

Good King Wenceslas

A Hymn for St. Stephen's Day

(Dec. 26, Latin; Dec. 27, Byzantine)

Words by Rev. J.M. Neale (1853)

a great lover of the Saints, and the Christian East

to the melody of "Tempus adest floridum"

from the *Piae Cantiones* ('Pious Songs'; 1582)

Traditional Harmonization

1. Good King Wen - ces - las look'd out, on the feast of Ste - phen,
2. "Hith - er, page, and stand by me, if thou know'st it tell - ing,
3. "Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hith - er:
4. "Sire, the night is dark - er now, and the wind blows strong - er;
5. In his mas - ter's steps he trod, where the snow lay dint - ed;

1. When the snow lay round a - bout, deep and crisp and e - ven;
2. Yon - der peas - ant, who is he? Where and what his dwell - ing?"
3. Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thith - er."
4. Fails my heart, I know now how; I can go no long - er."
5. Heat was in the ver - y sod which the saint had print - ed.

1. Bright - ly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cru - el,
2. "Sire, he lives a good league hence, un - der - neath the moun - tain;
3. Page and mon - arch, forth they went, forth they went to - geth - er;
4. "Mark my foot - steps, my good page. Tread thou in them bold - ly;
5. There - fore, Chris - tian men, be sure, wealth or rank pos - sess - ing,

1. When a poor man came in sight, gath - 'ring win - ter fu - el.
2. Right a - gainst the for - est fence, by Saint Ag - nes' foun - tain."
3. Through the rude wind's wild la - ment and the bit - ter weath - er.
4. Thou shalt find the win - ter's rage freeze thy blood less cold - ly."
5. Ye who now will bless the poor, shall your - selves find bless - ing.

In the German tradition, as transmitted by Neale, the page is named 'Otto', while the Czechs preserve his name as 'Podevin', venerating him as a martyr, alongside his master, St. Wenceslaus, Duke of Bohemia, +935.

Dn. John Joseph Kotalik IV – New World Kliros – jjkotalik@gmail.com