


Down to the River to Pray

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Traditional
arr. Christopher Aspaas (ASCAP)

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Tenor



Bass



As I went down to the ri - ver to pray, stud - y - in' a -



bout that good old way and who shall wear the robe and



crown? Good Lord, show me the way Oh,



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bro - thers, let's go down, let's go down, come on



down. Oh, bro - thers, let's go down, down to the

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ri - ver to pray. As I went down to the

repeat 4 times

ri - ver to pray stud - y - in' a - bout that good old way and

who shall wear the star - ry and crown? Good Lord, show me the

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way. Oh, sis - ters
fa - thers let's go down,
mo - thers
sin - ners

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let's go down, come on down. Oh sis - ters
fa - thers
mo - thers
sin - ners

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let's go down, down to the ri - ver to pray.

ritard last time

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-
- Alternating verses:
2) starry / sisters
3) robe and / fathers
4) starry / mothers
5) robe and / sinners

This song describes the tradition of baptism by immersion where women would enter the water disrobed and the men would wear a robe—thus the alternation of verses between "starry" and "robe and" depending on the masculine or feminine reference.

Performance suggestion: begin with members of the chorus spread throughout the audience on or near the ends of rows. Starting with one singer standing up and singing, the ensemble should rise from their seats and join in the song, moving towards the front of the space and greeting each other as they gather.

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