

Scattered Sheep, Loving Shepherd

Easter Musical Script

“For ye were as sheep going astray;
but are now returned unto the Shepherd
and Bishop of your souls.”

I Peter 2:2

Script by Dave Therit

For Catawba Springs Christian Church

Song List

Amazing Grace and Love – Hurley (Hope Publishing Co.)

Hosanna in the Highest – Tuttle/Raney (Hope Publishing Co.)

I Stand Amazed – Sharp (Shawnee Press)

On Resurrection Morn – Raney/McGuire (Hope Publishing Co.)

Coming Home – MacDonald (Hope Publishing Co.)

“Yes” Resounds – Schwoebel (Brookfield Press)

Thy Will Be Done – Elliot/Lynch (The WILDS)

For Such a Worm as I – Lynch (The WILDS)

Tender Shepherd, Lead Me – Shevy (The WILDS)

Look Away to the Skies – Raney (Shawnee Press)

Cast List

Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Peter, John, Mary, Jailer

Scattered Sheep, Loving Shepherd

Choir - Amazing Grace and Love - Hope Publishing Co.

Narrator 1

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "TELL THE DAUGHTER OF ZION, 'BEHOLD, YOUR KING IS COMING TO YOU, LOWLY, AND SITTING ON A DONKEY, A COLT, THE FOAL OF A DONKEY.'" "

Narrator 2

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!" And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved" From the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 21

Choir - Hosanna in the Highest - Hope Publishing Co.

Narrator 1

What a glorious day when the meek and lowly Jesus made his triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. The multitudes sang out their Hosannas' as he neared its gates, and the children sang praises in the Temple.

Narrator 2

But not everyone was pleased with the celebration, for as Jesus entered the city, the Pharisees called out to him that he should rebuke his disciples for inciting the crowds! But the disciples and multitudes could no more be silent than could the stones from within the city walls, for Jesus responded that if they held their peace the stones would immediately cry out!

Narrator 1

Starting at that point - early, on the first day of Passover week - circumstances in Jerusalem quickly changed for the worse. For by the end of the week, Jesus, the Messiah and King, was dead - crucified on a cross! And though he had told his disciples of these things before they ever happened, their eyes and ears and hearts could neither see, nor hear, nor understand the truth that he had taught them.

Narrator 2

And so, even as warm Spring breezes stirred among flowers along the hillsides of Jerusalem, frigid winds of doubt and despair swept over the souls of his followers. Their hopes, just a few days' past, had never been higher or more promising. But now, with the death of Jesus, the embers of faith and hope, that had so warmed their hearts, were now all but extinguished and cold.

John

Peter, are you alright?

Peter

What do you mean by alright, John? How could a man like me ever be alright again?

John

Peter, you've got to stop putting all the blame on yourself. We all deserted Jesus when he was arrested. All we could think of was saving our own skin. Isn't that the same as denying him?

Peter

But, John, I told him that I would die with him before I would deny him!

John

But we all said that, Peter, right after you said it. Are we any less guilty than you?

Peter

But I withstood him to the face, John, right after he told me that I would deny him three times. I was so sure of myself... so sure of myself that I withstood him to the face! And then, just as he said it would, it happened... John, I denied him three times with these lips! (w/fingers to his lips he shakes his head and pauses)

None of the rest of you did that. ... How can God ever forgive me? Three times! (puts his fingers to his lips again in shame)

Choir - I Stand Amazed - Shawnee Press

John

Peter, do you hear that? It's a woman's voice.

Peter

Yes. Yes, I do. It sounds like Mary. Mary Magdalene!

John

What could she want so early? I thought she and the other women were going to the tomb this morning.

Peter

They must have run into some problems with the guards or something. Well, if she's come to us for help we won't be much good to them. Those soldiers would probably like to have a good whack at my head, just like the one I gave to the servant of the High Priest in Gethsemane.

John

I'll let her in and see what she wants.

Peter

As if I don't already have enough problems of my own! (Peter sighs and talks to himself as he shakes his head.)

(John stands in the background as Mary comes to the podium)

Mary

Peter! They've taken the body of Jesus and we don't know where they've laid him! Peter! What are we going to do?

Peter

They? Who are they?

Mary

Oh Peter, I don't know! (Mary puts her hands to her face to hide her sobs.)

Peter

Mary, are you sure? Oh, never mind. John! We must go to the tomb! We'll probably be arrested; but, so be it!

Narrator 1

"So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself."

Narrator 2

“Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again to their own home.” From the Gospel of John, Chapter 20

(Readers need to transition from a reading to a conversational style.)

