

Hark! Hark! What News the Angels Bring

"The Old Hark"

after Joseph Stephenson of Poole
(1723-1810)

1. Hark! hark! what news the ang - els bring; Glad
2. This is the day, the bless - ed morn, The *a man-*

Glad ti - dings
The Sa - viour

ti - dings of a new-born King. Who is the sa - viour of man-kind,
Sa - viour of man-kind was born. Born of a maid, a vir-gin pure,

new - born King. Who is the sa - viour of man-kind,
kind was born. Born of a maid, a vir-gin pure,

ti - dings of a new-
Sa - viour of man - kind

new - born King. Who is the sa - viour of man-kind, In
kind was born. Born of a maid, a vir-gin pure, Born

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In whom we may sal - va - tion find.
Born with - out sin, from guilt se - cure.

In whom we may sal - va - tion, sal - va - tion find.
Born with - out sin, from guilt, from guilt se - cure.

whom we may sal - va - tion find, sal - va - tion find.
with - out sin, from guilt se - cure, from guilt se - cure.

3.

If Angels sung at Jesus' birth,
 Sure we have greater cause for mirth,
 For why? because 'twas for our sake
 Christ did our human nature take.

5.

I am resolv'd whilst here I live,
 As I'm in duty bound, to give
 All glory to the deity,
 One God alone, in persons three.

4.

My soul, learn by thy Saviour's birth,
 For to debase thyself on earth ;
 That thou may'st be exalted high,
 To live with him eternally.

This three-part setting of the eighteenth-century carol known as "The Old Hark", probably originally by Joseph Stephenson of Poole, appears in William Sandys' *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern* (1833) "to show the manner in which the carol-singers sing in parts". In West Gallery performance it would probably have been sung SSTB, with the middle (melody) line sung at both octaves by sopranos and tenors, and all lines supported by instruments.

A bar appears to be missing from Sandys' transcription, and I have supplied it in small notes from Stephenson's original version as given in *The New Oxford Book of Carols* (1992). However, the setting could be performed without it, and an alternative underlay is supplied above the stave in case this is preferred.

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