The holy well

Words traditional Tune traditional



Sweet Jesus went down to yonder town,
As far as the holy well,
And there did see as fine children
As any tongue can tell.
He said, "God bless you every one,
And your bodies Christ save and see;
Little children, shall I play with you?
And you shall play with me."

3

But they made answer to him, "No";
They were lords' and ladies' sons,
And he was but a maiden's child,
Born in an ox's stall.
Sweet Jesus turned him round about,
And he neither laughed nor smiled,
But the tears came trickling from his eyes
Like water from the skies.

4.

Sweet Jesus turned him round about,
To his Mother dear home went he,
And said, "I have been in yonder town,
As after you may see.
I have been down in yonder town,
As far as the holy well;
And there did I meet with as fine children
As any tongue can tell.

5.

"And I bid God bless them every one,
And their bodies Christ save and see;
Little children, shall I play with you?
And you shall play with me.
But then they answered me 'No';
They were lords' and ladies' sons,
And I was but a maiden's child,
Born in an ox's stall."

6

"Though you are but a maiden's child,
Born in an ox's stall,
Thon art the Christ, the King of Heaven,
And the Saviour of them all,
Sweet Jesus, go down into yonder town,
And as far as the holy well,
And take away those sinful souls,
And dip them deep in hell."

7.

"Nay, nay," sweet Jesus mildly said;
"Nay, nay, that may not be,
For there are too many sinful souls
Crying out for the help of me."
O then spoke the Angel Gabriel,
Upon one sure set steven,
"Although you are but a maiden's child,
You are the King of Heaven."