Narrator 1

After Peter and John went away from the tomb, Mary Magdalene returned. It was then that the Lord began to reveal himself to his followers. He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, then to the women who had come to the tomb early with Mary, then to Peter, and then to two men on the road to Emmaus, and finally to his disciples and to others who were with them as they cowered together behind closed doors for fear of the Jews.

Narrator 2

One by one their understanding of the Scriptures was opened, and the scales of blindness began to fall from their eyes. Hearts nearly frozen by doubt were once again warmed by faith and hope as they came face to face with the risen Lord.

Narrator 1

The rekindling of hearts was probably best described by the two men that Jesus had met on the road to Emmaus, when they said one to another, “Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?”

Narrator 2

How wonderful the joy that floods the heart when hope is restored!

Choir - On Resurrection Morn - Hope Publishing Co.

Narrator 1

Jesus' Resurrection brought to his followers a new beginning filled with hope and joy. The great work of redemption was finished - once and for all! But his earthly ministry to those who had been closest to him was not over.

Narrator 2

On the night before his crucifixion, the night of his betrayal, Jesus told his disciples that they would all stumble because of him when he said, "It is written: 'I WILL STRIKE THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK WILL BE SCATTERED.' But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee."

Narrator 1

How deliberately, and how specifically Jesus spoke to his disciples when he told them that he would be going before them into Galilee - going before his flock that was scattered. His forty-day sojourn on earth following his Resurrection would not be complete until he fulfilled his mission in Galilee. His mission to gather and restore his scattered sheep.

Narrator 2

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, came to die for his sheep. Before he ever came into the world, his sheep were on his heart. And when he prayed in the garden, his sheep were on his heart. And when he died on the cross, his sheep were still on his heart. And because his sheep are always on his heart, he knows their needs. And the greatest need of a scattered flock is to be gathered back into the arms of their loving shepherd.

Peter

John, I think it's time we leave Jerusalem and go back to Galilee. When Jesus told us of his plan to go there, it was with the expectation that we would follow.

John

Yes. It is time, Peter. It's important that we meet him there. He not only told us of his plan before he died, but after his Resurrection he was careful to instruct the women to remind us of it. Jailer

Peter

We'll leave in the morning then.... You know, John. I'm looking forward to going back home, and yet I'm hesitant. When we see Jesus this time I sense that it will be different than when we first saw him after his resurrection. John, I don't know what to say to him! My flesh would have me flee. But my heart draws me to Galilee. Back to where I first met him. Back to where he first called me. Back to Jesus. But what do I say to him?

John

Peter. You're drawn to him, as you should be, because he's your shepherd. Could it be that you're unsure of what to say to him because you don't trust yourself anymore?

Peter

John. I'm not even sure if I'm still fit to be his disciple.

John

But Peter, he cares for you. Don't you remember in the upper room, when he said that he prayed for you? And remember how the women said that the angel at the tomb told them that they should tell the disciples, and Peter, that he was going before us into Galilee?

Peter

I do remember, John. But, it's true what you say. I don't trust myself anymore. Nor should I. My flesh is too weak. I just need to get back home, John - I need to get back to the Lord.

John

We all do. Back to the shepherd whose sheep are always on his heart. Let's go tell the others.

Choir - Coming Home - Hope Publishing Co.

Peter

John, look! The Sea of Galilee! Just like we left her. So many memories. So many wonderful memories!

John

Yes. I still remember the day we left our nets to follow Jesus.

Peter

Oh, how could we ever forget that. Jesus had entered my boat and asked me to push out from the land so that he could teach the people who were on the shore. And when he was done he told me to launch out into the deep and let down the net.

John

Yes. I can still hear your voice when you told him that we had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. And then with a sigh you said, 'Nevertheless, at your word I will let down the net.'

Peter

I had never seen such a large catch before! You and James had to help with your boat just to haul it to shore. It was truly a miracle - I was astonished! I could only fall at his feet and confess my sinfulness to the Lord of Creation.

John

I think we were all astonished. But how kind he was. He told you not to be afraid, and that from then on you would catch men.

Peter

Oh, if only I could turn back the shadows of time and go back.
There is so much I've done wrong I wish I could do over again.

John

It would be nice if we could do that, Peter. But it's not for us
to do. The Lord knows our frailties. And he knows how to forgive
us and fix us. He knows us better than we know ourselves.

Peter

I know, John. He knows all things. He knows that my pride is my
greatest weakness - my greatest sin! How many times I've said,
'not so, Lord'. Oh, that I would learn to humbly say, 'yes, Lord,
I will follow you'.

Choir - "Yes" Resounds - Brookfield Press

John

Peter, sometimes it's hard to say yes. Our flesh wants its own
way. But the Lord can help us. And speaking of the Lord, now that
we're here in Galilee, how are we going to find him?

