

ARISE !

BY LORAIN F. KONRADY

ACT ONE

SCENE I

*SCENE: Hillside in Capernaum. Open area outside with one or two large boulders.*

*Cast begins to enter from aisles in groups of one and twos to down right and down left.*

WOMAN ONE:

Have you seen all he has done?

WOMAN TWO:

Why do you think I have come all this way – I want to see for myself.

*Moves to down right.*

MAN ONE:

One of my friends told me they saw him coming this way.

WOMAN THREE:

My brother's leg was healed.

MAN THREE:

He is a wonderful teacher.

MAN TWO:

Look here he comes! *Points to Jesus.*

*Moves to right center.*

*Jesus and Disciples enter stage down left-move to down center – disciples around Jesus in a semi-circle.*

*More cast members enter from aisles and stage left, in foreground- Jonathan and Old Woman.*

MAN ONE:

He's going to teach, shh lets sit down.

*Cast settles around Jesus.*

*Jesus sits on a boulder.*

*Jesus looks intently at those around him.*

JESUS:

Do not store up riches for yourselves here on earth where moths and rust destroy and robbers break in and steal. Instead store up riches for yourselves in heaven where moths and rust can not destroy and robbers can not break in and steal for your heart will always be where your riches are. *Crowd reaction.*

You can not be a slave of two Masters: You will hate one and love the other or you will be loyal to one and despise the other. You can not serve both God and money. *Crowd reaction.*

*Jesus rises – moves toward people on stage down right.*

This is why I tell you; do not be worried about the food and drink you need in order to stay alive, or about clothes for your body. After all isn't life worth more than food, *Crowd reaction.* and isn't the body worth more than clothes? *Crowd reaction.*

Look at the birds they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your heavenly father takes care of them.

*Turns toward audience.*

Aren't you worth much more than the birds? *Crowd reaction.*

Can any of you live a bit longer by worrying about it? And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow; they do not work or make clothes for themselves.

But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. It is God who clothes the wild grass – grass that is here today and gone tomorrow – burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you? What little faith you have!

*Walks stage down center.*

So do not start worrying; where will my food come from? Or my drink? Or my clothes? These are the things pagans are always concerned about. *Crowd reaction.* Your father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the kingdom of God and with what he requires of you and he

will provide you with these things. So do not worry about tomorrow; it will have enough worries of its own. There is no need to add to the troubles each day brings. *Crowd reaction.*

*Walks down center aisle a few steps – talks to audience*

*Note: if speaking to one person pre-select this individual for this section.*

Do not judge others so that God will not judge you, for God will judge you in the same way you judge others, and he will apply to you the same rules you apply to others. May I? *Jesus borrows staff from Man Two. Holds it up toward his eye.* Why then do you look at the speck in your brothers eye and pay no attention to the log in your own eye? How dare you say to your brother “Please let me take that speck out *Crowd laughs* of your eye” when you have a log in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will be able to see clearly to take the speck out of your brothers eye. *Crowd reaction.*

Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you for every one who asks will receive and anyone who seeks will find, and the door will be opened to those who knock.

*Moves to aisle across the way.*

Would any of you who are fathers give your son a stone when he asks for bread? *Crowd reaction.* Or would you give him a snake when he asks for a fish? *Crowd reaction* As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then will your father in heaven give good things to those who ask him? *Crowd reaction.*

*Continue down center aisle slowly.*

Do for others what you would have them do for you; this is the meaning of the law of Moses and of the teaching of the prophets. Go in through the narrow gate, because the gate to Hell is wide and the road that leads to it is easy and there are many who travel it. *Crowd reaction.* But the gate to life is narrow and the way that leads to it is hard, and there are few people who find it. *Crowd reaction.* Not everyone who calls me “Lord, Lord” will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only those who do what my father in heaven wants them to do. *Crowd reaction.* When the judgment day comes many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord’! In your name we spoke God’s message, by your name we drove out many demons and performed many miracles! Then I will

say to them I never knew you, get away from me you wicked people!  
*Crowd reaction.*

*Walks back toward down center – turns.*

So then, anyone who hears these words of mine and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain poured down, the rivers flooded over, and the wind blew hard against that house. But it did not fall, because it was built on rock *Crowd reaction* but anyone who hears these words of mine and does not obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain poured down, the river flooded over, the wind blew hard against that house, and it fell. And what a terrible fall it was. *Crowd reaction.*

*From the crowd come cries of:*

Heal me Jesus.

