



Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence. You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 26th, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. During the Easter season we will welcome new sisters and brothers at the baptismal font as we renew our baptismal promises.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

***WELCOME AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live. *(A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)*

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen**

*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving Spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the Lord."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

ELW 600

based on Psalm 130

text by M. Luther, music attr. M. Luther

SECOND READING

Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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The Holy Gospel according to St. John...
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly Father, sometimes we sense that our lives are very dry, like the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision. We need your holy breath, your Holy Spirit, so that all of our other senses may be keen to your presence, your work, your love among us. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Lord Jesus Christ, hear us when we cry to you. May we hear you when you speak to us. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Holy Spirit, live in us with Jesus Christ, so that the Father who raised Jesus from the dead will live in us and be our God. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Jesus, you have seen the sadness of all of us who mourn in Mary's weeping over Lazarus. We hold to your promise that all of us will rise again as we hear you call our names. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

We rejoice over all the glories of this day, and thank you for your goodness to us all. Help us see the needs of others, help us hear their cries, and help us be your helping hands. The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Those among us who are ill know that they are named before you out of love and compassion. Hear us as we name them now... The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

We give you thanks for all the saints who have been lifted up to live with you in light eternal, remembering especially... The day of the Lord is coming: **He abounds in steadfast love.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

Though we remember we are dust and to dust we shall return, we remember that we are your precious dust. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

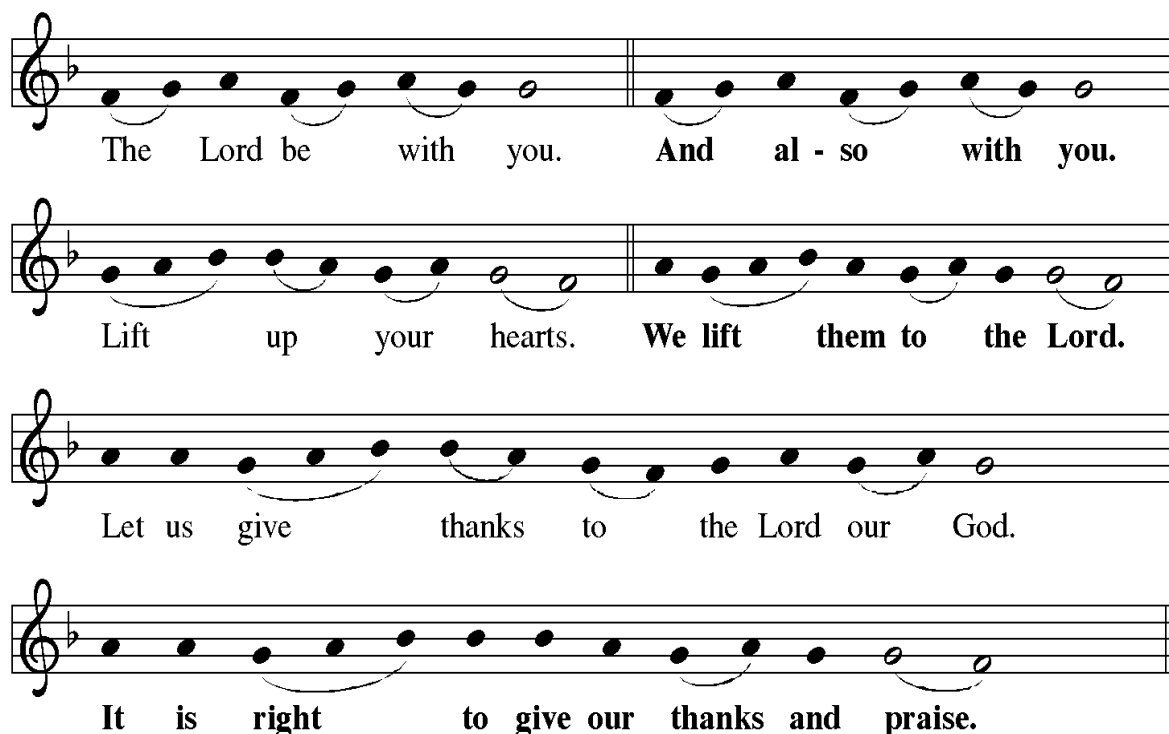
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