Peter

John, I don't think we'll find him until he's ready for us to
find him. I think he'll find us first. Since his Resurrection, no
one has found him except those to whom he's revealed himself.

John

Yes, of course. That makes sense. The shepherd finds the
scattered sheep, and not the sheep their shepherd.

Peter

That's pretty good shepherd talk for a fisherman, John.

John

(With a chuckle) Yes, I suppose it is. But we had a good teacher - the best teacher! How I miss him. (Remains standing until just before Peter prays.)

Peter

I miss him too. But he'll appear to us in his own time. It will give us time to be alone with God and prepare our hearts for him. Especially mine. I'm afraid this fisherman has been adrift ever since I denied him.

(Kneeling) Father. Your Son prayed three times in Gethsemane that the cup of his suffering might pass from him; and three times he prayed, 'nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done.' While he watched and prayed in deepest agony, I slept. And while he resigned his own will to do your will, that he might die for the sins of the world, I slept. Father, three times I failed to watch and pray with your Son in the garden as he had requested of me; and then, three times I denied him. Father, forgive me, and restore to me the joy of my salvation. And please, Father, restore me to a place of service. Whether you lead me through rough waters or still, in life or in death, I ask only that your will would be done in me, for the sake of your dear Son. Amen.
(Can be pre-recorded)

Choir - Thy Will Be Done - Elliot/Lynch

Jailer

Peter, I've come to ask you a question. (speaking brusquely)

Peter

Yes. What is it?

Jailer

The man who visited you yesterday. Who was he?

Peter

A friend of mine. Why do you ask?

Jailer

You gave him some parchments. Who gave you permission to do that?

Peter

Sir, there was nothing written on the parchments that should cause you, a Roman Jailer, or your government any concern.

Jailer

I read the parchments. (speaking in a matter-of-fact voice)

Peter

And do you disagree with anything I've just told you?

Jailer

You wrote of an everlasting kingdom that you said belonged to one called the Lord Jesus Christ. Shouldn't that be of concern to Rome?

Peter

Sir, his kingdom is not of this world but of the world to come. We don't teach rebellion against Rome, but good citizenship and subjection to the authority over us. Now would you please tell me what you did with the man, and with the parchments he was carrying?

Jailer

The man you refer to has a name, I think. To answer your question: I gave them back to Mark after I read them, and sent him on his way.

Peter

Oh, thank the Lord, and thank you, sir, for sparing Mark and the parchments. (Pause) Sir, I sense that there's something you want to talk to me about.

Jailer

Yes. Yes, there's something I want to know. And my name is Jason.

Peter

What is it you want to know, Jason?

Jailer

How did you know?

Peter

How did I know what?

Jailer

How did you know that the end is near?

Peter

I'm not sure I understand.

Jailer

You told the people you had written to that you must shortly put off your tent, your body, just as your Lord Jesus Christ showed you.

Peter

Yes. Yes, I did.

Jailer

When did this Lord of yours, this Jesus, tell you this, and how did he know?

Peter

It was well over thirty years ago when he told me, Jason. He knows everything about me, and about you. Now, could I ask you a question?

Jailer

Yes, go ahead.

Peter

How do you know that the end for me is near?

Jailer

Because you're going to be moved from your cell to a maximum-security area very soon.

Peter

A maximum-security area? I assume you mean the dungeon, to await execution.

Jailer

I've already said too much. My superiors wouldn't understand and I could get in trouble for what I've told you.

Peter

And why have you told me these things? It's clear that you haven't done it to taunt me. And if you had wanted to, you could have destroyed the parchments, which contained a letter to my brethren in Asia Minor.

Jailer

Yes. I could have.

Peter

I thank you for your kindness. But, my friend, I sense that you have a burden on your heart.

Jailer

In your letter you spoke of a day of judgment that's coming; and of an everlasting kingdom that belongs to the one you call your Savior. Would you please tell me about this one you call the Lord Jesus Christ that I might know him too?

Peter

Oh, Jason. Nothing would please me more than to tell you about Jesus!

Choir - For Such a Worm as I - Lynch

Jailer

Thank you, Peter. Thank you for telling me the story of Jesus. What a wonderful Savior you have. But I've done so many terrible things, and as you said, he knows everything about me. I just don't see how he could forgive me for the things I've done.

Peter

Jason. I'm going to ask you a question that might seem odd at first, but I have my reasons for asking it. Have you ever denied your Emperor?

Jailer

You mean, denied that he was my emperor? Or refused to obey him? - of course not! That would be high treason, worthy of death!

