### Chester Cycle 1572/2010

#### Play 14

### The Last Supper; Betrayal

CAST: JESUS, PETER, SERVANT, OWNER, JOHN, ANDREW, JAMES, JUDAS, THOMAS, PHILIP, MALCHUS, FIRST SOLDIER, SECOND SOLDIER, ANNAS, CAIAPHAS, THIRD SOLDIER, FOURTH SOLDIER, WOMAN

JESUS 5	Brethren all, to me most dear, come hither to me and ye shall hear! The feast of Easter you know draws near and now it is at hand. That feast needs keep must we with very great solemnity. The paschal lamb eaten must be as the law doth command.	
10	Therefore, Peter, look that thou go – and John with thee shall be also – prepare all things that belong thereto, according to the Law.	
PETER	Lord, thy bidding do will we.	
15	But tell us first where it shall be and we shall do it speedily, and thither we will draw.	go
JESUS	Go into the city which ye do see, and there a man meet shall ye with a water-pot that bears he,	
20	for so you may him know. Into whichever house that he shall go, into the same house enter ye also and say the Master sent you two his message for to show.	make clear
25	Say "The Master to thee us sent to have a place convenient the paschal lamb to eat" – there is my intent, with my disciples all.	
30	A fair parlour he will you show. There prepare all things due where I with all my retinue fulfill the Law we shall.	private room appropriate
PETER	All ready, Lord. Even thy will	
35	quickly we two will fulfill, and to the fair city we shall go as fast as we may.	

Then Peter and John shall go, and they shall speak to a man carrying a brick-coloured pitcher of water.

PETER All hail, good fellow, heartily!

to thy master's house I pray thee hie; hasten

and we must keep thee company

40 our message for to say.

SERVANT Come on your way and follow me;

my master's house soon shall you see.

Lo, here it is, verily.

ready

Say now what ye will.

and ever to be boun.

Then they	shall enter	the	house.
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PETER 46	Sir, the Master salutes thee and as messengers sent we be. Therefore we pray thee heartily to take heed to us until.	
50	The Master hath sent us to thee, a place prepare for him must we. The paschal lamb there eat will he with his disciples all.	
OWNER	Lo, here a parlour all ready dight,	prepared
55	with pav-ed floors and windows bright.  Make all things ready as you think right, and this have you shall.	
JOHN	Now, brother Peter, let us hie the paschal lamb to make ready. And to our Master then go will we	hasten
60	as fast as we may.	
	Then they shall deck out the table and return.	
PETER	Thy commandment, Lord, done have we. The paschal lamb is made ready. Therefore, come on and you shall see, and we shall lead the way.	
	Then they shall go.	
JESUS 66	Now, brethren, go to your seat, this paschal lamb now let us eat, and then we shall of other things entreat that be of great effect.	seats
70	For know ye now, the time is come that signs and shadows be all done.	are ended
	Therefore make haste, that we may soon all figures clean reject.	completely
	For now a new Law I will begin	
75	to help Mankind out if his sin so that he may Heaven win,	
	the which for sin he lost.	
	And here, in presence of you all, another sacrifice begin I shall,	
	to bring Mankind out of his thrall	bondage
80	for help him need I most.	necessarily must
	Then Jesus shall recline, and John shall sleep in his l	bosom.
	Brethren, I tell you, by and by	from time to time
	with great desire desired have I	
	this Passover to eat with you, truly, before my Passion.	
85	For I say to you certainly	certainly
	my Father's will Almighty	
	I must fulfill meekly	_

The Jesus shall take bread, break it, and give it to his disciples, saying:

90 This bread I give here my blessing. Take, eat, brethren, at my bidding,

for, believe you well, without lesing, believe; truly

this is my body

that shall die for all Mankind

95 in remission of their sin

> This give I you, on me to min remember ay after evermore. always

Then he shall take the chalice in his hands, with eyes turned to Heaven, saying:

Father of Heaven, I thank thee for all that ever thou dost to me.

100 Brethren, take this with heart free; joyful

that is my blood

that shall be shed on the tree,

For more together may not drink we

in Heaven-bliss till that we be

105 to taste that ghostly food. spiritual

Then he shall eat and drink with the disciples, and Judas Iscariot shall have his hand in the dish.

Brethren, truly I to you say: one of you shall me betray that eateth here with me today

in this company.

PETER Alas, alas, and weal-away! misery

Who that may be, know I nor may --111 may not know

for I it is not, truly,

truly that shall cause such annoy. havoc

ANDREW Hard it is for us all

to whom this case shall befall. 115 misfortune

We be but twelve within this hall.

Lord, tell if it be I.

**JAMES** Sorrowful for these words be we.

Who it is I cannot see. determine misfortune

120 If this case shall fall to me,

Lord, tell me hastily.

