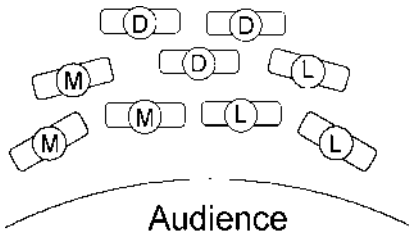


CROSS POINT Holiday SCRIPTS

Fall 2002



Stage Setup:



Joy In The Mourning

Synopsis: This choral reading is adapted from Psalm 30 and utilizes both single voices, and a blend of other light, medium, and darker voice textures. The reading traces God's faithfulness through times of testing and seeming abandonment, on to final vindication.

Time: 2 minutes

Characters: The solo voices can be either male or female. The darker voices roughly correspond to bass, the medium voices to tenor and alto, with sopranos taking the light sections.

Props: Black script folders.

Topics: Thanksgiving, Worship, Praise, Testing, Trials, God's Faithfulness.

Direction

Script

0 minutes

Author's note: For easier coordination, assemble the voices so they're near others of the same tone (dark, medium, light). Work hard on timing to eliminate dead spots. Keep momentum and volume building as you approach the end. The lines should have an almost overlapping feel.

- Solo 1: I will extol You, O LORD, for You have lifted me up,
You have quieted the tongues of my enemies.
- Solo 2: O LORD my God,
I cried to You for help, and You healed me.
- Solo 3: O LORD, You have brought up my soul from Sheol;
You have kept me alive, you have pulled me from
the pit.
- All: Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly ones,
And give thanks to His holy name.
- Dark: For His anger is but for a moment,
While His favor is for a lifetime;
- Light: Weeping may last for the night,
But a shout of joy comes in the morning.
- Solo 4: Now as for me, I said in my prosperity,
"I will never be moved."

Author's Note: Arrows suggest places for appropriate pause.

Devotional Thought: In the Psalms, David often describes three phases to his experience: confidence (almost naivety), severe testing and questioning, and final vindication. Although he doesn't indicate how long each phase lasts, all three seem important in the story line. There's no way to skip the second phase, and no way to predict its end. Yet without it, the final vindication would seem almost empty.

Date Performed: _____
 Actors Used: _____



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Solo 5: "O LORD, by Your favor You have made my fortress to stand strong"
 Solo 6: "No harm can come to me.
 For the LORD watches over my every step."
 Dark: Then You hid Your face and I was shaken.
 Solo 8: I cried out to you in the night watch.
 I poured out my heart before you.
 Medium: To You, O LORD, I called,
 And to the Lord I made supplication:

1 minute

Solo 7: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit?"
 Light: "Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?"
 Dark: "Can you show me no mercy in the time of my trouble?"
 Light & Medium: Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me;
 O LORD, be my helper."
 Solo 9: Then in my despair, you lifted my head
 Your ear was attentive to my cry.
 Light & Dark: All my enemies shrank back in fear.
 For the LORD Almighty came to my defense.
 The Holy One of Israel was roused to my cause.
 All: You have turned my mourning into dancing;
 You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness,
 Now my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent.
 O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.