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## Paul and Silas in Prison

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Paul and Silas in Prison  
Acts 16:16-40  
A play for actors and singers by John Steven Paul  
Developed in workshop by Soul Purpose,  
The Liturgical Drama Troupe of the Valparaiso University Theatre  
Performed at the Institute of Liturgical Studies  
Morning Prayer Wednesday, April 26, 8:30 a.m.

Characters:

Luke  
Paul  
Silas  
Slave girl  
Owner of the Slave girl 1  
Owner of the Slave girl 2  
Magistrate 1  
Magistrate 2  
Jailer  
Police 1  
Police 2  
Lydia  
Crowd, Prisoners

LUKE:

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out,

SLAVE GIRL:

These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.

LUKE:

She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit,

PAUL:

I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.

SLAVE GIRL:

And it came out that very hour.

OWNER 1:

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities.

MAGISTRATE 1:

When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said,

OWNER 2:

These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.

LUKE:

The crowd joined in attacking them,

MAGISTRATE 2:

... and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

MAGISTRATE 1:

After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.

JAILER:

Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

LUKE:

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

JAILER:

When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped.

LUKE:

But Paul shouted in a loud voice,

PAUL:

Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.

JAILER:

The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

PAUL:

Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved,

SILAS:

... you and your household.

LUKE:

They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

JAILER:

At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

MAGISTRATE 1:

When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying,

POLICE 1:

Let those men go.

LUKE:

And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying,

JAILER:

The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace.

LUKE:

But Paul replied,

PAUL:

They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they going to discharge us in secret? Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.

POLICE 2:

The police reported these words to the magistrates,

MAGISTRATE 2:

... and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens, so they came and apologized to them.

MAGISTRATE 1:

And they took them out and asked them to leave the city.

LYDIA:

After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.