Then Judas shall reach into the dish.

**JESUS** Through his deceit I am but dead

that in my cup wets his bread.

Much woe for his wicked read counsel 125 that wretch must suffer, iwiss. suffer; truly

it would be good had he been unborn,

for body and soul he is forlorn utterly lost that falsely so hath done beforn -before

and still his intention is.

**JUDAS** Dear Master, is it not I dear

131 that shall do thee this villainy?

**JESUS** Thou hast said truly Judas, readily, said truly

for surely thou art he. certainly

	That thou shalt do, do hastily.	whatsoever
JUDAS 136	Farewell, all this company! For in an errand I must hie; undone it may not be.	hasten
JESUS	Brethren, take up this meat anon! to another deed we must be gone.	quickly proceed
140	Your feet shall washed be each one to show all charity.  And first myself – I will begin,	complete love
145	and wash you all that be herein, on this deed that you may min and meeker may to be.	have mind
	Then Jesus shall gird his body with a towel.	
PETER	Ah, Lord! Shall thou wash my feet?	must you
JESUS	What I do, Peter, I thee behete, for now thou shalt not weet, but thou shalt afterward.	promise understand
PETER 151	Nay, Lord, indeed in no manner! My feet shalt thou not wash here.	by no way
JESUS	Unless I wash them without were, of joy gets thou no part.	unless; truly
PETER 155	Nay, Lord, my feet may well be laid; but wash my hands and my head,	neglected
JESUS	All is clean. Therefore do I read if thy feet shall washed be you will be clean. But not all!	advise
PETER 160	Lord, of joy thou art the well, and though it do not well befall, have here my feet to thee.	well-spring is not fitting for you
	Then he shall wash the feet of all, one at a time, and take o	off the towel.
JESUS	My dear brethren, well know ye that "Lord" and "Master" you call me;	know
165	and well you say, as it should be – I am, and have been yore. Since I have washed your feet here –	for a long time
	Lord and Master – in meek manner, do each so to other in together as I have done before.	humbly each; together
	Then all in turn shall wash the feet of the others.	
170	My little children, and my brethren free, a little while may I with you be, but thither shall you not go with me as I am now on my way.	noble for a short time
175	But this truly is my bidding: you love one another in all thing as I before, without fletching, have loved you truly ay.	wavering always

180	So all men may know and see my disciples that you be, falsehood may you always flee and love well together.	shun love;
PETER	Lord, whither is your way?	
JESUS	Peter, thither as I go today,	
185	come, certainly, thou not may at this time, in no manner.	by no means
	But thou shalt thither go.	
PETER	Why shall it not, Lord, be so? My life I will put in woe and for thy sake be slain.	in jeopardy
JESUS 191	Peter, I tell thee surely, before the cock has crowed thrie thou shalt forsake my company and recant thy words again.	thrice
195	Brethren, let not your hearts be sore, but believe in God evermore and in me, as you have before,	sad
	and worry not in this case.  For in my Father's house there is many dwellings of great bliss	situation
200	and thither I will go now, iwiss, to prepare you a place.	truly prepare
205	And though I go from you away to prepare a place to your pay, I shall come again another day and take you all with me.	pleasure
THOMAS	Lord, we know not, truly, what manner of road thou will assay. Tell us, that we know may that road, and go with thee.	set out upon
JESUS 211	Thomas, I tell thee without strife, in me is the way, truth, and life. and to my Father no man nor wife may come without me.	contradiction truth nor woman
215	And if you knew me verily my Father you might know in hie.	in tuth at once
	From henceforth, I say you sickerly, know him all shall ye.	for certain
PHILIP	Lord, let us see thy Father anon and it will satisfy us every one.	at once
JESUS 221	A long time you have with me gone, Philip – why say thou so? Certainly, who sees me sees my Father, I tell it thee.	
225	Why wish thou my Father to see while I with you go?	

230	Philip, believe thou not this: that my Father in me is, and I in him also, iwiss, and we are both one? the works that I do are his, for his help I may not miss.  Therefore, to win you Heaven-bliss, my deeds you believe upon!	indeed lack for yourselves
235	Whatsoever ye ask my Father dear in my name in good manner, to fulfill it I have power all that is at my pay so that my Father in majesty	pleasure
240	by me glorified may be; and either, as I say to thee, for one have been ay.	
245	If that you love me heartfully keep my bidding truly and to my Father pray will I to send you the Holy Ghost to abide with you evermore; for the world knows not his lore, but you, that have known me yore – in you he shall be most.	knowledge very long strongest
250	Though I go now to distress, I will not leave you comfortless; but believe this well and well express: once more I will come again.	suffering
255	And then your hearts on a row shall happy be, my bliss to know, which joy no man shall take you fro, would he never so fain.	collectively eager
260	Rise up and go we hither anon. To my prayer I must gone. But sit you still every one, my father while I call, Keep watch, and have my benison against falling into temptation.	at once go all of you blessing
265	The spirit always to bale is boun and the flesh ready to fall.	for evil; ready
The	n Jesus shall go to pray, and the disciples shall fall asleep becomes Father of Heaven in majesty, glorify, if thy will may be, thy Son, that he may glorify thee	ause of their distress.
270	now, before I hither wend. In earth thou hast given me posty, and I have done with heart free the work that thou charged me and brought it to an end.	go power willing placed upon
275	Thy name have I caused men to know and spared not thy will to show to my disciples on a row whom thou hast given me And now they know verily	in a company whom truly

