

The Holly and the Ivy

1. The hol - - ly and the i - - vy, when they are both full grown, Of
all the trees that are in the wood, the hol - - ly bears the crown.

Chorus

The rising of the sun, the running of the deer;
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

2. The holly bears a blossom, as white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet saviour.
3. The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.
4. The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas day in the morn.
5. The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all.

Source: Hill Family at Bromsberrow Heath, recorded Gwilym Davies and Mike Yates, 1980