

While shepherds watched  
their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he,  
(for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind)  
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.'

'To you in David's  
town this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, Who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

'The heavenly Babe  
you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

Thus spoke the Seraph;  
and forthwith  
appeared a shining throng  
of Angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be  
to God on high,  
and on the earth be peace,  
goodwill henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease.'