What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
2 Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come peasant king, to own him;

Whom angels greet, with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Good Christian, fear for sinners here, the living Word is pleading.
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary.
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

Text: William C. Dix (1837-1898)
Tune: English melody, 16th c.;
arr. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

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