

The Holly and the Ivy

G Am D G Am D G D G

Am G Am D G C G D G

While the song is probably older, it was first collected in 1909 by Cecil Sharp and published in 1911 in Sharp's English Folk-Carols, the publication that first established the current words and melody.

1
The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown.

CHORUS :The rising of the sun, And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

2
The holly bears a blossom, As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To be our sweet Saviour.

CHORUS

3
The holly bears a berry, As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, For to do us sinners good.

CHORUS

4
The holly bears a prickle, As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, On Christmas Day in the morn.

CHORUS

5
The holly bears a bark, As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, For to redeem us all.

CHORUS

6
The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown.

CHORUS