

PLAY TWENTY-FIVE – The Entry into Jerusalem

(The Skinners)

JESUS To me take (at)tent and give good heed,
My dear disciples that be here,
I shall you tell that shall be indeed;
My time to pass hence, it draweth near,
And by this skill
Man's soul to save from sorrows *sere (*severe, sore, diverse)
That lost was ill.

From heaven to earth when I descend
Ransom to make I made promise,
The prophecy now draws to end;
My Father's will *forsooth it is (*in truth)
That sent me hither.
Peter, Philip, I shall you bliss
And go together

Unto yon castle that is you again(st),
Goes with good heart and tarry nought,
My commandment to do be ye *bayne. (*obedient)
Also I you charge look it be wrought
That shall ye find
An ass, this *feste as ye had sought, (*fastened, tied up)
Ye her unbind

With her foal, and to me them bring
That I on her may sit a space
So the prophecy clear meaning
May be fulfilled here in this place:
"Daughter Syon,
Look, thy Lord comes riding on an ass,
Thee to open."

If any man will you gainsay,
Say that your Lord has need of them
And shall restore them this same day
Unto what man will them claim.
Do thus this thing,
Go forth ye both and be *ay **bayne (*ever, always) (**obedient)
In my blissing.

PETRUS Jesu, master, even at thy will
And at thy *liste us likes to do, (*liking, desire)

Yon beast which thou desires thee *tille. (*to)
Even at thy will shall come thee too
Unto thine ease.

*Sertis, Lord, we will thither all go (*certainly, surely)
Thee for to please.

PHILIPPUS Lord, thee to please we are full *bayne (*obedient)
Both night and day to do thy will.

Go we, brother, with all our *main (*power)

My Lord's desire for to fulfil,

For prophecy

Us must it do to him by skill

To do duly.

PETRUS Ya, brother Philip, behold *grathely, (*prepared, ready)

For as he said we should soon find,
Methink yon beasts before mine eye,
They are the same we should unbind.

Therefore freely

Go we to him that them *gan bind (*gone, did)

And ask meekly.

PHILIPPUS The beasts are *common, well I know; (*i.e. public property)

Therefore us needs to ask less leave,
And our master keeps the law.

We may them take *tyter, I **preve, (*readily) (**prove, show)

For not we let. (i.e. without waiting_

For well I *wot our time is brief, (*know)

Go we them fet(ch).

JANITOR Say, what are ye that makes here mastery
To loose these beasts without *leverie? (*livery, i.e. authority/leave)

You seems too bold, since nought that ye

Has here to do; therefore *rede I (*advise)

Such things to cease,

Or else ye may fall in folly

And great dis-ease.

PETRUS Sir, with thy leave heartily we pray
This beast that we might have.

JANITOR To what intent, first shall ye say,
And then I grant what ye will crave
By good reason?

PHILIPPUS Our master, sir, that all may save,

Ask by *chesoune.

(*reason, good cause)

JANITOR What man is that ye master call
*Swilke privilege dare to him claim?

(*such)

PETRUS Jesus of Jews king, and *ay be shall,
Of Nazareth prophet the same,
This same is he,
Both God and man, withouten blame,
This *trist well we.

(*ever, always)

(*trust, promise)

JANITOR Sirs, of that prophet heard I have,
But tell me first plainly, where is he?

PHILIPPUS He comes at hand, so God me save.
That Lord we left at Bephage,
He bides us there.

JANITOR Sir, take this beast, with heart full free,
And forth ye fare.

And if you think it be to done,
I shall declare plainly his coming
To the chief of the Jews that they may soon
Assemble same to his meeting.
What is your *rede?

(*advice)

PETRUS Thou says full well in thy meaning,
Do forth thy deed,

And soon this beast we shall thee bring
And it restore as reason will.

JANITOR This tidings shall have no *laynyng
But to the citizens declare it *till
Of this city.
I suppose fully that they will
Come meet that free.

(*concealment)

(*to)

And since I will they warned be,
Both young and old, in *ilke a state,
For his coming I will them meet
To let them *wit, without debate.
Lo(ok), where they stand,
That citizens' chief, without debate,
Of all this land.

