

## SCENE 1

**AV11** **1** Song: The Greatest Hymn on Earth

*(At meas. 4)*

RINGMASTER: **Ladies and gentlemen! Children of all ages!**

*(At meas. 12)*

RINGMASTER: **Step right up, boys and girls!**

*(At meas. 16)*

RINGMASTER: **The amazing acts you are about to see are the finalists in a competition where you will help us to decide the winner of the title of *The Greatest Hymn on Earth!***

*(At meas. 50)*

RINGMASTER: **We will only be featuring the finalists.**

*(At meas. 54)*

RINGMASTER: **But there are so, so many others!**

## SCENE 2

*(Lights come up on a circus ring that is just starting their show! RINGMASTER, ROSE, BROOKLYN, TIGHTROPE COWBOY, ZOE and ZANE, JEDI THE GREAT and BOWEN stand in a semi-circle in the center of the ring.)*

**AV12** **12** *(SFX: Circus Underscore)*

RINGMASTER: **Come one, come all! Let your eyes and ears be dazzled by the spectacular acts you will see here tonight with the *Amazing Grace Group*. Each of our talented performers has abilities beyond what you could ever imagine!**

ROSE: **We will astound you with wonders ...**

BROOKLYN: **... and sound-shattering roars that will make your hair stand on end!**

TIGHTROPE COWBOY: **You'll see amazing acts of miraculous agility ...**

ZANE and ZOE: *(together)* **... and rockin' feats of strength. *(double high five)***

BOWEN: **We will tickle your funny bone ...**

JEDI THE GREAT: **... and bend your mind to colossal possibilities.**

*(Underscore ends)*

RINGMASTER: **Most importantly, you will experience treasures of the faith and be a part of selecting ...**

**AV13** **13** *(SFX: Drum roll)*

ALL: **... the Greatest Hymn on Earth!**

*(Everyone leaves the ring except for ZANE and ZOE, who gather their barbells and come to the center of the ring.)*

RINGMASTER: **Let's get started! It's my distinct pleasure to introduce you to a duo that is like no other—each with the strength of ten children. Our own Amazing Grace Muscle Twins!**

ZANE: **I am Zane.**

ZOE: **And I am Zoe.**

ZANE and ZOE: *(looking at each other)* **Let's get shredded!** *(double high five)*

*(Each time they double high five, it's different than the last. (up, down; left hand right hand; front, back). As they present the story, they alternate between lifting weights to the beat, and acting out the story. When they speak in unison, they come together.)*

ZANE: **Our hymn is taken from a very awesome Scripture passage.**

ZOE: **Let's crush it, bro! Jesus said, ...**

**AV14 14 Underscore: Muscle Twins Underscore**

ZANE: *(lifting weights)* ***"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house ...***

ZANE and ZOE: *(unison)* ... ***ON THE ROCK!***

ZOE: ***The rain came down, the streams rose, ...***

ZANE: ***Oh, yah!***

ZOE: *(continuing)* ... ***and the winds blew and beat against that house; ...***

ZANE: ***... yet it did not fall because it had its foundation ...***

ZANE and ZOE: *(unison)* ... ***ON THE ROCK.***

ZOE: ***But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house ...***

ZANE and ZOE: *(Boohoo-ish sad faces, together)* ... ***ON THE SAND."***

ZANE: *(aside)* ***That is so sad, yah?!***

ZOE: ***He was not shredded.***

ZANE: ***"The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with ...***

ZANE and ZOE: *(unison)* ... ***A GREAT CRASH."*** *(Matthew 7:24-27 ESV)*

**AV15 15 Song: The Solid Rock (On the Rock) with Nothing but the Blood**

*(During song, the twins lift their barbell weights and pose in weightlifter poses as they shout.)*

*(At meas. 14)*

*(MUSCLE TWINS pose)*

### SCENE 3

RINGMASTER: **How about that! Let's hear it for our first two hymns in the finals.**

ZANE: **"On Christ the Solid Rock" ...**

**AV16** (SLIDE: *On Christ the Solid Rock*)

(Applause led by ZOE.)

ZOE: **... and "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"!**

(Applause led by ZANE.)

