



THE SPIRIT OF XMAS PAST

As I Sat Under a Sycamore Tree

*As I sat under a sycamore tree,
A sycamore tree, a sycamore tree,
I looked me out upon the sea,
A Christmas day in the morning.*

*I saw three ships a-sailing there,
A-sailing there, a-sailing there,
The virgin Mary and Christ they bare,
A Christmas day in the morning.*

*He did whistle, and she did sing,
She did sing, she did sing,
And all the bells on earth did ring,
A Christmas day in the morning.*

*And now we hope to taste your cheer,
Taste your cheer, taste your cheer,
And wish you all a Happy New Year,
A Christmas day in the morning.*

-Traditional

Now Thrice Welcome, Christmas

*Now thrice welcome, Christmas,
Which brings us good cheer,
Minc'd pies and plum porridge,
Good ale and strong beer;
With pig, goose and capon,
The best that can be,
So well do'h the weather
And our stomichs agree.*

*Observe how the chimneys
Do smoke all about
The cooks are providing
For dinner, no doubt;
But those on whose tables
No victuals appear,
O may they keep Lent
All the rest of the year!*

*With holly and ivy
So green and so gay,
We deck up our houses
As fresh as the day
With boys and rosemary,
And laurel complete;
And every one now
Is a king in conceit*

-Poor Robin's Almanac

This Day Christ Was Born

*This day Christ was born,
This day our Saviour did appear,
This day the angels sing in earth,
This day archangels are glad;
This day the just rejoice, saying:
Glory be to God on high,
Allelujah!*

-Byrd's Psalms, Songs, and Sonnets

Wassail

*His men so tall
Walks up his hail,
With many a comely dish;
Of his good meat
I cannot eat,
Without a drink ywis.*

*Now give us drink
Now give us drink
And let eat wink,
I tell you all at once,
It sticks so sore,
I may sing no more,
Till I have drunken once.*

-Traditional

The Virgin's Cradle-Hymn

*Sleep, sweet babe! my cares beguiling:
Mother sits beside thee smiling;
Sleep, my darling, tenderly!
If thou sleep not, mother mourneth,
Singing as her wheel she turneth:
Come, soft slumber, balmily!*

-S.T. Coleridge 1817

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia, now sing we

*Here comes holly that is so gent,
To please all men is his intent,
Alleluia.*

*But, lord and lady of this hall,
Whosoever against holly call,
Alleluia,*

*Whosoever against holly do cry,
In a leap! shall be hand full high,
Alleluia.*

*Whosoever against holly do sing,
He may weep and his hands wring,
Alleluia.*

l. Basket

-15th Century

