

The Passion of Yeshua

Libretto adapted and assembled from sacred texts by Richard Danielpour
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CD 1: Part One

[1] Scene I: Prologue

CHORUS:

Mi he'emin lishmuatenu
Uzroa ADONAI al-mi niglata
Vaya'al cayonec lefanav, vechashoresh
Me' eretz tzi'ya-lo toar lo velo Hadar:
Venir'ehu velo-mar'e venechmedehu

Nivze vachadal ishim ish machovot

Vi'ydua choli uche'master panim mimenu,

Nivze velo chashavnuhu
Achen chola'yenu hu nasa umachove'inu se'valam
Va' anachnu chashavnuhu nagu'a
Muke Elohim um'une
Ve'hu mecholal mipsha'enu
Meduka me'avonote'inu, musar shlomenu alav

Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
And like a root out of dry ground
He had no comeliness or form that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men
A man of sorrows
And acquainted with grief, and as one from whom men
hide their faces
He was despised and we esteemed him not.
Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows
Yet we esteemed him stricken Smitten by God and afflicted
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities
Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,
And with his stripes we are healed.

Uvachavurato nirpa-lanu

[Isaiah 53:1-5]

[2] Scene II: Pesach

NARRATOR: Now before the Feast of Pesach when Yeshua knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. And when the hour came, he sat at the table, and the talmidim with him. And he said to them:

YESHUA: I have earnestly desired to eat this Seder with you before I suffer; for I tell you I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God.

NARRATOR: Then taking a cup of wine, he made the b'rakhah and said:

YESHUA: Take this and share it among yourselves; this cup, which is poured out for you, is the new covenant in my blood.

NARRATOR: And he took bread, made the b'rakhah, broke it, and gave it to them saying:

YESHUA: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

CHORUS [Chorale]:

Hineh mah tov
Umah na'im
Shevet akhim
Gam yachad

Behold how good
And pleasant it is
For brothers to live
Together in harmony

[Psalm 133:1]

[3] Scene III: Ritual/Duet

DUET:

SOPRANO: Mah Nishtanah ha laylah hazeh mikol ha-leylot?

Why is this night different from all other nights?

MEZZO: She b'khol ha- leylot 'anu-'okhlin chameytz umatzah, ha-laylah ha-zeh kulo matzah. She b'khol ha-leylot 'anu 'okhlin she'ar y'arakot ha-laylah hazeh, kulo maror.

On all other nights we eat both chametz and matzah. On this night, we eat only matzah. On all other nights, we eat many vegetables. On this night, only maror.

SOPRANO: Mah Nishtanah ha-laylah hazeh mikol ha-leylot?

Why is this night different from all other nights?

MEZZO: She b'khol ha-leylot 'eyn 'anu matbilin 'afilu pa'am 'achat, ha-laylah ha-zeh sh'tey p'amim.

On all other nights, we do not dip vegetables, even once. On this night, we dip twice.

SOPRANO & MEZZO: She-b'khol ha-leylot 'anu 'okhlin beyn yoshvin u-veyn m'subin, ha-laylah ha-zeh kulanu me'subin.

That on all other nights, some eat sitting and others reclining. On this night, we are all reclining.

Baruch attah ADONAI Eloheynu

Praised be you Lord our God,

CHORUS: Hal-le-lu-yah

Hallelujah

SOPRANO & MEZZO: melekh-ha'-olam

King of the universe,

CHORUS: Hal-le-lu-yah

Hallelujah

SOPRANO & MEZZO: Shehechyanu v'kimanu v'higianu lazman hazeh.

Who has kept us alive, preserved us and enabled us to arrive at this point in time.

CHORUS: Hal-le-lu-yah

Hallelujah

SOPRANO & MEZZO: Y'he sh'lama raba min sh'maya. V'chayim aleinu v'al kol Yisrael; ve'imru,

May there be abundant peace from heaven, and life for us and for all Israel; and say,

SOPRANO & MEZZO & CHORUS: AMEN.

Amen.

[Passover Ritual]

[4] Scene IV: Betrayal

NARRATOR: When Yeshua had spoken, he was troubled in spirit and testified:

YESHUA: Truly I say to you, one of you will betray me.

NARRATOR: The talmidim looked at one another uncertain of whom he spoke. One of the talmidim, whom Yeshua loved, was lying close to the breast of Yeshua, so lying close, he said to him: "Lord, who is it?"

YESHUA: It is he to whom I shall give this morsel, when I have dipped it.

NARRATOR: And when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Y'hudah from K'riot. As soon as he had taken the piece of matzah, Y'hudah went out, and it was night.

YESHUA: Little children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will seek me, and now I say to you, where I am going, you cannot come. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you. By this, all will know that you are my talmidim, if you have love for one another.

