

Once in Royal David's City

Verse 1

Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Verse 2

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior Holy.

Verse 3

For He is our lifelong pattern; day by day, like us He grew;
He was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us He knew;
thus He feels for all our sadness and He shares in all our gladness.

Verse 4

He was giv'n to pay our ransom. By His blood we are set free.
Suffered He for our transgressions, Lamb of God upon the tree.
Then He rose up from the grave, Risen King with power to save.

Verse 5

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above,
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Verse 6

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round
we shall see Him; but in heaven, where His saints His throne surround
Christ revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

"Once in Royal David's City". Lyrics: Latin, 14th cent.; tr. Ruth Fox Hume. Verse 4: Jamie Brown.