

# Good King Wenceslas

John Mason Neale

**G D G C G**  
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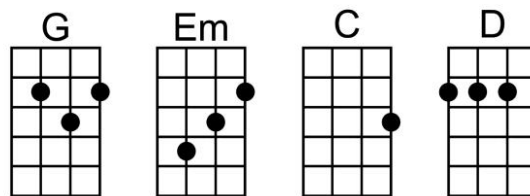
**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
Good King Wences-las looked out on the Feast of Stephen  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
When the snow lay 'round a-bout, deep and crisp and even  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
Brightly shone the moon that night though the frost was cruel  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G D G D GCG**  
When a poor man came in sight gath'ring winter fuel

**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
"Hither page and stand by me if thou know'st it telling,  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
Yonder peasant, who is he, where and what his dwelling?"  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G D G D GCG**  
Right a-against the forest fence by Saint Agnes' fountain."

**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
"Bring me meat and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
Thou and I will see him dine when we bear them thither."  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G C G**  
Page and monarch forth they went, for they went together  
**G E<sup>m</sup> G D G D GCG**  
Through the rude wind's wild la-ment and the bitter weather.

**G**                    **E<sup>m</sup>**   **G**   **C**                    **G**  
 "Sire, the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger  
**G**                    **E<sup>m</sup>**           **G**   **C**                    **G**  
 Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."  
**G**                    **E<sup>m</sup>**           **G**   **C**                    **G**  
 "Mark my footsteps my good page, tread thou in them boldly.  
**G**           **E<sup>m</sup>**           **G**   **D**   **G**           **D**           **GCG**  
 Thou shalt find the winter's rage, freeze thy blood less coldly."

**G**                    **E<sup>m</sup>**           **G**   **C**                    **G**  
 In his master's steps he trod where the snow lay dinted.  
**G**                    **E<sup>m</sup>**   **G**   **C**                    **G**  
 Heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed.  
**G**                    **E<sup>m</sup>**           **G**   **C**                    **G**  
 Therefore, Christian men be sure, wealth or rank possessing  
**G**           **E<sup>m</sup>**           **G**   **D**   **G**           **D**           **GCG**  
 Ye who now will bless the poor, shall your-selves find blessing.



From Wikipedia:

"**Good King Wenceslas**" is a Christmas carol that tells a story of a Bohemian king going on a journey and braving harsh winter weather to give alms to a poor peasant on the Feast of Stephen (December 26, the Second Day of Christmas). During the journey, his page is about to give up the struggle against the cold weather, but is enabled to continue by following the king's footprints, step for step, through the deep snow. The legend is based on the life of the historical Saint Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia or *Svatý Václav* in Czech (907–935). The name Wenceslas is a Latinised version of the old Czech language "Venceslav".