

# **LA PASTORELA: Alfresco (revised 11-28-21)**

*Adapted from the Traditional Mexican Pageant by Glenn Mehrbach  
with help from the Children of the Community Church*

## **SCENE ONE: The Stable The Church Courtyard**

*Mary and Joseph are discovered fawning over the Baby Jesus in the stable, in the classic Christmas scene. Michael the Archangel, along with the Angel Gabriel and Seraphina, Queen of the Angels, enter to announce the birth. GABRIEL blows his horn.*

MICHAEL (*answering*)

A Child Is Born!

*GABRIEL blows his horn again.*

MICHAEL

A Child is Born! (*with GABRIEL blows one more time*)  
So sound the horn on this bright morn,  
In Bethlehem!

*SERAPHINA guides the angels, who descend from "heaven" to surround the child, while music plays under.*

MICHAEL (*spoken*)

Today is a momentous day. Here in a stable, in Bethlehem, a new life begins; a life that is destined to bring peace, love and understanding to the world.

SERAPHINA

Come and welcome him. Bring gifts! Send out the word! A new day is dawning.

MICHAEL

I will place a star in the heavens to show the way (*he points skyward, and a large Star appears*).

MICHAEL (*sings*)

A child is born in Bethlehem,  
A child is born to show the way.  
On this bright morn a child is born In Bethlehem.

*From far off, we see the THREE KINGS beginning to make their way into the scene.*

MICHAEL and SERAPHINA (*singing*)  
All come and view this newborn babe,  
This precious life, this proof of love.  
So heed the call, come one, come all  
To Bethlehem.

*By now the KINGS have arrived, and given their gifts to the Baby Jesus. During the following, the KINGS have taken their place, and they joins in the singing.*

MICHAEL, GABRIEL, SERAPHINA, THE KINGS AND ANGELS  
We come to welcome and adore him,  
We bring him gifts from near and far.  
We long to linger here...

MICHAEL (*interrupting, speaking*)  
Wait a minute! What's wrong with this picture?

GABRIEL  
No shepherds, sir?

SERAPHINA  
And no sheep, either.

MICHAEL  
Of course. Where could they be? I've given out the call. (to GABRIEL) Your trumpet sounded nice and loud. (to SERAPHINA) Your angels came down. (to no one in particular) I placed the star. OK. Hold it, everyone. I've got to go and find out what's up with the shepherds and sheep. Back in a jiffy.

*All freeze. The ANGELS and KINGS disappear into the Jones Building. A loud sound is heard from the far end of the small front parking lot, behind them, and we see LUCIFER and ASMODOEO in a clearing. LUCIFER is pacing frantically, and his sidekick, ASMODOEO, is staring at some sort of computer-like gizmo.*

**SCENE TWO: Lucifer's Lair**  
***Clearing at Far End of "Drop-Off" Parking Lot***

ASMODOEO  
Your Wickedness, it says here that a child was born in a place called Bethlehem today.

LUCIFER  
Big deal? Children are born every day. More fodder for my evil plans, that's what I say.

ASMODEO

But this one is different. They're saying that he's been sent by the Big Guy to bring love and peace to the earth.

LUCIFER

That can't be good. Show me the article.

ASMODEO

Yes, Your Nastiness. It seems that everyone has arrived to witness the birth but the shepherds and sheep, and Michael the Archangel has gone off to fetch them.

LUCIFER

Aha! Then we must stop those shepherds from getting to Bethlehem to see this child. That will throw off their whole plan, and turn the little vermin into just another drooling Winston Churchill look-alike. Where are these shepherds?

ASMODEO

On the outskirts of Ramah, about 15 miles from Bethlehem, I fear. But I don't know if we can do anything about it now, Sir Evil One. Remember, you've been showing a marked decrease in your powers recently.

LUCIFER

Decrease! Perish the thought. Just resting up, my boy. Just resting up.

*He sings.*

My name is Lucifer, so don't you forget:  
I'm the Head Dude,  
I make the Big Guy sweat.  
I'm truly Evil, with a capital "E."  
Want something bad?  
You have my guarantee.

