## PLAY TWELVE- The Annunciation and Visitation

## (The Spicers)

**DOCTOUR**

Lord God, great marvel is to many

How man was made withouten \*mis (\*misery, misfortune)

And set where he should ever have been

Withouten \*bale, biding in bliss, (\*torment)

And how he lost that comfort clean

And was put out fro(m) paradise,

And \*sithen what sorrows sore were seen (\*since then)

Sent unto him and to all his;

And how they lay long space

In hell, looking for light,

Til God granted them grace

Of help, as he had \*hyght. (\*said, commanded)

Then is it needful for to \*neven (\*name, speak)

How prophets all God’s counsels \*kenned, (\*knew)

As prophet Amos in his \*steven (\*shouting, talking)

Learned whilst he in his life \*gun \*\*lende: (\*did) (\*\*live)

*Deus pater disposuit salutem fieri in medio terre, etc.*

*(\*God the Father will grant salvation in the midst of the earth, etc.* Possibly Amos 9:14-15*?)*

He says thus, God the Father in heaven

Ordained in earth mankind to \*mend,

And to \*grayth it with Godhead even, (\*prepare, make)

His Son he said that he should send

To take kind of mankind

In a maiden full \*mild. (\*humble, or compassionate)

So was many saved of sin

And the foul fiend \*beguiled. (\*tricked)

And for the fiend should so be fed

By \*tyne, and to no truth take (at)tent, (\*anger? Deceit?)

God made that maiden to be wedded

Ere he his Son unto her sent.

So was the Godhead closed and clad

In \*weed of wedding where they went, (\*clothing)

And that our bliss should so be bred

Full many matters may be meant:

*Quoniam in semine tuo benedicentur omnes gentes,* etc.

(*And through your offspringall nations on earth will be blessed*, etc- Genesis 22:18)

God himself said this thing

To Abraham as him \*liste: (\*liked)

Of thy seed shall up spring

Wherein folk shall be blessed.

To prove these prophets ordained are,

As Isay, unto old and young,

He moved our mischiefs for to mar,

For thus he prayed God for this thing,

*Rorate celi desuper,\* (\*Drop down dew from heaven*)

Lord, let thou down at thy liking

The dew to fall from heaven so far,

For then the earth shall spread and spring

A seed that us shall save,

That now in bliss are bent.

Of clerks whoso will crave,

Thus may their \*gaits be meant. (\*ways)

The dew to the good Holy Ghost

May be \*remened in man’s mind, (\*compared, i.e. as an analogy)

The earth unto the maiden chaste,

Because she comes of earthly kind.

Their wise words were not wrought in waste

To waft and wend away as wind,

For this same prophet soon in haste

Said furthermore, as folks may find,

*Propter hoc dabit dominus ipse vobis signum, etc.*

*(Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign, etc-* Isaiah 7:14*)*

Lo, he says thus, God shall give

Hereof a sign to see

‘Til all that loyally live

And this their sign shall be,

*Ecce virgo concipiett, and pariet filium*, etc.

*(Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, etc.-* Isaiah 7:14 continued*)*

Lo, he says a maiden \*mon (\*must)

Here on this \*mold mankind \*\*omell, (\*earth, soil) (\*\*among)

Full clear conceive and bear a Son

And \*neven his name Emanuel. (\*name)

His kingdom that ever is begun,

Shall never cease, but (en)dure and dwell.

On David \*siege there shall he \*\*wonne, (\*seat, throne) (\*live, dwell)

His dooms to deem and truth to tell:

*Zelus domini faciet hoc, etc.*

*(The zeal of the Lord will perform this, etc.-* Isaiah 9:7*)*

He says, love of our Lord,

All this shall ordain then

That means peace and accord

To make with earthly man.

More of this maiden moves me.

This prophet says for our succour,

*Egredietur virga de Jesse*, (*There comes forth a green twig/rod of Jesse*- Isaiah 11:1)

A wand shall breed of Jesse’s bower.

And of this same also, says he,

Upon that wand shall spring a flower

Whereon the Holy Ghost shall be

To govern it with great honour.

That wand means unto us

This maiden, even(ing) and morn,

And the flower is Jesus,

That of that bliss be born.

The prophet Joel, a \*gentle Jew, (\*noble)

Sometime has said of the same thing:

He likens Christ even as he knew

Like to the dew in down-coming:

*Ero quasi ros, et virgo Israell germinabit sicut lilium.*

*(I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily*. Hosea 14:5/6-
Not Joel as the script says!)

The maiden of Israel all new,

He says, shall bear one and forth bring

As the lily flower, full fair of hue,

This means so to old and young

That the high Holy Ghost

Come our mischief to mend

In Marie maiden chaste,

When God his Son would send.

This lady is to the lily like,

That is because of her clean life,

For in this world was never \*slyke (\*such)

One to be maiden, mother, and wife:

And her Son, king in heaven \*ryke, (\*Ruling? Rich?)

As oft is \*red be reason rife, (\*learnt)

And her husband both master and meek,

In charity to stint all strife.

This passed all worldly wit,

How God had ordained them then

In her one to be knit:

Godhead, maidenhead, and man.

But of this work great witness was

With forefathers, all folk may tell.

When Jacob blessed his son Judas,

He told the tale them two \*emell: (\*among)

*Non auferetur septrum de Juda*, (*The sceptre will not depart from Judah*

*donec veniat qui mittendus est.*

 (*Until he to whom it belongs is sent.* Genesis 49:10*)*

He says the sceptre shall not pass

From Juda’s land of Israel,

Ere he come that God ordained has

To be sent fiend’s force to fell:

*Et ipse erit expectacio gencium*.

