



*The
Oberammergau
Passion Play*

1980

Text



The Oberammergau Passion Play 1980

Written in 1810/11
by Father *Othmar Weis* O.S.B.,
of the Benedictine Monastery of Ettal;

revised in 1850/1860
by *Joseph Alois Daisenberger*,
Parish Priest of Oberammergau;
further revised by the Parish of Oberammergau
in 1980

and adapted in accordance with
the Second Vatican Council
under the guidance of Father *Gregor Rümmelein*, O.S.B.,
of the Benedictine Monastery of Ettal.

Passion music composed in 1810
by *Rochus Dedler*, a teacher, of Oberammergau,
rearranged in 1950 von Professor Eugen Papst.

Programme of Performances

MAY

24 Saturday	26 Monday	30 Friday
25 Sunday	28 Wednesday	31 Saturday

JUNE

1 Sunday	13 Friday	22 Sunday
2 Monday	14 Saturday	23 Monday
4 Wednesday	15 Sunday	25 Wednesday
6 Friday	16 Monday	27 Friday
7 Saturday	18 Wednesday	28 Saturday
8 Sunday	20 Friday	29 Sunday
9 Monday	21 Saturday	30 Monday
11 Wednesday		

JULY

2 Wednesday	12 Saturday	21 Monday
4 Friday	13 Sunday	23 Wednesday
5 Saturday	14 Monday	25 Friday
6 Sunday	16 Wednesday	26 Saturday
7 Monday	18 Friday	27 Sunday
9 Wednesday	19 Saturday	28 Monday
11 Friday	20 Sunday	30 Wednesday

AUGUST

1 Friday	11 Monday	23 Saturday
2 Saturday	13 Wednesday	24 Sunday
3 Sunday	15 Friday	25 Monday
4 Monday	16 Saturday	27 Wednesday
6 Wednesday	17 Sunday	29 Friday
8 Friday	18 Monday	30 Saturday
9 Saturday	20 Wednesday	31 Sunday
10 Sunday	22 Friday	

SEPTEMBER

1 Monday	12 Friday	21 Sunday
3 Wednesday	13 Saturday	22 Monday
5 Friday	14 Sunday	24 Wednesday
6 Saturday	15 Monday	26 Friday
7 Sunday	17 Wednesday	27 Saturday
8 Monday	19 Friday	28 Sunday
10 Wednesday	20 Saturday	

The Cast of the 1980 Passion Play

Prologue	Franz Zwink Vitus Zwink
Christ	Gregor Breitsamter Rudolf Zwink
Mary	Irmgard Dengg Martha Wiedemann

Christ's Apostles:

Peter	Hermann Haser Werner Härtle
John	Josef Albl Franz Härtle jun.
Judas	Martin Kratz Martin Wagner
Thomas	Karl Eitzenberger jun.
Philip	Helmut Steinecke
Thaddeus	Stefan Steidle
Simon	Franz Aurhammer jun.
James the Elder	Franz Paul Magold sen.
James the Younger	Albert Rudhart
Andrew	Hans Lehneis
Matthew	Anton Schiestl Hans Wiedemann
Bartholomew	Hans Müller

Christ's Friends:

Joseph of Arimathea	Walter Lang Anton Pongratz
Nicodemus	Karl Härtle Josef Stückl
Simon of Bethany	Anton Preisinger sen. Max Schilcher
Simon the Cyrenian	Gerhard Fellner Albert Maderspacher
Lazarus	Anton Schiestl Hans Wiedemann
Magdalene	Theresia Fellner Angelika Fürsich
Martha	Agathe Wiedemann
Salome	Luise Zwick
Veronica	Doris Bartl Helga Stuckenberger
Angel of the Lord	Hans Stückl jun.

Pilate	Georg Glas jun. Anton Preisinger jun.
Herod	Hugo Rutz sen. Heinrich Zunterer sen.

Caiaphas, High Priest	Martin Magold Peter Stückl
Annas, High Priest	Melchior Breitsamter sen. Benedikt Stückl sen.