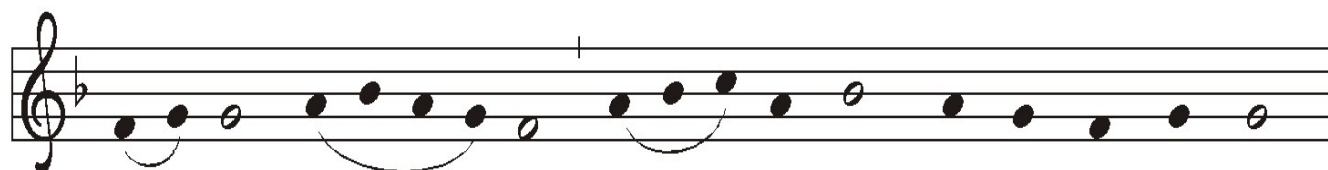
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

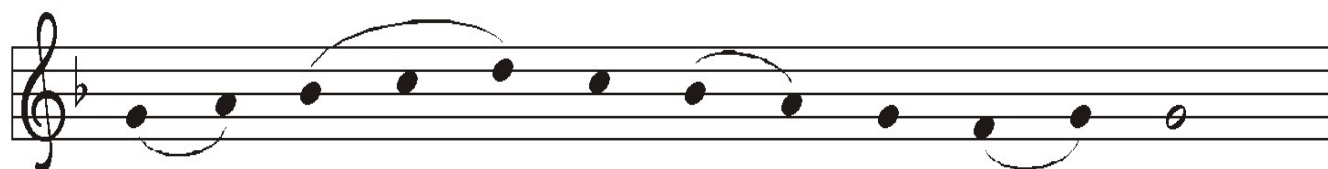
*Holy, Holy, Holy



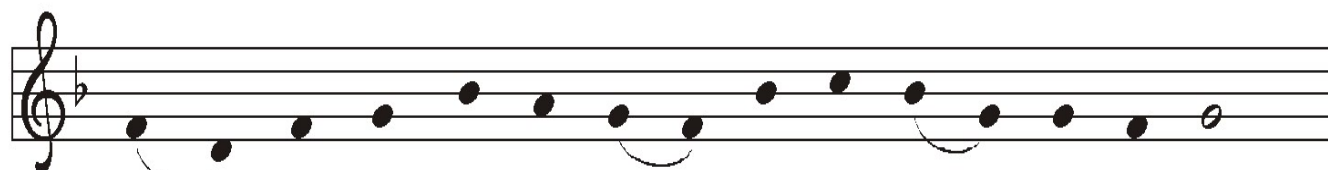
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



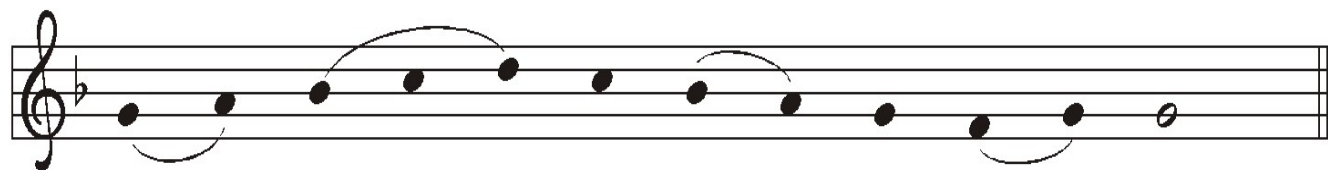
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen**

***LORD'S PRAYER**



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

DISTRIBUTION

Aus Tiefer Not

J. S. Bach

***BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

***BENEDICTION**

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you + peace. **Amen**

***SENDING HYMN**

I Am the Bread of Life

ELW 485

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

London Symphony

Haydn

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Kristine Boike

LECTOR

Jane Lauritsen

GREETERS

John and Shirley Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

John Broussard

USHER

Janet Broussard

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

PRAYER LIST

Members of the Congregation: Anne Gavac, Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Anita Horak, Luddy Kovalsky, Mildred Mendel, Lois Mika, Beverly Podzamsky, George Pagurko, Mildred Riban, Mary Sasuta and Mary Sordel

Friends and Relatives of the Congregation: Kelly Alvey, Wally Bisping, Ellen Bailey, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Denise Fricano, Bill Holmes, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Michele Mason, Donald Neal, Julie Patron, Pat Pileggi, Alice Puglise, Gail Purcell, Sue Renville, Sandy Rossella, Elaine Sorich, Peter Spilotro, Gertrude Tarbox, Janie Tarbox, Tom Thoreson, Mark Van Scharrel and Mike Yavorski.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers at the Lord's Table today are given in loving memory of dear wife **+Deanna Oklepek+** on the thirteenth anniversary of her death on March 29th by remembering husband Milan.

