

John Barleycorn

G **D7** **Em**

1. There came three men out from the West and they were all a -
 2. They plowed him in the ground so deep Put clods all over his
 3. Now he lay sleep - ing in the ground When the rains from heav'n did
 4. Mid - sum - mer came un - - to the land He looked both pale and
 5. They hir - ed men with sickles so sharp. They cut him down to the

G **Em**

- dry. They made a vow, a so - - lemn vow, John
 head. They made a vow, a so - - lemn vow, John
 Fall. Then he sprang up so ver - - y high, He
 wan. Then Bar - ley - - corn he got a beard And
 knee. And then poor John - nie Bar - ley - - corn They

Am **D7** **G**

Bar - ley - corn should die. They ___ made a vow a
 Bar - ley - corn should die. They ___ made a vow a
 did a - - maze them all. Then ___ he sprang up so
 so be - came a man. Then ___ Bar - ley - corn he
 served so bar - barous - - ly. And ___ then poor John - nie

C **Am** **D7**

so - - lemn vow, John Bar - ley - corn should die. With a
 so - - lemn vow, John Bar - ley - corn should die. With a
 ver - - y high, He did a - - maze them all. With a
 grew a beard And so be - came a man. With a
 Bar - ley - corn They served so bar - barous - - ly. With a

G **C** **D7** **G** **D7** **G**

Ri - fol - lol rid - dle did - dle dol. Ri - fol, ri - fol dee.

G **D7** **Em**

6. Then they sent men with pitch forks strong To pierce him through the
 7. They wheeled him up and down the land, They took him to the
 8. They hir - - ed men with hol - ly clubs To thresh him skin from
 9. They put him in a tub so round, To scald him al - most
 10. Put bran - dy in a glass, my boys, Put ci - der in a

G **Em**

heart. And like a dole - ful tra - - ge - - dy They
 barn. They made a vow, a sol - - emn vow, They'd
 bones. The mil - - er served him worse than that. He
 blind. And af - - ter they had served him so. They
 can. Put bar - - ley broth in an old brown pot. He'll be -

Am **D7** **G**

bound him in a cart. And like a dole - ful
 done poor John no harm. They took a vow a
 ground him 'twixt two stones. The mil - - er served him
 gave him to the swine. And af - - ter they had
 - come the bright - est man. Put bar - - ley broth in an

C **Am** **D7**

tra - - ge - - dy they bound him in a cart. With a
 sol - emn vow, They'd done poor John no harm. With a
 worse than that. He ground him 'twixt two stones. With a
 served him so they gave him to the swine. With a
 old brown pot. He'll be - come the bright - est man. With a

G **C** **D7** **G** **D7** **G**

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This tune: Songs of the West: Folk Songs of Devon and Cornwall p.28

Verses selected from the above and The Folk Handbook p.103

See also: One Hundred English Folksongs p.190, The New Penguin Book of English Folksongs p.235.