

THE PASSION AND THE PROMISE

A N E A S T E R C A N T A T A

By Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes

Narration by Pamela Stewart

Orchestration by Ed Hogan

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ISBN-10: 1-4706-1990-3
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-1990-9

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FOREWORD

We often focus on the Passion during Holy Week, not speaking of the promise of resurrection until Easter Sunday. By doing so, we can more fully appreciate the magnitude of Lord's suffering. It is also a way of imagining what it was like for the people at the time, who saw the death of Christ as the final chapter. It was not until that first Easter that they remembered His promise: "The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day."

Just as day follows night and hope follows disappointment, other promises are associated with each of the Passion events. This work provides an opportunity to be reminded of those yet-to-be fulfilled promises, which we look to with hope and anticipation. Christ was rejected as King on Good Friday, but He has promised that one day every tongue will confess Him as Lord. And though He last took part in the Feast on Maundy Thursday, He has promised that we will join Him at the wedding feast of the Lamb in the coming kingdom.

In the words of Jesus himself, "You will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. For if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." This is the promise in the passion and suffering of the Lord. It is the hope of our salvation in Him.

Pamela Stewart

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The narration is written for two narrators (one to tell of the Lord's suffering and passion and the other to tell of the promise related to His suffering). Optional incidental character voices and choric speaking are also included. However, the two narrators can speak all of the narration if no incidental character voices or choric speaking is desired.

Depending on your needs, you may use only the "passion" portion of the narration. Some churches may wish to separate the larger work into its components, i.e., the individual days of Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter). In that event, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday contain up to two anthems each.

Feel free to incorporate symbols of the Passion along with the narration (palms fronds, bread, chalice, crown of thorns, robe, hammer/nails, cross, and Christ candle).

If you wish, you may use the following etymology for the words "Passion" and "Promise" in the Order of Worship.

Passion: from the Latin *passio*, meaning "suffering, enduring" and *pati*, meaning "to suffer or endure."

Promise: from the Latin *promissum*, meaning an assurance put forth about the future, of some act to be done.

Prior to the speaking of each "Passion" and "Promise," there is a handbell chime. This will accentuate the poignancy of each and add a dramatic element to the presentation.

[Handbell]

NARRATOR 2: Hear of the Lord's passion:

NARRATOR 1: It was the Sunday before Passover, and the people had heard that Jesus was in Jerusalem. Gathering palm branches, they ran out to meet Him, waving the palms in the air and praising Him.

CHOIR: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!"

NARRATOR 1: As He approached Jerusalem and saw the city, Jesus wept over it and said,

JESUS: "O Jerusalem, how often I have longed to gather your children together, but you were not willing. If you had only known on this day what would bring you peace, but you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

NARRATOR 1: For He knew that in a matter of days, this same crowd would rise against Him with cries of "Crucify!"

[Handbell]

NARRATOR 1: Hear of the Lord's promise:

NARRATOR 2: "In the last days, you will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory. And He will send His angels and gather His children from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens."

HOSANNA TO THE KING

(opt. Congregational Anthem)*

Words and Music by
LLOYD LARSON (ASCAP)
Incorporating
"All Glory, Laud and Honor"

1 Joyously (♩ = ca. 76) UNISON CHILDREN'S CHOIR (and/or SA or SATB voices) *mf*

CHOIR

ACCOMP.

mf

5

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na to the

8

King. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -

* Reproducible part for congregation is on page 53.

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11 13

san - na to the King. Ho - san - na, ho -

14

san - na, ho - san - na to the King. Ho -

17

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na to the

20 21

King. Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the