(*each, every)

(*know)

He that is ruler of all right
And freely shape both sea and sand,
He save you, lordings, gaily *dight, (*prepared, dressed)
And keep you in your *semelyté (*seemliness, worthiness)
And all honour.

I BURGENSIS Welcome, porter, what novelty
Tell us this hour?

JANITOR Sirs, novelty I can you tell
And trust them fully as for true;
Here comes of *kind of Israel (*kindred, tribe)
At hand the prophet called Jesu,
Lo, this same day,
Riding on an ass; this tidings new
Conceive ye may.

II BURGENSIS And is that prophet Jesu near?
Of him I have heard great *ferlis told: (*miracles, wonders)
He does great wonders in countries *seere. (*diverse, many)
He heals the sick, both young and old,
And the blind gives them their sight;
Both dumb and deaf, as himself would,
He cures them right.

III BURGENSIS Ya, five thousand men with loaves five
He fed, and *ilkone had **inowe. (*each/everyone) (**enough)
Water to wine he turned rive,
He got corn grow withouten plough
Where ere was none;
To dead men als(o) he gave life,
Lazar was one.

IV BURGENSIS In our Temple if he preached
Against the people that lived wrong,
And also new laws if he taught
Against our laws we used so long,
And said plainly
The old shall waste, the new shall *gang, (*go, rise up/process)
That we shall see.

V BURGENSIS
Ya, Moses' law he *cowde ilke dele, (**???) – Davidson states “knew everything”
And all the prophets on a row,
He tells them so that *ilke a man may feel (*each, every)

And what they may entirely know
If they were *dim, (*obscure, unknown)
What the prophets said in their *saw, (*sayings)
All (be)longs to him.

VI BURGENSIS Emanuel also by right
They call that prophet, by this skill,
He is the same that are was *hight (*named, promised)
By Isaiah before us *till, (to)
Thus said full clear:
Loo(k), a maiden that knew never *ill (*sin)
A child should bear.

VII BURGENSIS David spake of him I *wene (*believe, reckon)
And left witness ye know *ilkone; (*each, everyone)
He said the fruit of his *cor(p)se clean (*body)
Should royally reign upon his throne,
And therefore he
Of David kin, and other none,
Our king shall be.

VIII BURGENSIS Sirs, methinketh ye say right well,
And good examples forth ye bring;
And since we thus this matter feel,
Go we him meet as our own king,
And king him call.
What is your counsel in this thing,
Now say ye all?

I BURGENSIS Against reason I will not *plete, (*plead, debate)
For well I *wot our king he is. (*know)
Whoso against his king *liste threat, (*desires, likes)
He is not wise, he does amiss.
Porter, come near,
What knowledge hast thou of his coming,
Tell us all here?

And then we will go meet that *free (*i.e. noble one)
And him honour as we well *awe (*owe, ought)
Worthily to our city,
And for our sovereign Lord him know
In whom we trust.

JANITOR Sirs, I shall tell you all on row
*And ye will *liste(n). (*if)

Of his disciples two this day,
Where that I stood, they fair me greet
And on their master have gone pray
Our common ass that they might get
But for a while
Whereon their master soft might sit
Space of a mile.

And all this matter they me told
Right wholly as I say to you,
And the ass they have right as they would,
And soon will bring again, I *trowe,
So they behest.
What ye will do advise you now,
Thus think me best.

(*trust, believe)

II BURGENSIS Truly as for me, I say,
I *rede we make us ready **bowne
Him to meet goodly this day
And him receive with great renown,
As worthy is.
And therefore, sirs, in field and town
Ye fulfil this.

(*advise) (**bound)

JANITOR Ya, and your children with you take,
Though all in age that they be young;
Ye may fare the better for their sake
Through the blissing of so good a king,
This is no doubt.

III BURGENSIS I can thee thank for thy saying,
We will him *lowte;

(*laud, praise, honour)

And him to meet I am right *bayne
On the best manner that I can,
For I desire to see him *fayne
And him honour as his own man
Since the *soth I see:
King of Jews we call him then,
Our king is he.

