

Chester Cycle 1572/2010**Play 19****The Ascension**

Cast: JESUS, PETER, ANDREW, JOHN, JAMES THE GREAT, SIMON, PHILIP, FIRST ANGEL, SECOND ANGEL, THIRD ANGEL, FOURTH ANGEL

The disciples are assembled in an upper room. Jesus shall appear and shall say:

“Pax vobis; ego sum; nolite timere.”
[Peace be with you; it is I; do not be afraid]

JESUS	My brethren that sit in company, with peace I greet you heartily. I am he that stands you by -- now dread you nothing.	
PHILIP 6	Lord, from us thou nought conceal! What time that thou art in thy weal, shalt thou restore Israel again to her realm that day?	<i>bliss</i>
JESUS 10	Brother, that is not to thee to know my Father's privacy that pertains to his own posty -- know that ye not may.	<i>power</i>
15	But receive ye shall, through my behest, the virtue of the Holy Ghost that sent shall be to help you most in the world where ye shall wend. My witness all ye shall be in Jerusalem and Judea, Samaria also, and such country,	
20	to the world's end.	
25	Go ye in all the world, and through my grace preach my word in each place. All that steadfast belief have and baptism, saved shall be. And whoso believeth not in your lore, the words ye preach them before, damned shall be for evermore -- that pain may them not flee.	
30	By this thing you shall well know whoso believeth steadfastly in you -- such signs, truly, they shall show wheresoever they chance to go. In my name well shall they devil's powers cast away;	
35	new tongues ye shall have to preach the fay and adders to control also.	<i>faith</i>
40	And though they poison eat or drink, it shall harm them nothing; sick men with their handling shall heal-ed readily be, such grace shall be in their doing. Now to my Father I am going.	

Ye shall have, brethren, my blessing,
for to Heaven I must stee.

ascend

45 Believe steadfastly
and come ye with me to Bethany.
In Jerusalem ye shall all lie
to abide the grace above.

*Then he shall lead the disciples into Bethany; and when he shall have reached the place,
Jesus shall speak as he ascends, standing in the place where he ascends.
Jesus shall say: Data est mihi omnis potestas in caelo et in terra."
["All power is given to me in heaven and in earth"]*

JESUS My sweet brethren, faithful and dear,
50 to me is granted full power
in Heaven and Earth, far and near,
for my godhead is most.
To teach all men now go ye
that in the world will followed be
55 in the name of my Father and me
and of the Holy Ghost.

Then Jesus shall ascend, and in the course of ascending he shall sing. (God singeth alone.)

JESUS Ascendo ad Patrem meum et Patrem vestrum, Deum meum et Deum vestrum.
Alleluia.
[I ascend to my father and your father, my God and your God. Alleluia]

*When, however, Jesus has fully sung the hymn, he shall stand in the midst,
as if above the clouds, and the Greater Angel shall speak to the Lesser Angel.*

1ST ANGEL *shall sing:*

Quis est iste qui venit de Edom, tinctis vestibus de Bosra?
[Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah?]

LESSER ANGEL *shall sing in response:*

Iste formosus in stola sua, gradiens in multitudine fortitudinis suae?
[This that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength?]

JESUS *shall sing alone:*

Ego qui loquor justitiam et propugnator sum ad salvandum.
[I that speak in righteousness and am mighty to same]

CHOIR *shall sing:*

Et vestimenta tua sicut calcantium in torculari?
[... and thy garments like him that trod in the wine vat?]

JESUS *shall sing alone:*

Torcular calcavi solus, et de gentibus non est vir mecum.
[I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me]

The First Angel shall speak in the mother tongue.

1ST ANGEL Who is this that cometh within
the bliss of Heaven that never shall blin,
bloody, out of the world of sin --
60 and harrowed Hell hath he?

cease

2ND ANGEL Comely he is in his clothing,
and with full power going,
a number of saints with him leading.
He seems of great posty.

power

Then Jesus, pausing in the same place, shall speak.

- JESUS
66 I that spoke righteousness
and have brought man out of distress,
“Redeemer” called I am and was
of all Mankind through grace.
70 My people that were from me reft *stolen*
through sin and through the Devil's craft.
To Heaven I bring – good one never I left -- *virtuous soul*
all that in Hell was.
- 3RD ANGEL
75 Why is thy clothing now so red,
thy body bloody, and also head,
thy clothes also, all that been led,
like to pressers of wine?
- JESUS
80 For the Devil and his power
that Mankind brought in great danger.
Through death on cross and blood so clear
I have made them all mine.
85 These bloody drops that ye now see
all they fresh shall kept be
until I come in my majesty
to judge the last day.
This blood shall witness bear to me.
I died for Man on the rood-tree,
and rose again within days three.
With such love I loved thee ay. *always*
- 90 These drops now with good intent
to my Father I will present
that good men who on earth be lent *living*
shall know openly
how graciously that I them bought,
and, for their good works, that I have wrought
95 the everlasting bliss that they sought,
to prove the good worthy;
and that the wicked may each one
know and see all one
how worthily they forgone
100 the bliss that lasteth ay.
For these causes, believe you me,
the drops I shed on rood-tree,
all fresh shall reserv-ed be
ever, till the last day.
- Then he shall ascend, and in the course of ascending the angels shall sing the hymn written below.*
They shall sing: “Exultaremus, domine, in virtute tua; cantamus et psallemus virtutes tuas.”
[“Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength; we will sing and praise thy power”]
Then the angels shall descend, and they shall sing: “Viri Galilei, quid aspicitis in caelum?”
[“Men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up into heaven?”]
- 4TH ANGEL
106 Ye men that been of Galilee
whereupon now wonder ye,
waiting him that through posty *power*
is now gone you fro?
- 1ST ANGEL
110 Jesus Christ, believe ye me,
that ascended to Heaven as ye see,

right so come again shall he
as ye seen him go.

PETER
115 Lo, brethren, what these angels sayen --
that Jesus, though his great main,
to Heaven is gone, will come again,
right as he forth went.

power

ANDREW
120 Many since so promised he
to send his ghost, with heart free;
and in Jerusalem we shall be
till it were to us sent.

[times]

SIMON
Brethren, I advise that we, truly
thither take the way,
and with devotion night and day
be constant in our prayer.

PHILIP
126 For know we may by sign verrey
that he is God's son, sooth to say.
Therefore it is good we go to pray
as he commanded here.

JOHN
130 Now may we believe it no leasing,
for both by sight and handling,
speaking, eating and drinking
he proves his deity.

lying

JAMES
135 Yea, also by his ascending
he seems fully Heaven-king.
Who has therein full believing,
saved life and soul is he.

PETER
140 Go we, brethren, with one assent,
and fulfill his commandment;
but look that none through dread be blent,
but believe all steadfastly.
Pray we all with full intent
that he to us his Ghost will sent.

blinded

[to the audience]

145 Jesus, that from us now is went,
save all this company!
Amen.