

# Coventry Carol

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child  
By by, lully, lullay, thou little tiny child  
By by, lully lullay

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling  
For whom we do sing  
By by, lully lullay?

Herod, the king  
In his raging  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might  
In his own sight,  
All young children to slay

That woe is me  
Poor child for thee!  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting  
Neither say nor sing  
By by, lully lullay!

Coventry Carol (Lully, Lullay)

<https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/loreenamckennitt/coventrycarol.html>

*Coventry Carol*, also known as *Lully Lullay*, was performed as part of a Christmas pageant in Coventry, England in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It's based on the Scriptures found in Matthew 2.

**16** When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. **17** Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

**18** *"A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."*

This song depicts Mary & other mothers singing a heart-breaking lullaby to their sons after hearing of jealous King Herod's order to murder boys age 2 and under in Bethlehem and surrounding towns in an attempt to destroy Jesus.