In Bethlehem city

In Bethlehem city, on Christmas day morn,
Lord,
in a bare cavern thou wouldest be born;
And
thou who for throne has the heavens on high,
wast

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Lord,
in a bare cavern thou wouldest be born;
And
thou who for throne has the heavens on high,
wast

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Optnl.
1. In Bethlehem city, on Christmas-day morn
Lord in a bare cavern thou wouldst be born;
And thou, who for throne has the heaven on high,
Wast fain in a shippon* 'mid oxen to lie.

2. And thou, whom Angelical troops ay surround,
By certain poor herdsmen didst deign to be found.
And this, of thy goodness, to rescue our race:
So sing we, "All glory, and thanks for thy grace."

3. And at the same season, behold from afar
There fared unto Bethlehem, led by a star,
Three princes of Saba, who knew by that sign
That born upon earth was a Monarch divine.

4. Choice treasure they bare thee, myrrh, incense and gold;
And though thou wert cradled 'mid beasts of the fold,
They knelt, for they saw, when they rend'red thee praise,
The Son of the Father, the Ancient of Days

* shippon = a cattle shed
(Old English with Germanic connections - scypen)