You want deceit? That's me in spades.  
I make ships leak, rain on parades,  
Earthquake? A drought?  
I've got the grades, I've got the time!  
The time! The time!

*He cackles maniacally and runs to every corner of the area. Soon, though, he becomes pensive.*

Although I'm Lucifer, I've got to admit  
Lately I've been feeling a bit less fit.  
Maybe this kid's the Big Kahuna, who knows?  
Up peace and love, downward my bus'ness goes.

*He gathers steam.*

That's why we'll get them on the run,

ASMODEO

I'll pack our bags, this sounds like fun.

LUCIFER

I'm back in gear,

LUCIFER and ASMODEO

'Cause there is evil to be done!

Be done! Be done!

*LUCIFER and ASMODEO, carrying directions printed from his computer, hurry off, in search of the shepherds, discussing strategies as they go.*

*Another loud noise is heard in the area behind Rev. Thom's office. Soon we discover BATO and GILA, at home with their SHEEP. BATO is eating junk food, staring out at something that sounds like a sporting event.*

**SCENE THREE: The outskirts of Ramah, 15 miles from Bethlehem  
Area Behind Rev. Thom's Office**

GILA

Bato, get your butt in gear. Didn't you hear the news? There's been a great event in Bethlehem. We NEED to be there.

BATO

There's a great event right here, you old nag! Ramah is playing Nayot for the right to go to the championship. Could you get me some more of that sheep dip, and another bag of goat chips while you're up?

GILA

You don't get it. This thing is bigger than your stupid game. This is like the Super Bowl of Religious Events.

BATO (*hearing "Super Bowl"*)

Well, is Bartolo going? I ain't getting out of this chair without him.

*Meanwhile, next door, BLANCHE FLOR is trying to awaken BARTOLO, who has fallen asleep with his head in a food bowl.*

BLANCHE FLOR

Bartolo! Bartolo! Wake up, you big lug. I was just talking with Gila, and we need to make a quick trip to Bethlehem. Something about a baby with horns.

BARTOLO

What!?!?! A baby with horns? Now that's something to see

BLANCHE FLOR

You bet. We've got to leave right away. And don't forget the sheep.

BARTOLO

I don't know. That sounds like a lot of work. Is Bato going?

*Suddenly, there is a flourish in the orchestra, and MICHAEL appears, with GABRIEL by his side. All the shepherds come rushing out to see what all the commotion is.*

MICHAEL (*singing, imitating GABRIEL's horn calls*)

A child is born!

A child is born!

Greeting, shepherds! You are all urged to make the trip to Bethlehem, to see the newborn Babe who will bring love and peace to the world. I have placed a special star in the East (*points to star*) to guide you. Here's what you must do (*sings*):

Follow that star, anywhere you travel,

Follow that star, anywhere you go.

Follow that star, if your plans unravel:

Follow, follow that star.

MICHAEL and GABRIEL

Be not afraid, I'll be watching o'er you.

Good times or bad, mountains high or low.

Never afraid. Sternly I implore you:

Follow, follow that star

This day.

SHEPHERDS

Troubles may await, twists of phrase and fate,

Yet it's far off light will keep our bearing straight.

Fear no devil's charm, no need for alarm,

Michael's star will keep us ever safe from harm.

So we'll follow that star.

MICHAEL and GABRIEL

Never mind the danger.

SHEPHERDS

Follow that star.

MICHAEL and GABRIEL

Never pause or stray.

SHEPHERDS

Follow that star.

MICHAEL and GABRIEL

Soon you'll find the manger.

Follow,

SHEPHERDS

Follow.

MICHAEL and GABRIEL

Follow,

SHEPHERDS

Follow.

MICHAEL, GABRIEL and SHEPHERDS

Follow that star.

MICHAEL

I would guide you myself, but I've got other matters to look into. Hurry, the babe won't be a babe for long! (*turns back suddenly*) And one more thing. You will meet a wise Hermit along the way. Listen to the sage advice.

*MICHAEL and GABRIEL leave, again with a flourish.*

GILA (*to BATO*)

See. I told you this was a big deal.

BATO

OK, I get it. But make sure you bring plenty of food!

