

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CHRISTMAS DAY EDITION



What child is this?

Lyrics by William Chatterton Dix, 1837- 1898
Music: Greensleeves, English Traditional

*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 angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear: for sinners here,
The silent word is pleading.*

*Nails, spear have pierced him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you,
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
The babe, the Son of Mary.*

To me, it's the most beautiful of Christmas hymns. It is so because of its earthy tangibility; how the details of our Savior's birth are brought into sharp focus so that we can almost smell the hay, the ox's and the ass's food, that Jesus was using for a mattress.



The second refrain brings out the ultimate purpose of God's sanctifying human flesh and then be killed for his efforts. The nails and the spear pierced him who is lying in that manger on this holy winter night. The cross was borne for me and you. And we are so grateful for that.

May the Peace of Christ be with you and your family throughout this Christmas Season.

Father Larry