Help me Lord.

Take pity on me Lord.

Have mercy on me, son of David.

*Crowd starts to move toward Jesus, Apostles help people to form a line*

MAN THREE:

*Holding his chest.*

I can barely breathe. My chest hurts.

*Jesus lays hands on him.*

MAN THREE:

I can breathe!

MAN FOUR:

*Points to ears.*

MAN FIVE:

He's been deaf for ten years.

JESUS:

Ears be opened!

MAN FOUR:

I can hear! I can hear!  
Say something *To man five*  
I can hear ! *all those around Man Four are joyful.*

BLIND WOMAN:

*Led by Woman Two.*

WOMAN TWO:

She's blind, Lord.

BLIND WOMAN:

I want to see Lord.

*Jesus lays hands on her eyes.*

BLIND WOMAN:

*Puts her hands on Jesus' face – looks into his eyes.*

I can see! Praise the Lord! *All those around the blind woman rejoice.*

CRIPPLED WOMAN:

My leg is crippled.

*Jesus slowly leads her by her hands – she walks, then dances away praising the Lord.*

*Leper enters stage right.*

LEPER:

Unclean, unclean *Crowd recoils.*

*Leper comes and kneels down in front of Jesus – the Leper is wearing a cloak that covers his hands and face.*

LEPER:

Sir, if you want to, you can make me clean.

JESUS:

*Reaches out and touches his head.*

I do want to. Be clean!

LEPER:

*Gasps, looks at hands and arms – unwraps bandages to find his hand clean.*

JESUS:

Listen! Don't tell anyone, but go straight to the priest and let him examine you; then in order to prove to everyone that you are cured, offer the sacrifice that Moses ordered.

*Song starts Thank you Lord – cast and audience singing.*

#1 – LEPER: He healed my hand

#2 – CHEST PAIN: He touched my heart.

#3 - DEAF: He showed his love

#4 - BLIND: He gave me sight

#1 - LEPER: He blessed my soul

#2 - CHEST PAIN: He reached inside

#3 - DEAF: He let me hear

#4 - BLIND: I came alive

CHORUS:

Thank you Lord  
For all that you've done for me  
For all that you've given me  
I say thank you Lord

MEN:

He gave me hope  
He filled my heart

LADIES:

He showed me truth  
We saw his love

MEN:

He leads us now

Along the way

LADIES:

I trust his words  
He saves today

CHORUS:

Thank you Lord  
For all that you've done for me  
For all that you've given me  
I say thank you Lord

## SCENE II

*SCENE: At house of Jarius – simple set-table, two chairs-beautiful cloth on table.*

*Tippurah is playing with doll made of fabric on table.*

*Jonathan enters stage left.*

TIPPURAH:  
Jonathan!

*She runs to him – he swings her around in a hug.*

TIPPURAH:  
Where have you been cousin?

JONATHAN:  
Oh, Tippurah, I wish I could explain how wonderful it was. I went to hear Jesus teach. He taught about faith and obeying God and he healed people – so many sick people, the blind, lepers, paralyzed people. The whole time I felt my soul aching to be closer to the Lord.

*Song: I'm Amazed Jonathan singing.*

I

I'm amazed not confused  
Cause I know what I'll choose  
I've seen the lame walk  
I've seen the deaf healed  
I've seen the blind see  
And I know what I'll choose

CHORUS:

I've seen the light of men shining in the wilderness  
I've seen the light of men shine for me and for you  
Giving us hope now  
Giving us joy now  
The light of men

II

I'm amazed, just amazed  
At the light that I see  
He speaks the truth now  
He offers hope now



He's the messiah  
God has sent his own son

CHORUS:

I've seen the light of men shining in the wilderness  
I've seen the light of men shine for me and for you  
Giving us hope now  
Giving us joy now  
The light of men

III

I am sure of it now  
That I've seen God's own son  
He speaks with God's word  
He loves with God's heart  
He offers hope now  
To our dying world

*Repeat Chorus*

TIPPURAH:

You're going to follow Jesus!

