

## 1. **Sinfony**

2. **Tenor Recitative.** Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:1-3)

3. **Tenor Aria.** Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry mountain and hill made low, the crooked straight, and the rough places plain. (Isaiah 40:4)

4. **Chorus.** And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. (Isaiah 40:5)

5. **Bass Recitative.** Thus saith the Lord of hosts: Yet once a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, the sea and the dry land, and I will shake all nations; and the desire of all nations shall come. (Haggai 2:7) The Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple; even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in, behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. (Malachi 3:1)

6. **Alto Aria.** But who may abide the day of his coming, and who shall stand when he appeareth? For he is like a refiner's fire. (Malachi 3:2)

7. **Chorus.** And he shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. (Malachi 3:3)

8. **Alto Recitative.** Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel, "God with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

9. **Alto Aria and Chorus.** O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! (Isaiah 40:9) Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. (Isaiah 40:1)

10. **Bass Recitative.** For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising. (Isaiah 40:2)

11. **Bass Aria.** The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

12. **Chorus.** For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

## 13. **Pifa (Pastoral Symphony)**

14. **Soprano Recitative.** There were shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. (Luke 2:8-9)

15. **Soprano Recitative.** And the angel said unto them: Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10-11)

16. **Soprano Recitative.** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying: (Luke 2:13)

17. **Chorus.** Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will towards men. (Luke 2:14)

18. **Soprano Air.** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, they King cometh unto thee. He is the righteous Savior and he shall speak peace unto the heathen. (Zechariah 9:9-10)

19. **Alto Recitative.** Then shall the eyes of the blind be open'd, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing. (Isaiah 35:5-6)

20. **Alto and Soprano Aria.** He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: and he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. (Isaiah 40:11) Come unto Him, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you, and learn of Him, for He is meek and lowly of heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)

21. **Chorus.** His yoke is easy, and his burden is light. (Matthew 11:30)

## **Part Two**

22. **Chorus.** Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

23. **Alto Aria.** He was despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. (Isaiah 53:3) He gave his back to the smiters, and his cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: He hid not his face from shame and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6)

24. **Chorus.** Surely He hath borne our briefs, and carried our sorrows. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

25. **Chorus.** And with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

26. **Chorus.** All we, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way, and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

27. **Tenor (or Soprano) Recitative.** All they that see him laugh him to scorn; they shoot out their lips, and shake their heads, saying: (Psalm 22:7)

28. **Chorus.** He trusted in God that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, if He delight in Him. (Psalm 22:8)
29. **Tenor (or Soprano) Recitative.** Thy rebuke hath broken His heart; He is full of heaviness; He looked for some to have pity on Him, but there was no man; neither found He any to comfort Him. (Psalm 59:20)
30. **Tenor (or Soprano) Aria.** Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto His sorrow! (Lamentations 59:20)
31. **Tenor (or Soprano) Recitative.** He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of thy people was he stricken. (Isaiah 53:8)
32. **Tenor (or Soprano) Aria.** But Thou didst not leave His soul in hell; nor didst Thou suffer Thy Holy One to see corruption. (Psalm 16:10)
33. **Chorus.** Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. (Psalm 24: 7-9)
34. **Tenor Recitative.** Unto which of the angels said He at any time, Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee? (Hebrews 1:5)
35. **Chorus.** Let all the angels of God worship Him. (Hebrews 1:6)
36. **Alto Aria.** Thou art gone up on high, Thou hast led captivity captive: and received gifts for men; yea, even for thine enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them. (Psalm 68:18)
37. **Chorus.** The Lord gave the word; great was the company of the preachers. (Psalm 68:1)
38. **Soprano Aria.** How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things. (Romans 10:15)
39. **Chorus.** Their sound is gone out unto all lands, and their words unto the ends of the world. (Romans 10:18)
40. **Bass Aria.** Why do the nations so furiously rage together? Why do the people imagine a vain thing? The Kings of the earth rise up, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and His Anointed. (Psalm 2:1-2)
41. **Chorus.** Let us break their bonds asunder, and cast away their yokes from us. (Psalm 2:3)
42. **Tenor Recitative.** He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn: the Lord shall have them in derision. (Psalm 2:4)

43. **Tenor Aria.** Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. (Psalm 2:9)

44. **Chorus.** Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. (Revelation 19:6) The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. (Revelation 11:15)

