

An Infant Lay Within a Shed
Heinrich von Laufenberg(1390-1460)
15th Century.

An Infant lay within a shed,
Where ox and ass were tied and fed;
Hard by there stood a maiden mild;
'Twas Mary, mother to the child.

Refrain

My God, my Lord, Jesus,
'Twas He was cradled thus.

With voices sweet in awe to Him
There sung a choir of seraphim,
"Praise, worship, glory," loud they cry,
"To God whose kingdom fills the sky."

Refrain

The herds, when they thereof heard say,
Anon with gladness went their way
To Bethlem; when they found Him there,
That noble child, full fain they were.

Refrain

A bright star at the self-same tide
Was by the three good kings espied:
Afar from eastern land they fare;
A goodly present each doth bear.

Refrain

Before yon babe, of high degree,
They kneel and pray on bended knee,
Presenting gifts with reverence,
Of gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Then Herod King, in mood unmild,
Assayed to slay the royal child;
Fell many a babe at his command,
But Christ was safe in Egypt-land.

Refrain

When thirty years were fully past
This infant, He was crossed at last,
Was dead, and buried tomb within,
That man eternal life might win.

Refrain

But, on the third day, nothing else,
He rose again, as Gospel tells:
Ascended to His Father-land,
There sitteth He at God's right hand.

Refrain