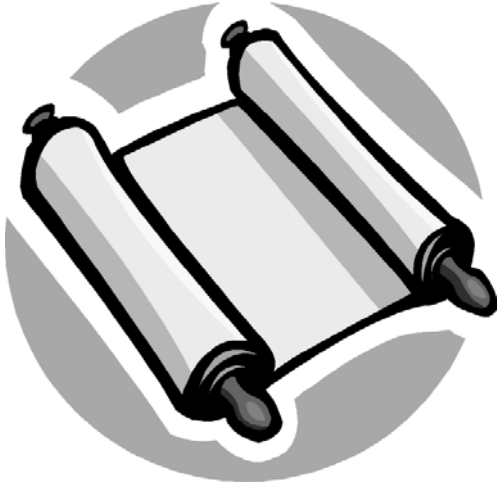


# CROSS POINT™ Holiday SCRIPTS

Fall 2001



## Lord of All Seasons

**Synopsis:** This Scripture reading, adapted from Psalm 107, extols the faithfulness of God through the ups and downs, blessings and even curses of life.

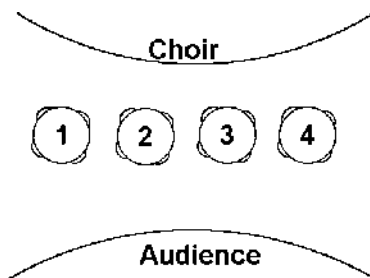
**Time:** 4 minutes

**Characters:** Four Reader's Theater Readers with optional choir and/or audience participation

**Props:** 4 Scripts in Black Folders, 4 Stools

**Usage:** Use this reading in a Thanksgiving Eve Service or on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Adhering very closely to the wording and flow of Psalm 107, it takes a dark and sometimes sobering look at God's faithfulness. But the stubborn balance of praise and gratitude woven into even the hardest of times, yields a theology and expression of worship that can stand up to the harshest testing. Use it as a stand-alone reading, add choir or audience participation, or go even further to add musical background and/or interpretive mime.

### Stage Setup:



## Direction | Script

0 minutes

**All: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

1: Let the redeemed of the LORD declare it-- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,

3: Those he gathered from the foreign lands- from every corner of the earth.

*Author's note: Make sure each of the 4 readers has a good, strong voice that can project above the others. This kind of corporate oral interpretation is no place for timidity.*

*Author's note: This is the first of four visual pictures painted by the Psalmist. It is these four scenes that could, optionally, be mimed by 2-4 people. In the first case, they are wandering and lost, then in pitch darkness in labor camps, then in rebellion from God, and finally as seafarers in a storm. As in any mime, the biggest tool of expression is the face, followed by exaggerated and stylized body movement. Don't be afraid to experiment. They need to reflect and interpret the lines of the readers, so you'll have to spend a lot of rehearsal time on timing.*

*Author's note: Some general tips for the readers include:*

- 1) *Make sure they have crisp transitions from reader to reader. No lag time between lines.*
- 2) *They should have lines memorized so they can deliver with full eye contact.*
- 3) *Practice the unison parts so they sound unified, without being sing-songy.*

2: Some wandered in the wilderness, finding no city where they could settle. They were hungry and thirsty, and their lives ebbed away.

**All: Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress.**

2: He led them by a straight way to a city where they could settle.

**All: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.**

4: Others sat in darkness, suffering in iron chains. For they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High. So he subjected them to bitter labor; they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

**All: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.**

#### 1 minute

4: He brought them out of darkness, and broke away their chains.

**All: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men, for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron.**

3: Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered great pain because of their sin. They loathed even the sight of food and drew near the gates of death.

**All: Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.**

3: He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.

All: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy.

1: Others went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the LORD, his wonderful deeds in the deep. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.

#### 2 minutes

They were tossed to and fro, helpless against the waves. In their peril their courage melted away. They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end.

**All: Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress.**

1: He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired port.

**All: Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.**

1&3: Remember: he can turn rivers into deserts, flowing springs into thirsty ground, and fruitful land into a salt waste, because of the wickedness of those who live there.

2&4: But just as quickly he turns the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; there he brings the hungry to live, and founds a city where they can settle.

**3 minutes**

They sow fields and plant vineyards that yield a fruitful harvest; he blesses them, and their numbers greatly increase.

1&3: Yet before long their numbers decrease, and they're humbled by oppression, calamity and sorrow; he who pours contempt on nobles makes them wander in a trackless waste.

2&4: But even then, they do not despair. For he lifts the needy out of their affliction and increases their families like flocks.

1,2&4: The upright see and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths. They cannot explain it.

All: Whoever is wise, let him heed these things and consider the great love of the LORD.

*Author's note: This is the climax in terms of volume and excitement. From here 'til the end it slowly winds down to a more reflective conclusion.*

**SCRIPTURE LINK:**

1 TIMOTHY 4:13  
UNTIL I COME,  
DEVOTE YOURSELF TO THE PUBLIC READING OF SCRIPTURE, TO PREACHING AND TO TEACHING.



**Devotional Thought:**

It could strike you a bit strange that in this great Psalm of thanksgiving there's so much suffering as part of the mix. We we really shouldn't be so surprised. It's suffering that is the fuel for praise. It's the deliverance God's people have experienced that drives them to gratitude. Perhaps that might help us to see suffering in a new way: as stockpiles of future praise.

Date Performed: \_\_\_\_\_

Actors Used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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