

(As the house lights dim, the CAST enters.)

SCENE ONE

JESUS

My name is known: God and King. I am most in majesty, in whom no beginning may be and no end. Highest in potency I am, and have been ever. I have made stars and planets in their courses to go. I have made a moon for the night and a sun to light the day also. I have made earth where trees and grasses spring, beasts and fowl, both great and small, all thrive and have my liking. I have made all of nothing for Man's sustenance, and of this pleasant garden that I have mostly goodly planted, I will make him Gardener for his own recreation.

(They freeze. Suddenly the sound of a shofar is heard from the back of the theater. JOHN THE BAPTIST enters blowing the shofar, he sings as he slowly makes his way towards the stage.)

PREPARE YE (THE WAY OF THE LORD)

$\text{♩} = 108$ 3 Solemnly-slowly

JOHN THE BAPTIST:

p Pre - pare ye - the

Detailed description: This block contains the first line of musical notation for John the Baptist's song. It is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked as 108 beats per minute. A box with the number '3' and the instruction 'Solemnly-slowly' is placed above the staff. The lyrics 'Pre - pare ye - the' are written below the staff, with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking under the first 'Pre'.

(The OTHERS regard JOHN as he approaches the stage. He carries a plastic bucket with a wet sponge inside it.)

5

way of - the Lord! Pre - pare ye - the

Detailed description: This block contains the second line of musical notation. It starts with a measure rest labeled '5'. The melody continues with the lyrics 'way of - the Lord! Pre - pare ye - the'.

9

way of - the Lord! Pre - pare ye - the

Detailed description: This block contains the third line of musical notation, starting with a measure rest labeled '9'. The melody continues with the lyrics 'way of - the Lord! Pre - pare ye - the'.

13 *cresc.*
 way of the Lord! Pre - pare ye the

17 **18** **Fast**
 way of the Lord! 2

(The CAST erupts into cheers and leaps of joys. The lights become full of color and intensity. It is as if a black-and-white film has suddenly turned into color. During the following, JOHN comes onstage and each CAST MEMBER comes forward in turn to be baptized by JOHN in an individual and amusing way.)

22 **ALL:**
f Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord!

26
 Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord!

30 **GROUP 1:**
 Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord!

GROUP 2:
 Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord!

34 Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord! 1., 2.

Pre - pare ye the way of the Lord!

38 3. rit. Lord! rit. Lord! The Lord!

(As the last note is sung, JOHN turns and begins an impassioned sermon to the audience, not noticing JESUS. JESUS watches JOHN curiously during his sermon.)

JOHN THE BAPTIST

You vipers' brood! Who warned you to escape from the coming retribution? Then prove your repentance by the fruit it bears; and do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father." I tell you that God can make children for Abraham out of these stones here. Already the ax is laid to the roots of the trees; and every tree that fails to produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptize you with water, for repentance sake...

(JESUS picks up the baptismal bucket and looks at it curiously as JOHN continues.)

But he who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not fit to take off his shoes.

(JESUS lifts up one of his shoeless feet and looks at it.)

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

(JOHN turns and sees JESUS standing there, holding out the baptismal bucket. JOHN is surprised to see JESUS.)

(JOHN THE BAPTIST)

Do you come to me?

JESUS

Yeah, I wanna get washed up.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(kneels reverently before JESUS)

I need to be baptized by you.

JESUS

(gently brings JOHN back to his feet)

No, no. Let it be so for the present. We do well now to conform with all that God requires.

(During the following, as JESUS sings, JOHN baptizes him by giving him a light sponge bath. JESUS seems to have the freshness and simplicity of a newborn. Throughout the following the rest of the CAST looks through an old trunk upstage, sorting through various clothes and props.)

SAVE THE PEOPLE

Brightly $\text{♩} = 172$ 9

The musical score is written on three staves in 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a tempo marking of 'Brightly' with a quarter note equal to 172. A rehearsal mark '8' is placed above the first measure, and a boxed '9' is placed above the second measure. The lyrics 'JESUS: When wilt thou save the people?' are written below the first staff. The second staff starts at measure 11 and contains the lyrics 'O God of mercy, when? Not Kings and Lords,'. The third staff starts at measure 14 and contains the lyrics '— but nations, Not thrones and crowns, but men!—'. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some measures containing rests.

p When wilt thou save the peo - ple?

