

A Virgin most pure

(second tune)

Traditional

1 A Vir-gin most pure, as the pro - phet do tell, Hath brought forth a ba - by as

it hath be - fel, To be our Re - dee - mer from death, hell, and sin, Which

Adam' s trans - gres-sion had wrap - ped us in: Aye and there-fore be mer - ry, set

sor - rows a - side; Christ Je - sus our Sa - viour was born on this tide.

2 At Bethlem in Jewry a city there was
Where Joseph and Mary together did pass,
And there to be taxed with many one moe,
For Cæsar commanded the same should be so:
Aye and therefore be merry, etc.

3 But when they had entered the city so fair,
A number of people so mighty was there,
That Joseph and Mary, whose substance was small,
Could find in the inn there no lodging at all:
Aye and therefore be merry, etc.

4 Then were they constrained in a stable to lie,
Where horses and asses they used to tie;
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn;
But against the next morning our Saviour was born:
Aye and therefore be merry, etc.

5 The King of all kings to this world being brought,
Small store of fine linen to wrap him was sought;
But when she had swaddled her young son so sweet,
Within an ox manger she laid him to sleep:
Aye and therefore be merry, etc.

6 Then God sent an Angel from Heaven so high,
To certain poor Shepherds in fields where they lie,
And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay,
Because that our Saviour was born on this day:
Aye and therefore be merry, etc.

7 Then presently after the Shepherds did spy
A number of Angels that stood in the sky;
They joyfully talked and sweetly did sing,
To God be all glory, our heavenly King:
Aye and therefore be merry, etc.