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Play 14

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that from the Father sent am I. 280 Therefore, I pray thee especially:

save them through thy mercy!

Then he shall come to the disciples and shall find them sleeping; and he shall say:

What! Sleep you, brethren all, here?

Rise up and make your prayer lest temptation have power

285 to make you for to fall.

The flesh is, as I said before, inclining always to sin sore, and spirit preoccupied evermore. Therefore now keep watch all!

Then he shall go a second time to prayer, and shall say in a loud voice:

290 My heart is in great misliking distress

for death that is to me coming. Father, if I dare ask this thing:

put this away from me! Each thing to thee possible is.

295 Nevertheless, now in this at your will I am, iwiss. truly

As thou wilt, let it be.

Then he shall return again to his disciples.

Ye sleep, brethren, still, I see,

Sleep on now, all ye!

300 My time is come taken to be.

From you I must go away. He that hath betrayed me, this night from him will I not flee.

In sorry time born was he, and so he may well say.

Then Judas shall come there with a company of soldiers with lanterns, torches and arms.

You men I ask, whom seek ye?

**MALCHUS** Jesus of Nazareth, him seek we.

**JESUS** Here all ready - I am he,

305

What have you for to say?

**JUDAS** Ah, sweet master, kiss thou me,

311 for it is long since I thee see, since; saw

> and together we will flee and steal from them away.

**JESUS** What seek you men with such a breath? outcry

1st SOLDIER We seek Jesus of Nazareth.

**JESUS** I said before, and still I say,

I am he, truly.

Suffer these men to go their way

and I am at your will.

**MALCHUS** False thief, thou shalt gone go

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Satan

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321 to Bishop Caiaphas, and that anon, at once or I shall break thy body and bone if thou are too late. PETER Thief! if thou be so bold my Master so for to hold, 325 thou shalt be repaid an hundredfold -and onward take thou that! Be thou so bold, as may thrive I. hastilu to seize my master here in hie, 330 full dearly thou shalt it abuy. pay for But thou thee hither dight. go thy ear shall off, by God's grace, before thou pass from this place. Then he shall draw out a sword and shall cut off the ear of Malchus. Go complain now to Caiaphas 335 and bid him do thee right. give you justice MALCHUS Out! Alas, alas, alas! By Cock's bones, my ear he has! God's to me is betide a hard case fortune since ever I came here! **JESUS** Peter, put up thy sword in hie! at once Whosoever with the sword smiteth gladly 341 exultantly with sword shall perish hastily, I tell thee without were. doubt Then Jesus shall touch the ear and shall heal it. MALCHUS Ah, well is me, well is me! 345 My ear is healed now, I see. So merciful a man as is he knew I never none. 1st SOLDIER Yea, though he have healed thee, may have protected from us shall he not be, but to Sir Caiaphas, as mot I thee, 350 so may I thrive with us shall be gone. **JESUS** As a thief you came here with swords and staves and armere weaponry to take me in cruel manner 355 and achieve your wicked will. In temple with you when I was ay, always no hand on me would you lay; but now is come time and day your purpose to fulfill. purpose 1st SOLDIER Come, caitiff, to Caiaphas, fate 361 or thou shalt have a hard grace. brisker; rate Trot on upon a prouder pace, thou vile popelard. hypocrite

Though Beelzebub and Satanas

come to help thee in this case,

both thy hands that thou has shall be bounden hard.

365

And at the start the soldiers shall come, leading Jesus to Annas and Caiaphas.

1ST SOLDIER Sir Bishop, here we have brought

a wretch that much woe has wrought

370 and would bring our law to nought -

for it he hath spurned. despised

2<sup>ND</sup> SOLDIER Yea, widely we have him sought,

> and dear also we have him bought, for here many a man's thought

375 to him has turned.

**ANNAS** Ah, jangling Jesus, art thou now here?

> Now thou may prove thy power, whether thy cause be clean and clear;

thy Christhood we must know.

