

The Temptation of Christ

Sung to the tune of Leonard Cohen's beautiful song "Hallelujah." Cohen's song is about the Old Testament Temptation Story of David and Bathsheba. These words tell the New Testament story of Jesus' Temptation.

This song can be sung effectively as a solo or with two or three singers acting out the parts of Narrator, Jesus and Satan. You might have a chorus singing the Hallelujahs with escalating intensity as the story progresses. Or consider having the congregation sing the Hallelujahs. If you want to shorten the performance, you can sing two verses between choruses.

Sheet music is available inexpensively on the internet. Google: Hallelujah Cohen. It can be adapted verse/chorus/verse/chorus.

You climbed into the hills to stay
For forty days to fast and pray
A heart to heart with God is what moved you.
But underneath a craggy stone
The devil waited all alone
"Now's my chance," he muttered, "Hallelujah."
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

The wilderness was bare and dry
An angel chorus in the sky
Countered with a saintly Hallelujah
One fallen angel stayed and fought
"This Son of God is mine," he thought
But louder cried the angels' "Hallelujah!"
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

The sun shone on the dusty land
There's no food for the Son of Man
"But hunger shouldn't be a problem for you.
Look at the stones both west and east
Pick up a few and have a feast."
The angels startled cry sighs, "Hallelujah!"
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

"You take the bread, I'll take the stone
We do not live on bread alone
But on the words my Father utters to you."
The devil, stunned, is blown away.
"I know there is another way."
Act One. The chorus closes. Hallelujah!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Act Two. The devil slinks away
And leaves The Son of God to pray
"But I've another plan to overthrow you.
From a temple tower high above

Look down on all those folks you love
Fall down and let the angel chorus save you."
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

"Enough of this, be on your way
'Don't test the Lord,' the scriptures say"
A tired and angry Jesus blasts back at you
But undeterred the devil stays
"I'll get this Son of God," he says
But the chorus overcomes him, "Hallelujah."
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Act Three. The devil's awfully tired
"Who knew this game would be so hard!?"
But one more trick and I know I can fool you.
The Son of God, if so you be,
You'll want to get the best of me."
The angels sing still louder, "Hallelujah!"
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

"So Jesus, whatcha waiting for
The world is waiting at your door.
One look around at all that I can give you
Just click your heels and bend your knee
I'll give you everything you see
You're set for life, sing out now, 'Hallelujah!'"
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

"Get lost, you devil, go away
There's just one God for me always."
The songs from heaven sounded loud and long.
"I may be tired, I may be sad
But God is everything I have"
Now all the world can join us in our song.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.