Priests:

Nathaniel	Karl Führler Anton Niggel
Rabbi Archelaus	Guido Gstaiger sen. Helmut Kronthaler Wilhelm Albl jun.
Ezekiel	Josef Korntheuer jun.
Zadok	Wolfgang Heller Werner Zwick
Joshua	Josef Pongratz sen.
Amiel	Max Pongratz sen.

Pharisees:

Rabinth	Eduard Uhl
Dariabas	Philipp Faistl sen.
Josaphat	Max Heigl
Oziel	Josef Daubner sen.
Amron	Hans Straka sen.
Saras	Siegfried Bauer Wolfgang Heller
Ptolomeus	Werner Zwick
Nathan	Richard Reiser
Samuel	Jakob Klucker
Aman	Heinrich Zwick
Baalan	Franz Paul Maderspacher

Zorobabel, temple attendant	Adolf Wiener
Esdras, servant of Annas	Werner Richter

Traders:

Dathan	Martin Hochenleitner Hans Reicherl
Kore	Hans Feldmeier sen.
Booz	Helmut Braun
Albion	Hans Schmid

Witnesses: ***

Nun	Werner Reiser
Eliab	Karl Allinger sen.
Gad	Gerhard Fellner Albert Maderspacher
Eliezer	Anton Freisl sen.

Romans: ***

Longinus, Roman captain	Gerhard Lischka Anton Zwink
Caspius	Hans Daisenberger jun.
Sabinus	Anton Maderspacher
Domitius	Max Pongratz jun.
Titus	Arthur Aigner
Milo	Georg Höldrich
Lictor	Gerhard Lischka Anton Zwink

Servants of Pilate: ***

Quintus	Robert Steidle
Aurelius	Helmut Bierprigl
Claudius	Ernst Bierling sen.
Pomponius	Hermann Lang
Mela	Walter Schneller
Sylvus	Michael Heinzeller

Temple guards:

Selpha, leader of temple guard	Siegfried Müller
Panther	Peter Eich
Melchi	Erwin Winter
Levi	Horst Eich
Malchus	Josef Samm
Abdias	Romuald Maderspacher
Dan	Rudi Wagner
Arphaxad	Anton Dietrich
Balbus	Johannes Reiser

Maidservants:

Agar	Walburga Huber
Sara	Christine Baumgartner

Executioners:

Catilina	Wilhelm Stückl
Nero	Helmut Gstaiger
Faustus	Dori Neu
Agrippa	Ludwig Gall

Thieves:

Dismas	Erich Schmid
Gemas	Otto Mang

Barabbas	Georg Horak sen.
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Servants, temple guards, Romans, people, children

Prompters	Karl Daisenberger Erich Baab
Technical Stage Manager	Anton Maurer sen.
Stage Manager – Scenery	Hans Ruppert
Musical Director	Tosso Troll
Training of Solists	Franz Kelch
Elocutionist	Maria Böhmerberger
Conductors	Ulrich Hochenleitner Heinz-Dieter Paul Tosso Troll
Soloists:	
Soprano	Christine Beck Irmgard Fischer Gertraud Rödl Elisabeth Troll
Contralto	Anita Paul Gertrud Schurig Susanne Shaw
Tenor	Kurt Heiß Udo E. Kaiser Josef Köpf
Bass	Walter Fischer Wilhelm Keller Georg Kotschenreuther Markus Zwink
Mixed Choir	48 members
Orchestra	65 members
Deputy Producer	Franz Zwink
Producer and Designer	Hans Maier sen.

Preface

The Passion Play has been performed in Oberammergau since 1634. The history of the text of the play shows continuous development over three centuries. The present text is a revision of the version made by the parish priest, J. Alois Daisenberger (1860), which in turn goes back to the script by Father Othmar Weis (1810). After the serious disputes in past years concerning the text of the play, the Parish of Oberammergau was induced to revise the text in order to take account primarily of Jewish objections, and to adapt it to the theological propositions of the Second Vatican Council. The revision has been made carefully, without breaking with tradition.