O God of mer-cy, when? Not Kings and Lords,

— but na - tions, Not thrones and crowns, but men!—

18

— Flow'rs of thy heart, — O God, are they:

22

— Let them not pass, — like weeds, a - way, —

26

— Their her - i - tage — a sun-less day. —

31

God save the peo - ple. —

Faster tempo (The music becomes more rhythmic. JESUS calls his followers to him. They each greet him in an individual and distinct way.)

to him. They each greet him in an individual and distinct way.)

4

35

39 JESUS:

When wilt thou save the peo - ple? O God of

42 mer - cy, when? The peo - ple, Lord, — the peo - ple,

45 Not thrones and crowns, but — men! —

49 God save the peo - ple, for thine they are,

52

— Thy chil-dren as— Thy an - gels— fair.—

56

— God save the peo - ple— from de-spair.—

61 (JESUS:)

God save the peo - ple.—

ALL:

O, God— save the peo-ple.

(The CAST has changed their clothes and now wears brightly-colored costumes.)

65

God save the peo - ple!—

rit. (last time)

O, God— save the peo-ple.

Slower ♩ = 132

69

GROUP 1:

When wilt thou save the peo - ple? O, God of

GROUP 2:

When wilt thou save the peo - ple? O, God of

72 (GROUP 1:)

mer-cy, when? The peo-ple, Lord, the peo - ple,

(GROUP 2:)

mer-cy, when? The peo-ple, Lord, the peo - ple,

75 Fast ♩ = 188

Not thrones and crowns, but men!_____

Not thrones and crowns, but men!_____

79 (During the following they establish the set of the show.)

God save the peo - ple, for thine they are,

God save the peo - ple, save us, for thine they

83

Thy chil-dren as Thy an - gels fair._____

are, O, God

86

Save the peo - ple, —

—save the peo-ple, God save the peo-ple,

89

JESUS:

from de-spair. —

God save the peo-

God — save the peo-ple!

93

95

ple! —

God save the peo-

ALL:

O, God — save the peo-ple.

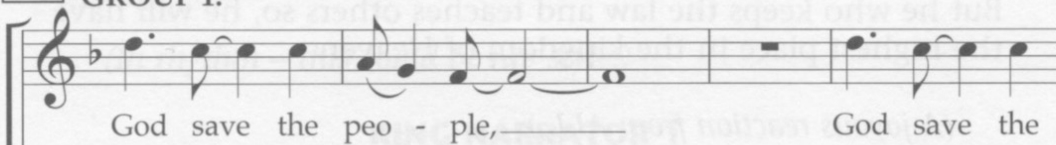
97

ple, —

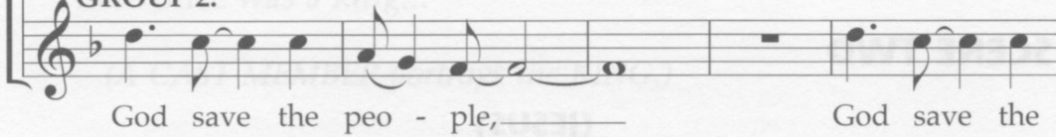
O, God — save the peo - ple, —

102

GROUP 1:



GROUP 2:



107



112



(During the following, JESUS gives the others an insignia to show they are his "apostles": a costume piece, badge, or make-up on their faces, etc.)

JESUS

Now, do not suppose that I have come to abolish the Law and the prophets. I did not come to abolish but to complete. I tell you this: So long as heaven and earth endure not a letter, not a stroke will disappear from the Law until all that must happen has happened. If any man, therefore, sets aside even the least of the Law's demands he will have the lowest place in the kingdom of Heaven.

(A disappointed reaction from ALL.)

(JESUS)

But he who keeps the law and teaches others so, he will have the highest place in the kingdom of Heaven.

(A joyous reaction from ALL.)

SCENE TWO

(JESUS)

There once was a judge...

(JESUS selects a CAST MEMBER to play the JUDGE.)

...Who cared nothing for God nor man... And in the same town there was a widow...

(JESUS now selects another CAST MEMBER to play the WIDOW.)

...who constantly came before him demanding justice against her rival. For a long time he refused, but in the end he said to himself...

JUDGE

"True. I care nothing for God nor man. But this widow is so great a nuisance, I will see her righted before she wears me out with her persistence."

JESUS

You hear what the unjust judge says: And will not God vindicate his chosen, who cry out to him day and night while he sits listening patiently to them?

OTHERS

Will he, Jesus? Will he, will he? *(et al)*

JESUS

I tell you, he will vindicate them, soon enough.

OTHERS

Yay!

(JESUS selects a NARRATOR for the next parable.)