

SCENE 3

(The Spirit brings Scrooge to Bob Cratchit's house and sprinkles his torch upon it. Mrs. Cratchit is putting a tablecloth on the table with daughter, Belinda. Peter Cratchit comes running in.)

PETER

Mother! I went to the bakers and I think I smelt our goose in the oven!

BELINDA

Could you smell the sage and onions cooking?

PETER

Oh yes, Belinda!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Well then it must have been our goose! Peter, you are in charge of mashing the potatoes.

BELINDA

I'll sweeten up the apple sauce.

MRS. CRATCHIT

Thank you my dear. Now where is your precious father then? And your brother, Tiny Tim? And Martha wasn't this late last Christmas Day!

MARTHA

Here I am, mother!

BELINDA

Here's Martha, mother!

PETER

Hurrah! There is such a goose Martha!

MRS. CRATCHIT

Why, bless your heart alive, my dear, how late you are. (Mrs. Cratchit showers her with kisses her and takes off her bonnet and shawl.)

MARTHA

We'd a great deal of work to finish up last night at the millner's. I had to clear it all away this morning, mother.