Peter

Yes, Jason, it would be. But you're looking at a man who denied Christ three times on the night he was arrested. When morning came, he was crucified.

Jailer

Are you saying that you were not willing to die for such a good man?

Peter

I thought I could, but I was a coward, and I denied him.

Jailer

Peter. If I had not read your letter in which you spoke so stoically of your death, and of your devotion to your master, and had not seen your resolve to die like a man when you learned of the dungeon, I would spit in your face! And if that's all I did to you, you would be a fortunate man!

Peter

And I would deserve every bit of it. But Jesus forgave me, Jason. And despite my cowardice he gave to me the high privilege of serving him.

Jailer

That is highly irregular (shaking his head), that a master would forgive a man of doing such, and then give him - a man so unworthy - a position of responsibility. This is hard to comprehend... And, when he commissioned you to serve him, is that when he told you how you would die?

Peter

Jason, perhaps I should tell you just how I was commissioned, as you say. I think it would give you a fuller appreciation of the master that I serve. Maybe then you'll be able to see that he'll forgive your sins too.

Jailer

I would like that, Peter. Your Jesus is unlike anyone I've ever heard of. You knew him throughout his ministry, and yet you still speak so highly of him. How could he be so genuine?

Peter

He was the Son of God, Jason. What more can I say? But I will continue. On the night before his death he told us that we would all be offended at him and would be scattered like sheep.

Of course, I was so sure that I would be the exception... I was so sure that I wouldn't fail him, that I told him so. Then he told me that I would deny him three times. I was insulted. I was offended that he thought so little of my devotion to him, so I shot back at him that I would die before I would deny him!

Jailer

But he was right. You did deny him, and not just one time but three. What manner of man was he that he could have predicted that?

Peter

Jason, as I said before, He's the Son of God. And he knew everything about me! The most marvelous thing is that he still loved me, and the others as well. For that reason, he told us that he would go before us into Galilee following his Resurrection, to meet us there, because he wanted to minister to his scattered flock.

Jailer

And he met you there?

Peter

He did. But we didn't see him right away when we got there. So, seven of us decided to go fishing on the sea of Galilee. Not simply to pass the time away, but because we needed to support ourselves and our families. The truth is, Jason, we were suddenly unemployed, and needed to earn money, and needed to eat. But we fished all night and caught nothing. That's when Jesus appeared on the shore and told us to cast the net on the other side. The result was that we caught 153 large fish, a record-breaking catch!

Jailer

How could he have done that? Oh, yes, of course. As you have already reminded me, he's the Son of God. I'm sorry to interrupt you, Peter... please, continue!

Peter

Yes, Jason. He is the Son of God, indeed. Now, just as at the beginning of his ministry, when Jesus performed a similar miracle after we had fished all night, he showed yet again that he was the Lord of Creation, and showed that he cared for us and for our needs. He even prepared breakfast for us on the shore of the sea. And how famished we were after toiling all night! It was a day that I will never forget!

Narrator 1

“So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me more than these?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Feed My lambs.’

He said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?’ He said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord; You know that I love You.’ He said to him, ‘Tend My sheep.’

He said to him the third time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?’ Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, ‘Do you love Me?’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed My sheep.’

Narrator 2

Then Jesus said to Peter, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish.’

This He spoke, signifying by what death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, ‘Follow Me.’

Peter, seeing John, said to Jesus, ‘But Lord, what about this man?’

Jesus said to him, ‘If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.’” From the Gospel of John, Chapter 21

Choir - Tender Shepherd, The Wilds

Jailer

So after denying him, he told you to follow him? It's proof he forgave you!

Peter

Yes, Jason. He forgave me even when I couldn't forgive myself. And, I must admit, my flesh struggled when he spoke of the way I would die. He had to tell me twice to follow him! But I did follow, and I have been following him ever since - for over thirty years now. Instead of plying the sea of Galilee for fish, my sea has been the world. I now fish for men, to make disciples of them for the Lord.

Jailer

Yes, of course! I see it now, Peter. He has made even this prison your sea! Peter, I've never met or heard of anyone that I would rather follow than the Lord Jesus Christ. What a loving shepherd! One who not only will forgive my sins, but one who has sought me out, even in this place, because he wants to forgive my sins. I now believe on him as my Lord and Savior!

Peter

Jason, I perceive that God has opened your eyes to the truth!

Jailer

Yes, Peter. He has caught me in his net! What a wonderful Savior!

Peter

You will never regret this day, Jason. Even if he should lead you through dark dungeons, like me, it is but the gateway to his eternal kingdom. A kingdom that will never pass away!

Choir - Look Away to the Skies - Shawnee Press