

The Final Hours

Choral reading

CHARACTERS: A, B, C, D, Jesus

COSTUMES: Bright, happy clothing covered by black, floor length, hooded cloaks for A, B, C, D and white clothing for Jesus

PROPS: none specified

SETTINGS: none specified

RUN TIME: 5-6 minutes (depending on how quickly reader's pick up their cues)

SCRIPTURES: Matthew Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 19-20, Acts , Romans 1, 6, 8; Ephesians 1, 2 Timothy 2, 1 Peter 1

A: He was sorrowful, deeply distressed and horrified.

B: He was in anguish, praying fervently, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.

A: His soul was swallowed up in sorrow

A & B: to the point of death.

C: The angel strengthened Him

D: Judas betrayed Him

C: Peter denied Him

D: Soldiers arrested Him

C & D: All the disciples deserted Him and ran away

A: The high priest questioned Him

B: The Sanhedrin condemned Him,

A & B: blindfolded Him, spit in His face and beat Him

A: The temple police slapped Him and mocked Him

B: The chief priests and scribes vehemently accused Him.

A: Pilate questioned Him

B: Herod treated Him treated Him contemptuously

A & B: mocked Him, dressed Him in a brilliant robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

C: The crowd cried "Crucify Him"

D: Pilate had Him flogged

C & D: and then washed his hands of Him

D: The governor's soldiers put a crown of thorns on His head,

C & D: mocked Him, spit on Him, slapped and hit Him on the head.

C: Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified.

D: Crowds followed Him.

C: Women mourned and lamented Him

A: They divided His clothes by casting lots

B: Those who passed by insulted Him

A: The women who had followed Him watched from a distance

B: The chief priests, scribes and elders scoffed Him

C: Jesus forgave them and breathed his last. *(A, B, C and D remove black hoods)*

D: One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear

C: The centurion declared Him the son of God

D: Joseph and Nicodemus buried Him.

A: We killed the source of life; but on the third day,

ALL: God raised Him from the dead *(A, B, C and D throw off black cloaks to reveal bright clothing)*

B: God demonstrated His power by raising Him from the dead

ALL: and seating Him at His right hand in the heavens

C: Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead

ALL: and the ruler of the kings of the earth,

D: the one who loves us and has set us free from our sins by His blood

ALL: has been declared the powerful Son of God by the resurrection from the dead

A: Christ, having been raised from the dead, will not die again.

B: Death no longer rules over Him.

C: If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you,

ALL: Then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life

D: He has given us a new birth into a living hope

ALL: through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (*JESUS joins the Readers on stage as they sweep their hands toward Him*)

A: so keep your attention on Him as risen from the dead.