BARTOLO

Bato, did you see that? I thought I was dreaming. You going?

BATO

Duh! Let's get a move on. (*BARTOLO has fallen asleep again*) Bartolo, wake up, buddy!

BARTOLO (*after being roused by BATO*)

Yeah, sure. Just let me stock up on some snacks for the road.

BLANCHE FLOR

And gather the sheep, dear. We can't leave them here alone.

GILA

Ditto for you, Bato. Remember what happened last time?

BATO

Don't remind me!

GILA *(to all assembled)*

OK, everyone. Let's get a move on. We're going to Bethlehem. And all we gotta do is:  
*(sings)*

Follow that Star!

ALL ASSEMBLED

Follow that Star!

Follow that Star!

Follow, follow that Star!

*They trudge off towards Bethlehem. LUCIFER and ASMODOEO, meanwhile, have been lurking behind them, and they start to put LUCIFER's first plan in motion.*

**SCENE FOUR: Just outside of Ramah, 12 miles from Bethlehem**  
***Area Behind the New Building***

*LUCIFER and ASMODOEO have created a sign that says "THIS WAY TO BETHLEHEM" and stuck it in the ground, going about 120 degrees off from the Star.*

BLANCHE FLOR

Hey, everyone, here's a sign. It says to go that way.

BARTOLO

Works for me.

GILA

But it's in a different direction from the Star. That can't be right.

BATO

I was a member of the City Sign Commission, and they wouldn't have put up a sign unless it was meant to be there. I say we follow it.

*Meanwhile, the SHEEP softly sing "Follow that Star" in the background*

GILA

"Follow that Star." That's what he said.

BATO

Alright, then, we'll ignore it. I'll call the commission head when we get back to the village.

*They travel on, while LUCIFER and ASMODOEO look disappointed in the bushes. As soon as they are far enough away, LUCIFER speaks.*

LUCIFER

Asmo?

ASMODOEO

Yes, Your Sinfulness.

LUCIFER

Didn't that Angel say something about a Hermit.

ASMODOEO

Yes. *(quoting MICHAEL)* "You will meet a wise Hermit along the way. Listen to the sage advice."

LUCIFER

Well, you're looking at him!

ASMODOEO

I don't see any hermit, Sir.

LUCIFER

I mean me, you big dummy. I'm going to dress up like a wise hermit, and you're going to dress up like a satisfied customer, and point them in my direction.

ASMODOEO

Oh. Good plan, Your Unholiness.

LUCIFER

GREAT plan, you mean. Let's do it.

*They sneak off, scheming even more. We are little closer to Bethlehem. The shepherds and sheep enter.*

**SCENE FIVE: 10 miles from Bethlehem, around a Hermit's Cave**  
***Far End of Large Gated Playground***

ASMODEO (*as Satisfied Customer*)

Good evening, fellow travelers.

BATO

Good evening, sir. What are you doing out here?

ASMODEO (*as Satisfied Customer*)

I was just coming home from the Wise Hermit's house. Boy, oh boy, he gives some amazing advice.

BLANCHE FLOR

Really? Can he tell me how to get goat snot stains out of shepherd's robes?

GILA

Quiet, Blanche Flor. I don't think he means that kind of advice.

BARTOLO

Yeah, I think he means telling the future kind of advice. Like who's going to win the championship next week, right?

ASMODEO (*as Satisfied Customer*)

Yes, all of that, actually. If you just follow this path, you will encounter him, and he will answer all of your questions.

BATO

I say we go. After all, that Angel said we'd meet a Hermit.

GILA

It sounds fishy to me...but why not?

*They take a few steps, and are at the mouth of a cave. LUCIFER comes out, dressed like a Hermit.*

LUCIFER (*as Hermit*)

Welcome to my humble abode, my friends. What would you like to know?

*The shepherds all ask their previous questions, and more, simultaneously, until LUCIFER (as Hermit) silences them.*

LUCIFER (*as Hermit*)

I will answer ALL of your questions. But first you must answer one of mine. Where are you going?

GILA

To Bethlehem, to see the newborn Babe. You must know about it.

