

The Week Before Easter

Traditional

Key C

Time 3/4

Intro: [C] [Dm] [G] [C] [C]

The [C] week before Easter, the [Dm] moon bright and [G] clear
The [C] sun it shone [Dm] brightly and [C] keen blew the [G] air
I went [C] down to the [G] forest to [C] gather fine [G] flowers
But the [C] forest would [Dm] yield me no [G] ro-[C] ses

Oh [C] roses are red and the [Dm] leaves they are [G] green
And the [C] bushes and [Dm] briars are so [C] pleasant to be [G] seen
Where the [C] small birds sing [G] sweetly and [C] changing their [G] notes
Down a [C] mong the wild [Dm] beasts of the [G] fo-[C] rest

And the [C] first time I saw my love [Dm] to the church [G] go
With [C] bridegroom and [Dm] bridesmaids they [C] made a fine [G] show
And I [C] followed [G] on with my [C] heart full of [G] woe
For [C] I was the [Dm] one should have [G] wed [C] her

And [C] when I saw my love [Dm] in the church [G] stand
With a [C] ring on her [Dm] finger and a [C] glove in her [G] hand
I [C] stepped in bet-[G] ween them and [C] kissed the false [G] bride
Saying [C] adieu to [Dm] false lovers for [G]e-[C] ver

Oh [C] when that I saw my love [Dm] sit down to [G] meat
I [C] sat down be-[Dm] side her but [C] nothing could I [G] eat
But I [C] thought her [G] company [C] sweeter than the [G] wine
Al[C] though she could [Dm] never be [G] mi[C] ne

The [C] men in yon forest, they [Dm] ask it of [G] me
How [C] many straw-[Dm] berries grow [C] in the salt [G] sea?
And I [C] answer them [G] back with a [C] tear in my [G] eye
"How [C] many ships [Dm] sail in the [G] fo-[C] rest?"

Go [C] dig me a grave, both [Dm] long, wide and [G] deep
And [C] cover it all [Dm] over with [C] flowers so [G] sweet
That [C] I might lie [G] down there and [C] take a long [G] sleep
And [C] maybe in time [Dm] I'll for-[G] get [C↓] her