(*And he will be the expectation of the nations*- loosely based on Genesis 49:10*)*

Him shall all folk abide

And stand unto his \*steven, (\*command, voice)

Their \*saws were signified (\*sayings, prophecies)

To Christ, God’s Son in heaven.

For how he was sent, say we more,

And how God would his place \*purvey, (\*provide)

He said, Son, I shall send before

Mine angel to \*rede thee thy way: (\*teach, advise)

*Ecce mitto angelum meum ante faciem*

*tuam qui preparabit viam tuam ante te.*

*(Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
    who will prepare the way before you.* Mark 1:2)

Of John Baptist he meant there,

For in earth he was ordained \*ay (\*ever)

To warn the folk that \*wilsome were (\*stubborn, willful, devious)

Of Christ’s coming, and thus \*gon say: (\*did)

*Ego quidem baptizo in aqua vos, autem*

*baptizabimini spiritu sancto.*

(*Indeed I baptise you in the water, but you/
will be baptised in the Holy Spirit.* – Matthew 3:11)

After me shall come now

A man of mights most,

And shall baptise you

In the high Holy Ghost.

Thus of Christ’s coming may we see

How Saint Luke speaks in his gospel,

From God in heaven is sent, says he,

An angel is named Gabriel

To Nazareth in Galilee,

Where then a maiden \*milde \*\*gon dwell, (\*compassionate, humble) (\*\*does)

That with Joseph should wedded be;

Her name is Marie, thus \*gan he tell. (\*does)

How God his grace than \*grayd (\*prepared, made)

To man in this manner,

And how the angel said,

Take heed, all that will hear.

***Tunc cantat angelus (Then the angel sings)***

ANGELUS

Hail, Marie, full of grace and bliss,

Our Lord God is with thee

And has chosen thee for his.

Of all women blessed \*mot thou be. (\*may, must)

MARIA

What manner of \*halsyng is this (\*greeting, beseeching)

Thus privily comes to me?

For in mine heart a thought it is,

The \*tokening that I here see. (\*wondrous sign)

***Tunc cantat angelus, Ne timeas, Maria.***

***(Then the angel sings, Do not be afraid, Maria)***

ANGELUS

Nay dread thee nought, thou \*mylde Marie, (\*humble, compassionate)

For nothing that may befall,

For thou has found sovereignly

At God a grace over other all.

In chastity of thy body

Conceive and bear a child thou shall.

This \*bodword bring I thee, \*\*forthy (\*bidding) (\*\*therefore)

His name Jesu shall thou call.

\*Mickle of might then shall he be; (\*Great, much)

He shall be God and called God Son.

David’s \*siege, his father free, (\*seat, throne)

Shall God him give to sit upon,

As king forever reign shall he,

In Jacob’s house \*ay for to \*\*wonne. (\*ever) (\*\*live, dwell)

Of his kingdom and dignity

Shall no man earthly know nor can.

MARIA

Thou God’s angel, meek and \*mild, (\*humble, compassionate)

How should it be, I thee pray,

That I should conceive a child

Of any man by night or day?

I know no man that should have (de)filed

My maidenhood, the \*sooth to say. (\*truth)

Withouten will of works wild

In chastity I have ben \*ay. (\*ever)

ANGELUS

The Holy Ghost in thee shall light,

High virtue shall to thee hold,

The holy birth of thee so bright,

God Son he shall be called.

Lo, Elyzabeth, thy cousin, ne might

In \*elde conceive a child for \*\*old; (\*old age) (\*\* i.e. due to her old age)

This is the sixth month full right

To her that barren has been told.

MARIA

Thou angel, blessed messenger,

Of God’s will I hold me paid:

I love my Lord with heart clear,

The grace that he has for me laid.

God’s handmaiden, lo, me here

To his will all ready \*grayd, (\*prepared, made ready)

Be done to me of all manner

Through thy word as thou has said.

Now God, that all our hope is in,

Through the might of the Holy Ghost,

Save thee, dame, from \*sak of sin (\*blame)

And \*wise thee from all works waste. (\*advise)

Elyzabeth, mine own cousin,

Methought I covet always \*mast (\*most? Must?)

To speak with thee of all my kin;

Therefore I come thus in this haste.

ELIZABETH

Ah, welcome, \*mylde Marie, (\*humble, compassionate)

Mine own cousin so dear,

Joyful woman am I

That I now see thee here.

Blissed be thou only

Of all women in \*feere, (\*fellowship, together)

And the fruit of thy body

Be blessed far and near.

This is joyful tiding

That I may now here see

The mother of my Lord King,

Thus got come to me.

Soon as the voice of thine \*haylsing (\*hailing, greeting)

Might mine ears \*entreand be (\*entered)

The child in my womb so young

Makes great mirth unto thee.

MARIA

Now, Lord, blessed be thou \*ay (\*ever)

For the grace thou has me lent;

Lord, I love thee, God \*verray, (\*true)

The \*sande thou has me sent. (\*sound, word)

I thank thee night and day

And prays with good intent

Thou make me to thy pay,

To thee my will is went.

ELIZABETH

Blessed be thou \*grathely \*\*grayed (\*nobly, suitably, plainly) (\*\*prepared)

To God through chastity,

Thou \*trowed and held thee \*\*paid (\*trusted) (\*\*paid, pleased)

At his will for to be.

All that to thee is said

From my Lord so free,

Such grace is for thee \*laid (\*i.e. laden)

Shall be fulfilled in thee.

MARIA

To his grace I will me ta(ke),

With chastity to deal,

That made me thus to \*ga (\*go)

Among his maidens \*feele. (\*faithful)

My soul shall loving ma(ke)

Unto that Lord so loyal,

And my \*ghost make joy also (\*soul, spirit)

In God that is my \*hele. (\*health, help)

**Tunc cantat Magnificat. (Then she sings Magnificat.** Luke 1:40-55**)**