

SAINT THOMAS THE CARPENTER

ALL CHOIRS AND CONGREGATION

(at a vigorous pace)

(During the singing of the hymn the Twelve Apostles [also singing the hymn] process from the back of the church to the playing area.)

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a scepter sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
His reign shall know no end, and round His pierced feet
Fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of love, behold His hands and side,
Those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

Crown Him the Lord of Heaven, enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the King to Whom is given the wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns, as thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is King of all.

PRESIDER *(positioned above the playing area, in a balcony or pulpit)*

It came to pass
the blessed Apostles
gathered to pray.

APOSTLES (12 VOICE SATB CHORUS)

Help us fulfill,
O Lord, Thy will.
Show us the way

East or West
as you think best
thy flock to feed.

Send us across
the deserts vast
as human need.

Disperse us, please,
across the seas
which way You choose.

Direct us where
we best may share
Your great good news.

PRESIDER

They chose by lots
to find where God
wished them to go.

THOMAS

Wherever You would send me, Lord,
O! send me, Lord, anywhere.

(Each apostle draws a lot and as it is read the Presider announces what it says.)

PRESIDER

John to Ephesus.

APOSTLES

God's will be done!

THOMAS

Wherever You would send me, Lord,
O! send me, Lord, anywhere.

PRESIDER

James to Jerusalem

APOSTLES

God's will be done!

THOMAS

Wherever You would send me, Lord,
O! send me, Lord, anywhere.

PRESIDER

Thomas to India.

THOMAS

Anywhere but there, Lord!
Anywhere but there.

PRESIDER

Thomas to India!

THOMAS

Send me wherever You would send me, Lord.
But send me somewhere else!

North to Antioch. West to Rome.
Or let me work right out of my home.
Anywhere but India. I am a Hebrew man.
I need to be among my own, surrounded by my clan.
My flesh is weak. My foot is sprained.

PRESIDER

As an apostle, Saint Thomas was lame.
That very night the Lord appeared
to Thomas saying: "Do not fear!
You travel forth at my behest.
I know best. I know best."

THOMAS

No doubt, Lord, You do.
But I don't want to go.

PRESIDIER

Who is your Master, Thomas?

THOMAS

You are, Lord.

PRESIDER

A Master will not harm
any that are his.
Trust me, Thomas, and pack
for the Himalayas.

THOMAS

Lord, no doubt you mean the best.
But I must have my say.
I'll be on the first ship
heading the other way.

PRESIDER

The very next day
Thomas met the captain of a ship
and bartered for his passage.

(Abbanes enters dressed in wild eastern garb, he enters with some wild eastern entrance music.)

ABBANES

What craft do you possess?

THOMAS

I am a builder, and in wood
I can fashion ploughs and yokes
and oars for boats.
In stone I can make
a lovely mosaic
and pillars and fretwork fit
for a king.

ABBANES

Why, you are just the thing!
What is your name?

THOMAS

I am Thomas

ABBANES

The slave of Lord Jesus?

THOMAS

I am.

(Abbanes claps his hands and has his men put Thomas in chains.)

THOMAS

What does this mean?

ABBANES

I am Ab-ba-nes.
I come from afar, as
a merchant on a mission
for the Emperor of India.

THOMAS

Anywhere but India!

ABBANES

Late last night
a dove flew down
into my room
bearing this deed.

(Abbanes takes out a deed of sale and reads it to Thomas as the Presider recites it to us.)

PRESIDER

I, Jesus, the son
of Joseph the carpenter,
hereby make known
that I have sold my slave Thomas
unto Abbanes,
a merchant of the king of the Indians.

THOMAS

Lord, what have You done?

PRESIDER

I have given you a little push.

THOMAS

Lord, thy will be done.

(As the chorus sings their hymn Thomas and Abbanes set sail for India.)

CHORUS *(compose new music to these hymn words)*

Teach me, O Lord, Thy holy way,
And give me an obedient mind;
That in Thy service I may find
My soul's delight from day to day.

(Thomas is onboard ship and disconsolate. He sings a contemporary Christian ballad sort of song with acoustic guitar accompaniment in between the chorus verses)

THOMAS

I wake and wonder why I am
alone, and then remember I
was the one who said good bye.
You tried to stay. You offered more.
I shut the door.

[bridge]

If I had trusted you.
If I'd taken your hand.
You'd understand.

You'd understand.

