

Sans Day Carol

Now the holly bears the berry as white as the milk,
 And Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:
 And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be,
 And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
 And Mary bore Jesus who died for us all:
 And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be,
 And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as blood it is red,
 Then trust we our Savior who rose from the dead.
 And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be,
 And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.

Traditional

Notes on the Text

How fitting that the holly should be the first tree in the greenwood. This first tree, as was Mary's firstborn, is everlasting. Holly is an evergreen, a long-lasting plant which can grow in a variety of environments. In some environments it grows as a shrub, in others as a full-grown tree. Holly is a simple plant – straight branches, sharp-pointed waxy leaves, and small berries. The *Sans Day Carol* is a simple melody. Yet the plant and the melody convey, through their simplicity, an everlasting message.

Carolyn Sue Mouttet

The above text and text notes may be duplicated in congregational bulletins or concert programs if desired.

for the Nebraska Children's Chorus, Omaha, Nebraska

Sans Day Carol

Two part treble voices with harp or piano

Sans Day Carol
Traditional English tune
arr. Z. Randall Stroope

Traditional

With quiet rejoicing (♩ = ca. 90)

Voices I and II: *mp legato*

Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1. Now the

The SANS DAY (or "St. Day") CAROL owes its title to a Breton named Saint Day. The parish where it was first written down is located in Gwennap, Cornwall. The beauty of the carol lies in its utter simplicity.

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hol - ly bears a ber - ry as white as the milk, And_
hol - ly bears a ber - ry as black as the coal, And_

16

Mar - y bore_ Je - sus, who was wrapped up in silk: And_
Mar - y bore_ Je - sus, who died for us all:

20

mf (div.) (unis.)
Mar - y bore_ Je - sus Christ our Sav - ior for to be, And the

24

mp
first tree in the green - wood, it was the hol - ly, hol -

28

p *mp*

ly, hol - ly, And the first tree in the green - wood, it

32

1. was the hol - ly. 2. Now the

37

2. Voice I: *p* Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

Voice II: *mp* 3. Now the hol - ly bears a ber - ry as blood it is

2.