

The following play is about the Lord Jesus Christ's Glorious Resurrection. It is taken from the Holy Gospel of St. John. There are seven characters, including the narrator. This play goes with the puppet theater activity found at the end of this article. You will need to make a Mary Magdalene finger puppet, two Angel finger puppets, one Lord Jesus finger puppet, one St Peter and one St John finger puppet for this play.

Each part has the name of the character underlined and in italics. Bold letters signify the action of the character. It is recommended that you read the Holy Gospel of St. John, Chapter 20: 1-18 prior to beginning the play. We hope you have fun creating the finger puppets and performing the play for your family and friends!



The Empty Tomb

Written by: A Southern Diocese Mom

Narrator:

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, had died a terrible, shameful death on the Holy Cross. Before they crucified Him they made fun of Him and they whipped Him 39 times. They placed a crown of thorns on His head and mocked Him by pretending to worship Him. Yet with His last minutes of life He prayed that His Father in Heaven forgive these people all the bad things they had done unto Him.

Then He died.

Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea took down the Lord Jesus' body and wrapped it in cloth and placed it in a new tomb. Mary Magdalene and the other women saw where the Lord Jesus Christ was placed. But because it was the Day of Preparation they had to go home before they finished preparing the Lord Jesus Christ's body for burial.

Mary Magdalene:

(As she walks towards the stage where the tomb is located she says)

It's still very early out and very dark but I know I can find my way to the tomb where they buried my Master. I wonder how I will get the stone to roll away so I can get in with my



spices? I'm sure God will help me find a way.

Oh my, the stone is rolled away. Who could have done that?

(When she reaches the tomb she looks inside and says)

Where is He? Where did they take the Lord Jesus? I must go and tell Peter.

(She runs towards St Peter and St John who are in a closed room. She knocks on the door and St Peter opens it. Next to St Peter is St John)

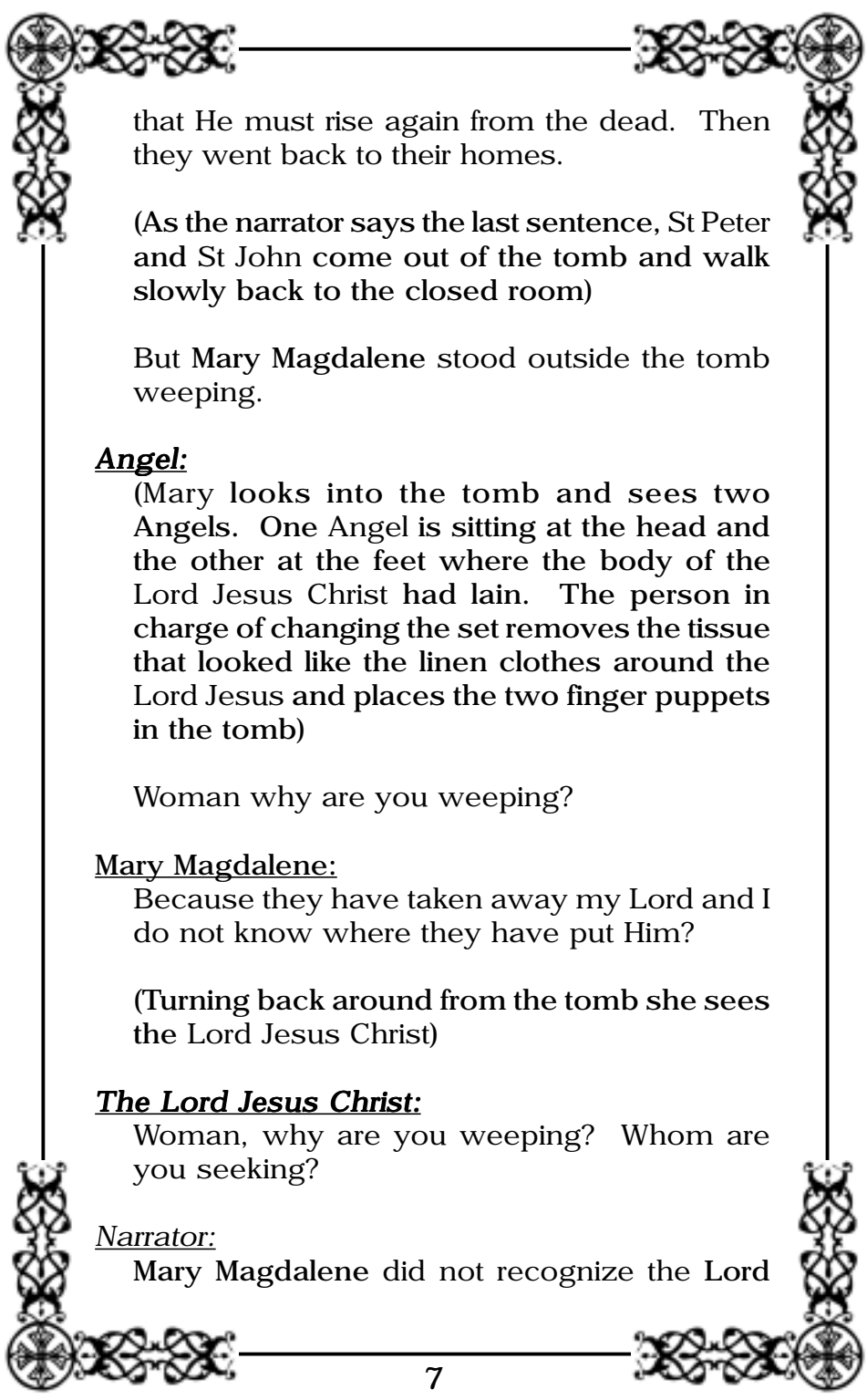
They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb and we do not know where they have laid Him.