(*obedient, eager)

(*joyfully)

(*truth)

IV BURGENSIS Our king is he, that is no less,
Our own law to it (ac)cords will,
The prophets all bare full witness
Which full of him secret gone tell,
And thus would say,

“Among yourself shall come great *seele
Through God *verray.”

(*health, prosperity)
(*truly)

V BURGENSIS This same is he, there is none other,
Was us *behest full long before,
For Moses said, as our own brother
A new prophet God should restore.
Therefore look ye
What ye will do, withouten more:
Our king is he.

(*promised)

VI BURGENSIS Of Judah come our king so *gent,
Of Jesse, David, Salamon,
Also by his mother kin take (at)tent,
The genealogy bears witness on,
This is right plain.
Him to honour right as I can
I am full *bayne.

(*noble)

(*obedient, humble)

VII BURGENSIS Of your clean wit and your *conceit
I am full glad in heart and thought,
And him to meet without *let
I am ready and *fain will not
*But with you same
To him again us bliss have brought
With mirth and game.

(*idea)

(*delay)

(*joyful)

(*unless)

VIII BURGENSIS Your arguments they are so clear
I can no(u)ght say but grant you till,
For when I of that counsel hear,
I covet him with fervent will
Once for to see;
I *trowe from thence I shall
Better man be.

(*trust, believe)

I BURGENSIS Go we than with procession
To meet that comely as us *awe
With branches, flowers, and unison,
With might-full songs here on a row.
Our children shall
Go sing before that men may know.

(*owe, ought)

To this grant we all.

PETRUS Jesu, Lord and master free,
As thou command so have we done:

This ass here we have brought to thee.
What is thy will thou schow us soon
And tarry nought,
And then shall we, without *hune, (*delay)
Fulfil thy thought.

JESUS I thank you, brother, mild of mood.
Do on this ass your clothes ye lay
And lift me up with hearts good
That I on her may sit this day
In my blissing.

PHILIPPUS Lord, thy will to do alway(s),
We grant this thing.

JESUS Now my brother with good cheer,
Give good intent, for ride I will
Unto yon city ye see so near.
Ye shall me follow, same and still
As I ere said.

PHILIPPUS Lord, as thee *lyst we grant thee **till, (*likes, desires) (**to)
And hold us paid.

Tunc cantant.

[They sing.]

CECUS** Ah, Lord, that all this world has made, [Blind Man**]
Both sun and moon, night and day,
What noise is this that makes me glad?
From whence it should come I cannot say
Or what it mean.
If any man walk in this way,
Tell him me *bedene. (*bidden, obediently)

PAUPER Man, what ails thee to cry?
Where would thou be, thou say me here?

CECUS Ah, sir, a blind man am I,
And *ay has been of tender year (*ever, always)
Since I was born;
I heard a voice with noble cheer
Here me before.

PAUPER Man, will thou ought that I can do?

CECUS Ya, sir, gladly would I *wit (*know)

If thou could ought declare me to;
This mirth I heard, what mean may it
Or understand?

PAUPER Jesu, the prophet full of grace,
Comes here at hand,

And all the citizens they are *bowne (*bound)
Goes him to meet with melody,
With the fairest procession
That ever was seen in this Jewry.
He is right near.

CECUS Sir, help me to the street hastily
That I may hear

That noise, and also that I might through grace
My sight of him, to crave I would.

PAUPER Loo(k), he is here at this same place.
Cry fast on him, look thou be bold
With voice right high.

CECUS Jesu, the Son of David called,
Thou have mercy!

Alas, I cry, he hears me not.
He has no *ruth of my misfare, (*pity, grief)
He turns his ear, where is his thought?

PAUPER Cry somewhat louder, look thou not spare,
So may thou spy.

CECUS Jesu, the salver of all sore,
To me gives good hie!

PHELIPPUS Cease, man, and cry not so.
The voice of the people goes thee by
Thee ought set still and (at)tent give to,
Here passes the prophet of mercy.
Thou does amiss.

