

"While shepherds watch'd their flocks by night."

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks
 All seated on the ground, [by night,
 The angel of the Lord came down,
 And glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he, (for mighty dread
 Had seized their troubled mind,)

"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
 To you and all mankind.

3 "To you in David's town this day
 Is born, of David's line,
 The Saviour, who is Christ the Lord ;
 And this shall be the sign :

4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find
 To human view display'd,
 All meanly wrapp'd in swathing bands,
 And in a manger laid."

5 Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
 Appear'd a shining throng
 Of angels praising God, on high,
 And thus address'd their song :

6 "All glory be to God on high,
 And to the earth be peace ;
 Good will henceforth, from heaven to men,
 Begin and never cease."