

This Rose is Ever Blooming

1.1 This Rose is ever blooming,
1.2 Though from a tender stem!
1.3 From Jesse's offspring coming,
1.4 As sung in psalm and hymn.
1.5 It came a blossom bright,
1.6 Amid the cold of winter,
1.7 When half spent was the night.

2.1 Prophet Isaiah told it,
2.2 The Rose I have in mind:
2.3 With Mary we behold it,
2.4 The Virgin Mother kind.
2.5 To show God's love aright,
2.6 Young Mary bore the Savior,
2.7 When half-spent was the night.

3.1 The shepherds heard the story
3.2 Proclaimed by angels bright,
3.3 How Christ, the Lord of Glory
3.4 Was born on earth this night.
3.5 To Bethlehem they sped
3.6 And in the manger they found him,
3.7 As angel heralds said.

4.1 The Rosebud small and tender
4.2 Gives fragrance every day.
4.3 And by Its brilliant splendor
4.4 Makes darkness pass away.
4.5 True God, true Man, we pray,
4.6 Help us through ev'ry sorrow,
4.7 And guard us on our way.

5.1 O Savior, child of Mary,
5.2 Who felt our human woe;
5.3 O Savior, King of glory,
5.4 Who does our weakness know,
5.5 Bring us at length, we pray,
5.6 To the bright courts of heaven
5.7 And to the endless day!

Based on 16th-century German, translated by Theodore Baker and others, known as *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*. Meter: 76.76.6.76
Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (Rhythmic and Isorhythmic versions)

The German version has 16+ stanzas. The translations vary, but have at most five stanzas. There are differing Catholic and Protestant versions, with the Rose as Christ in the latter and the Virgin Mary in the former.

Revisions were needed to avoid the rare and awkward contractions *e'er*, *flow'ret*, and *'twas*. Lines 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, and 2.6 were rewritten. Stanza 4 is an alternate translation. Replaced *dost* by *does* in 5.4.

I think the isorhythmic rhythmic version is better for congregational singing, while the beautiful rhythmic version makes a great acapella.