NARRATOR: After singing the Hallel, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

[5] Scene V: In the Valley of the Shadow of Death

Intermezzo (Instrumental)

CHORUS (Chorale):

Gam ki eilech
b'gei tsalmavet
lo ira ra
ki Attah imadi.
shiv'techa umishan'techa
hemah y'nachamuni.

Yea, though I walk
Through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
For thou art with me,
Thy rod and thy staff
They comfort me.

[Psalm 23:4]

YESHUA: You will all fall away because of me tonight. As the Tanakh says: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

KEFA: Though they will fall away because of you, I will never fall away, even if I must die with you.

YESHUA (to Kefa): Truly I say to you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.

[6] Scene VI: Gethsemane

MEZZO (Aria):

Bekha ADONAI khasiti
Al evosha le olam
Betzidkat'kha palteni!
Hate elay ozne'kha mehera hatzileni
He'ye li letzur-ma'oz leveit metzudot lehoshieni

In you LORD I take refuge
Let me never be put to shame
In your justice save me!
Turn your ear toward me
Come quickly to my rescue,
be for me a rock of strength, a fortress to keep me safe

[PSALM 31: 1-3]

S'hma Kol Takhanunai beshav'ee elekha
benos'ee yadai el-d'vir kodshekha

Hear the sound of my prayers When I cry to you
When I lift my hands Toward your holy sanctuary

[PSALM 28: 2]

NARRATOR: Then Yeshua went with them to a place called Gat-Sh'manim and said to his talmidim:

YESHUA: Sit here while I go over there and pray.

NARRATOR: And taking with him, Kefa and the two sons of Zevadai, he began to be sorrowful and troubled.

YESHUA: My soul is very sorrowful even to death. Remain here and watch with me. My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Not as I will, but as you will.

NARRATOR: And he came to the talmidim and found them sleeping.

YESHUA: So could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you do not enter into temptation.

NARRATOR: Again, for the second time he went away and prayed. And with great anguish, he prayed more intensely, so that his sweat became like drops of blood, falling to the ground.

YESHUA: My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Thy will be done.

NARRATOR: And again, he found them sleeping, for their eyes were so heavy.

YESHUA: Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold the hour is at hand.

NARRATOR: While Yeshua was still speaking, Y'hudah came and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the head cohanim and the elders of the people. And he came up to Yeshua and said, "Shalom Rabbi," and he kissed him.

YESHUA: Friend, why are you here?

NARRATOR: Then Yeshua said to the head cohanim and the officers of the Temple Guard:

YESHUA: Have you come out, as you would against a robber, with swords and clubs? When I was with you day after day in the Temple Court, you did not arrest me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.

NARRATOR: Then all the talmidim forsook him and fled.

[7] Scene VII: Interlude

CHORUS:

Ve* kulanu catzon ta'inu
ish ledarco paninu,
Va' ADONAI hifgia bo et avon kulanu.

(And) All we like sheep have gone astray
We have turned everyone to his own way.
And the LORD has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

[Isaiah 53:6]

Even ma'asu habonim ha'yta lerosh pina

The stone which the builders rejected has
become the head of the corner.

Me'et ADONAI ha'yta zot hee nifla'at be'eyne'yenu.

This is the LORD's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

[Psalm 118: 22-23]

Ve kulanu catzon ta'inu
ish ledarco paninu,
Va ADONAI hifgia bo et avon kulanu.

All we like sheep have gone astray.
We have turned everyone to his own way
And the LORD has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.

[Isaiah 53:6]

CD 2: Part Two

[1] Scene VIII: In the Palace of the High Priest

NARRATOR: They who had seized Yeshua led him to Kayafa, the high priest, where the Torah teachers and elders were assembled. Kefa followed him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest. Now the head cohanim and the... Sanhedrin sought false testimony against Yeshua, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. The high priest stood up and said:

KAYAFA: Have you nothing to say to the accusations these men are making?

NARRATOR: Yeshua remained silent.

CHORUS (Accusers): This man said "I can tear down GOD's Temple and rebuild it in three days."

This man said "I can tear down God's Temple..."

This man said "I can tear God's Temple down..."

This man said... This man said...

THIS MAN SAID, "I CAN TEAR DOWN GOD'S TEMPLE AND REBUILD IT IN THREEDAYS!"

CHORUS (Defenders): Rabbi, we know you are a teacher come from GOD, for no one can do the signs that you do, unless GOD is with him...

KAYAFA: Silence! I put you under oath - tell us if you are the Mashiach, the Son of GOD.

YESHUA: These words are your own, but I tell you one day you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of Heaven.

KAYAFA: Blasphemy! Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?

CHORUS: Guilty! Guilty! He deserves death!

Prophecy to us Messiah: Who is it that struck you? Prophecy to us Messiah!

Guilty!