ZANE: **It's a *strong* start... get it?**

ZANE and ZOE: (looking at each other) **Let's get shredded!**

(They double high five and leave the ring. BROOKLYN runs up to whisper to RINGMASTER.)

BROOKLYN: (running up) **Ringmaster, we may have an issue with Gertrude...**

RINGMASTER: (nervous giggle) **What could possibly be the problem with the most ferocious lion this side of...**

(BROOKLYN whispers in her ear. RINGMASTER is confused.)

RINGMASTER: **What? The Lion's doing what? (Brooklyn whispers more) She's obsessed with... what? Well, take care of it, please! She goes on in 15!**

(RINGMASTER exits the ring with a flourish.)

**AV17** **23** (SFX: *Bowen the Clown*)

(Little CLOWNS come out "driving" a clown car and pile out. They honk horns. ROSE steps out to center of ring and presents the CLOWNS.)

ROSE: **Ladies and gentlemen, that sound means you're in for a treat. You are about to experience Bowen the Clown and his Bouncin' Bozos.**

(ROSE motions towards them and steps back to the side.)

BOWEN: **Why was the clown always on his feet? He was a stand-up comedian.**

**Thanks, folks, we got another one for ya. We don't clown around. Just kiddin', we do.** (winking and pointing at audience)

LITTLE CLOWN 1: **Why did the birthday clown go to jail? For blowing up balloons!**

LITTLE CLOWN 2: **What do clowns order for breakfast? Eggs... funny side up!**

BOWEN: **What's a dentist's favorite hymn? "Crown Him with Many Crowns"!**

RINGMASTER: **Bouncin' Bozos, tell us about our next act!**

**AV18** (SLIDE: *Blessed Assurance*)

BOWEN: In 1873, Fanny Crosby and her friend Phoebe wrote the hymn “Blessed Assurance,” about having complete confidence in God’s promises.

LITTLE CLOWN 1: The hymn “Jesus Paid It All” was written in 1865.

LITTLE CLOWN 2: It talks about how Jesus’ blood paid the penalty for our sin.

**AV19 [24]** Song: Jesus Paid It All (Wash Me) *with* Blessed Assurance

*(At meas. 35)*

*(The CLOWNS squirt water from artificial flowers during song.)*

*(At meas. 53)*

BOWEN: Why did the clown feel sad looking at the balloon? *(beat)* He couldn’t afford it because of inflation!

## SCENE 4

RINGMASTER: Let’s hear it for the hymns led by the Bouncin’ Bozos!

**AV110** *(SLIDE: Jesus Paid It all and Blessed Assurance)*

BOWEN: “Jesus Paid It All” and “Blessed Assurance”!

*(everyone claps)*

*(TIGHTROPE COWBOY, BROOKLYN, JEDI, BOWEN, ZANE and ZOE line up behind BOWEN in ring, preparing to present. Sideshow acts come out on side of ring, waiting to be presented.)*

ROSE: *(stepping forward)* Here at the *Amazing Grace Group* we have kids with the most spectacular gifts! We are so proud of our sideshow acts.

*(TIGHTROPE COWBOY steps to center and motions towards a young child with a very long grey beard, walking with a cane.)*

**AV111 [35]** Song: Tap Dance Underscore

TIGHTROPE COWBOY: We proudly present to you: the world’s oldest tap dancer—clockin’ in at 100 years old! Hope I’m still line-dancing when I’m half his age! Sweet PT Barnum and Bailey! What a beard!

JEDI THE GREAT: *(holding a device)* Next, we have a sideshow that will absolutely blow your mind. The speediest texter in the world. Are you ready? *(nonchalantly)* Lyndi, can you please text me a full list of your Top 10 Favorite...

LYNDI: *(pretending to text and cutting her off)* Already did.

