

The Black Decree

Traditional, alt.

Traditional

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1. Three ma - gi by a star to Beth - lem brought, Did
2. And, ra - ther than the Lord of life be - - tray, They
3. He caus'd young harm - less in - fants to be kill'd; And
4. Young ten - der babes with limbs in piec - es torn, On
5. The Black De - cree went all the coun - try round, To

4

1. find the bless - ed Babe they long had sought; The best of spi - ces and rich cost - ly
2. wor-ship'd him and went a - no - ther way: Which so en - rag'd the wick-ed He - rod
3. un - der two years old, their blood was spill'd; Sad cries and groans were heard in ev - 'ry
4. sol-diers' spears with spite and har - row borne: Dear pa - rents' tears could not their rage pre -
5. kill and mur - der child - ren sick and sound: They tore young child - ren from their mo - thers'

9

1. things They hum - bly of - fer'd to the King of kings.
2. then -- A ty - rant king and ve - ry worst of men.
3. street, With man - gled bo - dies, bleed - ing hands and feet.
4. vent, Nor pi - ty move the ty - rant to re - pent.
5. breast, Think - ing to mur - der Christ a - mong the rest.

6. But God above, who knew what would be done,
Had sent to Egypt his beloved Son;
Where with his earthly parents he was fed,
Until the bloody tyrant he was dead.