What Child Is This?

William Chatterton Dix, 1865

16th Century English Tune

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest
   On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
   Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
   While shepherds watch are keeping?
   This, this is Christ the King,
   Whom shepherds guard and throne Him.
   Raise, raise a song on high,
   The virgin sings her lullaby.
   Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
   The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
   Where ox and ass are feeding?
   Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
   The silent Word is speaking?
   This is Christ the King,
   Whom shepherds guard and throne Him.
   Raise, raise a song on high,
   The virgin sings her lullaby.
   Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
   The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him in incense, gold and myrrh,
   Come peasant, king to feed me, for you.
   Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
   The cross be borne for me, for you.
   Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
   The Babe, the Son of Mary.
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