LUCIFER (*as Hermit*)

Of course I do, my sweet. But I must warn you about this child. He will cause awful things to happen in your life, for years and years. For this baby is cursed! Cursed, I tell you!

GILA

That can't be right?

*At this point, ASMODOEO rushes in, with a satisfied grin in his face, and starts talking to LUCIFER, without realizing that the SHEPHERDS are there.*

ASMODOEO

Oh, Your Badness, you should've been there. They bought it hook, line and...

LUCIFER

Can it, stupid!

GILA

I knew it. You're just trying to trick us! Who are you?

LUCIFER (*throwing off his disguise*)

I am Lucifer, my dear lady! And I will do anything to keep you from seeing that baby!

*All the SHEPHERDS flee the scene in a flash. LUCIFER tries to follow, but comes up against an invisible wall. MICHAEL's voice comes from nowhere. GABRIEL and SERAPHINA create a wall, which stretches invisibly out from their arms, to stop LUCIFER and ASMODOEO.*

MICHAEL (*very loudly and deeply, on the other side of the fence*)

Lucifer, it will not be that easy for you. I forbid you to follow these poor shepherds, or further disrupt their journey. Back to your lair, you insolent traitor!

*LUCIFER, with ASMODOEO not far behind, head off in a different direction.*

**SCENE SIX: 9.5 miles from Bethlehem, near a Hermit's Cave**  
***Front End of Large Gated Playground***

*Meanwhile, on their way up the path from the "Hermit's Cave," the SHEPHERDS come upon the real HERMIT, bound and gagged behind inside a small house. BARTOLO quickly unties him.*

HERMIT

Thank you. Thank you. I was just out picking blueberries, and suddenly: WHAM! Someone knocked me out and must've tied me up and threw me into this house. Thank my lucky stars that you came to rescue me. I mean, I'm used to being alone, but not all tied up like that. Can you help me back to my cave?

GILA

Sure. But first, Michael the Archangel told us that you would have some sage advice for us. Is that true?

HERMIT

Oh, yes. I almost forgot. *(he thinks for a moment)* Avoid large, living plants in your bedroom. And make sure that the headboard faces west. That's about all I can think of right now. I'm pretty old, you know.

BLANCHE FLOR

How old, Mr. Hermit?

HERMIT

So old that I can remember when Socrates was preaching. He was quite a guy. A little hot-headed, if you ask me, but people seemed to like him. Here's some more advice. Never use hemlock as an aperitif.

BARTOLO

You got any snacks, Ms. Hermit?

HERMIT

You can call me Noalo. And sure, but it's just what I pick from these trees and bushes.

BLANCHE FLOR

Well, why don't you come with us, then, Noalo? I'm sure you would love to see this amazing child.

HERMIT

Don't mind if I do. A change of scenery would probably do me good. *(to one of the shepherds)* Got any headache powder, fella?

*They depart, singing a short reprise of "Follow that Star."*

**SCENE SIX-A: 8 miles from Bethlehem, at a crossing**  
***Entrance to the Playground Behind the Jones Building***

*Two OFFICERS OF THE LAW enters and look around, making sure everything is safe and sound. ASMODEO enters and approaches him.*

OFFICER #1

Halt! Who goes there?

ASMODEO

Just two weary travelers, sir.

OFFICER #2

And what is your business here?

ASMODEO

I've been looking for a pair of shepherds and their wives and sheep. Have you seen them?

OFFICER #1 *(after looking at each other)*

Can't say that we have. Be on your way, stranger.

*During this conversation LUCIFER has been sneaking up on two OFFICERS OF THE LAW. He grabs the Billy Club from his hand and conks OFFICER #1 on the head. ASMODEO knocks out OFFICER #2 while he's distracted. Then LUCIFER and ASMODEO quickly strip them of their uniforms, and ASMODEO and LUCIFER put them on. Then they drag the OFFICERS OF THE LAW out of the way. Soon, the SHEPHERDS and SHEEP enter.*

LUCIFER *(as OFFICER #1)*

Halt! Who goes there?

BLANCHE FLOR

Just some weary travelers, sir.

ASMODEO *(as the OFFICER #2)*

And what is your business here?

