**The Holly and the Ivy – John Gardner**

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown;
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown:

*CHORUS*
*The rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as the lily flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Saviour.

*CHORUS*

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

*CHORUS*

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.

*CHORUS*

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.