*(applause)*

JEDI: **And also can you send me...**

LYNDI: *(texting)* **Done.**

*(applause)*

JEDI: **In a word: AMAZING.**

RINGMASTER: **We also have the lowest talker in the state.**

*(Holds mic up to BOY and he mouths his words so we can't hear.)*

RINGMASTER: *(understanding him)* **Is that so?**

ZANE: **Along with a child who has never eaten a vegetable in their life!**  
*(points to CHILD who smiles)* **Can you believe it, Zoe?**

ZOE: **I cannot believe it, Zane.** *(holds microphone to his face)* **Seriously bro, how are you even alive?**

*(A CHILD in a carrot costume chases him off as he yells. CLOWN walks up to a CHILD standing behind a board, holding a video game in each hand, playing.)*

BOWEN: **And a child who can play two video games at once...**

*(They remove the board and show he's playing with his feet as well)*

BOWEN: **... AND two with his feet!**

ALL: *(impressed)* **OOOH!**

Optional: Take this opportunity to honor a few kids in the choir for being incredible:

RINGMASTER: **We are also thrilled to highlight some AMAZING local talent—known for being a light to all around them.**

*(Put kids faces on screen with a blurb about them.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **is someone who has this special skill:** \_\_\_\_\_.

*(Add details explaining why they are so special!)*

RINGMASTER: **Let's hear it for our sideshow acts!** *(applause)*

**Now, without any further ado, take it away, Tightrope Cowboy!**

*(Everyone but TIGHTROPE COWBOY and ROSE exits the ring. ROSE stands to the back, watching.)*

TIGHTROPE COWBOY: *(personable)* **They call me the Tightrope Cowboy cuz I always say, "Everything's better in my boots." Plus, I love being high in the air. I know what you're thinking: How crazy do you have to be to get up on that high wire... in cowboy boots, no less! Well, it's not what's below me that I'm looking at. The reality is that if I put one boot in front of the other and keep my eyes on the goal, I'll reach the other side. Just like we keep our eyes on Jesus as we walk through each day.**

ROSE: Tell us, is there a story behind your hymns?

TIGHTROPE COWBOY: I'd be happy to, Rose.

**AV112** (SLIDE: *Be Thou My Vision*)

TIGHTROPE COWBOY: "Be Thou My Vision" is based off of poems written over one THOUSAND years ago!

And the second hymn, "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus," was written over a century ago about trusting in Jesus even in the bad times.

ROSE: Any advice for kids today?

TIGHTROPE COWBOY: You know, God is with us even in our worst moments. He's close to us even when it feels like there's no hope. Psalm 34:17-18 says, "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (NIV)

So if you're having a bad day, put on some cowboy boots and trust God like you're walking across a high wire.

**AV113** **36** Song: Be Thou My Vision (Give Me Your Eyes)  
with 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

## SCENE 5

(RINGMASTER, ROSE, BROOKLYN, TIGHTROPE COWBOY, ZOE and ZANE, JEDI THE GREAT and BOWEN stand in a semi-circle in the center of the ring like the beginning, but ROSE stands in the center. As they sing, GERTRUDE THE LION slowly starts sneaking on stage in the background. No one notices, except eventually, RINGMASTER.)

**AV114** **44** Song: The Greatest Hymn on Earth Reprise  
(At meas. 4)

RINGMASTER: Ladies and gentlemen! Children of all ages!

(At meas. 12)

(RINGMASTER interrupts...)

(GERTRUDE is now completely onstage, trying to be inconspicuous but totally conspicuous.)

RINGMASTER: (frustrated) I'm sorry, what is the lion doing out here?

BROOKLYN: (embarrassed) I have no idea. (to GERTRUDE) Gertrude, are you all right?

GERTRUDE: I am so sorry, (giggles) really, I am. But I was thinking, what if I did a really loud roar, but then, I did an example of my real talent!

BROOKLYN: *(hand to head)* **Oh, no.**

RINGMASTER: **Your real talent? You're a lion. What more real talent is there?**

GERTRUDE: **I'll give you a little sneak peek. Here it goes.**

*(GERTRUDE starts miming being in a box.)*

RINGMASTER: *(realizing)* **Ohhh... she's miming. Uh... let's give her a hand, folks. That's our Gertrude. *(singsong under breath)* Talk to her please!**

*(RINGMASTER and other performers exit the ring, while BROOKLYN tries to help GERTRUDE.)*

BROOKLYN: *(to audience)* **Sorry, folks, this has never happened before.**

*(BROOKLYN gently takes the arm of GERTRUDE the lion and tries to guide her offstage. GERTRUDE is happily miming being in a box, pulling herself with a pretend rope back onstage.)*