CHORUS

Bless me in every task, O Lord,
Begun, continued, done for Thee;
Fulfill Thy perfect work in me;
And Thine abounding grace afford.

THOMAS

Tell me why it has to be
from crisis to catastrophe
before I learn the love I need.
You tried to stay, You offered more.
I shut the door.

If I had trusted you.
If I'd taken your hand.
You'd understand.
You'd understand.

CHORUS

Guide me, O Savior, with Thy hand,
And so control my thoughts and deeds,
That I may tread the path which leads
Right onward to the blessed land.

THOMAS

I wake and wonder where you've gone
and how on earth I'll ever find
so good a friend, so pure a mind.
If you would knock, I promise I'd
open the door.

You'd understand.
You'd understand.

PRESIDER

And lo! the creatures of the sea
arose and sang unto the saint.

[The Very Young Children's Chorus proceeds to the playing area, each child dressed up as a dolphin or fish.]

CHILDREN CHORUS

Tommy! Saint Tommy!
God loves you. God loves me.
Tommy! Saint Tommy!
God is love. *[repeated as needed]*

[Saint Thomas steps into the water and dances with the sea creatures while the children's tune is carried on by the hand bell choir.]

ABBANES

Thomas! what are you doing in the sea?

THOMAS

Dancing to the Master of the Sea.
Dancing to the Master who saved me.

My Master was a carpenter
who could repair the world
with a single piece of wood.

ABBANES

How can I meet your Master?

THOMAS

All men and women are like leaves
tossed from the trees
and blown into an ocean
that throws us in confusion.
We are powerless to overcome
the sea's dark motion.

In Love, the Master of the trees,
In Love, the Master of the seas,
leaped into the ocean.
And he clutches every leaf,
each one of us,
tight to his breast.
You only need to say: Yes.

ABBANES

Yes. I do.
I do believe.

THOMAS

Come dance with me!

[Abbanes joins Thomas and the fishes in a dance]

CHILDREN CHORUS

God will hold you.
God will mold you.
God above
came down in love.
God is love!

THOMAS

Now I must
take up my cross
and enter India!

ABBANES

But we are here!
Behold, here comes
the Emperor of India!

Entrance music for the Emperor, the Empress and the court of India.

CHORUS OF INDIANS

Make way! Make way!
The king holds sway!
He rules the day!
The Emperor!
The Emperor of India!
Make way! Make way!

CHILDREN CHORUS

Let's run away!

[The children's chorus runs out of the church playing area.]

ABBANES

Your highness.

EMPRESS *(clearing her throat)*

What about me?

ABBANES

And your highness, the Empress.

EMPEROR

Abbanes, you brought us a builder?

ABBANES

You highness, here
is Thomas the Apostle
of Jesus the Christ.

LADIES IN WAITING

A man who walks on water!
A man who talks to fishes!

EMPRESS

A magician!

THOMAS

I bring the magic of Love.
I bring the knowledge of God.

EMPEROR

Gods we have already.
We have too many Gods.
They have no power to answer prayers.
I hold all the power here.
I am the Emperor.
My word is law.

INDIAN CHORUS

He is the Emperor.
His word is law!

ABBANES

Thomas is the disciple
of a master builder.

THOMAS

My master built the world.

EMPEROR

Build me a mansion.
Make the walls of gold.
Make windows of pure crystal.
Make the floors of gold and precious stone.
Build me a mansion
more glorious than any ever known.

THOMAS

Great king, if you are willing to spend
everything you have
you can have
a mansion more glorious
than any ever known.

EMPRESS

All that he has?
But what about me?
I don't come free.

TRIO (EMPRESS AND LADIES)

It takes rubies to be beautiful.
It takes gold to be bold and lovely.
Trust me.
Beauty
doesn't come free!

TRIO

It takes rubies to be beautiful.
It takes gold to bold and lovely.
Trust me.
Beauty
doesn't come free!

THOMAS

Sir, if you are willing to spend
everything you have
you can have
a mansion more glorious
than any ever known.

EMPEROR

A mansion so glorious
will make us remembered
forever.
You have my word.
Exchequer, give this Thomas
all that I am worth.

The Emperor's servants carry bags of money and jewels and drop them at Thomas' feet

EMPEROR

When will your work be done?

THOMAS

The work is never done.

ABBANES

He means he works all day.

EMPRESS

When can we see the mansion?

