

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

The Flower

TUNE: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Isaiah 11:1

F B \flat F C Dm B \flat F $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Gm}{D}$ Dm $\frac{E}{C}$ C

1. See how God's flow - er blos - soms From dry and hard - ened
2. The breath of God E - ter - nal Fills fra - gile flesh and
3. This flow'r is now a gar - den, The fruit of that small

F F B \flat F C Dm B \flat F $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Gm}{D}$ Dm $\frac{E}{C}$ C

earth, And from our sin and dark - ness, A child of hum - ble
bone With truth and love and beau - ty That glows of God a -
seed, A prom - ise green and grow - ing, An E - den yet to

F Gm Am F G C $\frac{C_{sus}C}{D E}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ F

birth; So small for such a need, Yet all of
lone. And we have seen His face - The glo - ry
be. O Christ, our heart's de - light! We rise and

B \flat F C D Gm $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{Am^7}{C}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ C_{sus} C F

love's long prom - ise Is in that tin - y seed.
of the Fa - ther, The flow - er of His grace.
bloom and flour - ish In You, our Love and Life!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1599;
harm. by Michael Praetorius

ES IST EIN ROS
7.6.7.6.6.7.6.

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TOPICS: Advent; Christmas

LEAD-IN: *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him.
With righteousness he will judge the needy. (Isaiah 11:1-2, 4, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Promises

During Advent we see Jesus, not as flesh and blood reality, but as a promise, a hope, a silhouette of our coming salvation. During Christmas He is still a helpless baby who only does...what babies do. Yet even before the human Jesus did anything, simply through His coming He painted a beautiful portrait of our God:

- This God has worked for millennia to save us from death and bring us back to Himself. His plan was born long before we were, and it will continue until it is completed.
- While we wait for that completion, He encourages and draws us through promises. And He carefully keeps every promise, even when the wait seems endless. His birth proves that God keeps His promises. Be assured that His promised second coming will happen as well.
- God describes Himself in terms we can understand. But no description, no name, no combination of roles does Him justice. He is a King, yet a Servant...a Mighty Warrior, yet a Shepherd. He is both Prophet and Priest...a powerful Lion and a Lamb to be slaughtered. Our God overflows all these descriptions.
- God is also a patient gardener. He loves to grow things! He is growing for us a life that is deep and rich and fruitful beyond our wildest imaginings. But it starts from a tiny seed and must grow slowly and naturally. We have to nurture it. We have to wait for it.
- Beyond all these, first and foremost, our God is a Father.
- This Father dearly loves “ordinary” people. He loves them like His own children.
- God embraces human life from the roots up. This 100% God became 100% human that we might become 100% like Him.