### **Part Three**

45. **Soprano Aria.** I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God. (Job 19:26) For now is Christ risen from the dead the first fruits of them that sleep. (I Corinthians 15:20)

46. **Chorus.** Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (I Corinthians 15:21-22)

47. **Bass Recitative.** Behold I tell you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trumpet. (I Corinthians 15:51-52)

48. **Bass Aria.** The trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. (I Corinthians 15:52-53)

49. **Alto Recitative.** Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. (I Corinthians 15:54)

50. **Alto and Tenor Duet.** O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. (I Corinthians 15:55-56)

51. **Chorus.** But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 15:57)

52. **Soprano Aria.** If God is for us who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he, that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who make intercession for us. (Romans 8:34)

53. **Chorus.** Worthy is the Lamb that was slain (Revelation 5:12) and hath redeemed us to God by his blood, (Revelation 5:9) to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength and honor, and glory, and blessing. Blessing and honor glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 5:12-14).

## **Part One: Prophecy and Promise of the Redeemer**

### *Scene One: God's Comforting Promise*

Comfort my people, and tell them they have suffered long enough and their sins are now forgiven. A voice cries out: "Prepare a processional road through the desert for the appearance of God Himself! Fill up the valleys, level the mountains and hills, straighten out the crooked roads and make the rough country smooth for Him. Then the glory of the Lord will be visible to all mankind. God has told us this!"

### *Scene Two: The Purifying Messiah is Prophesied*

God says: "Before long I will once more shake the heavens and earth, the sea and all the land, and overthrow all nations. And the one they desire shall come to all nations. The Lord you are waiting for will suddenly return to the temple. The prophesied Messenger with the new promise, whom you desire, will come." But who will be able to survive and face Him when He comes? Because He will be like the refinery fires that burn the impurities from the ore to make precious metals! And He will purify the priests (the descendants of the tribe of Levi) so they will once again do their work for God with pure hearts and will give him pure and holy sacrifices and the right kind of offerings.

### *Scene Three: God's Glory Comes through a Virgin*

We know it was God who was born because He had given us a sign which was now fulfilled: "A virgin shall have a baby boy and call him "GOD IS WITH US." To share this good news the prophet cries out: "Zion, bringer of good tidings, go up on a high mountain and proclaim the good news. Speak out strongly and don't be afraid. Tell the towns of the region of Judah that their God is coming ! Tell them: Look, your God is here! Arise and shine, for the Savior you have awaited—your light—is here! The glory of the Lord has come to shine on you!"

### *Scene Four: From Darkness Comes the Light of the World*

Look how darkness covers the planet and the people on it. But the Lord will arise and shine his glory upon you. And the Gentiles will also see the light of the Savior, and kings will come to this bright light when he rises. The people that previously walked in darkness have now seen a great light, and those who have been living in the shadow of death have the light too! Yes, a Child, a Son has been given to us! And He will be our ruler. And we will call him wonderful Counselor, the powerful God, the eternal Father of His people from old, and the Prince of peaceful prosperity.

### *Scene Five: The Christmas Story*

The Pastoral Symphony reminds us of the shepherd king, David, the ancestor of Jesus, and of the Good Shepherd himself. It sets the stage for the wonderful message that was told in a pasture to those lucky "pastors" (which is Latin for "shepherds") 2,000 years ago. They were spending the night in the fields near Bethlehem, taking care of their flock of sheep. And a radiant angel of the Lord appeared to them and they saw the glory of the Lord shine right down on them, which made them certain the message they would receive was from God. Naturally they were terror stricken. But the angel said "Be calm and don't be afraid, because

I have good news for everybody everywhere. This very day, here in King David's own town, your rescuer is born—Christ the Lord.”

All at once, gathered around the angel, was a large crowd of other angels who were singing together in praise to God like this: “Glory to God in the highest heaven” and “peace to those on whom His favor rests and with whom He is well pleased.”

### *Scene Six: Christ, the Shepherd-King's Ministry on Earth*

This good news reminds us of the word of the prophet Zechariah: “Rejoice greatly and sing to all the people of Zion. Behold your king is coming to you! He will carry us in his arms, close to His heart and will treat the mothers with special gentleness. And He will say to us: ‘Come unto me all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and you that work so hard and I will give you relief. You can find rest with me. I invite you to be my students—that is be my disciples. Bend your necks to my yoke and put it on and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in spirit and through me you will find the rest which your souls seek. For the yoke I will give you is easy and the load I will put on you is lightweight compared with the load of sin you have been carrying.’”