JONATHAN:

Yes I am!

TIPPURAH:

I wish I could meet him.

*Jarius enters stage left*

*Jarius Looks serious.*

JONATHAN:

Well if I am going to follow Jesus of course you'll meet him.

JARIUS:

What's this about following Jesus - and in front of my daughter?

JON:

I am a follower of Jesus, Uncle.

JARIUS:

*Angry*

You're a good Hebrew boy, what do you mean by following the teaching of that upstart Jesus? – He's not even a priest!

JONATHAN:

Uncle, I don't know how to explain. But I could feel my spirit burning inside me when he spoke. The words he spoke were like from God himself!

Could anyone but one sent by God heal lepers, make blind people see and cast out demons?

JARIUS

We are the established ones-the chosen people. The covenants were given to us. Abraham is our Father!

JONATHAN:

Uncle, only God could perform these miracles. Remember how you taught me about the coming Messiah. You showed me the Prophecies – Isaiah, Joel, even Moses foretold of his coming. Uncle, I believe he is here now!

JARIUS:

Are you saying that we need a Messiah in this generation! No, no he'll come years from now. As for us, we have Moses and the Prophets and the law to guide us.

Can't you see how God has provided everything that we could possibly need? Health, prosperity, a good home, each other. My dear boy you are sorely mistaken.

JONATHAN:

But we need a closer walk with the Lord – Jesus is showing us the way. I know he speaks the truth.

JARIUS:

And I'm telling you we don't need him or his teachings and miracles. Yes, one day the Messiah will come – but not now.

*Myra enters stage left carrying a bowl of fruit for the table – puts bowl on table while delivering first line.*

MYRA:

Jonathan, I'm so happy to see you! *Hugs Jonathan*

JARIUS:

You should hear what the boy is saying, Myra. It takes my breath away.

MYRA:

What is it dear?

JARIUS:

It sounds to me as if he expects us all to drop every thing and follow this Jesus.

MYRA:

Oh, Jesus, (*excited*), Oh yes, I've heard of him. Is he nearby?

JARIUS:

Never mind that! The boy has gone mad! Carrying on about following Jesus, being closer to God . As ruler of the Synagogue – I know whose job it is to help with that – mine and the Priests and Rabbis. As for us we're fine as we are aren't we? God has provided all that we could ever need.

MYRA:

Oh, yes dear!

*Song: Everything's Fine Jarius and Myra singing*

*Tippurah and Jon sit on floor, stage right and left facing singers..*

I

Everything's fine with us  
 There's nothing wrong  
 Everything's fine with us  
 We get along  
 We don't need any help  
 We've got all the things that we need  
 We're fine  
 We're fine indeed

We're a family happy now  
 Got health, a house, and a job  
 God has taken care of us  
 He keeps an eye on this bunch

Repeat I

II

Everything's fine with us  
There's nothing wrong  
We don't need to be saved  
We are all strong  
We put faith in our stuff  
That's the stuff that we trust  
We're fine  
We won't go bust

*Tippurah & Jon look at each other.*

## SCENE III

*SCENE: Myra and Tippurah are sewing, seated near each other at table.*

TIP:  
Mother?

MYRA:  
Yes, dear.

TIP:  
What do you think about Jesus?

MYRA:  
Well, I haven't given it much thought, but he might be a Prophet of the Lord, or a very holy person.

TIP:  
Then how do you explain all the miracles and his wonderful teachings?

MYRA:  
Yes, well, the miracles.

*Looks away.*

TIP:  
The lame walk, the blind see and Jonathan says he teaches with such authority!