BATO

We're on our way to Bethlehem, to see the newborn Babe.

LUCIFER *(as the OFFICER #1)*

Well, then I have some bad news for you. There's been a major crime in Bethlehem, and we've had to shut down all the roads into town. I think it's best to turn back and go home.

BARTOLO

What kind of crime would make you shut down all the roads?

ASMODEO (*as the OFFICER #2*)

A big crime, involving lots of people. And even some evil sheep!

*Meanwhile, the real OFFICERS OF THE LAW has revived, and enters the stage groggily.*

OFFICER #2

Hey! You're the ones who stole our gear. Give it back. You've violated the law.

BOTH OFFICERS (*To the SHEPHERDS*)

Seize these criminals in the name of the law!

*LUCIFER quickly takes off all of the OFFICER OF THE LAW's gear and runs offstage with ASMODEO. The OFFICER OF THE LAW grabs all of her gear and runs after them, dressing as he goes.*

GILA

Boy, that guy really doesn't want us to get to Bethlehem. We'll have to be more careful next time.

*They entire entourage begins their journey anew.*

**SCENE SEVEN: On the Road, 7 miles from Bethlehem**  
***Clearing Behind Rear Sanctuary Parking Lot***

*LUCIFER and ASMODEO enter from SR, talking quietly among themselves. A BEGGAR WOMAN and her APPRENTICE enter down the center aisle, chanting their mantra.*

BEGGAR WOMAN and APPRENTICE (*variously*)

Alms for the poor! Alms for the poor! Help the needy! Anything you can spare! Your kindness will be appreciated!

*LUCIFER looks at ASMODEO as if he has an idea. And approaches the pair as they enter.*

LUCIFER

Good afternoon, miss. Looking for some money, are you?

BEGGAR WOMAN

Anything will help, kind sir.

LUCIFER

Well, I will give you all the money and food that you need, but first you need to do something for me.

BEGGAR WOMAN

And what would that be?

LUCIFER

I will point you in the direction of a group of shepherds and their wives. And you will convince them to give you not only their food and money, but their clothing and sheep as well.

APPRENTICE

She's good, sir, but not THAT good!

LUCIFER

She will be, with a little help from the magic charm. (*ASMODOEO produces a beautiful necklace, which he gives to LUCIFER*) Just wave it in their faces for mere seconds, and they will do all that you command.

BEGGAR WOMAN

Hmmmm... Then, in return, you will give me all that I desire? (*LUCIFER nods 'yes'*) Alright, give it to me.

*The BEGGAR WOMAN takes the necklace and goes off with her APPRENTICE. LUCIFER and ASMODOEO exit and observe. Soon the shepherds and their entourage enter.*

GILA

Let's stop here. There's a rest stop over there, and I need a few minutes to freshen up. I'll be back before you know it.

*There is general grumbling from the others in the entourage, but they put down their things and wait. A few seconds later the BEGGAR WOMAN and her APPRENTICE enter.*

BEGGAR WOMAN and APPRENTICE (*variously*)

Alms for the poor! Alms for the poor! Help the needy! Anything you can spare! Your kindness will be appreciated!

BLANCHE FLOR

Bartolo, give them a little food or something. They look pathetic.

BARTOLO

Are you kidding? We're almost gone through all of our reserves, and who know how long we're going to need to stay in Bethlehem. Let them fend for themselves, I say.

BEGGAR WOMAN (*overhearing this*)

If you've nothing for me, then maybe I have something for you. Look at this beautiful necklace I have.

*All look at the necklace, including ASMODEO, as the BEGGAR WOMAN begins to sway it back and forth. Within a few seconds they are under her control.*

BEGGAR WOMAN (*continuing*)

Now give my friend here all your food and money.

THE ENTOURAGE (*As they do so*)

Yes, Ma'am. Right away, ma'am.

BEGGAR WOMAN (*enjoying this*)

Very good. And now a piece of your clothing.

*They do so.*

BEGGAR WOMAN (*continuing*)

And finally, all of your sheep.