[2] Scene IX: Kefa's Denial

MEZZO (Aria):

Ki Sha'ma'ti dibat rabim magor misaviv

Behi' vasdam yakhad ala'y lakakhat nafshi Zamamu.

Va'ani alekha vatakhti ADONAI,
Amarti ELOHA'Y atah
Beyad'kha ltotay hatzileni miyad oy'va'y
umérod'fa'y.

Ha'ira panecha al-avdekha: hoshi'eni vekhasdekha

All I hear is whispering
Terror is all around me
They plot together against me
Scheming to take my life
But I trust in you LORD,
You are my God,
My times are in your hand
Rescue me from my enemy's power.

Make your face shine on your servant: in your grace, rescue me...

[Psalm 31: 13-17]

NARRATOR: Kefa was sitting outside in the courtyard when some servant girls came up to him:

FIRST GROUP OF SERVANT GIRLS (Altos from Chorus): You too were with Yeshua from the Galil.

NARRATOR: But he denied it:

KEFA: I don't know what you are talking about!

NARRATOR: He went out on the porch and another girl saw him, and said to the people:

FIRST & SECOND GROUPS OF SERVANT GIRLS (Sopranos & Altos from Chorus): This man was with Yeshua from Natza'ret!

KEFA: I don't know the man!

CROWD (Chorus): You must be one of them; your accent gives you away!

KEFA: I don't know the man!

NARRATOR: And immediately the rooster crowed. Kefa remembered what Yeshua had said: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times," ... and he went out and wept bitterly.

CHORUS (Chorale):

Ashre nesui peshah ke-sui khata'ah

Ashre adam loyachshov ADONAI lo avon

ve'en beruho remiyah.

How blessed are those whose whole offense is forgiven,
those whose sin is covered:
How blessed are those to whom the LORD imputes no guilt

In whose spirit is no deceit.

[Psalm 32:1-2]

NARRATOR: When Y'hudah, who had betrayed him, saw that Yeshua had been condemned, he was seized with remorse saying: "I have sinned in betraying an innocent man to death". Then, he went off and hanged himself.

[3] Scene X: Yeshua before Pilate

SOPRANO (Aria):

Ashira na Li'y'di'-di
Shirat dodi lekhar'mo:
Kerem hayah Li'y'di'-di
bekerem ben-shamen
va'yazkehu, va'ysaklehu, va'yi'ta'ehu sorek;

va'yiven migdal betokho vegam yekev khatsevbo,

va'yekav la'asot anavim
va'ya'as b'ushim

Ki berov khokhma ravka'as Ve yosif da'at, yosif machov.

Let me sing for my beloved
A love song concerning his vineyard
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill,
He dug it and cleared it of stones and
planted it with choice vines
He built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and howed out a winepress in it,
and he looked for it to yield good grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes

For in much wisdom is much grief,
the more knowledge, the more suffering.

[Isaiah 5:1-2]

[Ecclesiastes 1:18]

NARRATOR: The Sanhedrin led Yeshua from Kayafa to the Governor's palace; by now it was early morning. So Pilate went out to them and said:

PILATE: What charge are you bringing against this man?

CHORUS (MEN): We found this man subverting our nation, and claiming that he himself is the Messiah, a king:

PILATE: You take him and judge him according to your own Law.

PRIESTS: We don't have the legal power to put anyone to death.

NARRATOR: So Pilate went back into the palace, and called Yeshua, and said to him:

PILATE: Are you the King of the Jews?

YESHUA: Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?

PILATE: Your own nation and the head cohanim have handed you over to me. What have you done?

YESHUA: My kingdom is not of this world.

PILATE: So you are a king, after all? So then you are a king?

YESHUA: You say I am a king. For this reason, I have been born, and for this reason, I have come, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.

[4] Scene XI: 'Behold the Man'

NARRATOR: Pilate went outside again to members of the Sanhedrin and a crowd that had gathered there, saying:

PILATE: You brought this man before me on a charge of subverting the people. I examined him in your presence and did not find the man guilty of the crime you are accusing him of... However, you have a custom that at Passover I set one prisoner free. Do you want me to set free for you the King of the Jews?

CHORUS: Not this man! Not this man but Bar-Abba!

PILATE: But what has this man done wrong? I haven't found any reason to put him to death.

CHORUS: GIVE US BAR-ABBA!

NARRATOR: Pilate then took Yeshua and had him flogged, and the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns and placed it on his head and arrayed him with a purple robe and struck him with their hands saying:

CHORUS: Hail King of the Jews! Hail King of the Jews! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: Pilate brought Yeshua out, and sat down on the Judge's seat, called 'The Pavement'. It was about noon on Preparation Day... So, Yeshua came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, and Pilate said to them:

PILATE: See, I am bringing him out to you, so you may know that I find no crime in him. Behold the man!