## **Part Two: The Suffering Lamb Who Redeems**

### *Scene One: The Sacrificial Lamb Heals His Wayward Flock*

Look at this Lamb of God who came to take away the sin of the world! As Isaiah predicted, we despised Him and rejected Him so that He withdrew from people. He endured suffering and pain and was very familiar with agony and grief. He exposed his back to those who beat and whipped him. And He didn't stop them when they pulled out the hairs of his beard; nor did He hide His face in shame. This makes us realize that He endured the suffering that should have been ours, and the pain we should have borne. He was pierced through for our sins and the punishment He experienced brought peace to us. The wounds (stripes) He got from being whipped, healed us. But we are like lost sheep, wandering and straying about aimlessly. We left God's path to follow our own, and yet God laid on Him the guilt and sins of everyone of us!

### *Scene Two: The Abandoned Messiah Suffers Scorn*

The crowd of tormentors at the cross cried out in derision “He trusted in God that He would deliver Him: Let Him save Him if He is pleased with Him.” This rebuke broke His heart and filled Him with despair. He hoped for pity, but found none. No one comforted Him. Was there ever sorrow like His? For He was cut off from the land of the living and stricken because of the sins of the people.

### *Scene Three: Christ's Resurrection and Ascension*

But God did not leave his soul in hell, nor allow His Holy One to rot in the grave. He ascended to heaven where the angels cried out to the gates of heaven that they must raise their lintels (heads) to admit this King of Glory, the Lord of hosts. Christ is greater than the angels, who worship Him. He has gone up on high and taken with Him the captives He has defeated; Satan, sin and death are now in His power.

*Scene Four: Spreading the Gospel*

There was a great company of evangelists (preachers) who spread to all the world the good news that mankind has been liberated from the power of death. They travelled on foot in their journeys, bringing the message of peace, and their feet were beautiful. Their message (sound) was spread all over the known world.

*Scene Five: The Heathen Rebel Against God's Gospel*

But mankind rejected the act of redemption by open revolt. Why do the nations conspire to rebel with such turmoil? Why do the people devise empty schemes? The kings of the earth rise in revolt against the Lord and His Anointed One. But we will break their fetters of restraint asunder and throw off (“cast away”) their chains of control from us. God will dash them into little pieces like a clay pot is smashed by an iron scepter. Because the conflict between God and man was resolved, we can sing Hallelujah (*Praise to Yah*—one of God’s names). Though God was chastised, rebuked, and cut off, in the end He is still the Lord God omnipotent, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords who shall reign forever.

**Part Three: Thanksgiving for the Defeat of Death***Prologue: The Redeemer Lives*

I know that my Redeemer and Vindicator is alive and that He will rise at last to speak for me in court in the end. And after I wake—even though this body is gone and my skin is destroyed—I will see Him with my own eyes. Christ was raised to life and given in sacrifice for us. In the same way that the first fruits of the harvest were given to God in the temple, Christ has become the first fruits of sacrifice for all of us, since we will all be harvested in the end.

*Scene One: The Expectation of Our Own Resurrection*

Just as death came because of a man (Adam), so a man, who was called Jesus Christ, brought us resurrection from the dead. If we live in the world of sin, we will die. But if we live in Christ, we will live forever with Him. Here is a secret about death. We aren’t going to be “asleep” (that is to say, dead) forever. No, when we hear the last trumpet calling us to judgement at Christ’s second coming, we will, in a flash, be changed. And all the dead who have let Christ live in them will arise in imperishable, immortal form—no longer capable of being corrupted, for they will be in their resurrection bodies.

*Scene Two: Celebration for the Victory Over Death*

Then what Isaiah predicted will have happened: death will be swallowed up in victory! So we give thanks to God who gives us this victory through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*Scene Three: The Final Judgement by the Lamb*

If God is for us, who can be against us? No one! God pronounces our acquittal, so who can condemn us? No one! When we are at our final trial, God will be the judge and He has already declared us to be not guilty. Our witness, who stands at his right hand, is Christ, who died and is risen again. The only one worthy to open the book sealed with seven seals is Christ, the Lamb that was slain. Then a thousand times ten thousand voices proclaim that He

is worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing. They offer to the Lamb that sits on the throne at the second coming, praise forever and ever. And finally they sing praise to Christ, the faithful and true witness, whom they call Amen.