BROOKLYN: *(continued)* **Gertrude! What is going on?**

GERTRUDE: **Miming makes me feel *alive*! And I'm really NOT a fierce lion!**

BROOKLYN: *(getting increasingly frustrated)* **How do you expect people to be in awe of a fierce lion if you are pantomiming like a mute housecat!?**

GERTRUDE: **I won't let you down; I'll still be ferocious. Just, also... with some face paint and some *(acting out sweeping with a broom)* light sweeping!**

*(BROOKLYN leads GERTRUDE off, with her hand on her head in dismay.)*

*(RINGMASTER walks back to the center of the ring with JESSE.)*

RINGMASTER: **Pay no attention to that very ferocious lion!**

**For our last sideshow act, I will need a volunteer. *(ELLA raises hand)* All right, looks like we have one. Let's give her a hand, folks.**

*(She motions for ELLA to come down) (applause)*

RINGMASTER: **You are going to try to guess Jesse's talent *(she indicates JESSE, next to her)* by asking him four questions. Remember, use your four questions wisely. First question...**

ELLA: **What's your favorite thing to do?**

JESSE: **"I Love to Tell the Story"!**

ELLA: **Do you... spend your time with any animals?**

JESSE: **"All Creatures of our God and King."**

ELLA: **Okayyyy.... Who's your best friend?**

JESSE: **"No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus."**

RINGMASTER: **Last one!**

ELLA: **What do you want to do when you grow up?**

JESSE: *(shrug)* **"Wherever He Leads I'll Go."**



RINGMASTER: **Now for the moment of truth. What is his extraordinary talent?**

*(RINGMASTER puts a mic in front of ELLA.)*

ELLA: *(tentatively)* **He's... very vague?**

**AV115** **45** *(SFX: Buzzer)*

RINGMASTER: **I am so sorry. The answer is: He speaks only in hymn titles! What an amazing ability!**

ELLA: **I mean, it's probably hard to talk about regular things though, right? Do you like sports, Jesse?**

JESSE: **"Yesterday, Today, Forever."**

ROSE: **That's another hymn title. Amazing!**

RINGMASTER: **Someday someone is going to guess it.**

JESSE: *(straight out to audience, beat)* **"What a Day that Will Be."** *(He bows and exits.)*

ROSE: **Next, be dazzled by Jedi the Great and the Amazing Grace Acrobats!**

**AV116** **46** **Song: Great Is Thy Faithfulness (No Matter What)**

*(During song, JEDI and other ACROBATS ride their hobby horses in a circle and freeze, doing select, slow acrobatics until the second verse, when they ride their horses in a circle. Later during song, they individually put horses down and do cartwheels and other acrobatics.)*



## SCENE 6

RINGMASTER: **Let's hear it for our acrobats and the hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"!**

**AV117** (SLIDE: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*)

JEDI THE GREAT: **No matter what, God is always, in a word, faithful.**

(BROOKLYN steps grandly out into the ring.)

**AV118 53** (Music begins for "Lions Catwalk Underscore")

BROOKLYN: **And now, the moment you've all been waiting for—the wild, the powerful, the ferocious... Amazing Grace Lions!** (She gestures off stage.)

(LIONS come out, led by GERTRUDE. GERTRUDE is ready, she's boxing, she's feisty, she's fighting, she's scary. They pose and follow the instructions, jumping through fiery hoops and posing on the "catwalk" with the music.)

**Underscore: Lions Catwalk Underscore**

(At meas. 4)

BROOKLYN: **Lions... jump!** (They jump.)

(At meas. 6)

BROOKLYN: **Lions... strike a pose!** (They freeze in a scary pose.)

(At meas. 8)

BROOKLYN: **Lions... do scary feet!** (They do running feet.)

(At meas. 11)

BROOKLYN: **Lions... arm wrestle!** (They arm wrestle the MUSCLE TWINS.)

(At meas. 13)

BROOKLYN: **Lions... show your pearly whites.** (They turn and smile to audience.)