THOMAS

Not until you die.

ABBANES

He means it will be a house to die for.
(to Thomas)
Thomas, in the name of our Lord, forbear.
Let me answer any questions here.

The Ladies whisper something in the ear of the Empress. The Empress then whispers into the ear of the Emperor who turns to Thomas.

EMPEROR

You have all you need.
We will return to see
this mansion in one week!

EMPRESS

If it is not done by then.
Magician, I shall have your head.

THOMAS

It shall be done.

EMPEROR

Let us be off!

CHORUS OF INDIANS

Make way! Make way!
The king holds sway!
He rules the day!
The Emperor!
The Emperor of India!
Make way! Make way!

(They exit.)

ABBANES

Thomas, how can you finish a building so soon?

THOMAS

Look around you.
Everything cries out for the kingdom of heaven
which God has planned
and we must build.

(From various directions groups of young people enter costumed as paupers, cripples, the sick and needy.)

YOUTH CHORUSES (*variously*)

Help us, we are hungry.

Help us, we are sick.

Help us we are needy.

Help us we are homeless.

Help us, we are hopeless.

Help us! Help us!

(A the various groups come up to him singing, Thomas distributes all of the money to these needy people.)

ABBANES

Now we have nothing left!

THOMAS

Only the love of God.

INDIAN CHORUS

Make way! Make way!

ABBANES

The Emperor returns!

Thomas, we are dead!

(The Emperor, Empress and court re-enter.)

ABBANES

Great king! That was a short trip.

EMPEROR

I have heard that not a single brick
has been laid for my great mansion.

EMPRESS

Where is our home?

THOMAS

Your home is where your heart is.

EMEROR

Where is my money?

THOMAS

Gone.

Gone to help the suffering
you see all around.

EMPRESS

Thief!

EMPEROR

Imposter!

Imprison these deceivers.

Come the morning they shall die.

INDIAN CHORUS

Imprison these deceivers.

Come the morning they shall die!

(Thomas and Abbanes are put in chains.)

LAIDES IN WAITING

Look! The apostle is crying!

(mocking him)

The apostle is crying because he is dying!

THOMAS

Not that I am dying.

But that I have loved so little,
and helped so few.

(Thomas prays)

Help us use the gifts that You have brought to us, Lord.

THOMAS AND ABBANES

Strengthen, O God, what You have wrought in us, Lord.

THOMAS, ABBANES AND CHORUS

Glory be to the Father,

and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit

as it was in the beginning

is now and ever shall be

world without end.

Amen.

PRESIDER

When suddenly the Empress fell.

EMPEROR

She is dead!

(The people gasp.)

LADIES IN WAITING

Maybe the magician can bring her back.

EMPEROR

Help her, Thomas!

(Thomas approaches the Empress.)

THOMAS

Little child of God,
little silly girl.
Wake up now.
Come back to the world.

(The Empress revives.)

EMPEROR

My love.

EMPRESS

My lord. I was dead!
An angel led
me to heaven
where every soul
dwelt in a home.

Some of the homes were hovels,
some of the homes were grand.
But one mansion stood there greater than
any I have even seen.

I cried to the angel "O, Let me
dwell in that grand mansion."
But the angel replied:

PRESIDER

This home is for your husband
whose goodness built each storey,
whose mercy raised the rafters,
whose charity is his glory.

EMPRESS

Thomas used our riches
but heaven gave us a home.

EMPEROR

How can I dwell in a heavenly home?

THOMAS

Believe in the Lord.

Follow his word.

Display your faith
through loving works.

In Love, the Master of the trees,
In Love, the Master of the seas,
leaped into the ocean.
And he clutches every leaf,
each one of us,
tight to his breast.
You only need to say: Yes.

EMPEROR

Yes!

EMPRESS

Yes!

LADIES

Yes! Yes!

CAST AND CHORUSES

(as they sing, they construct a beautiful mansion)

Build us a mansion.
Make the walls of love.
make windows of compassion.
Make the floors of faith and precious hope.
Build us a mansion
more glorious than any ever known.
A heavenly mansion!
A heavenly mansion!

(Players all process out of the church as all sing.)

ALL CHOIRS AND CONGREGATION

In Christ there is no East or West,
In Him no South or North;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere
Their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord,
Close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, members of the faith,
Whatever your race may be!
Who serves my Father as His child
Is surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both East and West,
In Him meet North and South;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.