

**The Life of Christ, Wintershall Script excerpt**

**SCENE NINE**                      **THE LAST SUPPER**

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*The table for the Last Supper is set on the middle level as in earlier years.  
Servants place plates, fruit and bread. The Disciples enter from various points  
and collect their own goblets.  
John stands down as Narrator and joins the performance as John.  
Jesus arrives and beckons them all to sit and standing in the centre speaks..*

JOHN:            See Master. We have prepared a room for you just as you asked us.

JESUS:           In my father's house there are many rooms. I am going there to prepare a place  
for you and will come back and take you with me that you also may be where I  
am.  
You know the way to the place where I am going.

THOMAS:       Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?

JESUS:           I am the way and the truth and the light. No one comes to the Father except  
through me. Whatever you ask in my name, with faith, He will give you.

JAMES:           But Lord we have not seen the Father.

JESUS:           How long have you been with me

JAMES:           3 years.

JESUS:           3 years. Do you not know that he who has sent me has seen the Father—the  
Father is in me and I am in Him. The words I say to you are not just my own.  
Know that the Father is in me and believe the evidence of the miracles you have  
seen.

PHILIP: Lord, why is it you have shown yourself to us and not rest of the world?

JESUS: You are my disciples. When I am gone, go out and spread my word to all the world ...

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ANDREW: But it's not safe without you!

JESUS: ...and tell them that, by me, God became man.

PHILIP: But Master!

JESUS: Be not afraid.

PHILIP: You know we need you.

JESUS: Let not your hearts be troubled, neither be afraid. Peace I leave you. My peace I give you. Not as the world gives peace, but as I give peace.

SERVANT: This is our work.

JESUS: Come with me.

*Jesus stands and by a gesture indicates that a towel, bowl and jug of water are to be brought by the servants. He washes James' feet and then another.*

JESUS: Please.

PETER: Lord, are you going to wash my feet?

JESUS: You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.

PETER: No Lord. You will never wash my feet.

JESUS : If I do not wash you, you have no part with me.

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PETER: Then Lord, if that be so, not just my feet, but my hands and my head also!

JESUS : He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, his whole body is clean and you are clean.

But not every one of you.

*He washes a few more disciples and then stands.*

Do you understand what I have done for you?

DISCIPLES: No master we don't understand.

JESUS: By this example I have shown you what you should do for each other.

You call me 'Teacher' and you call me 'Lord' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord & Teacher, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet, I have given you an example that you should do as I have done to you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than he who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. My children, yet a little while I am with you. Where I am going you cannot follow. I give you now a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, all men will know that you are my disciples. Be not afraid. I am with you always - even unto the end of time.

PETER: Why is he leaving us? Lord, why are you going?

JESUS: I go so that all mankind be saved and generations still unborn may turn to God. By the suffering of my body, I leave an ever-burning reminder that I did not flee mankind's brutality. My death will be the price I pay for mankind's sin and for his redemption. By this act I will remain alive when memories of conquerors and kings have passed away.

MATTHEW: How can that be?

JESUS: One of you will cause this and betray me. One who is eating with me here tonight.

PETER: (*to John quietly*) John ask him who it is.

JOHN: Master, who is it?

JESUS: It is he to whom I shall give this morsel when I have dipped it in the dish.

Jesus surreptitiously passes the morsel to Judas and says quietly to Judas

What you are about to do, do quickly.

Peter moves to restrain him.

No, John. It is written. The scripture says "He that ate bread with me will lift his heel against me." John this will be fulfilled. Now sit.

ANDREW: Where is Judas going?

JOHN: He is going on an errand for the master.

JESUS: Sit with me, Brothers.

JOHN: Everyone sit down.

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*When all are seated Jesus stands and takes up the bread, holds it above his head with his eyes closed in prayer, lowers it down and breaks it.*

I have eagerly wanted to eat this Passover feast with you, to be with you before I suffer for the sins of man. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until my sacrifice finds fulfilment in the kingdom of heaven. I am to be the Passover lamb sacrificed to atone for mankind – my sacrifice is man's redemption.

Take this all of you and eat it; this is my Body which will be given up for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

*They each take a piece and eat it.*

*Jesus takes up the chalice and passes it round*

Take this all of you and drink from it, for this is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.

*The chalice is passed around; all drink*

Soon, man will pour out my earthly life - yet, as written by the prophets and as I have often told you, I will be raised up and on the third day will go before you to Galilee. But this very night you will all fall away from me for it is written:

'I will strike the shepherd...

NATHANIEL: ...and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'

PETER: Christ, my Lord Jesus, though they all fall away from you, I will never leave you .

JESUS: Peter, listen to what I say because it is true; this very night before the cock crows, you will deny three times that you ever knew me.

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PETER: I will die alongside you if I have to rather than deny you.

JESUS: Not once, but three times. Before the cock crows.

PETER: No!

JESUS: Come let us leave this place

JOHN: Dear Jesus – if you are going to leave us we will be lost – we are just men that need our God before us all the time. We are weak and cannot stand alone.

JESUS: When I am gone I will ask the Father to send you another Counsellor, the spirit of truth who will be with you forever. The Holy Spirit will remind you of everything I have ever said and will be in everyone of you.  
Let's go to the peace of Gethsemane.

*They follow Jesus to the Garden, stage left.*