(St Peter and St John run to the tomb with St John reaching the tomb first. St John looks inside the tomb before St Peter gets there. When St Peter arrives He goes inside the tomb and St John follows him inside.)

Narrator:

(While St Peter and St John are inside the tomb)

St Simon Peter and St John, the disciple whom the Lord loved saw that the linen clothes were lying where the Lord Jesus Christ was laid but the cloth that was wrapped around His head was wrapped together and placed away from the rest of the linen. Then St John believed but as yet they did not know the Holy Scripture,



that He must rise again from the dead. Then they went back to their homes.

(As the narrator says the last sentence, St Peter and St John come out of the tomb and walk slowly back to the closed room)

But Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb weeping.

Angel:

(Mary looks into the tomb and sees two Angels. One Angel is sitting at the head and the other at the feet where the body of the Lord Jesus Christ had lain. The person in charge of changing the set removes the tissue that looked like the linen clothes around the Lord Jesus and places the two finger puppets in the tomb)

Woman why are you weeping?

Mary Magdalene:

Because they have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have put Him?

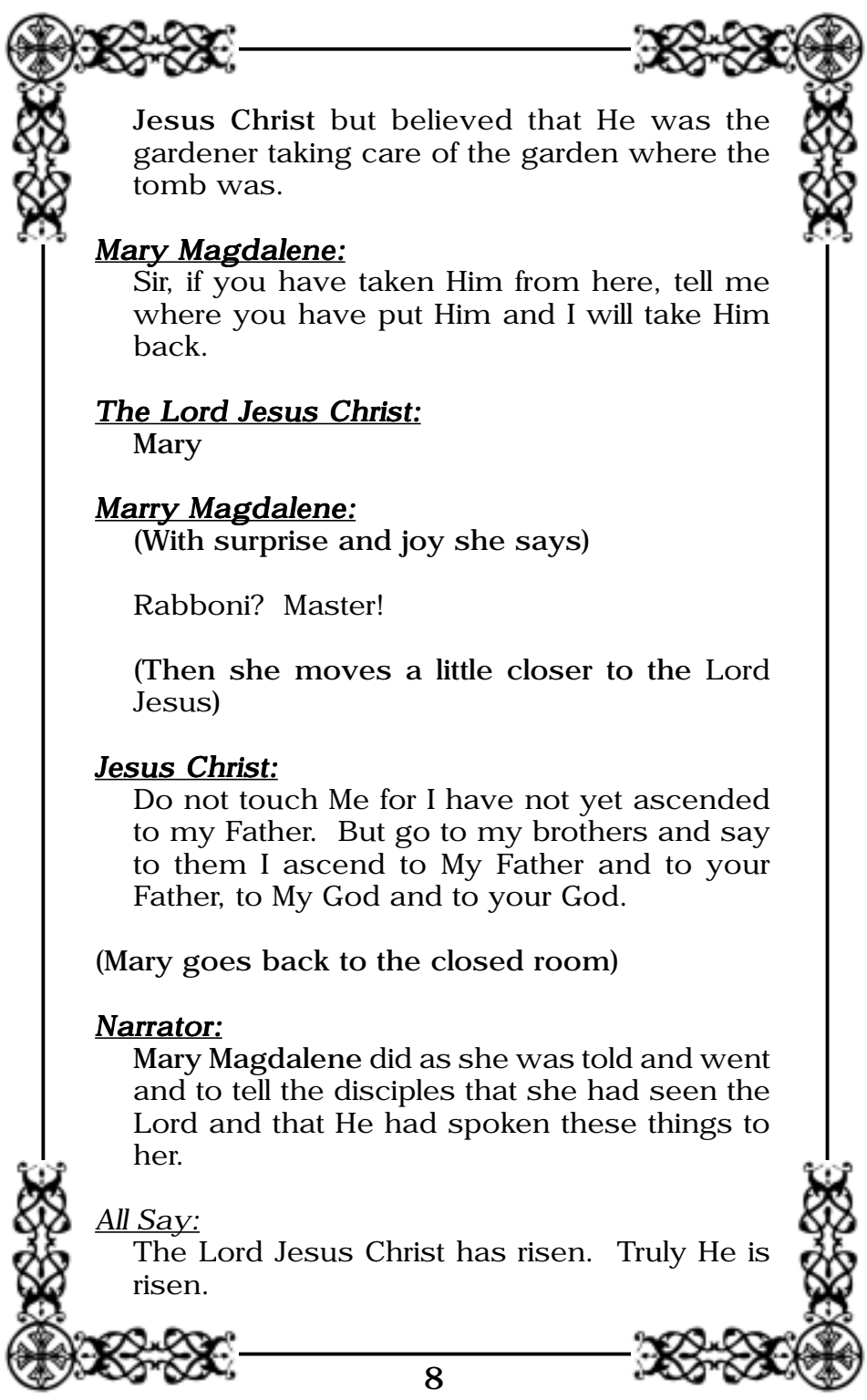
(Turning back around from the tomb she sees the Lord Jesus Christ)

The Lord Jesus Christ:

Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?

Narrator:

Mary Magdalene did not recognize the Lord



Jesus Christ but believed that He was the gardener taking care of the garden where the tomb was.

Mary Magdalene:

Sir, if you have taken Him from here, tell me where you have put Him and I will take Him back.

The Lord Jesus Christ:

Mary

Mary Magdalene:

(With surprise and joy she says)

Rabboni? Master!

(Then she moves a little closer to the Lord Jesus)

Jesus Christ:

Do not touch Me for I have not yet ascended to my Father. But go to my brothers and say to them I ascend to My Father and to your Father, to My God and to your God.

(Mary goes back to the closed room)

Narrator:

Mary Magdalene did as she was told and went and to tell the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had spoken these things to her.

All Say:

The Lord Jesus Christ has risen. Truly He is risen.