*They do this, too, motioning to the SHEEP, who are whimpering but still compliant, to go with the APPRENTICE. Just as they are about to leave, GILA comes back from the rest stop.*

GILA (*returning from her trip to the rest stop*)

OK. Ready to hit the road again. (*She soon sees what's going on*). Hey, what are you doing with all of our stuff. Bato, Bartolo, stop her! (*They don't respond, so she slaps them, which breaks the spell*)

*BATO and BARTOLO retrieve all of their things from the APPRENTICE and shoo them on their way.*

BEGGAR WOMAN

Hey, I'm just trying to make a living.

GILA

Who put you up to this? Who gave you this charm.

APPRENTICE

This guy in red tights and a cape.

BLANCHE FLOR (*to the others*)

It's that Lucifer again. Will he stop at nothing! (*To the BEGGAR WOMAN*) Here, lady, keep some of this money. And if you see those two again, run in the other direction.

*The ENTOURAGE exits in one direction, and the BEGGAR WOMAN and her APPRENTICE, who begin their chant anew, in another.*

**SCENE EIGHT: “The Outskirts Inn,” 5 miles Bethlehem  
Wall Behind Rear Sanctuary Parking Lot**

GILA (*reentering the stage*)

I can’t believe we fell for that Lucifer’s tricks again. And now I’m exhausted from getting back on the right track again.

BLANCHE FLOR

It’s good the skies cleared, so we could see the star.

INNKEEPER (*standing outside of the Inn*)

Hungry? Thirsty? Need a place to rest? Take a break at the Outskirts Inn.

PATRON #1

Best stewed camel in the region (*or something along those lines*)

PATRON #2

Myself, I’m partial to the hummus. (*again, can replace with another line*)

PATRON #1

And you’ve simply got to try the sheep dip! (*or something else*)

PATRON #2

And don’t leave without sampling the date nut pie! (*see above*)

BARTOLO

Let’s take him up on it. I know we’re only a few miles away, but I’m famished.

BATO

And parched!

*The INNKEEPER leads them into the INN, and they sit down around a big table. Soon he begins telling them about the specials of the day.*

SERVER #1

Today our special is “Stewed Camel with Rice and Dates.”

SERVER #2

And our special “Outskirts Chardonnay,” made from local grapes.

BARTOLO

That all sounds great to me. Bring it on.

*While all this is happening ASMODOEO has gone into the kitchen of the INN and poured some kind of substance into the jug of wine. He quickly sneaks out. Soon the Innkeeper enters the kitchen, grabbing the jug of wine and a bunch of glasses.*

INNKEEPER

This being a new batch of wine, I'll sample it first. *(To the ENTOURAGE)*. It's a tradition here at the Outskirts Inn.

*He takes a healthy sip of the wine, and immediately passes out. The ENTOURAGE, aware that this must be the work of LUCIFER, quickly get up from the seats and rush out, without saying a word. The PATRONS go over to revive the INNKEEPER, but can only get him to be slightly conscious. Somewhere along the road we encounter LUCIFER and ASMODOEO.*

**SCENE NINE: Along a Road, 3 miles from Bethlehem  
Driveway to Rear Parking Lot**

LUCIFER *(pacing)*

Nothing we do seems to be working. Come on, Asmo. I need some new ideas quick!

ASMODOEO

You could make a big hole in the ground that they can't cross.

LUCIFER

I could send a swarm of mosquitoes to chase them away.

ASMODOEO

Or lie and say that there really is no Baby Jesus!

LUCIFER

I could trap them somewhere like under a volcano, or under the ocean - like in the Lost City of Atlantis.

ASMODOEO

Or put a bunch of quicksand in their way.

LUCIFER

Wait, I think I've got it. talk to them and keep changing the subject constantly, to distract them from their goal.

ASMODEO

You are quite the talker, Your Deviousness.

*After thinking for a few moments more, LUCIFER looks like he has the best idea yet.*

Wait, I have the perfect trick:

LUCIFER and ASMODEO (*looking at each other in agreement*)

Be Ourselves!