CHORUS: Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: Yeshua!

CHORUS: Let him be crucified!

PILATE: Shall I crucify your King?

CHORUS: We have no king but Caesar! Take him away! Let him be crucified!

PILATE: Behold your King!

NARRATOR: Yeshua! Yeshua!

PILATE: Behold your King!

CHORUS: Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: Yeshua of Natzeret!

CHORUS: Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: Yeshua of Natzeret!

CHORUS: Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified! Let him be crucified!

NARRATOR: Yeshua of Natzeret, is one of our brothers!!!

SOPRANO & MEZZO:

Me'a mal nafsho yir'e yisba
Beda'ato yatzdik tzadik avdi larabim:
va'avonotam' hu yi'sbol

By his knowing pain and sacrifice
my righteous one makes many righteous;
it is for their sins that he suffers.

SOPRANO & MEZZO:

Me'a mal nafsho yir'e yisba
Beda'ato yatzdik tzadik avdi larabim:
va'avonotam' hu yi'sbol

By his knowing pain and sacrifice
my righteous one makes many righteous;
it is for their sins that he suffers.

[Isaiah 53:11]

NARRATOR: When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, he released to them Bar-Abba, but Yeshua, he handed over to be crucified.

[5] Scene XII: Via Dolorosa

SOPRANO (Aria):

Nigas vehu na'aneh velo yiftakh-piv

kase latevakh yuval ukherakhel lifne'y,
gozezeha ne'elama
velo yiftakh piv.
Meotzer umimishpat lukakh
ve'et doro mi yesokhe'akh
ki nigzar me'erezt kha'yim',
mi pesha ami nega lamo

He was oppressed and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth
and like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb,
so he opened not his mouth.
By oppression and judgment, he was taken away;
and none of his generation protested
that he was cut off from the land of the living
for the crimes of my people?

[Isaiah 53: 7-8]

Me'a mal nafsho yir'e yisba
Beda'ato yatzdik tzadik avdi larabim:
va'avonotam' hu yi'sbol

By his knowing pain and sacrifice
my righteous one makes many righteous;
it is for their sins that he suffers.

[Isaiah 53: 11]

NARRATOR: As they led him away, there followed a great multitude of women who bewailed and lamented him. When they came to the place called Gulgolta, there they nailed him to the cross along with two others, one on either side, with Yeshua in the middle.

YESHUA: Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

NARRATOR: Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross, it read: "THIS IS YESHUA FROM NATZERET, THE KING OF THE JEWS"

After they nailed him to the cross, they divided his clothes among them by throwing dice.

Then they sat down to keep watch over him.

NARRATOR (Arioso): But standing by the cross of Yeshua were his mother, and his mother's sister, and Miryam Magdala. When Yeshua saw his mother and the talmuda whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother:

YESHUA: Woman, behold your son: son, behold your mother!

SOPRANO & MEZZO DUET:

Z'kenim misha'ar shavatu
Ba'khourim minginatam shavat
mesos libenu ne'hepakh le'evel mekholenu,
nafla ateret roshenu...

The old men have deserted the city gate
The young men have abandoned their music
Joy has vanished from our hearts
Our dancing has turned to mourning.
And the crown has fallen from our heads...

[Lamentations 5:14-16]

[6] Scene XIII: Darkness over the Land

CHORUS: He saved others, he cannot save himself. If you are the Son of God, save yourself! He trusted in God! Let him come down from the cross and we will believe!

NARRATOR: Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over the land. At about the ninth hour, Yeshua cried with a loud voice and said:

YESHUA: Eli, Eli, l'mah sh'vaktani? [My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?]

CHORUS (Sopranos & Altos): Eli, Eli, l'mah sh'vaktani?

YESHUA: It is accomplished. Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

NARRATOR: And with these words, he gave up his spirit.

CHORUS (Chorale):

O-se shalom
Bimromav
Hu ya'ase shalom
Aleinu
V'al kol Yisrael
V'imru,
AMEN

May God,
Who makes
Peace on high,
Bring peace to all and
To all Israel,
And say
AMEN

[From the Kaddish]

[7] Scene XIV: Epilogue

CHORUS:

Hen avdi et moch-bo,
behiri ratzta nafshi
Natati ruchi alav,
mishpat lago'yim yotzi
Lo yitz'ak, velo yisa: velo-yashmia bachutz, kolo.

Kane ratzutz lo yishbor,
ufishta cheha lo y'chabena;
Le'emet yotzimishpat.
Lo yich'-he velo yarutz
ad-yasim ba'aretz mishpat.

Behold my servant whom I uphold,
My chosen, in whom my soul delights.
I have put my Spirit upon him,
he will bring forth justice to the nations
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

A bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.
To the truth he will bring forth judgement.
He will not fail or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth...

[Isaiah 42: 1-4]

END