CAIAPHAS Methink a mastery that it were

381 either for money or at our prayer

> to escape from his danger and such sleight to show.

demonstration of power

**ANNAS** Sir Caiaphas, I say certainly 385 we that been in company

must needs this idiot destroy

that wickedly has wrought.

CAIAPHAS Sir, it is needful - this say I --

that one man should die, certainly,

390 all the people to forbuy redeem

so that they perish nought.

3RD SOLDIER Sir Caiaphas, hearken now to me!

This babble-a-vaunt would our king be.

Whatsoever he says now before thee,

395 I heard him say full yore

that prince he was, of such posty destroy the temple well might he and build it up in days three

right as it was before.

400

4TH SOLDIER Yea, certainly, that I heard him say.

> He may not deny by no way! And also, that he was God truly,

Emmanuel and Messiah.

405 He may not deny this nor say nay,

> for more than forty, truly, that in the temple were that day

heard him as well as I.

CAIAPHAS Say, Jesus, to this what say ye?

410 Thou knowest now what is put on thee.

Put forth, prince, thy posty

power and answer what they would prove.

What Devil! One word speaks not he! Yet, Jesus, here I conjure thee;

415 if thou be God's Son, before me

answer to that they move.

**JESUS** As thou sayest, right so say I --

long ago

I am God's Son Almighty; and here I tell thee truly

420 that me yet shall thou see

all on God's right hand him by Mankind in clouds to justify.

CAIAPHAS "Justify!" Marry, fie, fie on thee, fie!

Witness of all this company

425 that falsely lies he!

Ye hear all that he says here. Of witness now what need were? for before all these folk together

loudly thou lies!

What say you men that now been here?

1ST SOLDIER Buffet him that makes this bere, boast

for to God may he not be dear that our Law so destroys.

CAIAPHAS Destroy shall he not it, 436 ye wretches – ye want wit!

Give that fellow a fit and hit him in the face.

ANNAS Despise him, spurn and spit!

Let see, before you sit,

who has the chance to hit him who us harmed has.

Then the soldiers set Jesus up in a chair, and the First soldier shall speak as the process of torture goes on.

1ST SOLDIER In order to harm him here

approach will I near

this stuttering friar

that makes our Law false.

2<sup>ND</sup> SOLDIER He is, without were, doubt

to the Devil full dear. Spit we all together

and buffet him als. also

3RD SOLDIER (spitting)

Ye heard in this place now, how he lied has now. full in his face now foul will I smear him.

4TH SOLDIER (spitting)

He must go through his paces now.

For he makes himself God now,

gets he no grace now when I may outwit him.

1ST SOLDIER (delivering a blow)

Fie upon thee, freak!

460 Stoop now and creak.

Thy brains to break am I ready boun.

prepared

Then the second soldier delivering a blow while covering the face of Jesus:

cover

blame

2<sup>ND</sup> SOLDIER His face will I steek

with a cloth, before he creak,

465 and us all wreak avenge with my warrison. curse

3RD SOLDIER And thou be Messiah

and loath for to lie.

470 who smote thee? -- cry,

if that thou be the Christ.

4TH SOLDIER (striking)

For all his prophecy, vet he falls thrice; though my fist flee,

475 gets he a fist.

1ST SOLDIER (striking)

Though he him beshite, a buffet shall bite; may no man me wite,

though I do him woe.

2<sup>ND</sup> SOLDIER (striking)

Him fails to flite 480 complain

or ought to despite; argue for he has too lite, littlenow must he have moe. more

3RD SOLDIER (striking)

495

And more yet I may.

I shall soon assay 485 try

and show large pay, result

thou prince, on thy pate. head

4TH SOLDIER Even if he say nay,

I shall, truly,

490 lay on. I dare lay, wager

it is not too late.

Then they shall cease from their blows, and Caiaphas shall speak.

**CAIAPHAS** Lordings, what is your best read? advice

This man has deserved to be dead,

and if he lightly thus be led, treated our Law clean will sleep. lie dormant

**ANNAS** Sir, it is fully mine advice,

> lead we him to the High Justice. Sir Pilate is both prudent and wise

and thus the Law to keep.

[Here Peter and the woman come forward as Jesus is led away; 1st Soldier at the rear of the procession.]

WOMAN Were you not with Jesus of Nazareth?

**PETER** I know him not nor what thou says.

WOMAN Sirs, I tell you plain,

this man here is one of them

that was with him in the garden.

I know it to be true!

PETER It is not true I tell thee.

I know him not by any degree.

1st SOLDIER One of them thou art assuredly,

and thou art also of Galilee.

The speech clearly betrayeth thee

in witness of us all.

PETER In faith and truth, that is not so.

Shame have I, and much woe,

if ever I did him before know

or keep him company.

[Jesus looks at Peter; Peter in despair runs away; the procession to Pilate goes off.]