying]* Father, forgive them,
They don't know what they're doing.

Person 1:
[Sarcastically to Jesus] "You said you could destroy God's temple
And build it up in just three days.
You said you were the "Great Messiah"
Come down and we will give you praise."

Chorus: *[Part of the crowd]* Come down Jesus now, from the cross,
Then we'll know what you say is true.
Come down Jesus now, from the cross,
Then we all will believe in you.

Pharisee:
[Sarcastically to Jesus] "He trusts his God will be his saviour,
Let's see if God will rescue him.
Come down and then we'll all believe you,
That's if you really are the King."

Chorus: *[The Pharisees join in]*

Thief #1:
[Sarcastically to Jesus] "Aren't you the one they call The Christ?
Come save yourself and save us too.
Come save us can't you be enticed?
Come on you poor misguided Jew."

Chorus: *[All the crowd]*

[As the orchestra repeats the chorus, the crowd continues poking fun at Jesus in a general rabble.]

Thief #2: *[To Thief #1]* "Don't you fear God, my friend?
You've really got some nerve!
This man's done nothing wrong.
We've only got what we deserve.
[Addressing Jesus] Lord, when you come into your kingdom,
And you're seated upon your throne,
Please remember me in kindness,
In your eternal home."

Jesus: *[To Thief #2]* "I tell you the truth,
Today you will be with me in Paradise."

[Lights slowly fade to a very dark general state.]

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I'm Thirsty

[Jesus on the cross. The soldiers beneath are standing guard. The stage is dimly lit with the exception of the area around Jesus' cross.]

Jesus: I'm thirsty, so thirsty!"

[One of the soldiers takes a sponge, dips it in vinegar and raises it to Jesus' lips on a stick. Jesus tastes it but refuses to drink it.]

Jesus: "Father! Father! Why have you left me here?
Father! Father! Why have you left me here?"

Person 1 *[Spoken]:* "He's calling for Elijah!" *[Offers Jesus another drink but he refuses it]*

Person 2 *[Spoken]:* "Wait. Let's see if Elijah comes."

Jesus: "My God! Why have you forsaken me?"

[Lights fade to leave a pin spot on Jesus at about 50%.]

How can it end like this?

[Most of the stage is in darkness, except for a pin-spot on Jesus. Peter is discovered downstage Prompt in another spot (or special). He is confused.]

Peter: "How can it end like this?
I really don't understand.
He was my friend, yet I denied that I knew him.
I only wish I could somehow undo it.
I let him down in his hour of need.
Can I atone for my fatal misdeed?
What can I do?
Where can I fly?
How can I find someone to answer my cry?
Yet he foretold how I'd turn away
Three times before the cock crew today."

[Peter's spot fades to black and he slowly exits. Mary, (Jesus' mother), is found near the foot of Jesus' cross in another spotlight, or special. She is also confused.]

Mary: "How could it end like this?
Is this the way it was planned?
When he was born, the shepherds knelt in the stable.
Men from the east laid their gifts by his cradle.
Joseph and I had high hopes for our son.
Now all our dreams have been cruelly undone.
I felt each nail rip through his hands.
Watching him die is far too much to withstand.
Why has my son been so abused?
I feel so numb and confused."

[The lighting state slowly becomes brighter. John, Jesus disciple, is found nearby in a special.]

Jesus: "John, please take care of my mother.
Mother; take John for a son. *[John moves over to Mary and comforts her.]*
[Looking up] Father, I give you my spirit.
[Confidently] My work on Earth now is done!"

[As Jesus delivers his final line, his light is brought to 100%. As the song finishes, Jesus dies, bowing his head. Jesus spotlight then fades to black. With the stage is in half-light, the onlookers slowly disperse. The soldiers begin taking the thieves down from their crosses. Joseph of Arimathæa arrives with a letter of authority from Pilate. He shows it to the centurion in charge who indicates to several soldiers nearby to assist Joseph in taking Jesus' body down from the cross. They all exit leaving the stage bare.]

Finale

[The stage is completely bare. Slowly people enter from various sides in normal street clothing.]

John: They gently lowered him from the cross,
And laid his body into the tomb.

Add Peter: They rolled a boulder across the door
And left him lying in death's dark womb.

Martha: But God did not leave his Son in the grave

Add Mary: He raised him to life, creation to save.

All Four: He reigns now on high as conquering King
And Heaven rejoices in worshipping Him.

Chorus: Jesus is risen from dead, just as God's words were spoken.
The grave has now lost its sting. Death's power has been broken
Darkness could not overcome God's Light in all its splendour.
Jesus now reigns on high, our saviour and defender.
He descended to the depths and set death's captives free,
Turning God's worst defeat to glorious victory.

Tutti: Worthy is the Lamb of God who is seated on the throne.
Praise and glory evermore to him and him alone.

Group of four:
He reigns now for evermore as our saviour and our king.

Tutti: Hosanna to the Lord!
Let every creature sing!

[Curtain falls as orchestra plays final payout.]