It seems he knows the heart of God. I believe he is the anointed one of God that father says we are waiting for.

MYRA:  
Yes, it does seem to me you could be right Tippurah, but, I can't go against your father's opinion.

TIP:  
I want to be closer to God – I obey all the Commandments but I want something more!

MYRA:  
Yes, you are such a good child Tippurah. I too would like to be closer to God – but we must not go against your father.

*Song: Why Can't We Have Faith In Jesus? Myra and Tippurah singing.*

*Myra sings*

I

Why oh why can't we have faith  
 Oh why can't we have faith  
 Have faith in Jesus  
 Why oh why can't we have faith  
 Oh why can't we have faith  
 Have faith in Jesus

*Tippurah sings*

II

I will put my trust in him  
 Will put my trust in him  
 Will put my trust in Jesus  
 I will put my trust in him  
 Will put my trust in him  
 Will put my trust in Jesus

*Myra and Tippurah*

III

He was sent to give us hope  
 To give us hope again  
 To give us hope in Jesus  
 He has given us new hope  
 Has given us new hope  
 Has given us hope in Jesus

*End of song they hug.*

MYRA:

*Puts hand on Tip's forehead.*

Why, child, you're burning up with fever.  
 Let's get you to bed.

*Puts arm around Tippurah – walks her off stage L.*

## SCENE IV

SCENE: *Tippurah's bedroom*

*Tippurah is lying on her cot holding her doll – pale, quiet*

*Jarius enters – Myra is wringing her hands kneeling next to cot looking down at Tippurah.*

JARIUS:

What's happened?

MYRA:

I don't know, she was fine this morning – now she has a raging fever. She can barely move – she couldn't lift her head a few minutes ago. Oh, Jarius, I'm afraid!

JARIUS:

Oh, I'm sure she'll be fine, she always is. She's a sturdy child.

SERVANT:

Mistress the doctors have arrived.

JARIUS:

You sent for the doctors?

MYRA:

I've never seen her like this.

JARIUS:

Alright, send them in.

*Doctors enter all very somber*

*Doctor 1: feels pulse – weak, fast pulse*

*Doctor 2: puts head to chest – bad lungs*

*Doctor 3: puts hand on forehead – high fever*

*Doctor 4: stands looking down, stroking beard – I've not seen a case this bad in a long time.*

*All say an occasional hmmm.*

*At 4<sup>th</sup> hum, chord is formed still consulting each other move stage right, get in place for song.*

*Song: It's All In God's Hands      The four Doctors singing*

I    Oh, oh oh  
       She is sick, this we know  
       Our skills we'd like to show  
       But what is wrong we really, really don't' know  
       Oh, oh oh  
       She is hot, she is ill  
       But there is nothing still  
       That we can do to help her  
       She's just in God's hands

CHORUS:

We know that we're in over our heads  
 There's just some things we can not control  
 We have to give God all of the credit  
 He takes care of the world and of us too

II

We have tried all we know  
 To make this sickness go  
 But there are places that we can not go  
 Oh, oh oh  
 God's own plan,  
 God's own hand  
 Can step in where we can't  
 Yes, indeed she's really in God's hands

*Repeat Chorus*

DOCTOR 4:

We're sorry sir, but we've done all that we can. You must pray now for her recovery.

JARIUS:

What! Are you saying that my child is going to die! No, no, you must be mistaken certainly some medicine, or salve – something!

DOCTOR 4:

We're sorry.

*Gives two handed shake to Jarius, then hugs him – leaves with head bowed the others follow with sympathetic looks at Jarius.*



*Jarius and Myra look at each other – she covers her face with her hands.*

*Jarius puts his arm around her.*

*Myra looks up at Jarius hopefully.*

MYRA:

Jarius, I know that you don't believe in Jesus, but you must admit that he has healed so many people, surely one more small child – we could take her to him now.

JARIUS:

No, there must be a way – I don't need Jesus.

SERVANT:

Mistress, your mother and father are here.

JARIUS:

My dear, you must go and receive them.

MYRA:

I can't bear to leave her.

