

The Vine and the Branches choral reading

CHARACTERS: Jesus, All

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 15

JESUS: I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes,

ALL: and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.

JESUS: You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you.

ALL: Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine,

JESUS: so neither can you unless you remain in Me.

ALL: Jesus is the vine; we are the branches.

JESUS: The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit,

ALL: because you can do nothing without Jesus.

JESUS: If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers.

ALL: They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

JESUS: If you remain in Me and My words remain in you,

ALL: ask whatever you want and it will be done for you.

JESUS: My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit

ALL: and prove to be Jesus disciples.

JESUS: As the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you.

ALL: Remain in his love.

JESUS: If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love.

ALL: He has spoken these things to you so that his joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

JESUS: This is My command: Love one another as I have loved you.

ALL: No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends.

JESUS: You are My friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you slaves anymore,

ALL: because a slave doesn't know what his master is doing.

JESUS: I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father. You did not choose Me, but I chose you.

ALL: He appointed us to go out and produce fruit and that should remain,

JESUS: so that whatever you ask the Father in My name,

ALL: He will give you.

JESUS: This is what I command you: Love one another.

Persecutions Predicted

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Thomas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 1 minute

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 15

JESUS: If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you.

ALL: If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own.

JESUS: However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it,

ALL: the world hates you.

JESUS: Remember the word I spoke to you:

ALL: A slave is not greater than his master.

JESUS: If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word,

ALL: they will also keep yours.

JESUS: But they will do all these things to you on account of My name,

ALL: because they don't know the One who sent Jesus.

JESUS: If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin

ALL: Now they have no excuse for their sin.

JESUS: The one who hates Me also hates My Father. If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done,

ALL: they would not have sin.

JESUS: Now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father.

ALL: But this happened so that the statement written in their scripture might be fulfilled:

JESUS: They hated Me for no reason.

The Holy Spirit Is Coming

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Thomas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 16

JESUS: When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father

ALL: —the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—

JESUS: He will testify about Me. You also will testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

ALL: Why have you told us these things?

JESUS: To keep you from stumbling. They will ban you from the synagogues.

ALL: In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills us will think he is offering service to God.

JESUS: They will do these things because they haven't known the Father or Me.

ALL: But you have told us these things so that when their time comes we may remember you told us.

JESUS: I didn't tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

ALL: You lived among us

JESUS: But now I am going away to Him who sent Me, and not one of you asks Me,

ALL: Where are You going?

JESUS: Yet, because I have spoken these things to you,

ALL: sorrow has filled our hearts.

JESUS: Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away,

ALL: How?

JESUS: because if I don't go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you.

ALL: What will happen when he comes?

JESUS: When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment:

ALL: About sin, because they do not believe in you;

JESUS: about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me;

ALL: and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

JESUS: I still have many things to tell you,

ALL: but we can't bear them now.

JESUS: When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.

ALL: For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears.

JESUS: He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you.

ALL: Everything the Father has is yours. T

JESUS: This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.

Sorrow Turned to Joy

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Thomas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 16

JESUS: A little while and you will no longer see Me; again a little while and you will see Me.

PETER: *(to other disciples)* What is this He tells us: 'A little while and you will not see Me; again a little while and you will see Me'?

ANDREW: Or because I am going to the Father?

THOMAS: What is this He is saying, 'A little while'?

ANDREW: *(bewildered)* We don't know what He's talking about!

JOHN: Jesus knew they wanted to question Him, so He said to them,

JESUS: Are you asking one another about what I said, 'A little while and you will not see Me; again a little while and you will see Me'?

PETER: Yes.

JESUS: I assure you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice.

ANDREW: Why?

JESUS: You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy.

THOMAS: How?

JESUS: When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering

THOMAS: True, because of the joy that a person has been born into the world.

JESUS: So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will rob you of your joy. In that day you will not ask Me anything.

PETER: What do you mean?

JESUS: I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Until now, you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive,

ALL: so that our joy may be complete.

JESUS: I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father.

ALL: What will happen in that day?

JESUS: You will ask in My name.

PETER: Will you make requests to the Father on our behalf?

JESUS: No, for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God. I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

ANDREW: Ah! Now You're speaking plainly and not using any figurative language.

PETER: Now we know that You know everything and don't need anyone to question You.

THOMAS: By this we believe that You came from God.

JESUS: Do you now believe? Look: An hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave Me alone.

PETER: (*concerned*) No!

JESUS: Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

Jesus Prayer

CHARACTERS: Jesus, John, Peter, Thomas

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 4 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: John 17

JOHN: Jesus looked up to heaven, and said:

JESUS: Father, the hour has come. *Glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You,*

ALL: *For You gave Him authority over all flesh, so He may give eternal life to all You have given Him.*

JESUS: *This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God,*

ALL: *and the One You have sent—Jesus Christ.*

JESUS: *I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with that glory I had with You*

ALL: *before the world existed.*

JESUS: *I have revealed Your name*

ALL: *to the men You gave Me from the world.*

JESUS: *They were Yours; You gave them to Me,*

ALL: *and they have kept Your word.*

JESUS: *Now they know that all things You have given to Me are from You, because the words that You gave Me, I have given them.*

ALL: *They have received them and have known for certain*

JESUS: *that I came from You.*

ALL: *They have believed that You sent Me.*

JESUS: *I pray for them. I am not praying for the world*

ALL: *but for those You have given Me, because they are Yours.*

JESUS: *Everything I have is Yours, and everything You have is Mine, and I have been*

ALL: *glorified in them.*

JESUS: *I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You.*

ALL: *Holy Father, protect them by Your name*

JESUS: *that You have given Me,*

ALL: *so that they may be one as We are one.*

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JESUS: While I was with them, I was protecting them by Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost,

ALL: except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled.

JESUS: Now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world

ALL: so that they may have My joy completed in them.

JESUS: I have given them Your word.

ALL: The world hated them because they are not of the world,

JESUS: as I am not of the world. I am not praying that You take them out of the world

ALL: but that You protect them from the evil one.

JESUS: They are not of the world, as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by the truth;

ALL: Your word is truth.

JESUS: As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. I sanctify Myself for them,

ALL: so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

JESUS: I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message.

ALL: May they all be one,

JESUS: as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us,

ALL: so the world may believe

JESUS: You sent Me. I have given them the glory You have given Me.

ALL: May they be one

JESUS: as We are one. I am in them and You are in Me.

ALL: May they be made completely one,

JESUS: so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

ALL: Father,

JESUS: I desire those You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they will see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the world's foundation.

ALL: Righteous Father! The world has not known You.

JESUS: However, I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me. I made Your name known to them

ALL: and will make it known,

JESUS: so the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them.