CECUS Ah, David's Son, to thee I cry,
The king of bliss!

PETRUS Lord, have mercy and let him go.

He can not cease of his crying;
He follows us both to and fro.
Grant him his boon and his asking,
And let him wend.
We get no rest ere that this thing
Be brought to end.

JESUS What would thou man I to thee deed?
In this present, tell openly.

CECUS Lord, my sight is fro(m) me hid,
Thou grant me it, I cry mercy;
This would I have.

JESUS Look up now with cheer blithely:
Thy faith shall thee save.

CECUS Worship and honour *ay to thee (*always, ever)
With all the service that can be done.
The king of bliss loved *mote he be (*may, must)
That thus my sight hath sent so soon
And by great skill.
I was ere blind as any stone,
I see at will.

CLAUDUS** Ah, well were them that ever had life, [Lame Man**]
Old or young whether it were,
Might wield their limbs without strife;
Go with this mirth that I see here
And continue,
For I am set in sorrows *sere (*sore, severe)
That *ay are new. (*always, ever)

Thou, Lord, that shape both night and day,
For thy mercy have mind on me
And help me, Lord, as thou well may.
[LINE MISSING]
I may not *gang, (*go, journey)
For I am lame, as men may see,
And has been long.

For well I *wot, as known is rife, (*know)
Both dumb and deaf thou grants them grace,
And also the dead that thou have given life;
Therefore grant me, Lord, in this place
My limbs to wield.

JESUS My man, rise and cast the crutches good space
Here in the field,

And look in truth thou steadfast be
And follow me forth with good meaning.

CLAUDUS Lord, lo(ok), my crutches where they flee
As far as I may let them fling
With both mine *hende; (*hands)
That ever we have meeting
Now I defend.

For I was holt both limb and lame,
And I suffered *tene and sorrows **inowe. (*pain) (**enough)
*Ay-lasting Lord, loved be thy name, (*everlasting)
I am as light as bird on bough.
*Ay be thou blissed, (*Always, ever)
Such grace hast thou showed to me,
Lord, as thee *list. (*desires, wills)

ZACHÉ Since first this world was made of nought
And all thing set in equity,
Such *ferly thing was never none wrought, (*marvellous, miraculous)
As men this time may see with eye.
What it may mean?
I cannot sae what it may be,
Comfort or *tene. (*sorrow, agony)

And chiefly of a prophet new
That mickle is profit, and that of late,
Both day and night they him *assewe, (*follow, pursue)
Our people same through street and gate,
[LINE MISSING]
Our old laws as now they hate
And his keeps *yare. (*readily, completely)

Men from death to life he raise,
The blind and dumb give speech and sight,
Greatly therefore our folk him praise
And follows him both day and night
From town to town.
They call him prophet by right,
As of renown.

And yet I marvel of that thing,

Of *publicans since prince am I
Of him I could have no knowing.
If all I would have come him near,
Early and late,
For I am low, and of mine height
Full is the *gate.

(*tax-collectors)

(*street, as in Micklegate, Spurriergate etc.)

But since no better may befall,
I think what best is for to do.
I am short, ye know well all;
Therefore yon tree I will go to
And in it climb.
Whether he come or pass me fro(m),
I shall see him.

A noble tree, thou sycamore,
I bliss him that thee on the earth brought.
Now may I see both here and there
That under me hid may be nought;
Therefore in thee
Will I bide in heart and thought
Till I him see.

Unto the prophet come to town,
Here will I bide whatso befall.

JESUS Do, Zaché, do fast come down.

ZACHÉ Lord, even at thy will hastily I shall,
And tarry nought.
To thee on knees, Lord, here I shall
For sin I wrought

And welcome, prophet, trust and true,
With all the people that to thee (be)longs.

JESUS Zaché, thy service new
Shall make thee clean
Of all the wrong that thou has done.