<p style="text-align: center;">Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering March 19th , 2023</p> <table><tr><td><i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i></td><td>\$2,527.00</td></tr><tr><td><i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i></td><td>\$.00</td></tr><tr><td><i>Shortage:</i></td><td>\$.00</td></tr></table>	<i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2023:</i>	\$2,527.00	<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00	<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00
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<i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i>	\$.00					
<i>Shortage:</i>	\$.00					



Lenten Vespers and Supper

every Thursday in Lent, March 2nd thru March 30th.

Vespers (Evening Prayer) is sung at 7:00 p.m., preceded by Supper at 6:00.

*Sanctuary opens one half hour before Evening Prayer
for quiet meditation and personal prayer and reflection.*

You and your household, friends, groups or others are invited to **host a light soup supper** on a Thursday evening during Lent preceding Evening Prayer. A simple soup (from the store, made at home or in the church kitchen) with bread for 10-15 people would be much enjoyed and appreciated. A sign-up sheet is posted in the dining hall at the usual place (lower west entrance). Thank you for considering this opportunity for Lenten prayer, fellowship and breaking of bread.

EASTER LILIES

Easter lilies will be available for \$16.00 for those who wish to place a lily or lilies in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or use the sign-up sheet posted in the usual place in the dining hall (lower west entrance). **The final day for ordering is this Thursday, March 30th.** You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.

PALM SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR



Please plan to bring bakery items, finger foods, appetizers, eggs or other Easter foods to share at the traditional Palm Sunday Coffee Hour next Sunday, April 2nd. This delicious buffet, previously hosted for many years by the Dorcas Society of the congregation, has become a pre-Easter custom for the families and friends of Sts. Peter and Paul.

Holy Week 2023
April 2nd—April 9th

Palm Sunday, April 2nd

10:15 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Blessing of Palms, Passion Reading of
Our Lord Jesus Christ based upon the
Gospel Accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke
by David H. Kehret
Festive Palm Sunday Coffee Hour

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of Holy Communion,
Individual Absolution,
and Foot-Washing

Good Friday, April 7th

7:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Word,
Passion Narrative according to St. John,
and Veneration of the Cross

Easter Sunday, April 9th

10:15 a.m. Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion
with Trumpet and Handbells



UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Wednesday, March 29th

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631

Friday, March 31st

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.



Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

LENT AND THE COLOR PURPLE

In Alice Walker's prize winning novel *The Color Purple*, Celie did not view herself worthy of a color often associated with wealth, royalty and piety. Purple's legacy in the Scriptures goes as far back as Moses who sent for purple cloth to make the curtains of the Tabernacle. Tyrian purple was the Roman imperial color, worn by emperors, priests, governors and generals. Purple togas were the Gucci of the Mediterranean elite. The great expense was due to the intricate process of harvesting the glands of thousands of tiny murex snails and soaking them in the sun until the exact color emerged to dye the cloth. A modern chemist duplicating the ancient process used 10,000 snails to create enough dye for a handkerchief at the cost of nearly \$4000. Purple was exclusive by nature, out of the reach of all but the elite to whom homage was due. Celie has had much company in not wearing purple.

Purple symbolized something else in Celie's life—pain. It was the color of bruises to Celie, the eggplant colored marks of being beaten and battered. The association with pain is also shown in the medals given to wounded soldiers—the Purple Heart... Purple is the Lenten color of Christ, remembering his death on the cross at the hands of Pilate who was perhaps wearing imperial purple. Lenten purple is a complex mix of all the above themes—sacrifice, wounding and royalty.

Purple can also be a color of transformation and change. It was the color adopted by the suffragette movement working to enfranchise women with the fundamental right to make decisions—the right for women's voices to be heard through the power of the vote. The meaning of the color purple was transformed for Celie in Walker's novel through her deep friendship with Shug. While walking through a field of purple wild flowers, Shug challenges Celie to embrace the fullness of life—and purple—noting the great beauty that surrounds them to be enjoyed in the moment. Later in the novel, after Celie and Shug have spent a long time apart, Celie receives Shug in her home—in a purple room. The novel captures the great depth of our purple lives, as we move through pain and find the courage to embrace beauty and happiness in life.

Purple is the color of the deep mystery of faith, a mix of blue sky and blood that occurs in the haze of the setting sun... Through the psychedelic purple haze, the first colors of dawn, through bruising and the wounds of life's battles, to spring violets, we hope that eventually we will endure to a moment of liberation, the moment when we are a fully enfranchised human being, or an experience of grace from a loving God... and then we can boldly wear the color purple.

—Todd Weir

<http://bloomingcactus.typepad.com/bloomingcactus/>