*They go off, plotting this latest, and last, deception.*

**SCENE TEN: A Ranch, 1 mile from Bethlehem**  
***In the Wooded Area Behind the Church***

RANCHERO (*singing to the SHEPHERDS and their WIVES and SHEEP*)

I'm just a Ranchero, I mind my own business,  
With no one to talk to, and nowhere to go,  
I tend to my livestock, I see to their fitness,  
To meet some new people, I'd give my big toe.

*He dances.*

Out here on this ranch, it can get a bit lonely,  
And so I sing songs while I strum my guitar.  
I ramble around and I ride my prize pony,  
And never from home do I stray very far.

GILA

Mister Ranchero? We are shepherds, looking for a newborn Babe in a stable in Bethlehem. Could you help us find the way?

RANCHERO

I don't know much about babies, and I never been to Bethlehem, but I hear it's just over there, on the other side of these trees. What's so important in Bethlehem, again?

BATO

My wife thinks that this baby is a religious figure, who's going to bring peace and love to the whole world.

RANCHERO

Well good luck with that. I don't believe in religion. I believe in vegetables. And trees. And tending to my ranch here.

BLANCHE FLOR

Well that's all fine and good, but I'll bet you must be a bit curious about this little baby, aren't you?

RANCHERO

I suppose. Mind if I join ya?

BLANCHE FLOR

Sure you can, Mister Rancheros. Come on along.

RANCHERO

We could probably be back by sundown, 'cause it's not far.

*LUCIFER enters right in front of them, but this time he has no disguise. He is THE DEVIL, in all his glory. Red cape and tights, pitchfork in his hand. ASMODEO has been transformed as well, and is now dressed all in black, with a mask, and evil looking horns sticking out of his head. He also has a pitchfork.*

LUCIFER

Well, my stubborn friends. You have not fallen for any of my deceptions, so you will have to deal with me in my natural state. Prepare to fight!

*Even though the RANCHERO has a shovel, and BATO and BARTOLO brought small and crude weapons in their packs, they are no match for LUCIFER and ASMODEO. The battle ensues, and they are beaten down, one by one. But we soon hear the trumpet call, and MICHAEL, GABRIEL and a few of THE ANGELS descend on the scene, quickly vanquishing LUCIFER and ASMODEO. After they are defeated, he wraps them up in giant sacks and leads the way to the stable. As they travel, "Follow that Star" is played triumphantly.*

### **SCENE TEN: The Stable Church Courtyard**

*We see the opening scene, with the HOLY FAMILY, the 3 KING and the ANGELS in the stable. The SHEPHERDS enter and rejoice. They retrieve gifts from their sacks, and offer them to the BABY JESUS. MARY and JOSEPH graciously accept. MICHAEL and GABRIEL also return to their places, motioning to place the SHEPHERDS. The sacks with LUCIFER and ASMODEO are at the feet of MICHAEL and GABRIEL We hear quiet, grumbling noises from inside, which quickly subsides.*

*As the music for the final song begins, the LAMBS, SHEPHERDS and ANGELS begin to process towards the stage. As they reach the stage, they give the Baby Jesus their gifts of wool, cheese and stars. But not before saying their line.*

SHEPHERDS

Please accept this goat cheese,  
The product of our herd.  
May it help you grow and strong and healthy.

LAMBS

Please accept our woolen blankets, baby Jesus,  
To keep you warm on winter nights.  
We are so glad to have you in the world.

ANGELS

We have been sent from the heavens,  
Bringing stars from the sky.  
May they help your light shine.

*While the last gifts are being given, all the other characters from earlier scenes make their way to the stage.*

MICHAEL

Well, it seems like everything is in place. Can we finally sing the whole darn song?

ENTIRE CAST

A child is born in Bethlehem,  
A child is born to show the way.  
On this bright morn a child is born In Bethlehem.  
All come and view this newborn babe,  
This precious life, this proof of love.  
So heed the call, come one, come all  
To Bethlehem.

We come to welcome and adore him,  
We bring him gifts from near and far.  
We long to linger here before him all the day,  
Guided by the Angel's star.

A child is born in Bethlehem,  
So sound the horn, shout out the news.  
All conflicts cease, just love and peace today!

This precious morn our gifts adorn  
In Bethlehem.  
In Bethlehem!

**THE END**