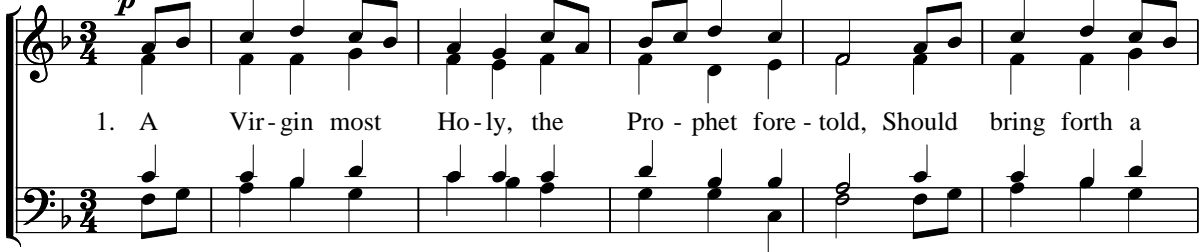


A Virgin most holy

Traditional

Allegretto
p



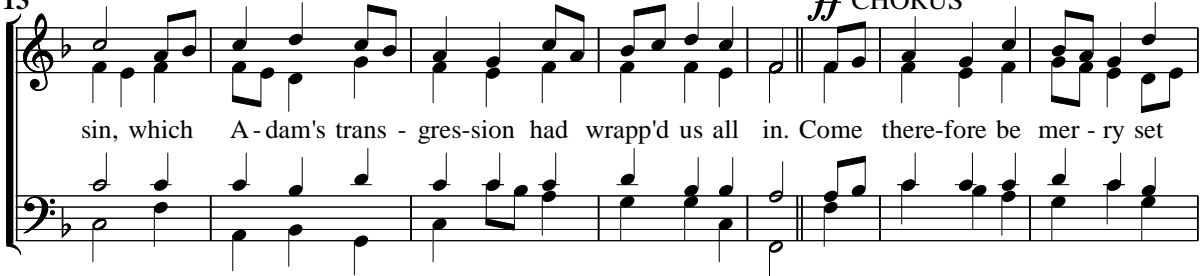
1. A Vir-gin most Ho-ly, the Pro-phet fore-told, Should bring forth a

7




Sa-viour which now we be-hold, to be our Re-deem-er from death, Hell, and

13 *ff* CHORUS



sin, which A-dam's trans-gres-sion had wrapp'd us all in. Come there-fore be mer-ry set

21



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

2. At Bethlehem city in Jewry it was
That Joseph and Mary together did pass,
All to be taxed, their names to declare,
Great Cesar commanded them all to be there.
Come therefore, &c.
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.
Come therefore, &c.
4. Then were they constrained in a stable to lie,
Where horses and asses they used for to tie:
Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn,
But against the next morning our Saviour was born.
Come therefore, &c.
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.
Come therefore, &c.
6. Then God sent an Angel from Heaven so high,
To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie,
And bad them no longer in sorrow to stay,
Because that our Saviour was born on this day.
Come therefore, &c.
7. Then presently after the shepherds did spy
Vast numbers of Angels to stand in the sky;
They joyfully talked and sweetly did sing,
To God be all glory, our heavenly King.
Come therefore, &c.
8. To teach us humility all this was done,
And learn we from thence haughty pride for to shun
A manger His cradle who came from above,
The great God of mercy, of peace, and of love.
Come therefore, &c.