**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.