(At meas. 15)

BROOKLYN: **Lions... to the catwalk!**

(At meas. 17)

(LIONS strut forward and back in front of the audience. Then they form a line in front of GERTRUDE, as they are about to separate and present her.)(At meas. 4)

(At meas. 20)

BROOKLYN: **And now, the queen of the circus! Gertrude the Great!**

(GERTRUDE steps out from behind, takes a deep breath and ROARS!

All LIONS join in the roar, then move to the beat of the song.)

**AV119 54** Song: **It Is Well with My Soul (Trust)**

## SCENE 7

*(LIONS all walk to exit, being ushered out by JESSE. JESSE suddenly trips and lands on the floor.)*

BROOKLYN: **That was the Amazing Grace Lions and “It Is Well”!**

**AV120** *(SLIDE: It Is Well)*

ROSE: **Uh oh, looks like Jesse tripped trying to usher the lions out.**

*(ZANE and ZOE rush over to help lift JESSE up, high fiving him.)*

RINGMASTER: **Wait, our Muscle Twins are helping him up! I love the friendship here at the Amazing Grace Group.**

JESSE: *(deadpan to mic)* **“Love Lifted Me.”**

RINGMASTER: **Hymn number 107! Ah! It’s too much, Jesse! I love it! Now is the part you’ve been waiting for. You, the audience, get to vote on which one is the greatest!**

**AV121** **63** **Song: The Greatest Hymn on Earth Reprise 2**

ELLA: *(standing up and shouting)* **Stop! *(music stops)* You forgot one!**

ROSE: **Excuse me! This is not the participation section.**

ELLA: **My grandma taught me her favorite hymn, and you didn’t even do it.**

*(ELLA comes marching down and grabs a mic.)*

RINGMASTER: **Well, there are a lot of hymns. We can only pick the best ones. Oh, she’s coming down...**

*(As ELLA starts to sing, a few cast members grab hymnals and look up the one she is singing. Then they stand to join her, “reading” from the hymnal.)*

**AV122** **64** **Song: What a Friend We Have in Jesus**

*(At meas. 10)*

*(A few CAST MEMBERS stand and join ELLA.)*

*(At meas. 17)*

ELLA: **Sing it with me!**

*(All CAST comes out to the ring and sings.)*

ELLA: **I love this hymn. It reminds me God is always listening to me. I can pray about anything, and He hears me.**

**AV123** *(SLIDE: Circus Background)*

RINGMASTER: **I’m sorry, but we are only looking for the greatest hymn!**

ELLA: **But, what if there IS no greatest hymn?**

ROSE: **Now that’s just crazy talk!**

ELLA: **What if instead, learning hymns helps us to know God more? Our Friend, but also our King.**

**TIGHTROPE COWBOY:** She has a point. These hymns help us to connect with what our fellow Christian brothers and sisters have learned about God through the centuries.

**ELLA:** Yes! Each of these hymns are living testimonies of what God has done in people's lives for hundreds of years.

**ROSE:** It's like they wrote down what God taught them and put it to music!

**ZANE:** And it seems they needed Him...

**ZOE:** ... just as much as we need Him today!

**BROOKLYN:** They point our eyes to the one who is Lord of everything.

**JEDI:** In a word: Earth shattering!

*(They ALL look at him since it's two words.)*

**BOWEN:** *(lightening the mood)* That reminds me. What did the baker say to the dough?

*(They all turn and look at him. They've heard this one before.)*

**ALL:** *(beat)* I knead thee.

**BOWEN:** *(confused)* Oh, you've heard that one?

**RINGMASTER:** Well, folks, I think she's right. It is our privilege to honor these hymns that testify about the **GREATEST ONE!** This Greatest One who gave up His throne in Heaven to come down to earth and demonstrate His great love for us!

**AV124** **68** *(Music begins for "And Can It Be? (Amazing!)" )*

**JEDI:** In a word—**AMAZING.**

**Song: And Can It Be? (Amazing!)**

*(At meas. 1)*

*(MONKEYS enter, playing jungle drums.)*

*(At meas. 5)*

*(An ELEPHANT comes on.)*

*(At meas. 103)*

**RINGMASTER:** We at the Amazing Grace Group ...

*(At meas. 107)*

**RINGMASTER:** ... would like to honor all the hymns tonight!

**AV125** **80** **Song: The Greatest Hymn on Earth Curtain Calls**