Biblical Drama based on Matthew 28:1-15
Character Parts: Narrators 1-8, Priest, Pharisee, Pilate, Angel, Jesus, Women, Soldier

Narrator 1: After Jesus had died, they took his body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in a new tomb that had been carved out of the rock. A large stone was used to seal the tomb. But the chief priests and the Pharisees went to the governor, Pontius Pilate, with a request.

Priest: Sir, we remember something that impostor Jesus said while he was still alive. He said: "After three days I will rise again."

Pharisee: We want you to make the tomb secure until the third day. Otherwise his disciples may go and steal his body away, and tell the people, "He has been raised from the dead."

Priest: If that were to happen, the last deception would be worse than the first!

Pilate: You have your own temple guards; go and make the tomb as secure as you can.

Narrator 2: So they went with the guards and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

(The soldiers go and place the stone in front of the tomb, and remain there as guards.)

Narrator 3: It was not until after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, that Mary Magdalene and the other women went to see the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

(An angel appears and rolls back the stone.)

Narrator 4: The angel's appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel spoke to the women.

Angel: Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, just as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, Jesus has been raised from the dead and is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him. This is my message for you.

Narrator 5: So the women left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. But suddenly Jesus himself met them.

Jesus: Greetings!

Women: Lord, is it really you?

Narrator 6: The women came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Jesus: Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me too.

Narrator 7: After the women left, the guards from the tomb went into the city and told the priests everything that had happened. They devised a plan to bribe the soldiers with money, so that they would go and spread a lie.

Priest: You must tell people that his disciples came by night and stole him away while you were asleep.

Soldier: Wait a minute! If we say we fell asleep on the job, won't we get in trouble?

Priest: Don't worry. If the governor asks how you could let this happen, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.

Narrator 8: So the soldiers took the money and did as they were directed. They didn't say anything about the angel, or about Jesus rising from the dead. Instead, they lied and told everyone that the disciples came and stole Jesus' body. This same lie is still told by people to this day.

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