

O HOW JOYFULLY Melody: Sicilian traditional "O Sanctissima"
 English words: Unknown (?)
 Harmonization by Christoph. Lahme 2007

1.-3.O how joy - - ful - ly, o how bless - ed - ly,

Comes the glo - ry of Christ - mas - time!

1.To a world so lost in sin, Christ the Sav - iour
 2.Je - sus born in low - ly stall, with His grace re -
 3.Host on an - gels from on high, sing, re - joic - ing

en - ters in:
 deems us all:
 in the sky:
 1.-3.Praise Him, — praise Him Chris - tians ev - er - more!

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O du fröhliche! O du selige! O most wonderful! O most merciful!

(Christmas)

Italian traditional
(arr. Johannes Daniel Falk, 1768–1826)

1. O du fröh - li - che! O du se - li - ge!
1. O most won - der - ful! O most mer - ci - ful!

5
gna - den - brin - gen - de Weih - nachts - zeit!
Christ, our Sa - viour, is born on earth!

9
Welt - ging ver - lo - ren, Christ - ward ge - bo - ren:
Sin - ners for - gi - ven, Sor - row for - got - ten:

13
Freu - e, freu - e dich, o Chri - sten - heit!
Greet, O greet we now his glo - rious birth!

(NOBC no. 180)

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OXFORD

This carol is taken from
The Shorter New Oxford Book of Carols,
and is also in
The New Oxford Book of Carols

2 O du fröhliche!
 O du selige!
 gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
 Christ ist erschienen,
 uns zu versöhnen:
 Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

3 O du fröhliche!
 O du selige!
 gnadenbringende Weihnachtszeit!
 Himmlische Heere
 jauchzen dir Ehre:
 Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

v. 1 Johannes Daniel Falk (1768–1826)
vv. 2, 3 Heinrich Holzschuher (fl. 1819)

2 O most wonderful!
 O most merciful!
 Christ, our Saviour, is born on earth!
 Christ comes among us,
 Christ will redeem us:
 Greet, O greet we now his glorious birth!

3 O most wonderful!
 O most merciful!
 Christ, our Saviour, is born on earth!
 Armies on high sing
 Praises unending:
 Greet, O greet we now his glorious birth!

tr. Anne Ridler

Known as 'The Sicilian Mariners' Hymn' and sung to a purely Marian text beginning 'O sanctissima! O piissima!' or its Italian equivalent, this piece has established itself as a kind of honorary Christmas carol in English-speaking countries. Its origins are mysterious, and quite possibly unconnected with Sicily (see *NOBC* notes). A three-part setting from a London magazine of 1792 is the earliest known source (*NOBC* setting I, not included here), and the song was later published by Gottfried von Herder, who claimed

to have collected it during a trip to Italy in 1788. Falk was the warden of a Weimar orphanage, and in 1819 he wrote a drama for his charges to perform (published in 1830). 'O sanctissima!' appears there in versions for Christmas (with two additional verses by a colleague) and other feasts. The Christmas text is now firmly established among Lutherans.

PERFORMANCE Voices, with organ or piano *ad lib.*

Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's

joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of your sal - va - tion

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O di - rect us
in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,

and pro - tect us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1773, alt.
Tune: Sicilian, 18th cent.



87 87 87
SICILIAN MARINERS
www.hymnary.org/text/lord_dismiss_us_with_thy_blessing_fill

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