

# LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Often, it seems, the newspapers in our day print only BAD NEWS. If we read closely, however, there is GOOD NEWS to be found.

Ancient Israel, about whom we read in the Bible, had no newspapers at all for their news! Prophets used their voices to remind people of their promise to keep God first in their lives . . . and they warned them of the bad things that could happen when they ignored God.

We read in the Bible about prophets Amos, Hosea, Jeremiah, and Isaiah along with others. As these men of God had warned, Israel and Judah were defeated by their enemies and their people were taken away as prisoners. When the people remembered the prophets' words about the promise of God they discovered that God's love had been with them all along — just waiting for the people to return to Him.

Perhaps your choir director has played some of this beautiful music based on the words of the prophets. Music called an ORATORIO has been written about ELIJAH. Some spirituals use EZEKIAL'S words. Sections of MESSIAH come from Isaiah and Job.

The prophets did not pretend to be fortune tellers, but some of their writings about their own times seem to point to the coming of Jesus Christ, just like the hymn *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*.

For whom is the Rose a symbol? \_\_\_\_\_

What are symbols? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know the meaning of these symbols?



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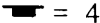



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In this lovely song are long sustained musical phrases. How many times is that first long phrase repeated in the first stanza? How smoothly can you sing it? (Stand tall as though you were holding up the ceiling with the top of your head. This may help your voice to have that "alive" sound that comes from good posture and it will help you to have enough breath to sing the long phrase.)



Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten-der stem hath sprung!

Perhaps some of your choir started too soon on the third line. Your director can remind you about musical RESTS. If your choir has two parts singing, do you know that the stems on the notes for the soprano part usually point UP and for the alto (lower) part usually point DOWN?

Here are some RESTS with this time signature:  $\frac{4}{4}$   = 4  = 2  = 1  = 1/2

Newspapers are looked at and thrown away. The important words we feel about God's LOVE and TRUTH should be written in HYMNS that last on and on. Try to write some HYMNS which express your own feelings about God.