JARIUS:

*Gently.* Go. I'll stay here with her.

*She bends down, kisses Tippurah's forehead while stroking her head – leaves quickly.*

JARIUS:

Hope, what hope can I offer Myra if I feel none myself. All that I've learned in Temple, how can it help me now? Oh God, how is it possible that there is no medicine that can heal my child? How will you help her? What can I do? I can't give my life for hers. I can't take this terrible curse from my little child. Oh Tippurah! Jesus. What of Jesus. Would he even help someone like me? Banning people from the Synagogue if they profess faith in him. Dare I go to him? *(Pause)* Jesus is my last hope.

Song: What I Need Is A Miracle *Jarius singing*

I

I feel so helpless  
 I feel so hopeless  
 Seeing my child drift away  
 Why can't I stop it?  
 Why can't I help her?  
 I am the one she trusts today

CHORUS:

What I needs is a miracle  
 What I need is a miracle  
 What I needs is a miracle  
 To make her live!

She is so quiet  
 She is so precious  
 All of my future lies in her

II

If I trusted Jesus  
 If he can heal her maybe  
 I will go his way

*Repeat Chorus*

III

I was so blind once  
 I needed help once  
 And I cried out to my God  
 He gave me help then  
 He'll give me help now  
 Yes, I will go to seek his son

*Repeat Chorus*

JARIUS:

Jesus is my last hope. I'm going to find him. Dear God, don't let her die.

*As he leaves Tipurah's hand stretches out with doll, doll falls from her hand.*

## SCENE V

*SCENE: Open area*

*Jesus is walking with disciples from across stage L to center front – people are crowding around. All stop.*

*Old woman in foreground.*

*Old woman rises.*

*Song: I've Been Down*

*Old woman and chorus singing*

OLD WOMAN:

I've been down

CHORUS:

She's been down

OLD WOMAN:

Way too long

CHORUS:

Way too long

OLD WOMAN:

I've been down

CHORUS:

She's been down

OLD WOMAN:

Way too long

It's been twelve long years

No one's touched me since

Spent all I had on the doctor's bill

I've been down

CHORUS:

She's been down

OLD WOMAN:

Way too long

CHORUS:  
 Way too long  
 Way too long

OLD WOMAN:  
 But I'm getting on up

CHORUS:  
 Gettin on up

OLD WOMAN:  
 Gonna touch his hem

CHORUS:  
 Touch his hem

OLD WOMAN:  
 Gonna get up

CHORUS:  
 Gonna get up

OLD WOMAN:  
 Gonna touch his hem

CHORUS:  
 Touch his hem

OLD WOMAN:  
 Gonna touch his hem and sing this song  
 I'm gonna get well at the touch of it  
 I've been down  
 But I'm getting on up

*Repeat all*

*At end of song she reaches towards and attempts to touch Jesus' robe, but is pre-empted by...*

*Jarius runs up to Jesus, stage R to center front, falls at his feet.*

*Old woman backs away.*

JARIUS:  
 Master, please help me! My little girl, my only child lies at home dying – please come and save her life.

JESUS:

*Jesus looks into Jarius' eyes seriously*

Yes, I'll come. Let us go.

*They walk – stage right.*

*As Jarius and Jesus start to leave she lunges forward and touches the hem of Jesus' robe.*

*Jesus stops, starts looking around.*

JESUS:

Who touched me?

PETER:

Master, the people are all around you and are crowding you.

JESUS:

Someone touched me – for I knew it when the power went out of me.

Song: Who Touched Me?

*Jesus singing*

I

Who touched me?  
I felt the power go out  
Who touched me?  
I felt the fire go forth  
Who touched me  
I felt faith not fear  
Who touched me  
I know that you are near

CHORUS:

Somewhere here there is a person with faith in me  
Somewhere here there is a person who knows my heart  
I want to know who you are  
I want to know who you are  
Show yourself right now

II

Who touched me?  
With the hand of faith  
Who touched me?  
I want to see your face

Who touched me?  
I felt the healing flow  
Who touched me?  
With the grace of faith

CHORUS:  
*Repeat all*

*At end of song old woman comes up to Jesus, falls on her knees.*

OLD WOMAN:  
Master, I touched you. I suffered for twelve long years with bleeding. I spent all I had on doctors – but nothing helped. When I saw the great power God has given you I knew that if I could only touch the hem of your robe I would be healed. I am healed, I felt it in myself as soon as I touched your hem.

