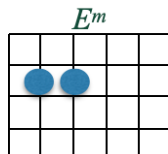


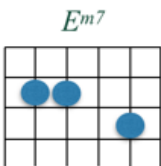
# Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming

"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys." Song of Songs 2:1, the author is anonymous

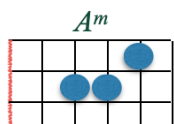
C F Em7 Em Am  
Lo, how a rose e're blooming,  
F C Dm F G6 C  
From tender stem hath sprung!



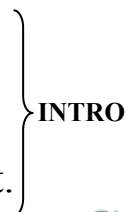
C F Em7 Em Am  
Of Jesse's li-neage co-ming,  
F C Dm F G6 C  
As men of old have sung.



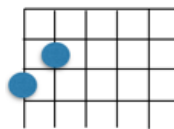
C Dm Em Am D G  
It came a flow'ret bright,



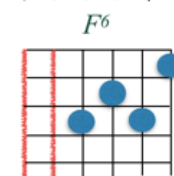
C F Em Em7 A  
Amid the cold of win-ter.  
F6 C Dm F G6 C  
When half-spent was the night.



C F Em7 Em Am  
Isaiah 'twas fore-told it.  
F C Dm F G6 C  
The rose I have in mind.



C F Em7 Em Am  
With Mary we be-hold Him.  
F C Dm F G6 C  
The Virgin mother kind.



C Dm Em Am D G  
To show God's love a-right;

C F Em Em7 A  
She bore to us a Sa-vior,  
F6 C Dm F G6 C  
When half spent was the night.

C F Em7 Em Am  
The shepherds heard the sto-ry,  
F C Dm F G6 C

Proclaimed by an-gels bright,  
C F Em7 Em Am  
How Christ, the Lord of glo-ry,  
F C Dm F G6 C  
Was born on earth this night.

C Dm Em Am D G  
To Bethle-hem they sped.

C F Em Em7 A  
And in the manger found Him,  
F6 C Dm F G6 C  
As an-gel heralds said.

C F Em7 Em Am  
A Flower, whose fragrance ten-der,  
F C Dm F G6 C  
With sweetness fills the air.

C F Em7 Em Am  
Dispels with glorious splendor,  
F C Dm F G6 C  
The darkness every-where;

C Dm Em Am D G  
True man, yet ve-ry God,

C F Em Em7 A  
From sin and death He saves us,  
F6 C Dm F G6 C  
And lightens every load.

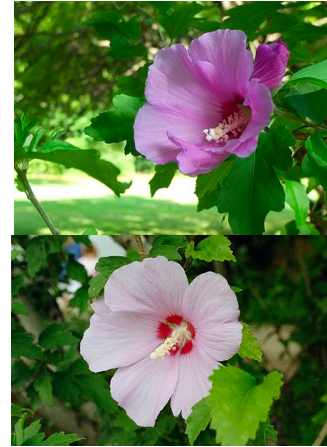
If you would like to rehearse this hymn with a choir, click <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epHIGqOJWcE> and join the Pepperdine Chamber Choir's great plague virtual recording or the 1st, 2nd and 4th verses. Pepperdine does their version in the key of F, so you will need to capo your guitar in the 5th fret to play along.

# Scripture and History

**Song of Songs 2:1** I am a flower of Sharon, a flower of the valleys.



The name "rose of Sharon" first appears in English in 1611 in the **King James Version** of the Bible. In the Song of Songs or **Song of Solomon 2:1**, the speaker (the beloved) says "I am the rose of Sharon, the lily of the valley". The Hebrew phrase חַבְצֶלֶת הַשָּׂרֹן (*ḥāḇṣṣelet hasharon*) was translated by the **KJV** editors as "rose of Sharon"; however previous translations had rendered it simply as "the flower of the field" (Septuagint "ἐγὼ ἄνθος τοῦ πεδίου", **Vulgate** "ego flos campi", Wicliff "a flower of the field"). The Hebrew word *ḥāḇṣṣelet* occurs three times in the scriptures: in the **Song**, **Isaiah 35:1**, and **Isaiah 65:10**, which reads, "the desert shall bloom like the rose." The word is translated "rose" in **KJV**, but is rendered variously as "lily" Septuagint "κρίνον", Vulgate "ilium", Wiclif "lily", "jonquil" in the Jerusalem Bible, "crocus" in the Revised Standard Version, "rose" in the English Standard Version, and "flower" in the **NABre**.



*Hibiscus syriacus* commonly called "Rose of Sharon" in the US and is the national flower of South Korea.

**Sharon** is the Mediterranean coastal plain between Joppa and Caesarea. In the time of Solomon it was a place of great fertility.

"**Es ist ein Ros entsprungen**", most commonly translated to English as "**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**" or "**A Spotless Rose**", is a Christmas carol of German origin.



Michael Praetorius  
Image from Wikipedia

The text is thought to have been penned by an anonymous author, and the piece first appeared in print in the late 16th century. In addition, there have been numerous versions of the hymn, with varying texts and lengths.

The tune most familiar today appears in the Speyer Hymnal (printed in Cologne in 1599), and the familiar harmonization was written by Michael Praetorius, a German composer in 1609.

The tune was used by Johannes Brahms as the basis for a chorale prelude for organ, later transcribed for orchestra by Erich Leinsdorf, and by Hugo Distler as the basis for his 1933 oratoria *Weihnachtsgeschichte* (Christmas Story).

The English translation "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" is by Theodore Baker (June 3, 1851 – October 12, 1934) in 1894. The first two verses of the hymn were translated as "A Spotless Rose" by Catherine Winkworth.

[hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org) , [bible.org](http://bible.org) and Wikipedia



*Christmas as you go*