

THE LORD AT FIRST DID ADAM MAKE

1. The Lord at first did Adam make
out of the dust and clay;
and in his nostrils breath-ed life
e'en as the Scriptures say.
And then in Eden's paradise
He placed him there to dwell
that he within it should remain
to dress and keep it well.

Refrain:

*And let good Christians all begin
a holy life to live.
And to rejoice and merry be
for this is Christmas Eve.*

2. And then within the garden he
commanded was to stay;
and unto him in commandment
these words the Lord did say:
'The fruit which in the garden grows
to thee shall be for meat,
except the tree i'the midst thereof
of which you shall not eat.'
3. 'For in the day that thou shalt eat
or to it then draw nigh,
and if that thou dost eat thereof
then surely thou shalt die.'
But Adam he did take no heed
unto that holy thing,
but did transgress God's holy law
and so was wrapp'd in sin.
4. Now mark the goodness of the Lord
which he to mankind bore;
His mercy soon he did extend
lost man for to restore.
And then, for to redeem our souls
from death and hellish thrall,
He sent his own dear Son to be
the Saviour of us all.

Written for use after the first reading of the Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols as an easier alternative to Ord's or Warlock's 'Adam lay ybounden' or 'This is the Truth sent from above'. Three further verses from the traditional English carol are available.