The Oberammergau Passion Play arises from a vow which was made, and aims at the same time to be a proclamation. It attempts to show the story of Jesus' sufferings, as told in the Gospels, in a popular way to believers and non-believers, to those in doubt and those who are seeking. Even though details in the text or in the performance may not be perfect, we may plead the words of the Apostle Paul: "Let Christ be proclaimed in every way!" This proclamation is made in the Passion Play not only by the text, but it is the combined effect of words and music, action and tableaux vivants, which produces such a deep impression on the audience. The tableaux vivants, which are taken from the Old Testament, show at the same time the rich spiritual heritage which is common to both Christians and Jews. Every individual, and mankind as a whole, must constantly be on guard against the temptation to shift the blame on to others. The Passion Play is not concerned to seek the guilty ones in the trial of Jesus. Holy Scripture includes all of mankind in the guilt for Jesus' death. However, the question of guilt is not the only issue. Before guilt stands the cross and the compassionate love of God, which became visible in His crucified Son who stretched out His arms to teach the whole world God's mercy.

In the Passion Play, the language of the action and the songs of the chorus call upon us to change our ways and repent, the play exhorts us to imitate the Lord carrying the cross and, in the final chorus, encourages us to believe and to have joyful hope.

In 1980 also may the stage of the Passion Play become a place of meeting with God for many of those who come to watch it. May the play of the suffering and death of Jesus be a profound religious experience for all those who see it.

Oberammergau, December 1979

*Josef Forstmayr
Priest of Oberammergau*

Prelude

Bass solo: *Bow down in holy wonder,
Race oppressed by God's curse!
Peace to you once more from Zion's grace!
His, the offended One's, anger does not last for ever,
Although it is still justified.
"I do not demand," says the Lord,
"The sinner's death; I will forgive him,
And he shall live!"
His own Son's blood will atone for us!
Praise, adoration and tears of joy
To you, Eternal Lord!*

TABLEAU VIVANT

The Expulsion from Paradise

Bass solo: *Mankind is driven from Eden's grove,
By sin benighted and in dread of death.
Its way to the tree of life is, alas, barred.
The flaming sword looms in the angel's hand,
But from afar, from Calvary's heights,
A morning gleam shines through the night;
Soft breezes of peace blow throughout the world
From the branches of the Tree of the Cross.*

Chorus: *God of Mercy! You give to death
Your only Son, in order to redeem sinners
Who have blasphemously defied your commandments,
And to take the curse from them.*

Prologue

*Welcome to all whom here the tender love
Of the Saviour unites, mourning to follow Him
On His journey of suffering
To His final resting place.*

Magdalene: See, the tomb is open, the stone has been rolled away from the entrance.

Salome: Here are the cloths in which the holy body was wrapped. It is no longer in the tomb.

Angel: Fear not, you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is not here, He has arisen from the dead! He will go on before you to Galilee. You will see Him there, as He told you.

Salome: Let us hurry and bring the joyful news to His disciples.

Magdalene: (steps back from the tomb)

Christ: Mary!

Magdalene: That is His voice! – Rabbuni!

Christ: Do not keep me. I have not yet gone up to my Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.

Magdalene: He has disappeared; I can see Him no longer. – But I did see Him! I heard His voice! He lives! The Divine One, the merciful friend of sinners, He who makes blessed all who believe in Him! Oh, if only I could proclaim it throughout the whole world, so that mountains and rocks, heaven and earth should re-echo,

“Halleluja, He has arisen!”

CONCLUSION

Prologue

He is risen! Rejoice you heavenly hosts!

He is risen! Rejoice you mortals all!

The lion from the tribe of Judah

Has trodden down the head of the serpent.

The faith is firm. Most joyous hope is woken

In our hearts by the symbol and pledge

Of our own future resurrection.

Call in jubilation: Halleluja!

Now He ascends to the highest glory

Where He will gather round Him

All whom He has redeemed with His blood.

Where the eternal song of victory resounds:

Praise be to the lamb who was slain,

Joyfully united with our Saviour

We shall see each other again.

Chorus:

HALLELUJA, HALLELUJA!

Overcome – overcome

By the hero is the foes' power.

He – who slumbered only a few hours

In the gloom of the grave.

Sing to Him in holy psalms,

Strew before Him victory palms,

The Lord is arisen!

Rejoice in Him you heavens,

Sing, earth, to the victor.

Halleluja, Christ is risen!