

34

Pre - pare ye — the way of — the Lord!

Pre - pare ye — the way of — the Lord!

38

Lord! —

Lord! The Lord! —

(As the last note is sung, JOHN turns and begins an impassioned sermon to the audience, not noticing JESUS. JESUS watches JOHN curiously during his sermon.)

JOHN THE BAPTIST

You vipers' brood! Who warned you to escape from the coming retribution? Then prove your repentance by the fruit it bears; and do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father." I tell you that God can make children for Abraham out of these stones here. Already the ax is laid to the roots of the trees; and every tree that fails to produce good fruit is cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptize you with water, for repentance sake...

(JESUS picks up the baptismal bucket and looks at it curiously as JOHN continues.)

But he who comes after me is mightier than I. I am not fit to take off his shoes.

(JESUS lifts up one of his shoeless feet and looks at it.)

He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

(JOHN turns and sees JESUS standing there, holding out the baptismal bucket. JOHN is surprised to see JESUS.)

(JOHN THE BAPTIST)

Do you come to me?

JESUS

Yeah, I wanna get washed up.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

(kneels reverently before JESUS)

I need to be baptized by you.

JESUS

(gently brings JOHN back to his feet)

No, no. Let it be so for the present. We do well now to conform with all that God requires.

(During the following, as JESUS sings, JOHN baptizes him by giving him a light sponge bath. JESUS seems to have the freshness and simplicity of a newborn. Throughout the following the rest of the CAST looks through an old trunk upstage, sorting through various clothes and props.)

SAVE THE PEOPLE

Brightly $\text{♩} = 172$ 9 **JESUS:**

p When wilt thou save the peo - ple?

11 O God of mer-cy, when? Not Kings and Lords,

14 — but na - tions, Not thrones and crowns, but men! —

18 — Flow'rs of — thy heart, — O God, are they;

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It begins with a tempo marking of 172 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number (9, 11, 14, 18). The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across measures. The score ends with a final measure in the fourth system.