JESUS:  
My daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace.

*Messenger arrives stage right. / (Optional) Arrives down an aisle.*

MESSENGER:  
Jarius, there is no need to bother the teacher any more your daughter has died.

JARIUS:  
No!

JESUS:  
*Firmly*

Don't be afraid – only believe, and she will be well.

*Jesus puts his arm around Jarius – they walk toward house stage right.*

## SCENE VI

SCENE: *Jarius' house – crowd of mourners – crying, moaning.*

*Myra being consoled by her mother and father. Kneeling at bedside  
Tippurah is laid out on bed.*

MYRA:

Why? My poor little one, my only child.

*Cries – is comforted by parents.*

GRANDMOTHER:

And where is Jarius?

MYRA:

He has gone to find Jesus. Why didn't he go sooner? It might have saved her life.

*Cries again.*

*Jesus, Jarius and disciples enter, Myra runs to Jarius.*

MYRA:

It's too late!

JARIUS:

Jesus is here to help us Myra.

JESUS:

*Addressing crowd*

Don't cry, the child is not dead, she is only sleeping.

CROWD:

Laughs (*nervously*).

JESUS:

Peter, please bring the parents in and have everyone else step out.

*Jesus Peter and another Apostle send mourners out. Peter indicating  
the door.*

Please step out, please step out.

*Jarius and Myra go to bedside.*

*Myra clings to Jarius.*

*Tippurah lies on bed – eyes closed, hands folded across chest – holding doll in arms.*

Song: Talitha Cum

*Jesus singing*

I

Talitha Cum  
 Rise and face the world again  
 Let your smile shine again  
 In your tender sweet way  
 Talitha cum  
 Rise and face the world again  
 Take my hand and live again  
 Laugh and play in the sun

CHORUS:

Let those you love see you arise  
 With the light in your eyes  
 That fills us with joy  
 Talitha cum  
 Talitha cum  
 Talitha cum

*Repeat all*

II

Talitha cum  
 Time to see the light of day  
 Time to learn to show the way  
 Show your love to the world  
 Talitha cum  
 The world waits to see your smile  
 Hear your laugh, feel your joy  
 See you rise up again

CHORUS:

Let those you love see you arise  
 With the light in your eyes  
 That fills us with joy  
 Talitha cum  
 Talitha cum  
 Talitha cum



*Repeat chorus*

*At end of song Jesus takes Tippurah by the hand.*

JESUS:

*Little girl, arise. Jesus pulls Tippurah by her hands.*

*Tippurah sits up.*

TIPPURAH:

*Jesus, hugs Jesus.*

MYRA:

*Tippurah.*

JARIUS:

*It's a miracle.*

*Parents hugging child.*

*Disciples happy.*

JESUS:

*Give her something to eat.*

*Tippurah – goes to grandparents, then to Jonathan – all overjoyed.*

*Song: Reprise Thank You, Lord. Cast and audience singing*

I

MYRA: He saved my child

JONATHAN: He saved my soul

JARIUS: He saved my girl

TIPPURAH: He gave me life

MYRA: He taught me faith

JONATHAN: He showed the way

JARIUS: I learned to trust

TIPPURAH: He is the way

## CHORUS:

Thank you Lord  
For all that you done for me  
For all that you've given me  
I say thank you Lord

*Repeat*

## II

MEN:           He gave me hope  
                  He filled my heart

LADIES:       He showed me truth  
                  We saw his love

MEN:           He leads us now  
                  Along the way

LADIES:       I trust his words  
                  He saves today

*Audience to sing the Chorus along with cast.*

*Cast bows – greets audience.*

THE END