ZACHÉ Lord, I let not for this thron
Here to say soon,

Me shames with sin, but nought to mend;
I sin forsake: therefore I will
Halve my goods I have unspend

Poor folk to give it *till, (*to)
This will I *fayne; (*joyfully)
Whom I beguiled to him will I
Make *asith again. (*restitution)

JESUS Thy clear confession shall thee cleanse:
Thou may be sure of lasting life.
Unto thy house, withouten offense,
Is granted peace withouten strife.
Farewell, Zaché.

ZACHÉ Lord, thee *lowte **ay man and wife, (*praise) (**ever)
Blissed might thou be.

JESUS My dear disciples, behold and see,
Unto Jerusalem we shall ascend.
Man's Son shall there betrayed be
And given into his enemy's hand
With great despite.
There spitting on him there shall they spend
And smartly smite.

Peter, take this ass me fro(m)
And lead it where thou ere it took.
I mourn, I sigh, I weep also
Jerusalem on thee to look;
And so may thou
That ever thou thy king forsook
And was untrue.

For stone on stone shall none be left
But down to the ground all shall be cast;
Thy game, thy glee, all from thee *reft, (*torn, bereft)
And all for sin that thou done hast,
Thou art unkind.
Against thy king thou hast trespassed,
Have this in mind.

PETRUS Porter, take here thine ass again;
At hand my Lord comes on his feet.

JANITOR Behold, where all thy burghers *bayne (*obediently)
Comes with worship him to meet.
Therefore I will
Let him abide here in this street
And *lowte him till. (*laud, praise)

I BURGENSIS Hail, prophet, proved withouten peer,
Hail, prince of peace shall ever endure,
Hail, king comely, courteous and clear,
Hail, sovereign seemly, to sinful sure,
To thee all bows.
Hail, Lord lovely, our cares may cure,
Hail, king of Jews.

II BURGENSIS Hail, flourishing flower that never shall fade,
Hail, violet *vernand with sweet odour, (*blooming)
Hail, mark of mirth, our medicine made,
Hail, blossom bright, hail, our succour.
Hail, king comely.
Hail, *menschfull man, we thee honour (*skilful, noble)
With heart freely.

III BURGENSIS Hail, David son, doughty in deed,
Hail, rose ruddy, hail beryl clear,
Hail, well of wealth may make us *mede; (*reward)
Hail, salver of our sores *sere, (*severe, many)
We worship thee.
Hail, *hendfull, with solace **sere, (*gracious, merciful) (**many)
Welcome thou be.

IV BURGENSIS Hail, blissful babe, in Bedlam born,
Hail, *boot of all our bitter **balis, (*cure) (**torments)
Hail, *sege that shape both even and morn, (*throne, ruler)
Hail, talker trustful of true tales.
Hail, comely knight,
Hail, of mood that most prevails
To save the *tight. (*enclosed, imprisoned)

V BURGENSIS
Hail, diamond with *drewry **dight, (*ornament) (**prepared)
Hail, jasper gentle of Jewry,
Hail, lily lovesome (g)leamed with light,
Hail, balm of *bote, moist and dry, (*cure, healing)
To all has need.
Hail, bairn most blisshed of mild Marie,
Hail, all our *mede. (*reward)

VI BURGENSIS Hail, conqueror, hail, most of might,
Hail, ransomer of sinfull all,
Hail, pitiful, hail, lovely light,
Hail to us welcome be shall.

Hail, king of Jews,
Hail, comely *cor(p)se that we thee call (*body)
With mirth that news.

VII BURGENSIS Hail, sun *ay shining with bright beams, (*ever, always)
Hail, lamp of life shall never waste,
Hail, liking lantern lovely (g)leams,
Hail, text of truth the true to taste.
Hail, king and sire,
Hail, maiden's child that *menskid her most, (*honoured)
We thee desire.

VIII BURGENSIS

Hail, doomsman dreadful, that all shall *deme, (*doom, judge)
Hail, *quick and dead that all shall **lowte, (*living) (**laud, praise)
Hail, whom worship most will seem,
Hail, whom all thing shall dread and *dowte. (*fear)
We welcome thee,
Hail, and welcome of all about
To our city.

Tunc cantant.

[They sing.]